MILIVOJE BAČA MATIĆ (1935 – 2013)

Milivoje Matic was born in Obrenovac (Serbia, Yugoslavia) in 1935. He finished primary and secondary school in his hometown Obrenovac. After graduating from secondary school, he enrolled in the studies at the Institute of Physical Culture in Belgrade in 1954, and in 1959 he graduated from the institution that changed its name to the Advanced School for Physical Education. Upon graduation, from 1959 to 1962, he worked as a physical education teacher in primary school “Sonja Marinković” in Zemun (Serbia, Yugoslavia).

In 1962 he became a teaching assistant for the subject Teaching Methods of Physical Education at the Advanced School for Physical Education in Belgrade, where he worked for many years with the doyen of physical education teaching methods, Professor Milica Sepa. In 1971 he was elected senior lecturer for the same subject, in 1977 an associate professor, and in 1982 he was promoted into full professor at the University of Belgrade, for the same subject. In 1990 he was chosen as a full professor of the Theory of Physical Education. By his own choice, he retired on 9th September 1999, exactly on the day when he had begun his pedagogical activity, 40 years before (in 1959).

He spent one school year in postgraduate education in France, and he also had study visits and expert presentations in the Soviet Union, Poland and France.

Besides the pedagogical work at the Faculty, he made a significant contribution to the development of professional, scientific and research thinking during his 22-year long work (1967-1988) in the editorial office of our oldest journal “Physical Culture”, especially by editing the section “Physical Education.”

He received the May Award for scientific research from the Association for Physical Education of the Republic of Serbia in 1978.

During his university work he published 180 papers in various fields of physical culture, leaving a distinct mark on the development of professional, scientific, theoretical and philosophical thinking in physical culture. In addition to many professional and scientific papers in domestic journals and the papers from scientific meetings which were published in Conference proceedings, his main textbook and monographic works are: *An Hour of Physical Exercise* (1978), *Axiological and Methodological Basis of the Revaluation of Bodily Movement - Training* (1982), *Physical Education - An Introduction to the Professional and Theory Improvement* (1990), *Physical Education - Theoretical and Methodological Basis of Professional Work* (1992), *General Theory of Physical Culture* (1992), *General Theory of Physi-
Diversity of interests, logical and analytical reasoning, rich linguistic narrative, a passion for polemical discourse, ascetic dedication and focus on the problem, pedagogical orientation, artistic nerve, anthropocentrism, altruism, humanism and philosophical thinking, are the basic characteristics of Matic’s personality and his occupation that spawned a grandiose work which was left as a legacy for the following generations that will continue to study physical culture from the source of Matic’s ideas. I think I will not be biased if I say that one of the most important authors in the field of physical culture in Serbia will not be forgotten; THE MAN – PEDAGOGUE - HUMANIST who left a rich theoretical and philosophical legacy to physical culture in general. On my behalf and on behalf of the colleagues from the Faculty, I can say that it was honourable to work and live with Milivoje Bačo Matic.

As the world’s literature has one of the greatest writers of the past 200 years, the genius of the Russian Yasnaya Polyana - Leo Nikolayevich Tolstoy, physical culture and academic community of Serbia have the GENIUS from Serbian Yasnaya Polyana (Belo Polje) - from the outskirts of Obrenovac, and their work exceeds the limits of human life.

Our dear Bačo, for all you gave unselfishly, for pedagogical teaching, professional assistance, theoretical and philosophical providence, for companionship, we are proud of you and your work.

Thank you for all the good that you did. May your memory be eternal!

Božo Bukan