IN MEMORIAM

Paris C. Kanellakis
(1953–1995)

Our colleague and dear friend Paris C. Kanellakis died unexpectedly and tragically on December 20, 1995, together with his wife, Maria-Teresa Otoya, and their beloved young children, Alexandra and Stephanos. En route to Cali, Colombia, and an annual holiday reunion with his wife’s family, their airplane strayed off course without warning during the night, minutes before an expected landing, and crashed in the Andes.

As researchers, we mourn the passing of a creative and thoughtful colleague who was respected for his many contributions, both technical and professional, to the computer science research community. As individuals, we grieve over our tragic loss—of a friend who was regarded with great affection and of a happy, thriving family whose warmth and hospitality were gifts appreciated by friends around the world. Their deaths create for us a void that cannot be filled.

Paris was born in Greece in 1953 to Eleftherios and Argyroula Kanellakis. In 1976, he received the Diploma in electrical engineering from the National Technical University of Athens; his undergraduate thesis was titled “Easy-to-Test Criteria for Weak Stochastic Stability of Dynamical Systems,” advised by Professor E. N. Protonotarios. Paris continued his studies at the graduate level in electrical engineering and computer science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received his M.Sc. in 1978, submitting the thesis “Algorithms for a Scheduling Application of the Asymmetric Traveling Salesman Problem,” supervised by Professors R. Rivest and M. Athans, followed by his Ph.D. in 1982. His doctoral dissertation was “On the Complexity of Concurrency Control for Distributed Databases,” supervised by Professor C. H. Papadimitriou.

In 1981, Paris joined the Computer Science Department of Brown University as assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 1986 and to full professor in 1990. Paris also held visiting positions at several leading research centers, including the IBM Watson Research Center, the MIT Laboratory for Computer Science, GIP Altiur, and INRIA Rocquencourt. He served as an associate editor of the new journal Constraints, as well as of Information and Computation, ACM Transactions on Database Systems, SIAM Journal of Computing, Theoretical Computer Science, and Journal of Logic Programming. Paris served in addition as program committee member, program chair, and invited speaker at many of the prominent research conferences in computer science.

Paris made a number of essential contributions to many fields, including functional programming, deductive and object-oriented databases, database theory, fault-tolerant parallel computation, and constraint programming. A brief survey of Paris’s recent research contributions, prepared by Serge Abiteboul (Stanford University and INRIA), Gabriel M. Kuper (ECRC), Harry G. Mairson (Brandeis University), Alexander A. Shvartsman (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and Moshe Y. Vardi (Rice University), will appear soon in ACM Computing Surveys.