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## **Memorial Statement for Professor Bohdan Kulakowski**

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*Bohdan Kulakowski was a member of the Editorial Board since the start of this journal. He was very encouraging and helpful in launching the journal and it was very sad to learn about his tragic accident last March. This memorial statement was been written by Bohdan's colleague, Professor Sommer.*

*Johan Wideberg, Editor-in-chief, IJVSMT*

Bohdan Kulakowski was one of the foremost members of our Department, the University and our profession.

Bohdan was a superb teacher and was honoured with a variety of awards, culminating in the University-wide Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching. However, he was much more than a teacher. He was a true mentor – to undergraduates, to his graduate students and to young faculty to help them to develop their careers. He would lead his students to the path of knowledge, show them the joy of scholarship and intellectual curiosity and then give them a nudge to chart their own course. He was always ready to provide a gentle guiding hand when needed. His teaching efforts will live on through his textbook *Dynamic Modeling and Control of Engineering Systems*.

Bohdan's research was also superb. He worked in a variety of areas, ranging from thermal systems to heavy vehicles, but all of his work centred on automatic control. While he was Director of the Pennsylvania Transportation Institute from 1992 through 2003, he helped numerous faculty and staff advance their own research and professional careers. *Discovery* magazine recognised his fuzzy logic algorithm for skid control of vehicles as one of its top ten innovations for the year 2000. At the time of his death, Bohdan was organising an international conference on heavy vehicles to be held here at Penn State in June 2006.

Lastly, Bohdan was highly respected by all faculty, staff and students. When he spoke, everyone listened. Everyone knew that his advice would focus on the common good. They knew that his advice would be wise and just.

In our profession, we often overuse the terms – gentleman, scholar, mentor. However, that is not the case for Bohdan. These words are really insufficient to describe him. He was a guiding light for all to follow.