

Philippe Boulanger
24 December 1948 - 2 January 2017.

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Philippe Boulanger, formerly Professor of Mécanique at the Département de Mathématique, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) passed away on January 02, 2017.

Philippe was a founder member of ISIMM and has been an elected member of its Executive Committee.

Philippe was born in Brussels, Belgium, on 24 December 1948. He entered ULB in 1966 where he remained until his retirement. He published his first paper in 1970. His early work was in photoelasticity with a special interest in magneto-optical and electro-optical effects. Later he worked extensively on wave propagation in elastic and viscoelastic media. Over the course of his career he wrote nearly one hundred papers, many conference proceeding papers, and a monograph with Michael Hayes, University College Dublin, on bivectors (complex vectors) in 1993. That book was a highlight of the Boulanger & Hayes collaboration, which started in 1987 and resulted in over 55 papers.

A special issue of the International Journal of Non-linear Mechanics was dedicated to his achievements in 2009.

Among several honours and accolades, Philippe Boulanger was awarded by the Belgian Academy of Sciences of the Agathon de Potter prize for original research in mathematics during the three year period 1976 – 1978 and the Georges Van der Linden for original research in Physics during the period 1989 – 1992.

Philippe was also an excellent pianist, and had to decide at an early stage between a career in Science and a career as a concert musician. It was our luck that he chose the former, while continuing all along to play piano at a very high

level, including at conferences and workshops where a piano was available, as in Oberwolfach for example.

The scientific community will remember Philippe for the clarity and rigour of his contributions and also for his deep kindness to all who crossed his path.

Michel Destrade, Galway,

Elizabete Rodrigues Ferreira, Bruxelles,

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