

Jindřich Nečas

December 17, 2002

I would like to welcome the family, friends, colleagues of Jindřich Nečas and distinguished guests.

On this sad occasion we are gathered to remember and to celebrate the life and accomplishments of our esteemed colleague, Jindřich Nečas. We have with us today his wife, Zdenka Nečasova, and his daughter, Jindřa Nečasova.

Jindřich Nečas was a first rate analyst of international reputation. He was one of the world's leading authorities on partial differential equations. He received his Ph.D. degree from the Mathematical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Czechoslovakia in 1957 where he studied with Professor Ivo Babuska and he received his Dr. Sci. degree in 1966 from the same institution. He was the leading researcher, and the head of the Department of Mathematical Modeling of the Mathematical Institute of Charles University. He has held visiting positions at Purdue University and the University of Illinois, in Paris at the Ecole Normale Superieure and University Marie Curie, at Nancy, Dresden, Bonn, Heidelberg, Pisa, Rome, Lisbon, and Moscow. He held a visiting position at Northern in 1989, and, since 1991, he has been a member of our department. In 1997 he received a Presidential Research Professorship, and since 2001, he held the title of Distinguished Research Professor.

Among his many awards is The Doctor Honoris Causa which he received from the Technical University of Dresden in 1991. A volume of the Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal was dedicated to him on the occasion of his 60th birthday. In 1999 there was an International Conference on Partial Differential Equations and Applications at the University of Olomouc in the Czech Republic in honor of his 70th birthday. At this meeting he received a gold medal from the rektor of the university. On the Czech Republic State Holiday, October 28th, 1998, he received the State Order Medal for Merit from President Vaclav Havel in a ceremony at Prague Castle.

In addition to his prowess in research, his love and enthusiasm for mathematics was shared with his students and colleagues. His sage advice was much valued, and his sense of humor was always welcome during tense committee meetings. His friendship is treasured by all of us.

Jindřich has collaborated with several members of our department. Our first speaker will be Presidential Research Professor Frederick Bloom. Fred -

Jerrald Zar - Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research and Dean of the Graduate School Emeritus

Frederick Kitterle - Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Bellout

Sons - will read a statement from Professor Ying Kwong

Wu

Datta - Presidential Research Professor

Sons - Presidential Teaching Professor