

Miscellanea

Actualities

With great pleasure we announce that the member of the Editorial Board of the Bulletin of the Polish Academy of Sciences: Technical Sciences, Professor W. Woliński, celebrated his 80th birthday on 1st January 2009. We congratulate Professor on that occasion.

Wiesław Leonard WOLIŃSKI

This year, on the 1st of January, the outstanding scientist Professor dr hab. Wiesław Woliński celebrated his 80th birthday and the 60th anniversary of his professional activity at the Warsaw University of Technology (WUT).

Professor Wiesław Woliński was born on 1 January 1929 in Dąbrowa Górnicza. During the Second World War he started primary school in his native town, then, because of the occupation, he was forced to work in the metal wire factory. After graduating in 1948, he started his studies at the Warsaw University of Technology and obtained his M. Sc Degree in electronics in 1955. During his studies, in 1950, he started to work in the State Institute of Telecommunication (PIT) under the supervision of Professor Bohdan Paszkowski.

At the beginning of his scientific career he was involved in the studies of new photocathodes for infrared image converters and spectral sources of light for interferometers. Since sixties his research interests have been directed towards the laser physics and laser technology. The aforementioned disciplines have encompassed both fundamental and applied investigations concerning the physical processes responsible for the conditions of light amplification and laser radiation generation in gases, and in the doped solid-state media, and also construction and development of various laser systems for industrial and medical applications. As the result of those activities, numerous unique laser devices were developed and introduced into the national industry and medicine.

Professor Woliński is a creator of the scientific school of optoelectronics which carries out investigations on advanced optical materials, laser structure and devices. He is an author or co-author of: over 200 scientific papers, published in prestigious Polish and foreign scientific journals as well as in numerous conference materials, 15 patents. His patent on gas lasers excitation using transverse electric discharge technique is perhaps the earliest (1967) patent on this subject.

Professor Woliński was actively involved in didactic activities for over 50 years. He contributed to the development of the Optoelectronics – Lasers specialization at WUT. From

the beginning of his career Professor was engaged in teaching undergraduate and graduate students giving lectures on Laser Physics, Integrated Optics, Fundamentals of Photonics and Laser Techniques, and others. He supervised more than 60 master theses and 12 doctoral dissertations. Three of his students have become professors. For over ten years (1981–1991) he was a head of the Postgraduate Studies Department at WUT.

Moreover, Professor Woliński has very serious achievements in the organization of investigations in the field of optoelectronics and laser technique in Poland and at WUT. He has been active in many government and academic committees, and has headed several scientific projects involving academic – industry partnership and technology transfer. For example, within years 1986–1991 he was a head of the national Central Research and Development Program (CPBR), No 8.14, “Fundamentals for development of laser technology” which coordinated activity of 26 unities in Poland, he introduced and coordinated at WUT the so-called, priority program “Fundamentals of photonics”.

Within years 1999–2007 he chaired the Committee on Electronics and Telecommunication of PAS, and since 1991 he has been a chairman of the Polish Optoelectronics Committee of the Association of Polish Electrical Engineers. In 1987, he was a co-initiator of the establishment of the Polish Chapter of the International Society for Optical Engineers (SPIE) and he has been its member since then. Since 1986 he has been editor-in-chief of the journal Electronics and Telecommunications Quarterly, and since 2005 – the branch editor (Optoelectronics and Photonics) in the Bulletin of the Polish Academy of Sciences: Technical Sciences, a chairman of the Program Council of the journal “Elektronika”, up to 2006 he was a chairman of the International Editorial Advisory Board of the Optoelectronics Review.

In 1991 he was elected as a corresponding member and in 2007 as a full member of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS).

For scientific achievements and service to the technical community Professor W. Woliński was rewarded with high rank national distinctions and awards such as the State Award, the Medal of the National Education, the Officers Cross of Polonia Restituta and many others.

Since his retirement, in 1999, Professor Woliński has still been in contact with scientific community, he has still remained an active consultant of Ph.D. students and his former co-workers at the Department of Electronics at WUT. He also organizes and participates in several new research projects.