

## In Memoriam: Cornel Pasnicu



Cornel Pasnicu, Professor of Mathematics in the College of Sciences, passed away on July 30, 2024, at the age of 70 in San Antonio, Texas. He obtained his M.S. in Mathematics from the University of Bucharest in 1977 and started writing research articles in the areas of operator theory and operator algebras as early as 1978. Dr. Pasnicu was employed as a principal researcher at the Institute of Mathematics in Bucharest, Romania, from 1980 until 1991. He became a PhD student under the supervision of Dan Virgil Voiculescu (now Professor at UC Berkeley), defending his thesis in 1987. His research articles leading to his PhD thesis earned him the “1988 Simion Stoilow Prize” of the Romanian Academy, the most prestigious award for mathematicians “under 40” in Romania. He was elected Honorary Member of the Institute of Mathematics Simion Stoilow of the Romanian Academy in 2005.

During 1991-1992, he had visiting positions at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and the University of Toronto, Canada. In July 1992, he was hired as an Associate Professor at the University of Puerto Rico, where he was promoted to Full Professor with tenure in 1997. In 2011, he moved to the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he has been a tenured professor until his untimely passing.

Dr. Pasnicu was a highly appreciated teacher throughout his academic career. While demanding and exigent in his classes, his clear style, constant attention to detail, and humor made him much praised by his students. Dr. Pasnicu’s passion for mathematics was focused on his research in Functional Analysis, in the areas of Operator Theory and Operator Algebras. He made important contributions to the study of the structure and classification of nuclear  $C^*$ -algebras. In a research career spanning 47 years of intense activity, he published over 50 refereed research articles in top mathematics journals. Dr. Pasnicu was an outstanding mathematician. It is worth mentioning his joint work with two giants of Romanian mathematics, Ciprian Foias and Dan Voiculescu and his series of influential papers with other leaders in the field including Elliott, Dadarlat, Gong, Phillips, and Rørdam. His research was recognized by grants from the National Science Foundation and one grant from the US Army Research Office. Dr. Pasnicu was invited to give talks at many conferences and research meetings.

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