



## STUDENT HONORS

problem. Using the UGC, one can show that many natural optimization questions are hard. Moreover, one can often nail down precisely the best approximation factor achievable. In a series of remarkable papers by Subhash and others, it was then realized that for a large family of problems, the UGC gives the precise approximability factors.

Subhash Khot's research has received extraordinary levels of recognition and honor. In 2014 he won the Rolf Nevanlinna Prize, the highest scientific award in theoretical computer science, awarded once every 4 years at the International Congress of Mathematicians, for outstanding contributions in Mathematical Aspects of Information Sciences. In 2010 he was awarded the NSF Alan T. Waterman award, given annually to a single scientist in the U.S. aged 35 or younger. He was named a Simons Foundation Investigator in 2015. In 2010 he was an invited speaker at the International Congress of Mathematicians. He has received an NSF CAREER award, a Sloan Foundation Fellowship, and a Microsoft New Faculty Fellowship. ■

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inside of one until sometime in the 80s, when he got a call that an experimental two-seat Warthog at Edwards Air Force Base in southern California was waiting to take him up in the air. The pilot flew the plane blind, at night, and in between mountains. At the end of the flight, Grossman emerged (see photo) with watery eyes — happy to be back on the ground!

“As quick with a smile as he was with the answer to a complex theoretical problem, Grossman was a rare bird in today's world, a gentleman, a true scholar,” says the obituary printed in the New York Times. He was “one who lived his life with integrity and joy.” Grossman is survived by his wife Thelma, with whom he hosted several NYU alumni gatherings in their home in Greenwich Village, and by nieces Susan Scribner and Meryl Fiedelman. He passed away peacefully last spring at the age of 92. ■