

## Professor Ioan Bâldea at his 70's Anniversary

Brilliant teacher and warm colleague, Professor Ioan Bâldea was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1939. Still active, he dedicates himself to science and teaching after graduating Babeş-Bolyai University as a chemist in 1962. Well-known in the academic community as one of the top kinetists of the country, his 70's anniversary finds him with unaltered optimism and creativeness.

Beginning immediately after graduation as a teaching assistant, his academic carrier unfolded rigorously step by step, while obtaining his PhD in 1969. As an appointed lecturer (1971), associated professor (1990) and full professor (1993), his work continuously contributed to the development and growth of the Department of Physical Chemistry.



Besides over 120 various scientific papers, Professor Ioan Bâldea also published 4 books as a single author and contributed to 2 others. These summarize his prodigious experience in chemical kinetics of homogeneous redox and organic reactions, characterization of short-life chemical complexes, modeling of complex processes, design and reactor engineering as well as kinetic methods of analysis. This valuable and diverse knowledge was shared with the young scientists he tutored during their PhD scholarships. It also contributed both to solving of over 50 contracts and putting forward of 4 patents for the Romanian chemical industry. A production line for ethyl acetate was based on his designs and functioned till the early 90's at the plant in Craiova. The 12 research Grants he coordinated (among these, one financed by the World Bank) substantially contributed to the development of Chemical Kinetics and General Physical Chemistry at the Babeş-Bolyai University.

While always endeavoring on sharing and passing over his knowledge to the young generations, Professor Bâldea wrote or collaborated to the publication of 8 manuals of Physical as well as General Chemistry. The students highly appreciated the funny and nonconformist explanations; the examples illustrating daily life made his lectures colorful and easy to understand. The approximately 100 graduate and postgraduate thesis coordinated by the Professor stand proof for this fact.

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Also beloved and highly regarded by his colleagues, Professor Ioan Bâldea was elected for nearly 10 years as Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry and represented for 23 years the same Department in the Faculty's Council. He was also the local coordinator of the CEEPUS academic exchange Program for 8 years. The vast experience allowed the Professor to manage the Program of didactic personnel improvement for 8 years and to be a referee for various scientific publications, grants and events.

This issue of *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai, Seria Chemia* reflects the tight professional relationships Professor Ioan Bâldea has build within the academic community of Romania. Teachers and researchers from the University of Bucharest, Baia-Mare or Iuliu Hațieganu University of Medicine from Cluj-Napoca also contributed to this volume.

Now, at his 70's anniversary, we – the colleagues of the Department of Physical Chemistry – as well as all the colleagues and researchers of the Faculty of Chemistry of the Babeş-Bolyai University, along with the Editorial Board, wish Professor Ioan Bâldea health in the many years to come, as well as the spice of current valuable scientific activity.

***Volum Editors***

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