Obituary:
Michael William Hyer died unexpectedly on Wednesday, February 15. He was born in Buffalo, New York on September 2, 1942. He grew up in Wellsville, New York, where he ran track, made great friends and good grades, and began tinkering with cars. He was a proud graduate of SUNY-Buffalo, Purdue University, and the University of Michigan where he developed lifetime relationships with his faculty mentors. He worked on the Super Sonic Transport at Boeing for several years after his master’s degree in the late 1960s, then went to the University of Michigan where he completed his Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering and met and married the love of his life, Pat. His first faculty job was at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. In 1978, he started his long career at Virginia Tech as a professor of Engineering Science and Mechanics (ESM), retiring as the N. Waldo Harrison Professor. He loved his teaching and research on the mechanics of composite materials and structures, but he especially cherished the relationships he built with his graduate students. Through them, he left a legacy that stretches around the world. Although he retired in 2010, he remained very active in his professional societies, reviewing journal articles, co-authoring papers with his former students, and supporting colleagues around the country. Among the many professional honors he received, he was especially proud to have been chosen Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).

Mike had many passions, but first among them were high performance cars, especially his 1963 Cobra and several Porsches. He seldom drove them, but loved their beauty and engineering. He ordered a Tesla 3 on the first day possible. He was known for his puns and loving to share his detailed knowledge about cars, airplanes, anything mechanical, and the latest devices he had acquired. In retirement, he also developed an interest in jazz and live music, and devoted significant time to the newly established Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech. He traveled around the world for conferences with colleagues and loved traveling and hiking with Pat.
Mike is survived by his wife of 44 years, Pat, his sisters Julie Lobsinger and Suzanne Hyer Savona and their husbands, his brother Philip Hyer, his uncle Harry Hyer and his family, and many loving nieces and nephews and their children. He was also a cherished member of Pat’s extended family.

Professional Career:
http://www.esm.vt.edu/people/retired/hyerm/hyerm-bio.html
http://www2.esm.vt.edu/publicationsList.php?id=10018
http://www.aoe.vt.edu/people/faculty/affiliates/hyerm.html
http://www.mii.vt.edu/Personnel/Hyer.html
http://www.worldcat.org/identities/lccn-n84-21297
http://www.sagepub.com/editorDetails.nav?contribId=525704
http://journalogy.net/Author/12967824/michael-w-hyer

Virginia Tech College of Engineering
N. Waldo Harrison Professor Emeritus

Interests:
Mechanics of composite materials and structures, solid mechanics

Education:
1974  Ph.D., Aerospace Engineering, University of Michigan
1966  M.S., Engineering Science, Purdue University
1964  B.S., Aerospace Engineering, State University of New York at Buffalo

Honors & Awards:
2008  Dean's Award for Excellence in Service, Virginia Tech
2007  Outstanding Aerospace Engineer, Purdue University
2005  N. Waldo Harrison Professorship
2005  Alumni Award for Research Excellence, Virginia Tech
2005  Outstanding Research Award, American Society for Composites
2005  Frank J. Maher Award for Excellence in Engineering Education, Engineering Science and Mechanics
2003  Fellow, American Academy of Mechanics
2003  Fellow, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
2002  Best Paper Award, American Society for Composites
2002  Fellow, American Society for Composites
2002  Distinguished Service Award, American Society for Testing and Materials
2001  CRC Award in Composites
1997  Fellow, American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Professional Service:

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION:
American Society for Composites: Past-President, 2002-03, President, 2000-02; President-Elect, 1998-2000; Recording Secretary of Executive Committee, 1996-98, Elected Member-at-Large to Executive Committee, 1994-96, Program Chairman, 4th Technical Conference, Blacksburg, 1989; Organizer and Co-Chairman, 16th Technical Conference, Blacksburg, 2001; Session co-chair at a number of ASC Technical Conferences

International Council on Composite Materials: Vice-President, Region 3 - the Americas, July 2003- July 2005


