Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
It is with deep regret and sorrow that we hear the sad news of the passing away of our respected colleague and friend, Professor Ted Belytschko. He was a strong supporter of computational mechanics, a gentleman and scholar. He was a Giant in Mechanics and an ingenious engineer in the real sense. I was always proud of being taught computational mechanics through Ted's books and vast intellectual papers. He will be missed by our academic community.

George Z. Voyiadjis
Boyd Professor
Louisiana State University

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
Warren and I express our deep sorrow at Ted's passing. He was a strong mentor for me from the day I arrived to Northwestern as a very green assistant professor. He provided mentorship and encouragement, and occasional levity, at all stages of my career and I had the great fortune to collaborate with him on a couple of research projects and publications. I will always be inspired by his keen vision, his extraordinary contributions to science and engineering, and his dedication to education. I am deeply grateful for his guidance over the years and miss his presence and his input. My best wishes to his wonderful family in this difficult time. We will always remember Ted, his sharp mind and sharp wit, and will let him inspire us moving on.

L. Catherine Brinson
Jerome B Cohen Professor
Northwestern University

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
Professor Ted Belytschko has been a true inspiration to me, ever since I was a graduate student in Mechanics. Over the years, I have learnt a lot, not only from his creative volume of work, but also from his leadership qualities. He was always very kind and helpful to me. I remember his insightful comments at USACM executive council meetings that helped us make critical decisions. He will be missed dearly by our Computational Mechanics community.

Somnath Ghosh  
*Michael G. Callas Professor*  
*John Hopkins University*  
Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
For 5 years, his continuous guidance not only improved me academically but also gave me more confidence as a person. Please pass my condolences to his family.

Roopam Khare

Ph.D. alumni
Northwestern University

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
When I first arrived at NU, Ted was one of the first people to give me a warm welcome. Although I study a research topic in many ways quite different from Ted's he invited me for a full discussion of areas of scientific overlap, and gave several pointers as to how we might approach some of our problems of interest. It was abundantly clear Ted was eager to see interdisciplinary work extend throughout the department and was a strong supporter of novel applications of mechanics. His scientific enthusiasm and personal warmth were a wonderful introduction to Northwestern. I will miss him.

Mitra Hartmann  
*BME and ME Professor*  
*Northwestern University*

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
I have long felt warmth and admiration for Ted, a friend of many years, thoughtful and wise, and a great hero for his shaping of computational mechanics. Warm condolences to Gail and family, and to Ted's academic family and Northwestern colleagues.

James R. Rice
Professor
Harvard University

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
I am eternally grateful to Ted, who showed me the joys of conducting research in computational mechanics. I will cherish the many memories I have of him, and offer my heartfelt condolences to his family. He will be sorely missed.

N. Sukumar
Professor
University of California, Davis

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
Ted was not only a great scientist, but also a great man who loved people. He stimulated -- and will continue to stimulate -- many of us. On behalf of LMT-Cachan, please convey our deepest sympathy to his family.

Pierre Ladeveze  
Professor  
Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
I’d like to express my deepest condolences to Ted’s family for their loss. I feel bitter sadness but also deep gratitude for having known and learned from Ted. He was a consistent source of support, constructive criticism, mentoring, and great technical ideas throughout my entire professional life, starting from my graduate student days. He was generous, tireless, smart, a born teacher, and had a wonderful sense of humor. The many computational mechanicians he helped and inspired now must seek to provide the same quality of support to those we mentor as he so generously provided us.

Tod A. Laursen  
*President and Professor*  
Khalifa University (Abu Dhabi)
This is a truly sad event for the mechanics community. Ted was a rare combination of brilliance, clarity of thought, and scientific simplicity that has inspired and influenced many of us who spent our formative academic years at Northwestern. I will also miss his incredible sense of humor - I still remember him turning to Wing Kam Liu during my first presentation in the Friday group meeting, after we had debated a point, and saying: “He’s stubborn....like his daddy.” With deepest condolences for the Belytschko family.

Harold Park
Associate Professor
Boston University

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
I feel very sad on the news. Please pass my deepest condolence to Professor Belytschko's family. Professor Belytschko not only taught me on the knowledge but also a role model for me to follow. I couldn't believe he passed away. I still feel that his words, smile, humor accompany me everyday.

