

# Dr. Herbert “Herb” Ian Howard Saravanamuttoo

Congratulatory notes in honour of your  
nomination to the Order of Canada.



# JOHN JASTREMSKI



Dear Herb, congratulations on being nominated for the prestigious Order of Canada.

Given your lifelong contribution and impact on our cherished industry should make it a no brainer for the panel involved.

Though many know you through your academic reputation you have always advocated fiercely for industry, academia, and government cooperation. You understood that if we could align academia and research to real life/industry challenges we could have a real meaningful impact and create solid links between students and eventual employment. Though this seems so obvious to many of us in industry, you were part of a small group of leaders within the academic community that really understood and got it.

In 2007, I was fortunate to participate in a management buy out of MDS. That MBO was a real turning point in my career. During the same year we had a chance to reconnect in Montreal at an industry led exposition. We had a great discussion and I have included a photo of the two of us taken at that event.

Thank you for your support of MDS over the years and for educating our staff and sharing your vast knowledge

and experience. You inspired so many students, and MDS staff with your passion and enthusiasm. You told us to do what you love, and it was clear that you also lived by these words. Thank you for the signed copy of the latest edition of “Gas Turbine Theory”. I was honored and touched by your generosity and your very kind words.

All the best. Your friend John Jastremski.

## JOE HAJJAR

We were traveling to São Paulo Brazil to meet with Vale Inco, a potential customer looking to develop an indigenous Industrial Gas Turbine. When we arrived the customer provided us with a tour of their facility and office space, and to my surprise, plastered on the walls in several locations was a poster of Herb. I wish I took a photograph of this poster! I do recall it was an event that Herb was named as Key Note Speaker to a local São Paulo symposium.

From my perspective, as a recent graduate of Carleton University, to be so far from home and to see a professor where I earned my degree being showcased like that was empowering.

I felt honored and privileged to make the point of saying, “I studied under him” to our Brazilian hosts; as I am certain it was the hottest “engineering” ticket in the world’s 4<sup>th</sup> largest city by population.

Joe Hajjar

# OMER MAJEED

Dear Herb,

Congratulations for your well-deserved nomination to the Order of Canada. In my humble opinion, the recognition was long overdue.

Like so many of your former students, I am immensely grateful for the gas turbine theory which you taught us. What made your legendary propulsion course so compelling was the manner in which the thermodynamics were conveyed; with passion, practical application always in mind and a Scottish accent.

As Co-Chair of the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute, I am also thankful for your many presentations to our members, as well as to the Carleton Mechanical and Aerospace Society students. Every time you have been asked to speak, your answer has always been an enthusiastic “Yes, of course!”. From Narrow Bodies Across the Atlantic to Aircraft Piston Engines to Turbofans for Business Jets to Guggenheim at Age of Majority, we have simultaneously learned and been entertained.

You have shared innumerable stories and anecdotes over the years. As engineers, we are very good at

charging off to solve the next problem. You have helped us appreciate the importance of sharing the stories of trials and tribulations from our chosen vocation, if not calling.

One of my favourite is how you created an RB211 performance model by sizing the components via scaling based on the known fan diameter and a cut-away drawing you found in an industry magazine. When Rolls-Royce realized that your results were within 2% of the actual performance data, they urgently requested that your PhD thesis be treated as confidential intellectual property for a number of years. A great example of your ingenuity and pertinacity.

Most importantly, I deeply cherish our friendship which has stood the test of the passing years. Finally, all of your former students owe you a debt of gratitude for your practical and timeless public speaking advice: “ABC - Always Be Cheerful, XYZ - Examine Your Zipper!”.

With Warmest Regards,

Omer



GEORGE HAJECEK



Herb,

Your friends at MDS wanted to take this opportunity to fete your nomination to the Order of Canada. For many of us, to also reflect on the positive impact that you have had on our engineering careers and on our lives. I hope you take pride in knowing that the students you have taught have gone on to success in the profession.

The opportunity to look back found me pouring over my shoebox of photos, and I found the one attached. I had just finished at Carleton and went off to do a Masters degree in Norway. It was a time filled with opportunity and optimism for the future.

I also found myself thinking back to the IEP – the Industrial Experience Program that you founded back in the early 90's. That had such a marked impact on my career as my experience at Rolls-Royce Canada helped me get into MDS. I remember you point blank telling me to cut my hair if I wanted to get a job!! If only I had that problem now.

