In memory of Mariarosaria Padula

Vincenzo Coscia

Published online: 29 December 2012
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Last September 29 Professor Mariarosaria Padula, Mariolina for everybody, passed away. The long illness that accompanied her last years, though weakened Mariolina, did not show any apparent effect on her spirit, on her profuse passion for research, on the enthusiasm for mathematics she was able to pass on to young students.

Mariolina was Professor of Mathematical Physics at the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Ferrara, Italy. After graduating in mathematics in Naples, she was assistant, then associate professor till 1994, when she got her chair first at the University of Basilicata and, since 1995, in Ferrara. Countless are the invitations she received from prestigious mathematical institutions

V. Coscia (✉)
Dipartimento di Matematica e Informatica,
Università di Ferrara, Via Machiavelli, 35,
44100 Ferrara, Italy
e-mail: vincenzo.coscia@unife.it

all over the world, as well as the international conferences and schools she attended. The research activity of Mariolina concerned different fields of mathematical fluid dynamics. In particular, she gave fundamental contributions to the study of viscous compressible fluid dynamics, to the stability of motion, to free-boundary problems, to fluid-structure interaction. A look to her vast, first-class scientific production shows how she teamed up with mathematicians from any area, both prominent scholars and young students that she was able to carry away by her enthusiasm. At the University of Ferrara Mariolina contributed with her appreciated lectures in many different classes and, in particular, with the impetus she put to relaunch the “Annali dell’Università di Ferrara”, the historic journal that she coordinated and of which she was main editor. Under Mariolina’s hands the “Annali” transformed from a department’s publication to an international journal edited by one of the most relevant scientific publishers.

The colleagues and friends that every day met Mariolina will miss her intellectual honesty, her openness, the serenity she transmitted despite the suffering of last months, that she dissimulated with a smile, that they will miss more than everything else.

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