Hongwu Wang
Mechanics Technology Manager
Dassault Systemes – Simulia Corp.

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
Although I knew about Ted’s critical conditions in the last period, the new he passed away was shocking to me. The fact that he was genial and unique is the opinion of everyone. Living in his research group was being part of an amazing flux of ideas and new hints that were transforming the way of looking at the problems in every single day. I can clearly remember the many afternoons spent in discussions and the way he was introducing his new thoughts. He was never overhanging the person in front of him. On the contrary, discussing the different aspects of the problem, an idea was progressively coming out, so that one could not say if the idea was in his mind or was born in the person in front of him. So, remembering his bright smile I feel that I can say, in the name of the many people privileged by having worked with him, thank you, Professor Belytschko, for all you taught us.

Giulio Ventura

Associate Professor
Politecnico di Torino

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
I am still frequently thinking of Professor Belytschko. He is not only the great mentor to me but also an important person in my life. What I learned from him has been and will be benefiting me in my professional life.

Shaoping Xiao
Associate Professor
The University of Iowa

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
I feel deeply sad about losing Ted as a dear colleague of mine in the ME department. Not only his passing away is a big loss to the field of computational mechanics, it is in particular a huge loss to the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Northwestern. I know in my role of Director of Graduate Studies that many students apply to our program because they want to work with Professor Belytschko, the world top leader in computational mechanics. I feel sad he is no longer available to supervise students.

I will remember Ted as a visionary scholar, an advisor who deeply cares about his students, and a kind gentleman who is always humorous to enlighten the people around him. Before I joined Northwestern University from University of Illinois at Chicago more than ten years ago, I interviewed at Northwestern when Ted was in the last year of his department chair position. I still remember during my interview our conversation about his belief in hiring someone who is doing research in engineering design. There was no research faculty in engineering design in ME at that time. I am grateful for Ted’s support to my research field.

My regret is that I have not been able to work with Ted on a collaborative research project even though we have talked about possible topics that can bring us together. But I am certain that his students and colleagues will carry his legend forward and he will always live in our heart.

Wei Chen
Wilson Cook Professor in Engineering Design
Northwestern University, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
I was a graduate student under Tayfun Tezduyar years ago. While I never knew Ted personally, I certainly knew him by reputation, and I knew of many of the contributions that he made in computational science. My deepest condolences to Gail and the rest of the family, and to the entire Northwestern community.

Dr. Steve Ray
Senior Staff Engineer
BAE Systems
I had the privilege of being one of Ted's graduate students in the early 1980s. It's been many years since I left Northwestern. Yet, Ted has always been available for advice, guidance, and a friendly "hello". I have often reflected on the impact that Ted has had on my professional life, and through this, the impact he has had on the students I have worked with. Just as important, he has had a profound impact on my personal life and my family. Thank you Ted ... I will miss you.

Mike Plesha
Professor
Dept. of Engineering Physics, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
Ted was great computational scientist-engineer. His work strongly stimulated and influenced engineering, computational science and other fields as numerical mathematics. I have studied his papers and books They stimulated my work. I have known Ted for many years as a scientist and as very nice person and a good friend. Without any doubts we all will miss him, but his work will stay with us forever.

Ivo Babuska

Ivo Babuska Dr.Sc. Dr h.c mult.
ICES, University of Texas at Austin
Member NAE and EAS.

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
I've had the good fortune of working with Ted as a postdoc for almost 3 years. It was an exceptional learning experience, in large part due to the exceptional qualities of TB as a man and as a researcher.

Computational mechanics lost one of its giants in Ted Belytschko. The field might not have gotten where it is now without this man and his vision.

Petr Krysl
Professor of Computational Mechanics
University of California, San Diego

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
I worked with Ted in the Structural Analysis Section at the IIT Research Institute. He was still in Graduate School at that time. He graduated in '68 and went to teach at U of I in Chicago. I organized get-together dinners for the members of the Structural Analysis Group on a periodic basis and Ted came to most of these over the years. He was always friendly, talked to everybody, and I don't recall him ever saying anything about his accomplishments. This is why I was so surprised when I came to his 70th birthday function about a year ago in Evanston. I saw all those accomplishments that Ted did not share with us. I was amazed, not so much at the accomplishments, but at what I consider, his humility. I have known Ted for many years and I will miss him. I had a dream about Ted about a week after he passed away. In the dream he was standing erect and he was smiling. He told me that he was going away. We said good-bye.