All kidding aside, I remember your kindness, and I remember how you instilled in your students a genuine passion for the profession. Engineering is more than

numbers and equations; it holds an important place in the overall narrative of our culture and our society. You always kept that as a focus – how engineering, and the fruits of her labour, shaped us. You imparted a sense of wonder, and found a way to harness the exuberance of our youth; and to overlook our foolishness and hubris.

It was much much later that we reconnected and through CASI I found you again. It meant so much that you remembered me. It meant so much that you spoke at Gary's retirement at MDS – that with your words and your presence, you helped us honour his career. You being there spoke volumes and I know it meant a lot to Gary.

I'm giddy now, thinking about this nomination and how fitting it is.

I'm going to prove you wrong with this hydrogen thing :-).

Thank you Herb. It still makes me uncomfortable to call you that. Thank you Dr. Saravanamuttoo.

George

## JAMES BRUCE

I was lucky enough to be enrolled in one of the last semesters of which Prof. Saravanamuttoo taught the fourth-year gas turbine class. Going into the class, I had a very rudimentary understanding of what a gas turbine engine was and I certainly didn't have the appreciation for the impact of the technology then as I do know.

What sticks with me to this day from the lectures is that gas turbines aren't just an application of theory but their introduction and development are so intertwined with life in the 20th and 21st centuries. This is made especially clear in the Guggenheim Memorial Lecture on 50 years of flight and recently revised to 70 years. Prof. Saravanamuttoo always did such an amazing job putting the technology in context. For example, the development of an engine always needed to satisfy a need in the market.

Prof. Saravanamuttoo is a true storyteller who inspired me (and I'm sure many of my classmates) to enter and continue to work in the propulsion industry. The order of Canada is a much-deserved recognition for such an influential teacher.

James

## GARY GERELUS

Our universe is filled with amazing wonders both visible and invisible.

I first met Herb at a CASI meeting, where he gave a stellar presentation. Its effect on me was so profound that I was compelled to attend any of his future presentations. To me, Herb is a magnificent quasar, super bright illumination in my mind. The impression and influence he has upon me are not unlike the powerful unseen energy forces that dwell in my heart.

I am both humbled and blessed to have been in the same room with him.

Gary Gerelus

## STEFANO SANDRI

Herb has had a tremendous impact on the world not only throughout his career in the gas turbine industry but also as a teacher, mentor, and ambassador for the industry, aviation and the pursuit of excellence.

When I was looking for post secondary programs to pursue my passion for flight I was immediately attracted to Carleton University and the industry experience present in its faculty. Herb's name stood out given his contributions at Orenda and on the Concorde. Naturally, this meant that as a native Nanaimoite I moved over 4000km from home with the hopes to absorb as much as possible from this prestigious faculty.

I've heard you are never supposed to meet your heroes, not true. When I first met Herb he was nothing like I expected but nonetheless exceeded my expectations in approachability and wisdom. Herb is a true inspiration to all of us in gas turbine technology and if afforded the opportunity would not fail to inspire any and all with a natural curiosity and hunger for knowledge. Herb's selfless efforts to transfer as much knowledge to the next wave of aspiring aviation engineers has not gone unnoticed.

During lecture he was always available afterwards until the class ran out of questions and conversation. My favourite anecdote from Herb is when he asked what the maximum range of an aircraft is and promptly stated "about 12000 miles; because if you need to fly further you should have gone the other way."

I now work extensively in the electric power generation industry. Every land based example of gas turbine machinery that I work with has likely been influenced in some way by Herb's lengthy career, after all it effectively spans the existence of the gas turbine. What an amazing man and an incredible Canadian. Herb is a pillar of the industry in Canada upon which innovation and advancement perpetuate.

Herb deserves to be immortalized for his contributions to Canadian industry, education and society.

Stefano Sandri

JUDY MCDUGALL

Dearest Professor Saravanamuttoo,

Congratulations on your nomination to the Order of Canada!

There is perhaps no greater vocation than teaching, as knowledge is the key to success, happiness and enlightenment. Thanks to your enthusiasm and love of teaching, I pursued a career in Aerospace Engineering, eventually ending up at MDS Aero for most of my career.

But beyond your teaching, I will always remember your compassion, as you were the first professor I went to see about postponing my fall midterms after my father suddenly passed away. You were there for me as you were for all of your students.

I am forever grateful to have had you as my professor.

I cannot think of a more deserving nominee!

Judy McDougall



**On behalf of all of us at MDS,  
we would like to offer our  
heartfelt congratulations on  
your nomination to the Order  
of Canada for your outstanding  
achievements, contributions  
and leadership in aerospace  
engineering.**

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