

# THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA

The initiation work of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Rijeka is associated with the decree of Croatian National Parliament of July 7, 1960, when the Faculty was established under the name *the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering*, having existed at that time within the University of Zagreb. The Government of that period met the ever increasing economic requirements of our region, marked with strong industrial development and the necessities for education of mechanical and naval-construction experts. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, The Faculty was officially declared open under the presence of the head of the University of Zagreb, initiating thus regular classes of Mechanical Engineering and later on in the academic year of 1969/70, of Naval Architecture. The education of experts in the field of Electrical Engineering was carried out by the Faculty in 1987, when respective professional study was established, generating also the undergraduate university study in 1999/2000. Since the academic year 2008/09 undergraduate university study classes have also been performed in the field of Computer Science. For this field, the Faculty undergoes a due process of getting the authorization for its work on the graduate university study level.

Education at the Faculty of Engineering is performed by the Bologna model through 11 study programs: undergraduate university studies of Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; graduate university studies of Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Electrical Engineering; vocational studies of Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Electrical Engineering as well as postgraduate doctoral studies in the field of engineering sciences covering scientific fields of mechanical engineering, naval architecture and fundamental engineering sciences. In the near future, conditions for obtaining authorization for performing postgraduate instruction in the field of electrical engineering are to be realized. Also, several programs of lifelong supplemental education are carried out as follows: the program of education within Cisco Academy in the fields of network technologies, the education programs for achieving ECDL certificates, as well as professional training program for technicians for maintenance of air conditioning and cooling devices in cooling technology of refrigerants. In this academic year, lifelong education program for acquiring knowledge, skills and competencies necessary for enrolling in the graduate university studies at this Faculty is to be implemented. Within the Faculty there is also University IT Academy, performing the lifelong education of E-learning in teacher training and the learning program of MicrosoftPartners. At the Faculty of Engineering, studies have been completed by 2308 graduate engineers of mechanical engineering, 301 graduate naval architects and 236 graduate engineers of electrical engineering, i.e. a total of 2845 graduate engineers, followed by 709 engineers of mechanical engineering, 107 naval architects and 710 engineers of electrical engineering, which is a total of 1526 engineers. This year the first Masters of Sciences, a total number of 62 have been promoted, of which 19 in the field of mechanical engineering, 7 in naval architecture and 36 in electrical engineering. Diplomas have been gained by 269

university bachelors, the number being 114 in mechanical engineering, 27 in naval architecture, and 128 in electrical engineering, in particular, 105 vocational bachelors of which: 32 in mechanical engineering, 11 in naval architecture and 62 in electrical engineering. Furthermore, 95 candidates gained the title of Masters of Science and 85 defended successfully their doctoral dissertations and achieved the title of Doctors of Science. So, since the establishment of this institution in the year 1960, most of highly educated experts of technical profile have been educated at this Faculty, thus contributing to the development of our local and greater region.

Having 140 full- or part-time employees elected to some science-educational, educational-professional positions, of which 65 have gained the titles of Doctors of Science, the Faculty of Engineering as one remarkable component of the University of Rijeka will considerably give the university its due prominence of one research institution.

Significantly, 20 scientific projects financed by relevant ministries, 2 scientific projects financed by National Science Foundation and three bilateral projects are currently being performed. Besides, the Faculty is a partner in one of TEMPUS projects, collaborates with more than 40 home and foreign academic institutions and is a part of CEEPUS programs.

Student Union is very active at the Faculty and surely, very noteworthy success was achieved by our students included in the first Formula student team, which under the name RITEH RACING TEAM participated in the world competition of constructing, shaping and racing of small racing prototype cars in Silverstone (Great Britain). In order to disclose its achievements to scientific and professional public scrutiny, in 1970, the Faculty started publication of the Proceedings, which since 1995 has resumed publication as scientific journal *Engineering Review*. In the last few years its frequency of publication has been raised to two issues per year. Despite respectable bibliographic database where the journal is currently indexed, it certainly takes a special effort to include some noteworthy bibliographic database like SCOPUS, which is to become a European version of the high-prestige American Current Contents database. In order to achieve this goal, the quality of published papers and participation of foreign authors are to be enhanced. Also, the frequency of publication has to be fostered with at least 4 issues per year. This goal can be achieved designing a unique journal in a class by itself, in the field of engineering sciences at the level of the University Rijeka, which is certainly the practice of small universities. There are examples both in Croatia and abroad. On the one hand, this policy has entailed a significant enhancement of scientific production quality and on the other, the inclusion into Science Citation Index Expanded database. In my opinion, these are the guidelines we should pursue and reflect on.

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