IN MEMORIAM


On Sunday, July 2, 2017, high-minded heart of Ivan Sovilj-Nikić at the age of 37 stopped working. Ivan Sovilj-Nikić was assistant-master at the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Novi Sad. He abandoned his colleagues and associates prematurely, without experiencing the realization of many ideas and goals for which he constantly advocated. By ethnicity Serb, Ivan Sovilj-Nikić was born on 17.05.1981 in Novi Sad from mother Ljiljana Nikić, a native of Fruška Gora, and father Bogdan Sovilj, a native of Lika. After finishing elementary school “Ivo Lola Ribar” and Gymnasium “Isidora Sekulić” in Novi Sad with an average grade of 5.00 and received the Vuk's diploma, he enrolled at the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Novi Sad at the Department of Production Engineering. Graduated-master thesis titled “Application of the genetic algorithm in optimizing the geometrical parameters of the hob milling tool” was defended on July 10, 2007. He was one of the best students since the founding of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in 1960 and the best student in the promotion of graduate engineers with an average grade of 10.00 (ten) in December 2007 at the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Novi Sad. In April, 2015, he planned to start the procedure for defense of his doctoral dissertation, but on April 6, he started a great battle for his health and life, which prevented him from defending his doctoral dissertation.

From early childhood he had the gift for making different models of various materials. The title of his dissertation also begins with the word Modeling. He imagined the last model on the Easter holiday on April 16, 2017. He designed a carriage and made its model from baked bread dough. You can see the photo of this model with this text.

In the final years of the Gymnasium, Ivan showed affinity for scientific research. His final examination in physics that was highly rated contained elements of research work and indicated that he was a young and promising researcher. In October 1999 he presented his first scientific paper as a co-author in Timisoara at a conference of young researchers. In the autumn of 2000, Ivan was a participant at the First Mediterranean Conference on Tribology in Jerusalem where he presented his work as a co-author, too. Ivan then picked up the applause of the attendees at the conference for a witty approach to the presentation of scientific research. As one of the top 100 students of all universities in Serbia, Ivan was a participant in the trip to Europe organized by the European Movement in 2005.

Along with the steps in education, Ivan cleared his way into the sport. He won a large number of medals in all ages and in all racing disciplines. He was the champion of the state and the representative of Vojvodina and the state in the most difficult technical discipline-steeplechase.

In professional work, Ivan has been a research scholar of the Ministry of Science and Technological Development since 2007 on the project Development of progressive technology for the back machining of profile tools on CNC machines at the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Novi Sad. During his doctoral studies, he gained his first pedagogical experience by engaging in exercises on Cutting tools, Tribology, Tribology and tools for CIM systems. Ivan was elected in the title assistant-master in 2012 for the narrow scientific field Tribology, maintenance and cutting tools. Ivan participated in the preparation and teaching in the following subjects: Tribology, Tribology and Maintenance, Cutting tools, Biotribology, Evolutionary Methods, Tribology and modern tools for CIM systems, Measurement and tools in precision engineering, Modern tools for CIM systems. Among the students he enjoyed high reputation, popularity and respect both as an expert and as a human being. He participated in the organization of several professional excursions for the students of Production Engineering, from which excursions to Prague, Ljubljana and Boljevac are set out.

Ivan was a young scientific researcher of great potential, which unfortunately did not fully develop. Despite his academic career premature stopped, Ivan achieved an outstanding number of scientific papers for his young age. During his work at the Faculty of Technical Sciences within the Department of Production Engineering at the Chair of Metrology,
quality, ecological-engineering aspect, tools and fixtures he participated in several scientific and research projects of international and national significance where he achieved significant results. During his scientific and pedagogical career he has published over 70 scientific papers, from which four monographs of international importance can be distinguished, 5 original scientific papers in international journals on the SCI list, more than 50 papers published and presented at international and national congresses, symposiums and conferences, more than 10 papers published in national journals. In the framework of doctoral studies and engagement at CEEPUS international projects, he stayed at technical faculties and institutes in Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Moldova, Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ivan Sovilj-Nikić's personality was characterized by numerous human and moral values, among which the most important honesty, the culture of behavior and behavior, the tendency to listen and appreciate a different opinion. Ivan was a well-educated, witty young man, an intellectual, a fan of sports and music. In everyday life he liked socializing, honest and friendly conversations. He had nice manners and spread positive energy. He was cheerful and well-off. He was a cordial and attentive colleague. Whenever he traveled somewhere, he traveled a lot, thought about others, and especially liked to treat friends and colleagues with gifts and small signs of attention.

At work among his colleagues at the Chair, Department, Faculty and University he was decorated by constructiveness and readiness for cooperation, that is, teamwork. His giftedness, intellectual and research capacity have put him in a group of highly capable and creative researchers. In a mountain called scientific research, Ivan did not stray, but he deliberately cleared his way to clearly defined goals.

Ivan has contributed immensely to the education and encouragement of young scientists in his country and abroad. Ivan was an energetic and active expert in the field of tribology. The originality and importance of his work, the success in applying the results of the research in practice and the promotion of tribology had a great significance at the national and international level. He constantly encouraged and influenced the scientific research work of students. As a creative engineer and scientist, he designed, constructed and executed several devices for testing the tribological characteristics of hob milling tools and gears.

Ivan successfully built a solid bridge between university researchers and engineers in industry. As an assistant, he significantly contributed to the graduation of engineers in tribology, tribodiagnostics, maintenance and cutting tools that they are now working in key positions in the Serbian and Republic of Srpska industries. As an author, Ivan prepared material for two patents that did not succeed to be formalized.

Ivan was the first to have the idea of forming Tribological Society of Vojvodina, but he was not able to carry it out. His influence on the development of tribology in Vojvodina was significant. Also, Ivan's tireless work on obtaining support for research projects of national importance and his efforts for the benefit of engineers have a lasting significance in the field of tribology.

Ivan loved history, theater and literature. He was able to express himself orally and in writing. He wrote and published novels. In his desk there were more notes and sketches for new novels, and in one of them he pointed out that he shared his Christian goodness with others without leaving anything to him.

The family, Chair, Department, Faculty and University have lost their valuables and wealth that cannot be compensated with anything. Ivan was a young man for an example that by his goodness, honesty, work, responsibility and, above all, high moral, labor and human qualities can never be forgotten and erased from the memory of parents, sister, colleagues, associates and friends.

A patient, thoughtful and just man, a strong person, a creative and curious intellectual, an outstanding pedagogue and a scientific researcher left us. His contribution to the education of engineers and the formation of scientific disciplines is irreplaceable. We will all remember Ivan for a long time.

Our Ivan went on Heavenly Tribological Congress to present a part of tribological results from his dissertation entitled by Modeling and Optimization of Hob Milling Process.