

OBITUARY: *Stamatis Cambanis* (1943–1995)

Stamatis Cambanis was one of the most distinguished probabilists, mathematical statisticians, and information theorists of Greek origin. He was born in Athens on 8 July 1943, attended elementary and high school there, and was admitted in 1961 to the National Technical University from which he graduated in 1966 with a degree in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. He studied at Princeton University, where he obtained a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering in 1969. He was then appointed Assistant Professor of Statistics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he spent his entire academic career. Promoted to full professor in 1981, he served as Chairman during 1986–1993 and became effectively the ‘soul’ of that Department, and of its renowned *Center for Stochastic Processes*.

Stamatis represented the best in the long Greek tradition of excellence in mathematical talent rising through the ranks of the National Technical University. He maintained a strong, lifelong interest in information theory, statistical communication theory and signal processing, while at the same time pursuing more probabilistic and statistical interests: Gaussian and stable processes, multivariate analysis, distribution theory, sampling designs and time series. An excellent teacher and colleague, he dedicated himself to his students and his research collaborators — and to the scientific community at large. Some of the topics that he actively pursued in this research, and in which he made seminal contributions, include identification and consistent estimation of signals after noisy nonlinear transformations, reconstruction of the covariance of stationary Gaussian processes observed through zero-memory nonlinearities, representation of nonlinear systems with Gaussian inputs, path properties and linear filtering for p th order and symmetric stable processes, optimal sampling designs for time series and for the detection of signals in noise, inequalities for distributions with fixed marginals, spherically-invariant processes, theory of elliptically contoured distributions, theory of stable processes, and properties of wavelets. He published some 75 papers, edited three volumes, and served on the editorial boards of some of the best journals in his fields (*Advances in* and *Journal of Applied Probability*, *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*). He was elected Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (1984) and the IEEE (1989), gained membership of the ISI (1991), and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Athens (1987).

Stamatis died on 12 April 1995, after a long, but brave and dignified, battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Miranda, and their two sons Alexios and Athanasios. He will be remembered by all who came in contact with him as a wonderful human being, with infectious enthusiasm, warmth and sensitivity, and for the unbounded optimism that helped him see the positive and bright side in every aspect of life.

A Memorial Conference (Pneumatikon Mnemosynon) for Stamatis was held in Athens on 18–19 December 1995, organised jointly by the University of Athens, the National Technical University (his alma mater), and the Athens School of Economics and Business.

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Stamatis Cambanis was a member of the Applied Probability Editorial Board from 1990 to the time of his death.

C. C. HEYDE