

IN MEMORIAM



TUGOMIR ŠURINA, PhD, Professor Emeritus (15th February 1924 – 5th March 2007)

With deep sorrow and respect we remember our dear Professor Tugomir Šurina, Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb, who left us forever on 5th March 2007.

The life of professor Šurina began in the year 1924 in Celje, where he lived and started his education. He continued it in Pregrada, Senj, and Zagreb, where he finished High School. In 1946 he enrolled at the Technical University of Zagreb – Electrical Engineering Department and graduated in 1952. From 1953 to 1965 he was employed in Zagreb Radio industry (RIZ), first as a product developer, then as a head of development department and later as RIZ technical manager. For a short period of time he worked in Brown Boveri laboratory in Switzerland and for two years he worked in product development department of Grundig,

Germany. In the year 1962, he went for specialization in computing center of Princeton University. He returned to his homeland and continued working in RIZ as a Head of the Institute, and later as a Chief Executive Manager.

Scientific and teaching work of Professor Šurina was very successful and this is what he was doing after 12 years of his experience in industry. He had begun his university career in 1966, and was elected Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture. In 1971, he was promoted to associate professor and in 1981 he defended his Ph.D. thesis and was elected Full Professor at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture in Zagreb.

As soon as he arrived at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture he was involved in teaching courses on automatic control, digital and analog computers, industrial robotics and several other courses, and it was his merit that laboratory for automatic control and regulation was founded.

He participated in several commissions and boards. Under his mentorship 10 doctoral theses were defended and also 48 Master of Science works, and he was also involved in the development of 7 new products. He developed collaboration with universities from abroad.

He is the author of about hundred of scientific and professional papers, and he wrote 8 books about automation and electronics, and 2 of these books are used as university tutorials. He was involved in 20 projects and studies, being the main researcher on 7 of them. He organized many international scientific conferences, and was involved in editorial boards of periodicals *Automatika*, *Hidraulika i pneumatika* and *Strojarstvo*. He was also member of Zagreb city parliament.

He received many awards for his activities, among them Medal for People's Merits, and Medal of work, Big medal of Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture and republic award for science *Nikola Tesla*. In the year 1979 he received award from TU Dresden, 1989 the Republic Award for life achievement, and in 1994, Croatian Academy for Arts and Science awarded him for scientific work. From 1977 he was honorary life member of SMEITJ. After his retirement he was elected Professor Emeritus of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture.

Mere listing of his life facts is not enough to get complete and accurate picture of Professor Šurina. Besides all his achievements he had »this something« in him, which was felt by all people who spent time with him. He was a »living encyclopedia«, but with a critical view, the man who sees connections between things and events in a particular way. Sometimes you might not have agreed with him, but you always had to admit that he had a precise way of thinking, the thinking that could not let you stay indifferent. This is the reason why he managed to gather so many collaborators who have successfully continued his work.

Professor Tugomir Šurina will stay forever in our memory being the man with whom it was the honor to live and work.

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