

## IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR STEFAN CHANAS



Stefan Chanas, Ph.D., professor at the Wrocław University of Technology died on 4th November, 2002 at the age of 56. He was a great scientist as well as a gifted teacher and especially a helpful tutor of young scientific staff.

His main subject of interests concerned applications of mathematics in management, in particular the methods of decision making in terms of uncertainty. He was the author of about 90 works in the area of operations research and mathematical programming published in renowned foreign journals and publishing houses. His papers were cited many times (about 90 citations were recorded in Citation Index and Social Citation Index) and are inexhaustible source of inspiration for the researchers all over the world.

Professor Stefan Chanas was a permanent reviewer of many best foreign journals and he was the editor of the Journal "Fuzzy Sets and Systems". He co-operated with the leading European and American scientific centers dealing with application of fuzzy sets in organization and management sciences. His achievements were rewarded many times by the Rector of Wrocław University of Technology, twice by the Minister of National Education as well as by the Scientific Secretary of Polish Academy of Science. He was granted the Gold Cross of Merit and the Medal National Education Commission.

He was a member of Scientific Committees and a participant of countless international conferences, a member-founder and a vice-chairman of Polish section of the international organization INFORMS (Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences) and the author as well as a head of many projects performed within the framework of the State Committee for Scientific Research grants.

Professor Stefan Chanas prepared teaching programs for Wrocław University of Technology in subjects: operations research and quantitative methods in management and for many years he carried out classes for students with complete commitment. The work with doctoral students was his real life passion. He was one of the main

organizers of Extra-mural Doctoral Studies and belonged to Scientific Council of the Doctoral Studies in Wrocław University of Technology. He promoted 5 doctoral students and helped them further on in preparing assumptions of post-doctoral dissertations. A few doctoral theses were worked up during his illness – unfortunately he did not live to their successful defense.

Although he had much research and didactic work he also developed organizational activity. In 1987–1991 he was a Head of the Chair of Operation Research and Computer Science Applications and in 1991–1996 – a director of the Institute of Industrial Engineering and Management. He made much effort to rearrange and modernize the Institute – the positive effects of that are well perceived now by students and co-workers. he was also a member of the Senate of Wrocław University of Technology during two tenures and a chairman of the Senate Appraisal Commission.

For five years he struggled against an incurable disease. In spite of suffering he continued his scientific research. Being conscious that he has little time left he mainly took care of doctoral students and young researchers. He handed them down as his research heritage – countless hints on new scientific subjects to explore. He passed away in full creative power. Nothing and nobody can fulfill the emptiness he left but only owing to his advice, example and the attitude, the research he started will be continued by his pupils. Being a great scientist he was at the same time a modest man full of friendliness towards the others. He liked people and people respected and liked him. We lost an outstanding researcher and an esteemed teacher as well as a close colleague and friend.

*Dorota Kuchta*

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