

In Memory of Pijush Kundu



Pijush Kanti Kundu was born in Calcutta, India, on October 31, 1941. He received a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1963 from Shibpur Engineering College of Calcutta University, earned an MS degree in Engineering from Roorkee University in 1965, and was a lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi from 1965 to 1968. Pijush came to the United States in 1968, as a doctoral student at Penn State University. With Dr. John L. Lumley as his advisor, he studied instabilities of viscoelastic fluids, receiving his doctorate in 1972. He began his lifelong interest in oceanography soon after his graduation, working as Research Associate in Oceanography at Oregon State University from 1968 until 1972. After spending a year

at the University de Oriente in Venezuela, he joined the faculty of the Oceanographic Center of Nova Southeastern University, where he remained until his death in 1994.

During his career, Pijush contributed to a number of sub-disciplines in physical oceanography, most notably in the fields of coastal dynamics, mixed-layer physics, internal waves, and Indian-Ocean dynamics. He was a skilled data analyst, and, in this regard, one of his accomplishments was to introduce the “empirical orthogonal eigenfunction” statistical technique to the oceanographic community.

I arrived at Nova Southeastern University shortly after Pijush, and he and I worked closely together thereafter. I was immediately impressed with the clarity of his scientific thinking and his thoroughness. His most impressive and obvious quality, though, was his love of science, which pervaded all his activities. Some time after we met, Pijush opened a drawer in a desk in his home office, showing me drafts of several chapters to a book he had always wanted to write. A decade later, this manuscript became the first edition of *Fluid Mechanics*, the culmination of his lifelong dream, which he dedicated to the memory of his mother, and to his wife Shikha, daughter Tonushree, and son Joydip.

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