

OBITUARY

In Memoriam Professor Ing. Július Surový, DrSc.



We deeply grieved to learn of the death of Professor *Július Surový* who died on 24th March 2001, aged 72, after a long illness. Two years ago at his 70th birthday we honoured his scientific contribution in teaching and research, today we very much regret having to announce his death. We solely miss Professor Surový not only as an erudite teacher and colleague but mainly as a tolerant and good man of great charisma.

Professor Július Surový was born in Chomutov on January 7, 1929. He spent his childhood and high-school years in Košice. He started his university studies at the Faculty of Chemical Technology of the Slovak University of Technology (FChTSUT) in 1948. After two years, he was sent as an excellent student of chemical engineering to the Prague Institute of Chemical Technology to study a newly established specialization of chemical engineering there. Directly after graduation with honours in 1952 he joined his first alma mater with which he connected all his professional life until his retirement in 1996.

In 1964 he received his PhD. degree and later he was appointed teaching assistant, associate professor (1970), and finally full professor (1994).

Professor Surový has become an internationally recognized teacher and researcher. Since his first days at the FChT, he participated in the development of the education of chemical engineering in Slovakia. His contribution to the expansion of the science and profession of this emerging discipline in the Slovak chemical research and industry is indisputable. His foremost achievement was coauthoring the two-volume textbook of chemical engineering, the first of its kind in the former Czechoslovakia. Since its first edition in 1963, several re-editions have appeared and it has become not only an excellent textbook for thousands of students of technical chemistry and chemical engineering but also a basic guide for the majority of professional chemical engineers. It is without doubt one of the best books in the field of chemistry written in Slovak.

The merits of Professor Surový in updating the profile of chemical engineering in Slovakia by far do not finish with the mentioned book. He was at the establishment of the Department of Chemical Engineering (what is now the Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering) in 1962 as well as one of the founding fathers of the undergraduate curriculum in chemical engineering in the same year. He introduced a course in Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics into this curriculum and later wrote an excellent book with the same title. During those years he had many undergraduate and graduate students who could learn from his admirable technical skills and sense for precision. His belief in democratic values lent him a credit that led to his election for the first Chairman of the Academic Senate of the Faculty when the autonomy of the universities was restored after the "Velvet Revolution".

His broad scientific interest was strongly connected with his teaching activities in chemical engineering thermodynamics. He built a laboratory of phase equilibria, the only of its kind in Slovakia where the topic was systematically investigated. The results of his professional activities were published in numerous papers, presentations to conferences, and patents. A permanent requirement for reliable equilibrium data in chemical process technologies stimulated a rich collaboration of his group with the industry throughout his professional life.

The death of Professor Július Surový is a great loss for the academic community and he is deeply mourned by all who ever came near him. We will keep alive the memory of a distinguished teacher and superb scientist.

E. Graczová and M. Polakovič