

IN MEMORIAM

PROF. DR. RADOSLAV V. ŽIKIĆ (1948-2008)

UDC 929 Žikić V. R.:591.1

Radoslav (son of Vladimir) Žikić was born on 13 October 1948 in Tamnič (Municipality of Negotin, Serbia). He attended primary school in Brusnik (1955-1963) and grammar school in Zaječar (1963-1967). In 1972 he graduated from the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb (Croatia). He received his Master's degree in oceanology after post-graduate studies at the same faculty in 1974 and his PhD in animal physiology from the Faculty of Science in Kragujevac.

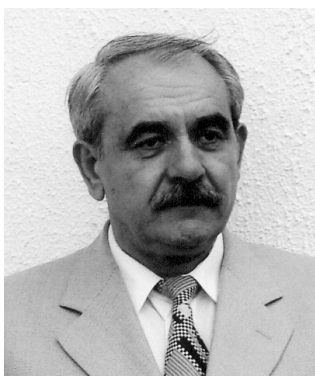
Dr. Žikić then undertook post-doctoral studies at the Faculty of Animal Physiology in Poznań (Poland) in 1986; and at the University of Sidney's Laboratory of General Physiology, Macquarie University's Department of Zoology in Sidney, and the Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Department of Agricultural and Rural Affairs, Benalla, Victoria (Australia) in 1988.

While still a student, he received a scholarship from the Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb.

From 1972 to 1975 he worked as a researcher at the Laboratory of Ecology and Systematics, Center for Marine Research in Rovinj (Croatia), after which he spent the next six years as a teacher in a grammar school in Pazin (Croatia). He became a graduate assistant in animal physiology at the Faculty of Science, University of Kragujevac in 1980, an assistant professor in 1986, an associate professor in 1994, and a full professor in 2000.

Professor Žikić taught courses in animal physiology for students of biology and ecology at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels. In addition, he taught courses in general biology with biophysics, ecological physiology of animals, and natural resources and environmental protection. He served as adviser for two doctoral theses and two master's theses and was several times a member of the commission for approval of master's theses.

His work in administration of the Faculty of Science in Kragujevac was linked with difficult times: he was vice-Dean for Teaching and Research from 1994 to 1996 and Dean twice (from 1996 to 1998 and from 2006 until his death). He did all that was possible to have the Faculty of Science ready for accreditation



of new curricula and syllabi under the Bologna Process. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the results of his efforts.

He made a great contribution to foundation of the Botanical Garden and Aquarium within the Institute of Biology and Ecology of Kragujevac University's Faculty of Science.

Apart from all this, he successfully collaborated with a great number of research institutions in Serbia and abroad. He was a member of the Serbian Association of Physiologists, the Serbian Association of Ecologists, and (from 1997) the New York Academy of Sciences.

He participated in realization of 13 research projects in the republic and federation (former Yugoslavia), in addition to which he ran one international scientific project. Professor Žikić was the organizer and chairman of two scientific meetings on "Oxidative Stress and Mechanisms of Protection".

In his research, Professor Žikić focused on genetic markers in populations of Adriatic pilchard; the toxic effects of heavy metals and pesticides; oxidative damage and components (enzymatic and non-enzymatic) of the antioxidative defense system in experimental animals; homeostatic disorders and determination of biomarkers of oxidative stress in aerobic organisms; acute hypoxic effects and hyperoxia in carp; and bioindicators of pollution in trash and commercial fish species of the Adriatic Coast of Montenegro. This work resulted in four textbooks for undergraduate and graduate students, three monographs, and a laboratory handbook. He published 250 scientific papers, of which more than 30 are on the SCI list with more than 110 citations.

Professor Žikić's contribution to work of the Kragujevac Subsidiary of the Serbian Biological Society was unselfish and immeasurable. The main objective of this subsidiary is to improve the quality of teaching, especially in the domain of biological literacy. He uninterruptedly directed the subsidiary until his untimely death, only six days before his 59th birthday. In January of 2000, the subsidiary in Kragujevac opted for independence from Belgrade and became the Stevan Jakovljević Serbian Biological Society of Kragujevac.

At the initiative of Professor Žikić, students, retired people,

teachers, professors, agronomists, foresters, veterinarians, doctors, pharmacists, engineers, mountaineers, and mycologists were invited to become members of the society. Professor Žikić jokingly called the society his Love Party, and in fact he devoted himself to it unselfishly.

Professor Žikić initiated and realized many activities of the subsidiary. His stay in the rain forest of South Kučaj marked the beginning of altruistic academic support for the efforts of an engineer of forestry to save the forest from felling and change.

Professor Žikić paid great attention to permanent training and providing assistance to teachers at primary and secondary schools. He ran three teacher-training programs that were accredited by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia.

Largely owing to his engagement, monographs on the remarkable scientists Sergej Matvejev and Igor Rudski, who

once worked in this region, were published.

As a result of his persistence, the first and only large aquarium in Serbia and a botanical garden, both as constituents of the Science Faculty's Institute of Biology and Ecology, were opened.

Thinking of Professor Žikić brings back vivid memories of his impressive personality, broad education, and devotedness to science. His enthusiastic and hard-working life inspired not only his colleagues, but also his students, associates, and all those who were privileged to know him and work with him. He was the authentic embodiment of an energetic scientist and poetic soul with the charm and manners of a gentleman.

Prof. Dr. Snežana Pešić
Prof. Dr. Andraš Š. Štajn