

## Professor Francisco (Frank) Galiana



The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering lost one of its giants recently. Professor Francisco (Frank) D. Galiana passed away on January 27th, 2021. Frank graduated from our department in 1966 with a B.Eng. in electrical engineering before heading to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to pursue his graduate studies. Upon graduating, he headed to Switzerland at the Brown Boveri research centre before being recruited by the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He returned to McGill as an Assistant Professor in 1977.

He distinguished himself throughout his career as an outstanding educator and researcher in the area of electric power engineering. Over the course of his career, Frank made many important contributions. These include seminal contributions including in the early 1970s in the field of electricity demand prediction - through means that some of us would now call machine learning—all the way to the study of oligopolistic behaviour of power generation firms in the first decade of the 2000's. His 1987 paper Short-Term Load Forecasting (Proc. IEEE 75(12)) with George Gross (B.Eng. '66) remains the gold standard in this area, and his 1998 co-edited book (with Marija Ilic and Lester Fink) Power Systems Restructuring: Engineering and Economics contains the most fundamental developments which enabled modern electricity markets worldwide. In 1998, he was also one of the experts appointed by the Board of Directors of Hydro-Québec to investigate the impact of 1998's ice storm on its network and to recommend it should improve its resiliency against severe weather events.

Frank contributed to the training of many graduate students in his field, some of which attained the highest functions, including founder and CEO of power and energy technology companies and even Ambassador of Malaysia to the United States! He cared deeply for all his graduate students; the time and dedication he provided them showed his profound generosity, a passion for wordsmithing and a drive for scientific and technological impact first and foremost. Beyond being an exceptional teacher and researcher, he served as our Department as Associate Chair (Undergraduate Programs) and as Interim Chair (2004-2005).

Frank was a noted polyglot, speaking fluently Spanish, English, Portuguese, French and Swiss German. He was a notable epicurean, cook, and football (the proper kind) aficionado. A necessary rite of passage for all graduate students under him involved not just only passing the qualifying examination, but also having to cross country ski Mount St. Bruno's trails.

Since retiring from his full academic duties in 2012, he wrote several children's books, a science fiction trilogy, and a cookbook, and he became Research & Development lead of Saccade Analytics. We extend heartfelt condolences to his wife Mimi, who is a faculty member in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, of McGill's Faculty of Medicine, daughter Isabel, son Paquito and seven grandchildren.