

In memoriam

Professor Dušan Jeras

(30 June 1930 – 20 July 2019)



It is with deep sorrow that we have to announce that our dear colleague, Professor Dušan Jeras, a member of the Department of Internal Combustion Engines and Transportation Systems and the Chair of IC Engines and Motor Vehicles of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb, and an honorary member of the Croatian Society for IC Engines and Vehicles passed away peacefully. He left behind many close friends and colleagues.

Professor Jeras was born in Crikvenica. He completed the general-programme secondary school in Zagreb in 1949 and graduated from the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Technical Faculty in 1955. Upon graduation he started his career in the factory Rade Končar, then he worked in Remontni zavod (Military maintenance, repair and overhaul service provider) in Bregana and at the Military Technical College in Zagreb. In 1973 he obtained a position of Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, where he was also awarded a PhD degree after having defended his dissertation titled “On the influence of the variable engine and vehicle operating regime on dynamic loads exerted on some components of the drive mechanism”. In 1980 he became associate professor and in 1985 full professor. Apart from teaching, Professor Jeras participated in the Faculty governance as Vice-dean (1984-1986) and Dean (1986-1988). He was also head of the Chair of IC Engines and Motor Vehicles and the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He was also teaching at the Faculty of Agriculture and the Cross-Institutional Study in Transportation. His professional activities and research focused on internal combustion engines, in which field he investigated the introduction of alternative fuels, reduction in adverse effects of an engine and processes occurring in engines while operating in real conditions.

In his career Professor Jeras co-edited numerous proceedings of Croatian and international conferences as well as journals, such as *Strojarstvo*, *Tehnika podmazivanja i primjena goriva*, *Goriva i maziva*, *Suvremeni promet*, *Sigurnost*, etc. He is the co-author of the university textbook *Light Engines* with Professor Krpan and the author of the textbook *Piston Engines*. He also authored several entries in the Technical Encyclopaedia. Professor Jeras chaired the Croatian Society for Engines and Vehicles. At the end of the academic year 1998/1999 he went into well-deserved retirement, remaining however a dear friend and welcome guest at the Chair of IC Engines and Motor Vehicles and the Faculty.

Professor's effective use of time was something we all were impressed by. It seemed as if he was never in a hurry and yet he made the time for everything: preparation of the first course materials at the Military Technical College, co-authoring *Light Engines*, writing entries for the Technical Encyclopaedia and the Engineering Handbook, authoring his own university textbook, performing his duties as vice-dean and dean of the Faculty and contributing to other Croatian professional bodies too. Without a sign of nervousness he was carrying out his tasks calmly and on time.

Professor Jeras's working day started with a cup of coffee, which gathering nobody missed, even those who never drank coffee! Our daily tasks started with this ceremony, in which even a joke or two were shared. Nothing was difficult or insurmountable. If there had been an obstacle for a moment, Duško and Dražen (Jeras and Bjelovučić) would always find a way out, a solution to the most complex engineering problems.



Although many years passed from his last lecture and his last working day at the Chair, Professor Jeras was always willing to listen to and discuss problems we were faced with and would offer advice. We all remember his integrity, calmness, unobtrusiveness and confidence about heading the Chair of IC Engines and Motor Vehicles and the whole Department. The greatest legacy he passed on are harmonious interpersonal relationships, by which every new member of our Chair has been impressed and which we have been maintaining ever since. He taught us that our greatest strength and highest value are people. Thanks to this sound foundation, in the last decade the Chair of IC Engines and Motor Vehicles and its laboratory have been growing steadily and have earned an increasing recognition in Croatia and abroad.

The greatest pride of teachers are their students. In this respect, Professor Jeras can really be proud of his students who established themselves in Croatia and have an impressive record of international achievements.

Dear Professor Jeras, it was an honour and pleasure to have worked with you and have been a part of your life.

Your faithful friends and colleagues from the Chair and the Department