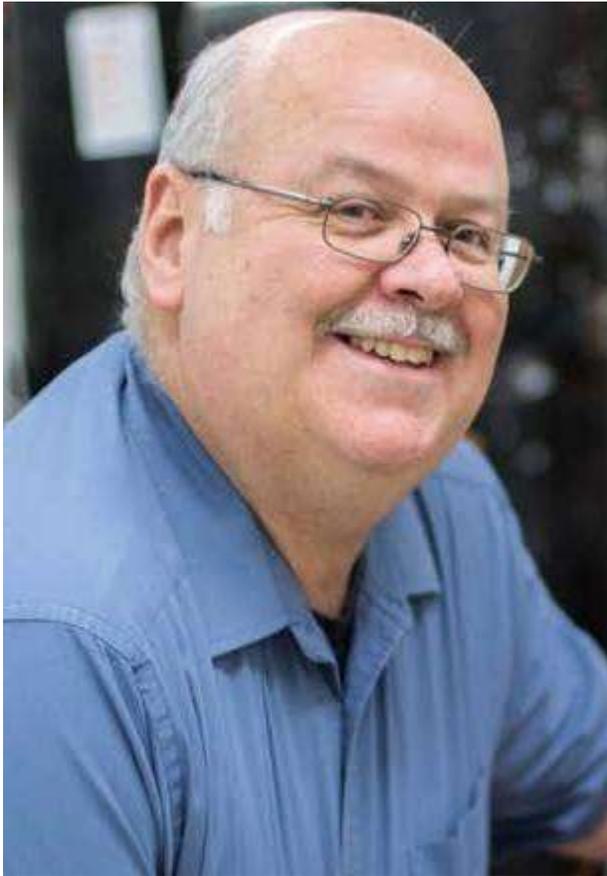


DAVID GREATRIX – THE HEART OF A LONE WOLF



DR. DAVID ROBERT GREATRIX of Penticton, B.C., aged 62, passed away unexpectedly on June 30, 2021 while on a nature hike in Manning Park, B.C. David was born in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba on October 3, 1958 to Major John and Carmel Greatrix. Growing up in a military family, David also resided in Ottawa, Ontario, Lahr, Germany and Winnipeg, Manitoba. David moved to Toronto, Ontario where he was a Professor of Aerospace Engineering at Ryerson University for 25 years. His research on rocket propulsion is internationally recognized. During his time as a professor, he would write his first book, *Powered Flight – The Engineering of Aerospace Propulsion*, a popular internationally well-received engineering textbook. Upon retirement, David moved to Abbotsford, B.C. and then settled in Penticton, B.C. where he was pursuing his interest of being a published author. He is predeceased by his parents and sister Cheryl Chase. He is survived by his sister Nancy Tremblay, brother Mark Greatrix, nephew Colin Tremblay and niece Hilary Tremblay.

To plant a tree in memory of Dr. David Robert Greatrix, please visit [Kettle Valley Memorial](#).

Tributes from Colleagues and Students

Dr. David Greatrix was one of the smartest people I have ever known. His intellect was only surpassed by his integrity and dedication to his profession. I thoroughly enjoyed his company over the years and will miss his wit and dry sense of humour. He will not be forgotten. – Peter Bradley

David Greatrix was a good man and close colleague of mine. He was the founding associate chair of our Department of Aerospace Engineering responsible for undergraduate teaching and students. I had the pleasure of working with him at several fronts including the launch of two new manufacturing courses. I still remembered his big smile every time I went to him for help or signature. I was shocked to learn of his passing and saddened by the loss of a good friend. May he rest in peace. – Jeff Xi

Professor Greatrix's strong passion for rocketry was passed on to his graduate students working on related projects. This passion was ever so evident in individual meetings and discussions with his research group regarding the performance and combustion instability of solid and liquid propellant rocket motors, of which he was an expert. He was a great mentor to all his students and highly supportive of their research and professional development. – John Montesano

I had the privilege of occupying the office next door to David's for several years. David was a scholar and a true gentleman. He was a principled man who could be completely depended upon when needed. I was very saddened to hear of his passing. May he rest in peace. – Anton de Ruiter

Dr. Greatrix was surprised that I chose him as a faculty advisor for my Master's thesis but accepted me anyway. This was really David's way, to have the Universe self-select around him and he would work with whatever lasted. Many people didn't last in his class, waiting to be spoon fed rather than put the energy in themselves. He was always disappointed despite his best efforts to inspire and improve the people and institutions around him. But those of us who saw through his obtuse exterior realized that he was smarter than all of us and more importantly had the patience to stop and wait for us to catch up if we would just start moving. He tried to make a difference everywhere he went but he was too gentle a soul and the world treated him rather harshly for it. He had only a few friends, but to those he was loyal, and I hope that he counted me among them. A genius surrounded by fools, but he couldn't lower himself to the level of everyone else just to get ahead. It became too hard to keep up the pretense and he took his leave of everything and everyone and sailed off into the sunset. Sail on, Voyager, you were never meant for this world but those of us that knew you, are the better for it. – Clayton Wozney

I worked with Prof. David Greatrix on many committees and we co-supervised students. David's humble smile will never be forgotten. I sincerely wish him the best in heaven, launching his rockets and novels. – Guangjun Liu

Dr. Greatrix's classes provided me a solid foundation in both the theoretical knowledge and practical applications of aircraft propulsion that has benefitted me throughout my fifteen-year career in the Royal Canadian Air Force and now in the commercial aviation industry. In addition to being a student in his class, he was my thesis advisor in my fourth year at Ryerson University, where I designed a rocket and associated telemetry software for a Low Apogee Rocket for Undergraduate Education. Through his tutelage and guidance, I ended up being one of the top students to graduate from the Aerospace program in 2001. His experience and teachings will be sorely missed. – Thomas Turk

David Greatrix's love for rockets was second to none. He inspired many students with his research, and the founding of the Rocket Competition that encouraged high school students to launch rockets from downtown Toronto. – Jeff Yokota

David published "Powered Flight," covering the most propulsion systems to give the reader a better context of trends and interconnections between systems. I did not know about his book until I accidentally met him in Krakow, Poland, during the publishing promotion at the European aerospace conference. He was always quiet in the department, even though he was very well-known in the international aerospace propulsion community. – Joon Chung

David began his career at Ryerson University in 1992. I had the pleasure of both being his student and later his colleague. David was amongst the faculty members at Ryerson who contributed to the establishment of the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Ryerson University. His contribution to the Department of Aerospace Engineering and his infectious passion for rocketry will forever be missed. Rest in peace dear colleague. – Hamid Ghaemi

Dr. Greatrix was a very knowledgeable researcher and instructor who taught me a great deal about aircraft propulsion systems when I was his student. He always treated his work seriously and always had

the desire to strive for excellence. His endless contributions to the aerospace society will be greatly missed. – Cliff Chan

After completing my third year of aerospace studies, David Greatrix gave me an opportunity to work in his lab and support his course development and research. That opportunity eventually led to a full-time position at the university and the start of my career a few years later. David had a big heart for the world that was shattered somewhere along the way. Us lone wolves can relate. To those he touched, he'll forever be missed. May the legacy of his writing and teachings live on. – Primoz Cresnik