

IN MEMORIAM
PROFESSOR DR. ENGINEER GHEORGHE MIHĂILĂ
(1939 – 2017)



Prof. dr. Engineer Gheorghe Mihăilă (1982)

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Professor Gheorghe Mihăilă was born on May 4th, 1939, in Botești – Neamț County, in a family with other 8 children. He graduated the Roman-Vodă College from Roman city, then, in 1961, the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry of the former Polytechnic Institute of Iași (today the “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iași).

After being employed as an engineer at Victoria Chemical Plant from Făgăraș for two years, he became, in 1963, Assistant at the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry from Iași and began the elaboration of the PhD thesis under the advisory of Prof. Corneliu Calistru. He defended the PhD thesis in

1972. He built himself a prestigious academic career, by advancing as a Lecturer (1967-1980), Associate Professor (1980-1990) and full Professor (1990-2004). After this, he continued to work for several years as Consulting Professor. In the '70, he had the opportunity to spend one year as a post-doctoral fellow in the USA.

From the very beginning of his career, Prof. Mihăilă was continuously concerned for a serious self-instruction. His competence area was the study of non-catalytic processes at solid-gas interface, with direct application in environmental protection. He had a rich-knowledge instruction in both his area of scientific interest, as well as in general engineering and chemistry, always available and happy to share his experience. In his academic career, he had published over 120 papers and 5 patents.

In 1963, Prof. Vasile Ababi, Prof. Angelica Popa and Prof. Mihai Cruceanu established, with quite a lot of effort, the Department of General and Technologic Chemistry within the Faculty of Chemistry. Prof. Mihăilă, young assistant at that time, was extremely dedicated and skilled in building the Laboratory of Technology. He designed and made with his own hands ingenious setups for replying at laboratory scale some quite complicated industrial reactions. Between 1990-1996 and 2000-2004, he was the Head of Department of Chemical Technology and Catalysis, established in 1990 after the re-affiliation of the Faculty of Chemistry to the Al. I. Cuza University of Iași. On this position, he was very opened and concerned to select the best students to begin an academic career, as PhD students and teaching staff.

The taught courses connected to engineering for future chemists, as: Basics of Chemical Engineering, General Chemical Technologies, Industrial Chemistry, as well as the Chemistry Course for Mechanical Engineers.

From the beginning of his career to its end, Prof. Mihăilă strived to be a good teacher for his students. Therefore, he elaborated 16 books and monographies published in local and central editing houses, aiming to provide the optimal support for the students training.

From 1994, Prof. Mihăilă took the task of Editor-in-Chief of the scientific publication “Analele Științifice ale Universității Al. I. Cuza din Iași”, the Chemistry section, which became later Acta Chemica Iasi. He was really meticulous in the reviewing process, as well in the analysis of the papers’ design, which was supposed to be received at that time as “camera ready”.

He was a correct, rigorous and well framed in time person. He cultivated in the life of his younger collaborators, by his personal example and by a stimulating attitude, the interest and routine for being dedicated and clock-like scheduled, especially for the teaching activities. Even as a Professor, he remained active and opened to help the younger colleagues to adapt, fix and improve continuously the setups necessary for the laboratory works for the students. Sometimes very high-demanding with the colleagues from his position of Head of Department, sometimes rather warm as a father for the young collaborators, he was a person which raised our personality.

He passed away on January 4th, 2017, after a long and harsh disease.