

IN MEMORIAM



**KRZYSZTOF WILMAŃSKI
(1940 – 2012)**

It is with deep regret and profound sadness that we inform the academic community of the death of Professor Krzysztof Wilmański on August 26, 2012. He passed away unexpectedly, after a brief illness. On behalf of his students, colleagues and friends, we wish to take this opportunity of acknowledging his enormous contribution to the field of mechanics. His genuine human warmth and generosity with his knowledge, determination and hard work will be vividly remembered by all of us.

We still have lively memories of the Special Jubilee International Conference *Continuous Media with Microstructure* held at the University of Zielona Góra on March 20, 2010, which was dedicated to him on the occasion of his 70th birthday. A detailed description of the scientific life of Professor Krzysztof Wilmański is included in the book titled *Continuous Media with Microstructure* (Editor Bettina Albers, Springer-Verlag, Berlin 2010), which was also dedicated to him. This Journal also honoured him on that occasion by

publishing his biography (CEER, 2010 no. 5, pp. 3-5). Therefore, here we mention only some highlights of his very active and productive life.

Krzysztof Wilmański was born on March 1, 1940 in Łódź, Poland. At the Technical University of Łódź he completed his civil engineering studies (1962) and three years later was awarded the degree of doctor (1965). Since 1966 he worked at the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw where he habilitated (1970), was Head of the Research Group "Continuum Thermodynamics", and was nominated full professor by the State Council (1979).

Professor Krzysztof Wilmański made his home at many places in the world. In 1969-1970 he spent one year at the Johns Hopkins University (USA); in 1972-1973 he taught for two years at the College of Engineering at the University of Baghdad; in 1978-1979 he spent a year and a half at the University of Paderborn and the Technical University of Berlin; in 1984 he worked on thermodynamics at the Institute for Advanced Study "Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin". He researched and taught at the Technical University of Berlin, the University of Paderborn, the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg, and the University of Essen. 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. In 2006 he spent one semester at Technion in Haifa. In 2005-2010 he was professor at the University of Zielona Góra and a staff member of the Rose School in Pavia.

Professor Wilmański taught undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate 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 he will be remembered as a brilliant teacher of great knowledge and understanding. His scientific activities and great accomplishments are mainly concentrated in the area of linear and nonlinear thermodynamics, including in particular such research topics as non-newtonian fluids, phase transformations, porous and granular materials. He published 14 books and some 140 scientific papers (www.mech-wilmanski.de), and inter alia he served as Editorial Board member of this Journal. He organized and co-organized many colloquia and conferences, in particular, together we chaired the International Conference on Computer Methods in Mechanics, CMM 2009 in Zielona Góra.

Professor Krzysztof Wilmański will be remembered not only for his scientific accomplishments and passion for research, but also as an extremely rare individual who was brilliant, kind, and gentle. We join in our thoughts and condolences for his wife Anna and their children. We will all miss him.

Mieczysław Kuczma
Editor