IN MEMORIAM

Senior Lecturer Nikolai Stelmakh died suddenly at his home on December 8th 2010 of a heart attack. He was 49 years old.

Dr. Stelmakh was recognized as a leading research authority of short-pulse semiconductor lasers, having set the records for ultra-short pulse duration and highest pulse energy in mode-locker and Q-switched diode lasers, and as a pioneer in the development of ultrafast, saturable absorbers. In 2000, he was a recipient of the Blondel Medal from the Société des Electriciens et des Radioelectriciens. Dr. Stelmakh became a faculty member at UT Arlington in 2003. His most recent work concentrated on the investigation and manipulation of the spatial modes of broad-area laser diodes and optical parametric amplifiers as well as on nanoscale single-photon sources.

To students, Dr. Stelmakh was known for his energetic and inspirational teaching style, with extensive hands-on demonstrations and numerous examples drawn from the history of science and engineering. He received the Lockheed Martin Outstanding Teaching Award in 2005. Dr. Stelmakh was an avid alpine skier who won numerous masters’ competitions in the slalom and giant slalom. He was also a soccer enthusiast who played in UT Arlington’s faculty-student soccer league for the Arlington United team. Dr. Stelmakh is survived by his wife, daughter, and mother.

The Department of Electrical Engineering has established the Nikolai Stelmakh Memorial Outstanding Student Research Award fund in his honor. The Department is utilizing the Maverick Match program, which leverages UT Arlington’s natural gas royalty funds to support student scholarships. The program matches, dollar for dollar, all endowment commitments of $25,000 or more. The endowment currently has $50,000 and all additional contributions until December 2011 will be matched by this fund. Please contact Ellis Pope (at 817-272-0775 or epope@uta.edu) to learn more or to donate.