A. Longinow, PhD, PE
Adjunct Professor
Illinois Institute of Technology, Dept. of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
Ted's passing on is a great loss and in particular for us in the field of computational engineering.

Klaus-Jürgen Bathe
Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
Not only Professor Belytschko is the most influential mentor figure in my professional life, his work has also inspired my son to study in the field of Computational Mechanics. It is my great fortune and honor to have the opportunities to learn from and work with him. His legacy shall live forever in our memories.

Jerry Lin
Engineer/Code Developer
Methods Development Group, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
The news of Ted Belytschko's passing away turned me into sudden sadness. I remembered the days in 2008 when I quit my industrial job and joined Ted's group as a post-doc looking for a solution to crack the mesh dependence problem for ductile fracture, which had bothered me for many years now and still a difficult issue for numerical methods. We worked on several subjects in this line before he had stroke in 2010, but weren't able to solve it ultimately. Ted had a special sense of humor and directness, always aiming high and yet appreciating simple approaches with big smile. He had been a very encouraging mentor with endless inspiring ideas. We had lost a great mind in computational mechanics. Ted will be missed surely. My sincere condolences to the Belytschko family.

Liang Xue
Founder and CEO
Thinkviewer, LLC

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
Ted Belytschko was one of the great contributors to the ONR programs on computational mechanics, fracture mechanics, and high strain rate polymers. Among his many great works, which were supported by ONR, were XFEM, Elements Free Galerkin EFG (he once joked, about "pointless" Finite Elements), and molecular to continuum multi-scale computations. XFEM was really a breakthrough in computational mechanics, as attested by the large number of sessions devoted to this topic at international conferences in the US and Europe. I was skeptical of ever being able to perform meaningful engineering predictive computations using atomistic computations, but he told me: "it will be done", and he did it with his students and post doctors, in ONR's "Basic Research Challenge -BRC", in collaboration with Sia Nemat-Nasser-UCSD, on "Polymers-by-Design for Shockwave Mitigation". In 2010, after his accident, I wanted to visit him and he graciously asked Ms. Nancy Flannenery to pick me up from the airport, because I was stopping in Chicago on my way back from the ASME 2010 International Mech. Eng. Conf. Of course we talked about how he was doing and his new research on polymers for protection against Traumatic Brain Injury. But I had just heard a keynote lecture at the Conf. by a mathematician from MIT, who showed that atomistic simulation cannot converge to a solution under shock loading. But Ted explained to me that his approach in molecular dynamics would converge, and he and his Post Doc could do it. In the following three month it was done and proven correct under the BRC project. We had two programs at ONR that supported Ted, and each program used his research to further the Navy's applied programs. Ted was supported by ONR since the nineteen eighties (actually Professor Jacob Fish thesis was supported by ONR). Ted Belytschko was a great educator and mentor to his students, and many of his former students, who went into academia are now supported by ONR. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy will remain with us.

Roshdy George S. Barsoum

Program Officer

Office of Naval Research

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
Ted was a great mentor and a truly visionary researcher who shaped the professor I am today. He will be missed a lot. My deepest condolences to his family.

Elisa Budyn
Professor
Department of Mechanical Engineering, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
I was fortunate to be one of Ted's initial PhD graduates from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Working under Ted in the area of computational biomechanics was a lesson on how to think about new problems and develop new approaches. While I was at Argonne National Laboratory, we continued to work together on nuclear reactor safety issues. Ted made major contributions to nonlinear computational mechanics that were quickly adopted by the international reactor safety community. It was difficult to say a final farewell to my mentor, colleague and friend.

Ronald F. Kulak
Owner
RFK Engineering Mechanics Consultants, Naperville, Illinois

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014
Research career paths have crossroads. Ted's mentoring was a major crossroad for me. Thank you Ted and let peace be with you.

Nicolas Moes
Professor
Ecole Centrale de Nantes, France

Ted Belytschko 1943 - 2014