

# A VIGNETTE ON THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE DEAN'S ADDRESS TO THE 2024/2025 FRESHMAN CLASS

EDITORIAL

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DOI: 10.51558/2232-7568.2024.17.1.1

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**ABSTRACT:****A Vignette on the 65th Anniversary of the Faculty of Technology and the Dean's Address to the 2024/2025 Freshman Class**

The Faculty of Technology in Tuzla is the oldest higher education institution in the Tuzla Canton and one of the oldest in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was established in 1959 and was the cornerstone for the founding of the University of Tuzla.

This year, the Faculty of Technology celebrates 65 years of existence and work, marked by continuous development and success. The faculty has played a significant role in the education of students in Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond, as well as in the founding of other higher education and scientific institutions in Tuzla, which eventually led to the establishment of the University of Tuzla. The Faculty of Technology in Tuzla was the first higher education institution in Bosnia and Herzegovina to initiate postgraduate studies in 1963. The first two master's theses were defended in 1965, and the first doctoral dissertation was defended in 1962.

Today, the Faculty has a total area of 7,878 square meters, comprising modernly equipped amphitheatres, classrooms, laboratories, a library, and faculty offices. Long-standing practice and constant collaboration with the industry have led to the development of curricula that provide the opportunity for training and educating engineers who have sufficiently broad knowledge to quickly adapt to the demands of the industry. Teaching is organized across all three cycles of studies, within the following study programs:

**First Cycle of Studies**

- Chemical Engineering and Technology
- Food Technology
- Environmental Engineering
- Agronomy

**Second Cycle of Studies**

- Chemical Engineering and Technology
- Food Technology
- Environmental Engineering
- Agronomy

**Third Cycle of Studies**

- Chemical Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Food Engineering
- Applied Chemistry (joint doctoral program of the Faculty of Technology and the Faculty of Science and Mathematics)

The faculty's strategy in the field of education involves an optimal balance between European values and local traditions in educating students, who are the foundation of society's future and the greatest inspiration for teachers to effectively impart their knowledge and prepare them for the professions they have chosen. In this regard, the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Dr. Sci. Sead Čatić, traditionally delivered a speech addressing the 65th generation of freshmen at the Faculty of Technology, University of Tuzla:

*„Dear Vice Deans, Heads of Departments, Professors, Assistants, and other staff, and most importantly, dear students,*

*It is my pleasure and honor to warmly welcome all of you on my behalf and on behalf of all the employees of the Faculty of Technology. I would like to thank you for being here and for joining us today to celebrate the beginning of the academic year 2024/2025. Welcome to the academic community and the Faculty of Technology.*

*I would like to remind you of an important fact that sets us apart among the 12 faculties and one academy at the University of Tuzla, which is that the Faculty of Technology was the first to be established, specifically in 1959, when the first generation of students was enrolled. Because of this, the Faculty of Technology has the longest tradition and the most experience in higher education in the Tuzla Canton. The history of our faculty is filled with successes, innovations, and dedicated efforts to enhance the knowledge and skills of our students. Since its founding, the Faculty has produced many excellent engineers who have held, or continue to hold, responsible positions; 4,000 graduates, 300 master's degree holders, and 95 doctoral degree holders are indicators of the long and rich history of the Faculty of Technology.*

*The decades-long existence and successful operation of this institution have enabled us to develop strong collaborations with other higher education institutions, both domestically and internationally. These collaborations allow our students to participate in international projects, exchange knowledge with students from other related faculties, and gain global perspectives in their fields. In addition to academic partnerships, the Faculty of Technology has established strong connections with business and industrial enterprises in the surrounding areas and beyond. Such connections provide our students with a unique opportunity for practical experience, working on real projects, and preparing for a successful career. Our graduates are recognized as highly qualified professionals, ready to face the challenges of the modern job market.*

*Today is an important day for the Faculty of Technology! A day when we welcome you, the youth, as the 65th generation that will continue the rich tradition of our, and from today, your faculty. You will spend the next four years acquiring knowledge and skills, exchanging ideas, and gaining your first serious life experiences. Because of this fact, we all feel a sense of responsibility—toward society, the state, and your families. Our esteemed professors and researchers are leading experts in their fields and are here to guide and inspire you. During your studies, you will have access to laboratories and research equipment, as well as opportunities to participate in significant research projects and recognized scientific and professional conferences.*

*At Faculty of Technology, the emphasis is on innovation, critical thinking, and solving practical problems. We encourage you to be curious, to explore, to ask questions, and to seek answers. Your success is our priority, and the entire team of professors and staff*

*is here to support you on that journey. As you adapt to your studies, we urge you to make the most of the diverse opportunities available to you. Get involved in student organizations, attend conferences, seminars, and workshops, and collaborate with your peers. Participating in extracurricular activities and building a strong network of acquaintances with students from this and other faculties will enrich your educational experience and prepare you for a successful career.*

*Remember, the journey you have just begun will not always be easy. There will be challenges and obstacles along the way. But it is through overcoming these challenges that you will grow and develop as professionals and as individuals. Do not hesitate to seek support from your professors, mentors, and fellow students. We are all here to help you succeed.*

*Dear students, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the beginning of an important chapter in your life, a chapter in which you will acquire the knowledge and skills that you will later apply in practice at your future workplaces. I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to the professors and staff who have contributed to the growth and development of the Faculty of Technology over the years, who represent this faculty in the best possible way, and who support your development. I am confident that you, as representatives of this institution, will continue to follow the paths paved by generations of students from the Faculty of Technology at the University of Tuzla before you. In addition to the diploma you will receive upon completing your studies, carry with you the knowledge you have gained. May you bring joy to your parents with your successes, as well as to us.*

*In conclusion, I would like to remind you that the fields of Chemical Engineering and Technology, Environmental Engineering, Food Technology, and Agronomy are among the most dynamic and influential areas of study. The knowledge and skills you acquire here will enable you to make a significant contribution to society, whether through improving existing industrial processes, developing food or chemical products and materials, or enhancing environmental protection.*

*Once again, congratulations on your enrollment at the Faculty of Technology. We are proud to have you with us and look forward to all your achievements in the coming years.*

***Welcome to the Faculty of Technology—I wish you a successful start to your studies, happiness, and good health.***