

# IN MEMORIAM

IVICA KUZMANIĆ, M.Sc., Tenured College Professor  
(1953 – 2023)



With great sadness, we inform you that one of the founders of our journal, its first Editor-in-Chief and current Research Integrity Editor, Ivica Kuzmanić, passed away unexpectedly on March 19, 2023. At the Faculty of Maritime Studies in Split, a commemoration was held on Thursday, March 23, 2023. The list of his papers is available on: CROSB, Google Scholar, Scopus, and WoS.

Professor Ivica Kuzmanić was the first Editor-in-Chief of ToMS.

The text from the Faculty's website, and Dean's speech at the funeral service are presented in the following lines.

## ***Instead of the last farewell ...***

*Listen to the hummingbird  
Whose wings you cannot see  
Listen to the hummingbird  
Don't listen to me.*

*Listen to the butterfly  
Whose days but number three  
Listen to the butterfly  
Don't listen to me.*

*Listen to the mind of God  
Which doesn't need to be  
Listen to the mind of God  
Don't listen to me.  
(Leonard Cohen)*

There are many words, but all the words would still not be enough to describe our Prof. Ivica Kuzmanić, tenured college professor. When moments like this come around, when memories flood in, the words are heavy, dry, small... and our Ivica was great. He was the oldest among us; he taught electrical engineering to most of the professors who graduated from our Faculty. Generations attended his lectures and each former student will describe our Ivica as a 'legend' – a legend that, unfortunately, is no longer with us.

Words of praise, generations of former students of the Faculty, and great work have been left behind. Ivica was one of the founders of ToMS journal and for years its Editor-in-Chief. He wrote several textbooks and manuals, and a large number of scientific papers published in scientific publications.

Care for students and dedicated work filled his working life, and he became the longest-serving professor at the Faculty. Due to his extreme care for detail, he held the position of Vice-Dean for Teaching and Academic Affairs. His good heart and concern for his colleagues were the reasons for being a long-term Union representative at the institution.

"Always fair, always together, always for the Faculty" was Ivica's motto. Under this motto, he made his distinct contribution.

We will never forget you. You left us suddenly, we did not even have time for your retirement farewell party. May dear God protect you in another world! We know you will give us a look from above from time to time.

Your grateful colleagues and students of the Faculty of Maritime Studies

### **Funeral speech**

Dear Ivo,

Dear and respected family of our Ivica, dear colleagues and students, dear friends, and acquaintances of our Ivo,

We have gathered here on this sad day for the last farewell to our Ivica Kuzmanić, Master of Science, respected and dear friend and colleague.

Before us is not just a coffin of an ordinary mortal whose task was to come to this world, to do good to his neighbour, and to leave a mark and good memories. We are saying farewell to a great man, unknown in the media and our community, but known for his kindness to all who knew him. Ivica lived in goodness and did good and helped others. In today's world of distorted ideals and values, this is not an easy path.

In his relatively short life, he indebted us with his contribution to the academic community and work for the common good. He treated all his students and colleagues as his own children and took care of them and selflessly helped in the development of the Faculty where he worked as a Professor, Vice-Dean, Union representative. Students remember him as extremely honest, whose aim was to teach students keeping a clean face.

As a representative of the Union, he advocated for help to weaker colleagues and those affected and in trouble, and was an excellent organiser of Union games and get-togethers. He was born as a gifted chess player, an intellectual, but also opera, rock, good book and poetry enthusiast. Ivica was also recognised at the Faculty as a tribune who often raised his hand at the Faculty Council's meetings for moral demands toward the Faculty management, wishing to contribute to the development of the Faculty. His commitment and dedicated work were the reasons why we decided to extend his working life as it was difficult for us to part with him. Today, only six months before his deserved retirement, we are saying farewell to our Ivica. He did not have the chance to enjoy his retirement in his little house in Lika, which he had been building for years.

I will take the opportunity to read a poem, a poem about the wisdom of life written by Pablo Neruda.

### ***You Start Dying Slowly***

*"You start dying slowly*

*if you do not travel,*

*if you do not read,*

*If you do not listen to the sounds of life,*

*If you do not appreciate yourself.*

*You start dying slowly*

*When you kill your self-esteem;*

*When you do not let others help you.*

*You start dying slowly*

*If you become a slave of your habits,*

*Walking everyday on the same paths...*

*If you do not change your routine,*

*If you do not wear different colours*

*Or you do not speak to those you don't know.*

*You start dying slowly*

*If you avoid to feel passion*

*And their turbulent emotions;*

*Those which make your eyes glisten*

*And your heart beat fast.*

*You start dying slowly*

*If you do not change your life when you are not satisfied with your job, or with your love,*

*If you do not risk what is safe for the uncertain,  
If you do not go after a dream,  
If you do not allow yourself,  
At least once in your lifetime,  
To run away from sensible advice."*

*Live today, do it today, risk today!  
Do not settle for dying out slowly!  
Remember to be happy!*

A poem about life may be inappropriate for a deceased person, but I took the opportunity for this obituary to give a message to those who remain behind Ivica. He gave us a message with his life and can be recognised in this poem. He lived to the fullest, a full life, did the things he loved, advocated for us all to be happy, to make life happier and better for himself and others. He was a good model and mentor in many ways. Task accomplished!

Today, we are sending out a great man to a new world, to a better and more beautiful place. As his former student and now Dean of the Faculty, as a colleague and friend of our Ivo, I can say on behalf of our entire Faculty community: Well done, Ivica! You passed, you met all the conditions for a well-deserved rest, and you deserve to be in the other world, happy and satisfied with what you left us here. We are not the ones to judge, but for the heavens, you have our recommendation.

We are sad that you are gone, but we are also grateful. With a grateful heart, we give you our recognition for having been a good man, a good colleague and friend, and you deserve to be even greater in the heavens above.

May you rest in eternal peace, and we who remain will never forget you!

My sincere condolences to the family, thank you all for being here, and to you, IVO, MANY THANKS for giving us the opportunity of getting to know you!