



IN MEMORIAM
PROFESOR DOREL UNGUREANU,
A TEACHER WITH AN ORGANIZATIONAL
CALLING

31st of May 1950 – 14th of August 2015

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If the stars had been aligned differently at his birth on the very last day of May 1950 in the village Dioști, Dolj county, this year in 2020, he would have celebrated with 70th birthday. But on the 14th of August 2018 he left, because he had to pay the cruel tribute to nature and there is no cure against the power of death. He left behind a ray of light that he hoped would be an open road.

We shouldn't talk about Dorel Ungureanu in the past tense, we should talk about Dorel Ungureanu who lives on and will continue to live on through his thinking and everything that he has done for the West University of Timișoara when he put forward Pedagogy and later the field of Educational Sciences among the recognized schools of this country.

His educational trajectory demonstrates the intellectual coming of age of the one who came to be the university professor, Dorel Ungureanu. A graduate of philosophy, specialized in pedagogy and English language (1972-1976) at the University of Bucharest. In 1995, he was awarded a PhD in Pedagogy based on a dissertation titled: „The resonance of feedback and the level of redundancy in oral school communication” and supervised by professor dr. Ioan Cerghit. He worked as a school-based speech therapist, as a counsellor and teacher of pedagogy, then later as a lecturer, associate professor and full professor at the university. Since the establishing of the Educational Sciences Department in 1997 until 2011, with a break in between the years 2000 and 2004, when he served as deputy dean, he has acted as the chair of the Department of Educational Sciences. These times were not too transparent, one could say even agitated, they required many transformations and reconfigurations of higher education. His balance, openness and reconciliatory manner, his amiable collaboration with colleagues created a managerial brand recognized by the members of all teaching departments within the university. He knew how to preserve the syntality of the group, he stimulated us to feel good with one another. He was not faced with an easy to manage collective, but he build with caution and prudence. He always tried to maintain a right measure, becoming an expert at conflict resolution through his moderation, politeness, temperance, balance, modesty, critical thinking and self-irony.

As a PhD supervisor in the Cluj based university, he was respected and easily came to integrate in the prestigious collective there. This allowed for a better relationship with Cluj-Napoca based academics both academically, as well as personally.

An exploring personality, he made his name in Romanian pedagogy in his chosen research directions: curriculum, the theory of evaluation and inclusive education. His entire scientific experience was made fruitful in the volumes so well known to students and teachers alike: his courses: *The Foundations of Education* and *the Theory of the Curriculum* (1999), *the Theory and Practice of Evaluation in Education and Comparative Pedagogy* (2001); books as a single author: *a Compendium of School-based Speech Therapy* (1998), *Children with Learning Difficulties* (1998), *Education and Curriculum* (1999), *Integrated Education and the Inclusive School* (2000), *The Red Pen Terror* (2001); edited volumes: *Pedagogy and elements of education psychology* (2005), co-edited with I. Dumitru, *Introduction to Adult Education* (2005), co-edited with Simona Sava, *Adult Education -theoretical Foundations and Practical Landmarks* (2005), co-edited with Ramona Paloş and Simona Sava. He was a member of the Editorial Board of the Revista de Ştiinţe ale educaţiei/ Journal of Educational Sciences, ever since the founding of the journal, warranting its scientific value.

The academic structure that he chaired was not the only one that profited from his pedagogical and managerial expertise. He supported the establishing, development and functioning of the Teacher Training Department with openness, collegiality and constructive spirit. He was always a factor of harmony and balance, contributing to the establishing of relationships based on trust and interdisciplinary collaboration, a fact that increased the prestige of the Faculty of Sociology and Psychology both within WUT, as well as in our entire academic community.

A teacher by calling, he knew how to make himself loved, respected not only by students, but also by WUT colleagues and those of other universities throughout the country. He managed to gain trust and respect, communicate in a way that would go straight to the heart, to share and build, remaining a good comrade in discovering human truths and values of this world.

A strong and charismatic personality, likable, he emanated an unnamable combination of joviality and academic rigor, a subtle sense of humor and a sovereign calm, a matter-of-fact way of going about things and a human warmth capable to unwind any shadow of a conflict, but also to put values back in place in a hierarchy of normality without any exaggeration. We are grateful that on the long road to eternity, he stopped for a moment close to us and he left with us the very best of his mind and soul through what he created and wrote.

RESPECT AND ADMIRATION TO YOU, PROFESSOR DOREL UNGUREANU!