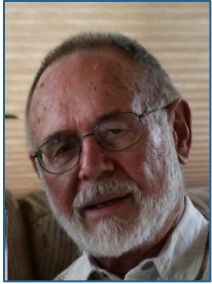


## ANTON Z. CAPRI (1938-2021)



Anton Zizi Capri (Tony), who was a professor for 30 years in the Department of Physics of the University of Alberta, passed away on June 30th, 2021. Tony was born in 1938 in Czernowitz, Romania. His father was Leon Kapri, Freiherr (Baron) von Mericey. During World War II the family had to flee Romania, first to Germany and then immigrated to Toronto, Canada, in 1949. He first went to St. Paul's School and then Jarvis Collegiate Institute where he finished as valedictorian in 1957. In 1960 he married Skaidrite Kveps whom he had known since high school. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1961 with a B.A.Sc. in Engineering Physics. He then accepted a position with Kimberley-Clark Corporation in their Pioneering Research Department in Neenah, Wisconsin. The intellectual challenge being inadequate, in 1963 he went to Princeton University as a graduate student in physics. He completed an MA in 1965 and a PhD under Professor Arthur S. Wightman in 1967. He then accepted a postdoctoral position at the University of Alberta. This turned into a visiting professorship in 1968 and then into a tenure track position in 1969 and he remained there until his retirement as a full professor in 1998. He was a professor emeritus ever since.

At Princeton, his PhD thesis was on the "External Field Problem for Higher Spin Particles". His co-students included Arthur Jaffe and Jerrold Marsden among others. During his academic career he spent a year as an Alexander von Humboldt Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute für Physik und Astrophysik, Munich, Germany and since then was frequently invited as a guest professor or research scientist to the following institutions: University of Innsbruck; University of Pisa, University of Milan, University of Trento, Italy; University of Poona, India, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, India; Gifu University, Gifu, Japan. He served as the director of the Theoretical Physics Institute of the University of Alberta.

He also published more than seventy research papers, five books on physics and chapters in several books. His scientific interests included the rigorous study of higher-spin fields, quantum fields in external fields including particle creation in curved spacetime, and constructive quantum field theory. His book "Non-Relativistic Quantum Mechanics" is a model of clarity and of balance between mathematical rigour and physical intuition. He helped to organize and to edit the proceedings of several of the Lake Louise Winter Institutes and the two NATO Advanced Study Institutes on Particles and Fields held in Banff.

For many years he had collected stories about the life and ideas of physicists in the form of a book which was later published under the title *Quips, Quotes and Quanta*, which was followed by a second volume. After his retirement, he published several novels of fiction, short stories and even poetry. He was an accomplished mid-Dan level "Go" player and apparently a "kilted" bag-piper. The discussions he engaged in at the departmental coffee were wide-ranging and always lively, and gave the real feel for the life of a physics professor.

To his students and co-researchers, Tony was at first a somewhat intimidating, intellectual authority causing some trepidation in approaching him as a supervisor or collaborator. However, unanimously

they reveal his true nature as a warm, friendly, sociable and generous person. He managed to connect with his students and fellow researchers imparting a sense of equality and a spirit of collegiality. His deep knowledge of quantum field theory from the Wightman school had a great influence on his students and colleagues. Personally, the absolutely best course that I ever took in graduate school was from Tony on Jackson level classical electrodynamics. Tony will be sorely missed.

Manu Paranjape, Université de Montréal

(with input from John Beamish, Martin Connors, Valeri Frolov, Karin Fuog, Gebhard Grübl, Dave Henty, Mohsen Razavy, and Rick Sydora)