

### In memoriam

## Marela Hercezi-Skalicki, BA, senior lecturer

(26 February 1933 – 31 October 2016)



*In one of the stars, I shall be living.*

*In one of them, I shall be laughing.*

*And so it will be as if all the stars were laughing  
when you look at the stars at night.*

*„The Little Prince“, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*

It is impossible to express in words all the precious memories of Marela Hercezi-Skalicki, a lovely and warm person, an affectionate and reliable friend, a creative and competent teacher, and a close work colleague who unexpectedly passed away on 31 October 2016. Yet, by writing down some of the most important facts about Marela Hercezi-Skalicki's teaching career and her achievements, we can give the reader a chance to create his/her own mental picture of the excellent teacher and the woman of many talents.

Marela Hercezi-Skalicki was born in Zagreb where she completed her education. She graduated from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, and got a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1957. During her studies, Marela Hercezi-Skalicki spent some time in Grenoble, France, to perfect her French. After graduation, the young teacher of English and French spent a year in London, UK, to broaden the acquired knowledge of the English language and culture.

Senior lecturer Marela Hercezi-Skalicki started her teaching career as a teacher in a primary school in Zagreb and as a teacher at the university level. In 1961 she started teaching technical English at the Technical College, University of Zagreb. After the integration of the Technical College into the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, Marela Hercezi-Skalicki was elected as a lecturer of technical English in 1967 and of technical French in 1970. She worked as a lecturer and a senior lecturer at the same institution until her retirement on 30 September 1993. Her excellent and committed work was appreciated by both her colleagues and her students.

As a teacher, Marela Hercezi-Skalicki created high quality teaching materials for her students of technical English and technical French. The years of research into methods of teaching technical English at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture and the vast experience in teaching resulted in an excellent textbook titled “Reading Technical English for Academic Purposes”, published by Školska knjiga Zagreb in 1988. The textbook intended for students of mechanical engineering was credited with a modern approach to teaching languages for specific purposes and with an excellent selection of texts from different fields of mechanical engineering.

Marela Hercezi-Skalicki was the author of professional and scientific papers published in different journals and proceedings. Let us quote here the paper that resulted from the project 2-08-175 “International Terms in Multilingual Terminology of Information Engineering” (published in Croatian, 1993, authors: Hercezi-Skalicki, Branica-Todorić,

Kraljev) and the one published in the faculty proceedings “Reflections on the impact of cybernetics/information science on the teaching of technical English” (published in Croatian, 1980). The quoted titles illustrate the deep interest in research and the latest developments in different scientific disciplines and the multi-disciplinary orientation of the author.

In addition to being fully dedicated to her work, Marela Hercezi-Skalicki was an active member of the Faculty. She was a head of the Chair of Technical Foreign Languages for several years and a member of the Faculty Council and the Commission for Culture. She was involved in the translation and language editing of research papers and abstracts of her colleagues. She also created English language courses for research and teaching assistants of the Faculty and taught them on a voluntary basis.

The quality of her work and the active involvement in the life of the Faculty were recognized and awarded by the Faculty management on more than one occasion.

As for us, the happy few who had a privilege of working with Marela, we can add that knowing Marela made our lives brighter and provided us with a model of a dedicated professional on the one hand, and of a devoted wife, a proud and loving mother, and a wonderful grandmother on the other. When her first granddaughter was born, Marela chose her family over the career and went into premature retirement.

Dear Mrs. Hercezi-Skalicki, dear Marela, your colleagues, your students, your family, your friends will always remember you! And we all miss you so much! But, we'll dry our tears of sorrow, we'll look at the stars and we'll find solace in the hope that you are there, laughing.