

## Július Surovy Celebrates his 70th Birthday



Professor *Julius Surovy* was born in Chomutov on January 7, 1929. He spent his childhood and high-school years in Kosice. He started his university studies at the Faculty of Chemical Technology of the Slovak Technical University (FChT STU) in 1948. After two years, he was sent as an excellent student to the Prague Institute of Chemical Technology to study a newly established specialization of chemical engineering there. After graduation with honours in 1952 he returned to his first Alma Mater with which he connected all his professional life until the retirement in 1996. He went there through the positions of teaching assistant, then associate professor (1970), and finally of full professor (1994) and also defended his PhD. thesis (1964).

Professor Surovy has become during these years an internationally recognized teacher and scholar. Since his first days at the FChT, he participated in building the education of chemical engineering in Slovakia. His contribution to the expansion of the science and profession of chemical engineering in the Slovak chemical research and production units 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 reeditions appeared and it has become not only an excellent textbook for thousands of students of technical chemistry and chemical engineering but to not a lesser extent a guide of the first choice for majority of professional chemical engineers. Without many doubts, it is one of the best books in the field of chemistry written in Slovak.

The merits of Professor Surovy in raising 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 (nowadays Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering) in 1962 as well as at the beginning 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 this title. During these years he raised 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 scientific activities were strongly connected with his teaching activities in chemical engineering thermodynamics. He built a laboratory of phase equilibria, the only one of its kind in Slovakia where this topic was systematically investigated. The results of the activities were exploited in numerous publications, presentations or patents. A permanent need of reliable equilibrium data in chemical process technologies stimulated a rich cooperation of his group with industry.

At the occasion of his anniversary, the Slovak chemical engineering community wishes Professor Surovy all the best so that we could often meet him among us in the coming years.

*M. Polakovic and E. Kossaczky*