American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics: Chair, Structures Technical Committee, 2007-2009; Technical Chair, 48th Structures, Structural Dynamics, and Materials Conference, Honolulu, HI, April 2007; Organizer of Interactive Plenary Session, 41st SDM, 2000, Organizer of Interactive Plenary Session, 38th SDM Conference, 1997; Organizer of Interactive Plenary Session, 37th SDM Conference, 1996; ASC Representative on SDM Planning Committee; Session co-chair at a number of SDM Conferences; Organized and taught portion of 2- day short course, Introduction to Composite Materials and Structures: Processing, Analysis, and Design, 1991; Course Leader, Home Study Course, Introduction to the Mechanics of Fiber-Reinforced Materials and Structures, 1989-90; Panel Organizer and Moderator, Panel on Education, 26th SDM Conference, 1985; Panelist on Aerospace Education Issues Panel, Annual Meeting, 1984; Member Structures Technical Committee, 1980-83, 2002-05; Chair Blue Ridge Section, 1982-84; Vice- Chair of Blue Ridge Section, 1981-82; Reviewer for AIAA Journal, J. of Aircraft, and SDM Conferences

US National Congress of Applied Mechanics (14th): Scientific Co-Chair, Blacksburg, VA, 2002

International Conference on Composite Materials (14th); Vice-Chair, San Diego, CA, 2003

Virginia Space Grant Consortium: Virginia Tech representative to Advisor Board, 1995-97

Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology: Appointed Evaluator, 1989

Member, Editorial Advisory Board: Journal of Composite Materials
Member, Editorial Board: Advanced Composite Materials

Member, Editorial Board: Mechanics of Advanced Materials and Structures

Member, Editorial Board: Journal of Composites Technology and Research


Office of Naval Research: Member US Study Team on Advanced Composites on two-week fact-finding trip to Japan, Dec. 1988


National Science Foundation: Advisory Panelist, Individual Investigator Awards, 1995; Member, Workshop for Research on Advanced Composites in Construction, 1994; Member, site review team for composites program in State of Mississippi, 1989; Member of Advisory Panel on science education (CAUSE), 1978; Currently review proposals in the area of solid mechanics and composites

National Academy of Sciences: AFOSR Proposal Reviewer, 1998, 2003; Reviewer for report on the use of inorganic matrix composites in advanced transport aircraft, 1987; Structures Panel Leader, Workshop on Aeronautics Technology in the Year 2000, 1983-84; Panelist on ad hoc panel to review progress on space shuttle filament wound cases, 1984

6th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th International Conference for Composite Materials (1986-present): member of Scientific Committee, paper reviewer

International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics: Chairman, Local Arrangements Committee, IUTAM Symposium on Composite Materials, Blacksburg, VA, 1982

Sigma Xi: President of Old Dominion University Club, 1976; Vice-President, 1977

Books and Book Chapters Published by Professor Hyer:

Books:

Book Chapters:

Recent Publications:

For full listing of Professor Hyer’s publications, Google “Hyer Virginia Tech”

Courses Taught:
- ESM 3054 Mech Behav Matls Spring 2010
- ESM 5074 Mech Lam Comp Str Spring 2010
- ESM 6044 Theory of Plates and Shells Fall 2009
- ESM 3054 Mech Behav Matls Spring 2009
- ESM 5454 Elastic Stability Fall 2008
- ESM 5744 Variational Methods Fall 2008
- ESM 3054 Mech Behav Matls Fall 2008
- ESM 5074 Mech Lam comp Str Spring 2008
ESM 5994  Research and Thesis  Spring 2008
ESM 7994  Research and Dissertation  Spring 2008
ESM 3704  Basic Principles of Structures  Fall 2007
ESM 5744  Variational Methods  Fall 2007
ESM 5994  Research and Thesis  Fall 2007
ESM 7994  Research and Dissertation  Fall 2007
ESM 3054  Mech Behav Matls  Spring 2007
ESM 5994  Research and Thesis  Spring 2007
ESM 7994  Research and Dissertation  Spring 2007
ESM 5454  Elastic Stability  Fall 2006
ESM 6154  Composite Analysis  Fall 2006
ESM 3054  Mech Behav Matls  Spring 2006
ESM 2304  Dynamics  Fall 2005
ESM 2304  Dynamics  Spring 2005
ESM 5454  Elastic Stability  Fall 2004
ESM 6154  Composite Analysis  Fall 2004
ESM 2104  Statics  Spring 2004
ESM 2104  Statics  Fall 2003