

LAUDATIO FOR MIKULÁŠ SIKLIENKA Professor, Ing. PhD.



Prof. Ing. Mikuláš Siklienka, PhD. celebrated his 70th birthday on December 4, 2022. We are pleased that the jubilee of the professor was met in good health and total work activity at the Department of Woodworking, Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology in Zvolen. Celebrating the 70th birthday in a person's life is an opportunity for memories and a balance of fulfilled life plans from youth.

After graduating from the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology, the University of Forestry and Wood Sciences and Technology in 1977, Ing. Mikuláš Siklienka started working as an assistant professor at the Faculty. His further pedagogical and professional growth is closely connected with the defense of his dissertation thesis at the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology in the scientific field of "Construction of Manufacturing Machines and Equipment" in 1985. In 1981-1982, he completed an additional teacher training course at Comenius University in Bratislava. In 1983, he completed a short-term course for designers of workplaces using industrial robots and manipulators at the Metal-working Research Institute in Prešov. He completed the postgraduate study "Staff Preparation for Expertise Activity" at the University of Forestry and Wood Sciences and Technology in Zvolen in 1986-1987. In 1998, he completed a four-semester education at the Institute of Forensic Engineering in the field 390400 – Machines and Machinery, at the University of Žilina in Žilina. In 1998, he defended his habilitation thesis on "Selected Factors Affecting the Quality of Sawing Using a Headrig." In 2005, the President of the Slovak Republic appointed him as a professor in the scientific field of "Wood Processing Technology".

He has regularly lectured since starting employment at the University of Forestry and Wood Sciences and Technology in Zvolen or the Technical University in Zvolen. From the academic year 1978-79, as an assistant professor, he lectured seminars in the course *Woodworking Machines and Equipment* at the Department of Woodworking Machines and Automation. In 1988, he became the Wood Machinery and Equipment course supervisor. Since 1991, at the renamed Department of Manufacturing Machines and Equipment, he provided lectures and seminars in the course *Theory and Technique of Wood-processing*. In 1998, he prepared the curriculum of the courses: *Theory of Woodworking*, *Tools and their Maintenance* and *Evaluation of Machines and Equipment* for the Department of Wood Engineering. Currently, he is the supervisor of the courses: *Fundamentals of Woodworking*, *Woodcutting Tools*, and *Theory of Woodworking*.

He was the principal author and co-author of several university textbooks. *Theory and Technique of Wood-processing*, published in 1996, of which he was a co-author, was the primary study literature at the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology until the transformation of higher education in Slovakia following the Bologna Declaration. University textbook: *Woodworking Tools – Maintenance and Operation* was published in 2013 by the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. The university textbook *Wood Splitting and Woodworking*, published in 2017, is still a quality textbook.

Professor Siklienka was a demanding teacher with high demands on students. While teaching at the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology in Zvolen, he supervised many students in the Student Scientific Conference framework. Under his supervision, 13 Bachelor

theses and 34 Master theses were prepared and defended. As part of the PhD. studies, 7 PhD. students completed their studies with a successful defense of their dissertation thesis in the field: Wood-processing Technology.

He also held important positions and was a member of several trade unions, scientific boards, and bodies.

- Chairman of the Academic Senate of the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology (2005-2008),
- Dean of the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology (2009-2017),
- Chairman of the Editorial Board of the scientific journal *Acta Facultatis Xylogie* (2009-2017),
- Member of the scientific board of the Technical University in Zvolen (2007-2021),
- Member of the scientific board of the Faculty of Environmental and Manufacturing Technology, Technical University in Zvolen (2011-2019),
- Member of the committee for the study program "Wood-processing Technology" of the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology, Technical University in Zvolen (2010-present),
- Guarantor of the study program "Technology for Wood-processing" of the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology, Technical University in Zvolen (2006-2014),
- Member of the board of studies "Technology and Mechanization in Forest Management", Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague (2009-2017),
- Member of the board of studies "Wood-processing Technology" of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Mendel University in Brno (2009-2023),
- Expert in field 390400 – Machines and Machinery (1998-2009).

His research was focused on the effect of interaction phenomena in the processes of woodworking and wood splitting and research on woodcutting tools. His research activities were also extensive. He was the principal investigator or co-investigator of 21 research projects (ŠPZV, VEGA, APVV). As part of applied research, in the 1990s, he participated in developing an automated node for optimizing the processing of beech wood turning blanks and modernizing manufacturing and technological structures in the wood-processing and furniture manufacturing industry.

As part of the challenge of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, "Innovation and Building Unique Workplaces", he was the principal investigator of the task, the result of which was the construction of a workplace for the analysis of the conditions for optimizing the primary processing of wood using a headrig. As a result of the research project VEGA, he developed a workplace to perform surface wood grinding research. In 2014, under his leadership, a CNC woodworking workplace was built for the teaching and research process at the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology.

He prepared more than 70 expertise and environmental impact assessments for practice and state administration.

We are pleased that the vast majority of Professor Siklienka's professional activities are connected with work and activities at the departments of the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology: Department of Woodworking Machines and Automation (1977-1998), and Department of Woodworking (1998-2023). We wish him good health for the following years of his life and believe that he will still greatly help us as a professor emeritus.

On behalf of colleagues and co-workers

Prof. Ing. Ladislav Dzurenda, PhD.