



EDITORIAL

A SPECIAL ISSUE

DEDICATED TO OUR SENIOR PROFESSORS

The *Gheorghe Asachi* Technical University of Iasi is the modern quintessence of the Romanian tradition of higher technical education. It originated at the beginning of the 19th century under the leadership of one of Romania's great scholars, Gheorghe Asachi, who founded the first Romanian school of engineers. Through the enthusiastic contributions of visionaries with foresight in technical sciences, this school has continually evolved, and has achieved official recognition in the mid 20th Century.

In 1937 the *Gheorghe Asachi* Polytechnic School was founded by transforming the two technico-applicative sections of the University, which became faculties in the new higher Institution.

With a much enlarged sphere of activity, the Polytechnic Institute of Iasi became the *Gheorghe Asachi* Technical University in 1993.

Ever since its beginnings, our university has benefited from a valuable team of professors, dedicated to carrying forward the academic spirit, and driven by the will to found and develop a higher technical school in Iasi, following the European models. The University maintains a world-class, comprehensive program for teaching, research and research training.

We aim for international standards of excellence across the spectrum of research, from fundamental, curiosity-driven work that builds knowledge and leads to new research questions to applied research and innovation with direct commercial application.

The thoughts, desires and dreams of the forefathers of the higher technical education from Iasi were put into practice and developed by an elite of professors who formed the bases of branches with numerous specializations in the more significant technical fields.

These professors were founders and driving forces for the Romanian academic education in fields such as chemistry, electronics and electrotechnics, mechanics, computer technology, hydrotechnics, construction and architecture, textiles, environmental protection.

The *Gheorghe Asachi* Technical University trains engineers in a multitude of domains, all offering the opportunity for individual specialization. It is recognized that excellence in research means both excellence in teaching and the ability to interact with and to provide benefit for our community. We also acknowledge that leading infrastructure attracts and retains high quality staff.

The good training of the future engineers is ensured by the distinguished teaching staff of the University. They represent true role models for our younger colleagues, researchers and students, and their continued advice has continually proven invaluable to the progress of our educational and research activities. Each, in their respective field, has left an imprint on our learning institution, through contributions such as the founding and equipping of new laboratories, publishing scientific papers and books which would serve as valuable documentation for younger generations.

By organizing international symposiums and founding scientific journals they have decisively contributed to the increased international visibility of our university. Our strategies invoke the benefits of collaboration and interdisciplinary research, and the importance of rewarding excellence.

The academic staff plays a key role in promoting graduate study, fostering intellectual and professional academic growth, and developing initiatives to enhance the graduate student experience.

Our professors coordinate skills development programs for both graduate research students and their advisors, and focus on initiatives to enhance the quality of our research training programs, such as travel, exchanges, internships, and industry collaboration.

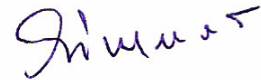
Every November, the academic staff and students celebrate the Days of the University.

This year, in 2008, the festivities had a particularly special attribute. Recognizing exceptional, research, creativity and service to the University community, the university has shown high respect for its senior professors, who, with devotion, remain faithful to the university even after a carrier full of accomplishments.

With the same enthusiasm, this issue of the *Environmental Engineering and Management Journal* pays homage to our esteemed senior professors who, for decades, have trained generations of young engineers, have rendered distinguished service to the university, have significant records in teaching, research, and scholarship and have made significant contributions in the advancement of scientific research in our university.

We are all grateful for the contributions of our senior professors to the continuing progress of higher technical education in Iasi, and wish for this special issue of *Environmental Engineering and Management Journal* to be a symbol of our respect and appreciation for their entire activity in education and research.

Professor Ion GIURMA



RECTOR

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