

HOMAGE TO THE MEMORY OF PROFESSOR MIRCEA PUTA

DORIN WAINBERG

Born at 1st of February 1950, Mircea Puta became a student at the Faculty of Mathematics of the West University of Timișoara in the fall of 1969. In this venerable institution he met some of the most famous personalities of the mathematical life at that time, who helped him to grow up to become a teacher and researcher in Mathematics. He graduated in 1974 and started to teach mathematics at Agricultural High School from Timișoara, but he doesn't interrupt his connection with university environment.

In 1970's the situation in regard to the mathematical literature was rather precarious. Because the access to the western literature was impossible, such publications were prohibited in Romania at that time, the information was relying on old publications and on the publications in Russian. These publications were usually at high mathematical standards, but insufficient for grasping a full picture of the contemporary mathematical research.

In spite of these difficulties, in 1979, having Professor Dan I. Papuc as supervisor, Mircea Puta obtain the title "doctor in mathematics" , and in 1980 Mr.'s Puta university career started at Faculty of Mathematics of the West University of Timișoara. Following all steps in university hierarchy Mircea Puta became Professor in 1993.

His orientation in mathematical research has been determined by his personal preferences, within the scientific atmosphere maintained by his colleagues. Together with D.I. Papuc, M. Craioveanu, D. Albu, Mircea Puta have become the leaders of the researchers in Geometry, continuing in this way the tradition that has placed Timișoara in a honorable position within the international mathematical community. Moreover Mircea Puta has found his inspiration in Geometry and Geometrical Mechanics, his activity in those fields of knowledge being characterized by an exceptional quality. He managed courses in Analytic and Differential Geometry, Geometric quantisation, Lie groups, etc, his performing being one of high academic behaviour.

Mircea Puta had a very ample scientific activity materialized in 190 articles appeared in the world's famous mathematical publications, two books published by Kluwer Academic Publishers Nederland, one at Romanian Academy's publishing house. In 1983 he won the "Simion Stoilow" prize offered by Romanian Academy. He was member of American Mathematical Society, Tensor Society Japan, German Mathematical and Mechanical Society (GAMM) and Mathematical Romanian Society. He also was a member of Academy of Sciences from New York.

He was visiting professor at University of California at Santa – Cruz, "La Sapienza" Roma, Humboldt University Berlin, Erwin Schrodinger Institute for Mathematical Physics Viena, Technische Universitat Munchen, Technische Universitat Dortmund, Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics Debrecen, Universidad La Coruna at Santiago de Compostela, Universidad La Coruna at Ferrol, Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Universite Piere et Marie Curie, Paris IV. He was invited speaker at 28 international conferences in mathematics.

Since 1991 Mircea Puta have been supervisor of Ph.D. students who later became members in various institutions in Romania and other countries with solid mathematical traditions.

To all these merits we must however add his generous soul, overflowing kindness, harmony and friendship, ready at anytime to help for a good deed.

Thus, professor Mircea Puta is admired and appreciated not only for his valuable achievements, but he remains in our hearts as an unforgettable and encouraging example.