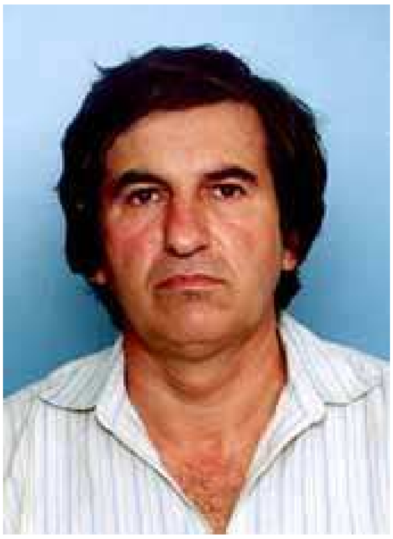
In Memoriam

Mijat Mijatovich (1950–2000)



Mijat Mijatovich was born on March 15 A.D. 1950, in Vuchkovica, Serbia (FR Yugoslavia). He graduated a grammar school oriented in sciences and mathematics, in Chachak. In 1969 he started the studies in physics at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Belgrade where he graduated in 1973. He started to work as research junior assistant at the Institute of Physics in Belgrade (nowadays it is in Zemun).

After completing his master thesis in theoretical physics in 1977 (from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Belgrade) he started to work at the Faculty of Physics in Skopje, Macedonia, first as teaching assistant and after acquiring his Ph.D. (in 1980) as assistant professor in Statistical mechanics with thermodynamics. Since 1992 Mijat Mijatovich was elected as full professor at the Dept. Physics, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (FNSM) Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia where he taught several courses: Statistical physics with thermodynamics, Astronomy with astrophysics and Physics of the earth and atmosphere. In the 1987–1989 and 1997–1999 periods he was elected as a head of the Department of Physics.

In his carrier he also gave lectures in Statistical mechanics and Solid state physics, at the FNSM in Podgorica (Montenegro) and had a fruitful collaboration with many institutions and universities all around the world. He was an outdoor collaborator in the Institute of Nuclear Sciences “Vincha” and Institute of fundamental researches in Monteroduni (Italy).

In the period 1985-1988 he was a principal investigator of the US-Yugoslav Joint Fund Project ”Classical and Quantum-Mechanical Treatment of Non-

Potential Interactions", JFP pp 563 (DOE). He published more than 100 articles in international and national journals in the field of quantum and statistical mechanics, theory of concentrators, nonpotential interactions and differential equations.

A very important part in Prof. Mijatovich's educational, research and active public life started after the insertion of the course Astronomy and astrophysics for the students of physics in 1992 and after the foundation the Macedonian astronomical society (MAS) in 1996. As a professor in the new and very attractive course for all students in physics Prof. Mijatovich became a very active person and invited lecturer in many schools in all parts of the country. Mijat Mijatovich was the Editor in chief of the popular astronomical journal Astronomical Almanac for 1995, 1996 and 1997. As a president of MAS, Prof. Mijatovich successfully completed a number of important activities including the membership of Macedonia in the International astronomical union. Namely, since 1998 it is a full member of IAU, and Prof. Mijatovich has been Macedonia's national representative.

Mijat Mijatovich could be rightly recognized as a founder of the astronomy in Macedonia and as vigorous fighter for its proper position. In his very last days he started popularizing the reform of the Julian calendar suggested by Maksim Trpkovic, when he was obstructed by the sudden and fatal heart attack on December 25th.

Mijat Mijatovich could not experience the realization of his greatest wish – building of astronomical observatory in Macedonia. This remains to be done by his colleagues and students. This, we feel, we owe to our great teacher and friend.