

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY PROFESSOR VAJZOVIĆ



This issue of our journal is devoted to one of our editors Professor Fikret Vajzović on the occasion of his 80th birthday. We want to thank him for his efforts on behalf of our journal as an editor, author and referee from its foundation in 1985 until today.

We, here, celebrate the 80th birthday of Academic Vajzović, professor emeritus of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of the University of Sarajevo. One of the first students of this Faculty, he grew into one of the most outstanding and influential professors of mathematics at the University of Sarajevo. The courses he taught, till recently, in their depth, style and grandeur were truly unique. Generations of his students look back at his lectures with immense fondness and respect. Professor Vajzović continues as always, to do outstanding research in Analysis and guide graduate students with great patience and warmth. His service to our university, mathematics and the cultural life of Bosnia and Herzegovina represents the achievements of a truly remarkable individual.

Academic Fikret Vajzović was born May 1, 1928 in Konjic where he finished elementary school. In 1947, in Mostar he completed the starting grades of the gymnasium and teacher school. He then began work as a teacher and at the same time studied mathematics and physics at the advanced pedagogical school in Sarajevo, graduating in 1955. Then, along with work he

continued his education as a part time student at the Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo, graduating in 1959. At the end of his studies, Professor Vajzović was elected as an assistant at the Faculty of Philosophy, which became the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and there remained till he retired in 1999. In addition to his work at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics from 1976-79 he worked at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Mostar, helping the University of Mostar to be founded.

During the period 1962-64 Professor Vajzović took graduate courses at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of Zagreb, where he was awarded a Master Degree in 1965 with the thesis entitled "Functional Equations in Vector Spaces" and only a few months later he defended his Ph.D thesis entitled "Functional Equations in Fréchet Spaces" under the direction of Professor Svetozar Kurepa.

Professor Vajzović started his university teaching as a docent in 1965, was elected an associate professor in 1972 and a full professor in 1979.

Academic Vajzović has worked in two important areas of mathematical analysis: Functional Analysis and the Theory of Functional Equations.

He has written papers which can be placed in the following areas: Measure Theory, The Theory of Operators in Hilbert and Banach spaces, Banach Algebras in Banach Spaces, the Theory of Semigroups in Fréchet Spaces. Academic Vajzović was a founder of the series of courses that are the basis of modern mathematical analysis in the mathematical studies offered by the Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Sarajevo.

Academic Vajzović has published over 30 scientific research papers, two text books and lecture notes for most of the courses he has taught; in such good form that they could easily be converted into text books. His research papers appeared in the most prestigious journals of the former Yugoslavia as well as in foreign journals.

In the well known monograph by M. Kuczma written in 1968 all papers of Professor Vajzović written to that date are included. Also all of his papers are included in the survey article written by J. Aczel, which appeared in the journal *Aequationes Math.* 1969.

Several authors have used results of his research in their works. We only mention some of them: K. Lajko, J.A. Baker, Z. Daroczy, L. Szekelyhidi as well as many masters and doctoral students.

Academic Vajzović has many papers with young mathematicians when they worked on their masters or Ph.D degree starting them on the road to scientific work.

Professor Vajzović, through his teaching and assistance in leading young mathematicians in their research has contributed greatly to forming generations of young specialists in mathematics in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In particular one must remark that his efforts in the teaching of undergraduate and graduate mathematics classes, for over 30 years, have significantly raised the quality of instructions in the field and served as a model for others.

He has served as the advisor of over 50 undergraduate theses, 16 masters theses and 8 Ph.D theses; including 2 which were started in Moscow under the eminent Russian mathematician A. G. Kostjučenko and finished under Academic Vajzović who spent a year in Moscow.

Academic Vajzović is a person of extremely broad mathematical and general culture whose scientific standards are unusually high as are his personal qualities. An excellent lecturer and person. A refined intellectual who besides mathematics has a remarkable knowledge and interest in literature, classical music and philosophy. The total effect of his contribution, over long a period, on the mathematical life of our Department, the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and wider has been monumental and decisive.

One can freely say that he is one of the best mathematicians that the Department of Mathematics has ever had and the founder of the Sarajevo School of Functional Analysis, which, unfortunately, does not exist, due to war which spread his former students all over the world.

For his extraordinary contribution to the development of mathematics in Bosnia and Herzegovina Professor Vajzović has been awarded a series of awards of which the most prestigious are the “Veselin Masleša” award in 1979, the most important award for contribution to the development of science, the “27th July” award in 1987 and most certainly his election into the Academy of Sciences and Arts of our state.

We join the academic community in extending warm wishes and congratulations to Professor Vajzović on the occasion of his 80th birthday and also wish him good health, much happiness and long years of further activity as a scientist with many new results.

Prof. Dr. Mirjana Vuković