



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Memorial Tribute
to
Wasył Janischewskyj
Professor Emeritus in The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of
Electrical and Computer Engineering
March 8, 2011

Be it resolved that the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering record with deep regret the death on February 18, 2011 of Wasył Janischewskyj.

It was with sadness and sorrow that we received the news of the passing of our dear colleague Professor Emeritus Wasył Janischewskyj on February 18, 2011.

Wasył was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on January 21, 1925 to Dr. Hanna Janischewskyj, an accomplished physician who dedicated herself to various Ukrainian causes, and Ivan Janischewskyj, an engineer who became Lieutenant Colonel in the Army of Ukrainian National Rada.

Wasył's early years were spent in the Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine. He attended high school near Prague and, after the German occupation, he moved to Regensburg, Germany where he commenced his studies in Electrical Engineering. Having completed his first two semesters, he transferred to the Technical University in Hannover for the next two years. Subsequently, he moved to Toronto, enrolled in the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Toronto where he obtained his BAsC in 1952. He continued his studies at the same department to obtain his MASc in 1954.

After completing his studies, Wasył started his professional career at Aluminum Laboratories Limited in Kingston, Ontario where he worked as an engineer and gained valuable field experience. But his dream was to teach, and he returned to the University of Toronto's Department of Electrical Engineering in 1959. This was his professional home until the end of his life.

In 1970, Wasył became a Full Professor. From 1964 to 1970, he served as the Assistant Head of the Electrical Engineering Department and in 1978 he began his four year tenure as the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. Although Professor Janischewskyj officially retired in 1990, he continued his work as Professor Emeritus – lecturing, conducting research, and mentoring graduate students. Under his tutelage, more than sixty Masters and PhD students successfully defended their dissertations. In fact, his most recent PhD student, Ivan Boev, just graduated last June.

Professor Janischewskyj was active in many professional and technical associations. He was an IEEE Fellow, a member of Canadian Standards Association's Technical Committee of the Installation Code for Lightning Protection Systems, as well as Canada's Representative to the Interference and Lightning Committees of Conseil International des Grands Reseaux Electriques (CIGRE) – International Council on Large Electric Systems – in Paris and to the International Electrotechnical Commission's Technical Committee TC-42 in Geneva.

Professor Janischewskyj's research specialty was high voltage transmission and corona; this morphed into lightning in 1978, two years after the construction of the CN Tower, the world's tallest manmade freestanding structure then. After the CN Tower sustained many tens of lightning strikes yearly, Professor Janischewskyj quickly became an internationally recognized authority, attracting many Canadian and global researchers. He is credited with about 360 scientific publications: over 70 peer-reviewed journal articles, some 130 reviewed technical conference papers, and about 150 other reports and documents. Also, he is the author or co-author of 5 monographs. He actively pursued his research to his last days, arranging five follow-up projects and reviewing a conference submission for a visiting scientist.

In addition to being the pioneer of CN Tower lightning studies, he was always the chairman of the CN Tower Lightning Project. Furthermore, in 2001, Professor Janischewskyj led the establishment of an International Project on "Electromagnetic Radiation from Lightning Striking Tall Structures" (IPLT) and was its chairman until 2009, when he became its honorary chairman. Currently, world-renowned experts from 12 countries, specializing in the areas of lightning detection, measurement, modelling and protection, are participating in this project.

In addition to his highly recognized academic achievements, Professor Janischewskyj was indeed a giant experimentalist. As a result of his distinguished contribution in the area of high voltage engineering, he was granted an Honorary Doctorate by the National Technical University of Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine in 1998.

Dr. Wasyl Janischewskyj was above all a man of great kindness and of admirable decency. He will be very dearly missed by everyone, including his colleagues, research collaborators and former students.

[Prepared by Professor Ali Hussein]