

Obituary

Professor Boško LUGOVIĆ, PhD



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Geologia Croatica



Our dear colleague and distinguished professor Boško Lugović, PhD left us on May 12th this year. The cruel news saddened us deeply because this humble man has left an indelible mark on our community: at our Faculty as a scientist, among students as an excellent teacher, in our hearts as a dear friend and colleague. Eminent scientists usually leave

behind their scientific achievements, but Professor Lugović left his mark in every respect. We have lost a dear colleague with whom we shared the good and the bad, we have lost a good friend and a wise counselor, our students have lost a strict and demanding teacher, but also a person who understood and loved them.

Professor Boško Lugović, PhD was born on November 15th, 1949 in Šibenik. In his hometown, he attended elementary and high school before moving to Zagreb, where he studied geology at the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Science. He graduated in 1973, majoring in mineralogy and petrology. From April 1975, he was employed at the Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering, at the University of Zagreb, where he continued to work until his untimely death. During his scientific and teaching career, Professor Boško Lugović was dedicated to the field of igneous and metamorphic rocks. His postgraduate thesis was entitled „Effusive rocks from the northwestern part of Papuk Mt.“. He defended his PhD thesis entitled „Gabbro peridotite rock association on the northwestern rim of the ophiolite Maljen massif (with basic comparisons to some similar occurrences from the ophiolite belt in the Dinarides)“ on December 15th, 1986. Boško Lugović was elected an Assistant Professor on January 11th, 1988, an Associate Professor on March 7th, 1997, and a Full Professor on December 13th, 2011.

He taught courses at the Department of Mineralogy, Petrology and Mineral Resources at Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering, dealing with the petrology of igneous and metamorphic rocks and methods of their research. Over the last ten years, Professor Boško Lugović was dedicated to a new discipline that combines geology and archeology where he had made a significant scientific contribution. Following his research in this new scientific discipline, he designed and proposed the syllabus of the new course entitled „Tephrochronology in the Quaternary.“

During his scientific career at the University, Professor Boško Lugović, PhD paid a lot of attention to training and specialization in order to keep pace with current trends in

the world of science. He also trained and specialized during the development of his master's thesis and during research for his doctoral dissertation. He was a visiting scientist, mainly in German and partly in Austrian institutions: Technische Universität Braunschweig, BVFA-Geotechnisches - Institut in Vienna, Montanuniversität in Leoben, Institute of Petrology and Geochemistry, University of Karlsruhe. It should be emphasized that he had a longstanding scientific collaboration with Professor Rainer Altherr, PhD, and Hans-Peter Meyer, PhD from Mineralogical institute (now incorporated to Institute of Earth Science) of the University of Heidelberg and with Professor Albrecht Hofmann, PhD from the Department of Geochemistry at the Max-Planck Institute in Mainz, where Professor Lugović spent one year undertaking a postdoctoral specialization. During advanced training in these institutions, Professor Boško Lugović, PhD mastered instrumental analytical methods and applied them when interpreting the results of petrological and geochemical research related to genesis of igneous and metamorphic rocks of the Dinarides and Pannonian Basin. At least once a year, he went to the Mineralogical Institute in Heidelberg, where he had the opportunity to do up-to-date mineralogical analysis. Applying modern techniques and methods in his investigations, his overall scientific work was based on reliable data.

Professor Boško Lugović's contemporary approach to science was also acknowledged in the education of younger colleagues and researchers. He was actively involved as a mentor for several doctoral theses, fifteen graduate works, and three student's works for the Rector's award. He wrote internal textbooks for the courses „Petrology of igneous and metamorphic rocks“, „Analyses of mineral assemblages“ and „Instrumental methods of analysis“. Professor Lugović has been an active researcher in the national research projects and a member of international projects for IGCP/UNESCO. He was also a leader of national research projects „Cenozoic volcanism on the Adriatic coast and the hinterland“, „Igneous and pyroclastic rocks and their alteration“ and „Tectonomagmatic correlation of fragmented oceanic lithosphere in the Dinarides“. He was a collaborator in the national scientific project of Croatian Geological Survey „Magmatic, mantle and pyroclastic Mesozoic rocks of Northwestern Croatia“.

Boško Lugović was especially proud of his participation in scientific projects of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He collaborated fruitfully with young petrologists from The University of Tuzla where he mentored two PhD theses (Zehra Salkić, PhD and Elvir Babajić, PhD).

As an author or co-author, Boško Lugović published a total of 68 scientific papers, in eminent scientific journals, books, and in abstracts from national and international scientific meetings. Some of the works are pioneering (multi-disciplinary) including geoarchaeology.

Boško Lugović was a member of The Croatian Geological Society, and vice president of the Society from 1991 until 1993. He was a member of the editorial board of the journal „Geologia Croatica“ from 1991 until 1995.

The scientific contribution of Boško Lugović is in the field of igneous, metamorphic and pyroclastic rocks in the Dinarides, and their effect on the mineralization and its application in geoarchaeological studies. Professor Lugović leaves behind not only outstanding scientific contributions in the field of geology, but also the scientific enthusiasm in seeking answers to the mysteries of the Earth. However, that was not his only area of interest. He considered himself primarily a teacher and his life were dedicated to the transfer of his extensive knowledge to the younger generations. He loved working with young people, giving lectures, exercises and field work. He encouraged young people in their efforts to cope with the difficulties of studying. He was able to choose the best way to approach each individual. His relationship with students was relaxed and unconventional. He will particularly be remembered by many generations for his cheerful approach to fieldwork when magmatic and metamorphic petrology was taught in a completely different, relaxed and very inspiring atmosphere, thanks to the serenity and distinctive style of Professor Lugović.

All achievements of Professor Boško Lugović, PhD in science and teaching would not have been possible without the professor's solid anchor – his family who were the foundation on which everything rested and of whom he was proud.

We bid farewell to our dear colleague, exceptional teacher and a good friend and laid him to eternal rest at the graveyard in Bilice. The cemetery overlooks the Dalmatian karst, small fields planted with olive trees and vines - everything that Professor Lugović loved so much. In our memories his laughter still echoes, we can still remember his sayings and jokes. Sometimes it seems like he only left us for a short time and he will be back soon (... it is impossible that a man so full of life passed away!).

We say goodbye to our dear friend with the help of Yesenin's verses:

*Goodbye, my friend, goodbye
My friend, you are in my heart.
It was preordained we should part
And be reunited by and by.*

Dunja Aljinović and Vesnica Garašić

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