



Professor Krzysztof Wilmański on his 70th birthday

We are pleased to honour Professor Krzysztof Wilmański on his 70th birthday. He was born on March 1, 1940 in Łódź, Poland. After receiving matura at T. Kosciuszko Gymnasium in Łódź, he completed in 1962 the study of civil engineering at the Technical University of Łódź. In 1965 he graduated from the same University under the supervision of prof. Cz. Woźniak. Since 1966 he began to work at the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw where he habilitated in 1970. In this Institute he was associate professor at first, and since 1970 Head of the Research Group "Continuum Thermodynamics" and in 1979 he was nominated full professor by the State Council. In 1969-1970 he spent one year at the Johns Hopkins University (USA) where he collaborated as a postdoc with prof. J. Ericksen and C. Truesdell. In 1972 he left Warsaw for the University of Baghdad, where he taught for two years at the College of Engineering. In 1978 he received the von Humboldt Stipend and spent one year and a half at the University of Paderborn and the Technical University of Berlin collaborating with prof. Ingo Müller. In 1984 he won a prestigious position of a "fellow" at the Institute for Advanced Study "Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin" where he worked on thermodynamics with other fellows: prof. J. Kestin (Brown University), R. Rivlin (Lehigh University), J. Prausnitz (Berkeley) and with Ingo Müller (TU Berlin). After this stay he was dismissed from the Polish Academy of Sciences for his activities in the "Solidarność" and decided to extend his occupation in Germany. He researched and taught at the Technical University of Berlin (venia legendi since 1998), the University of Paderborn, the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg and the University of Essen (venia legendi since 1995). Finally, in 1996 he became Head of the Research Group of

Continuum Mechanics at the Weierstrass Institute for Applied Analysis and Stochastics in Berlin, where he retired in 2005. He lives in Berlin, but since 2005 he is professor at the University of Zielona Góra and a staff member of the Rose School (International Union of Soil Sciences and the University of Pavia).

His teaching activities have encompassed the undergraduate and graduate courses on Strength of Materials, Mechanics of Structures, Linear and Nonlinear Mechanics of Continua, Thermodynamics of Multicomponent Systems, to cite a few, for students of many universities in Poland, Germany, Italy, Austria, and Israel.

At the beginning of his scientific career Professor Wilmański was working on modeling of dense engineering structures (fibrous media) and nonlocal models of continua. In this field he received both his PhD and habilitation. In Baltimore he began work on continuum thermodynamics which he continues until today. At the beginning he was working on axiomatic foundations of thermodynamics for which in 1971 he obtained the M. T. Huber Prize of the Polish Academy of Science (PAS). In 1974 he published a monograph on this subject which, in spite of appearing only in Polish, was quoted all around the world. Then he worked with prof. Ingo Müller (Berlin) on martensitic phase transformations. Their paper published in *Il Nuovo Cimento* in 1980 was the first paper on macroscopic modeling of phase transformations of this kind. Simultaneously he worked with R. Rivlin on thermodynamics of non-newtonian fluids. Since 1992 Professor Wilmański has been working on modeling of porous and granular materials. The research concentrates on two fields: nonlinear thermodynamics of immiscible mixtures and acoustics of linear porous materials. Only in these fields Prof. Wilmański published 5 monographs by Springer, Academic Press, World Scientific and more than 70 articles in various international journals. Altogether he published 14 books and more than 140 scientific papers (cf. www.mech-wilmanski.de).

From 1975 to 1984 Prof. Wilmański was President of the Section of Foundation of Mechanics of the Committee on Mechanics of the PAS, and from 1971 to 1984 he was a member of the Scientific Council of the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the PAS. He was an organizer or co-organizer of many colloquia and conferences, including the last International Conference on Computer Methods in Mechanics, CMM 2009 (together with M. Kuczma).

Throughout his career, Professor Krzysztof Wilmański has made seminal contributions in many areas of continuum thermodynamics. It is impossible to overstate his scientific accomplishments. Also, on the human side, it is equally impossible to overstate his genuine human warmth and his generosity with his knowledge as well as his time. He is kind and gentle. His care and support have

enriched the lives and launched the careers of many – his graduate students, his post-doctoral collaborators, his colleagues, and people around him.

It was a stroke of good luck that he decided to join the Institute of Building Engineering at the University of Zielona Góra in 2005. Back then, our home Institute needed him much and now we still need him a lot. It is indeed our great fortune to have a scientific giant and a kind man as a teacher of our students and mentor for many of us in the home Institute.

Prof. Krzysztof Wilmański has an extraordinary memory, versatile mind, deep knowledge, and the fire in his eyes when he solves new problems. It is extremely rare for a person to be so brilliant, kind and gentle. In my life I have had the privilege to meet and collaborate with a number of outstanding people, from whom I have benefited a lot. Professor Wilmański certainly belongs to them.

On his 70th birthday we cordially wish Professor Krzysztof Wilmański good health and happiness in private life as well as a lot of success in his scientific activity, and further this inexhaustible energy he has. We also thank him for the excellent co-operation and express our hope that he will decide to return to our home Faculty in the nearest future.

Behind every great man there is a great woman. In 1959 he married Anna Sosin. They became two sons: Paweł, born in 1959 and Jan, born in 1962. Mrs Anna Wilmańska has provided continuous support for Krzysztof's work, she also knows the history of every paper he wrote. Let us also thank her by expressing our sincere words of appreciation to her.

Professor Krzysztof Wilmański shows that:

- Age is not measured in years. Nature does not equally distribute energy.
- He is a veritable perpetuum mobile – simply a contradiction to the principles of thermodynamics which he knows so perfectly.

Therefore, extending to Professor Krzysztof Wilmański all the best wishes for a continued happy, successful and healthy life, I will not say

'Dear Krzysztof, live forever!'

but

'Dear Krzysztof, live as long as you like!'

Mieczysław Kuczma
Editor of the CEER