Wednesday, the 6th of January 2016, Professor Vlad ULMANU, Ph.D. Eng., personality of great value of the petroleum and gas academic education in Romania, school creator in the field of the manufacturing technologies for oilfield and petrochemical equipment, has left this world.

Professor Vlad ULMANU has been born on the 17th of March 1944, in the town of Brad, Hunedoara County, Romania. In the year 1961, he graduated the theoretical High School “Gheorghe Lazăr” from the Romanian capital, Bucharest. Then, in the year 1966, he graduated the Faculty of Petroleum Equipment of the Petroleum, Gas and Geology Institute from Bucharest, in the top position in his class, with the maximum grade and with Merit Diploma, and in the year 1974 he obtained the Ph.D. diploma in Mechanical Engineering.

His entire professional activity has taken place only within the technical high education, at the Petroleum – Gas University of Ploiesti, Romania, in the Chair Technology of Petroleum Equipment / Manufacturing Technologies and Industrial Management, presently the Mechanical Engineering Department, where he hold successively the positions of Assistant Professor, Associated Professor and full Professor (since 1990).


Professor Vlad ULMANU has been Vice-Dean of the Technological Equipment Faculty (1980 – 1984), Vice-Dean of the Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Faculty (1989 – 1992), Dean of the same faculty (1992 – 1996), Vice-Rector (1996 – 2004) and Rector (2004 – 2012) of the Petroleum – Gas University of Ploiești. He has been Associated Professor at the Technical University of Clausthal, Germany, and also at the Xian Petroleum Institute and Dongyong – Shandong Petroleum University from China.

Professor Vlad ULMANU has deployed an impressive scientific activity in the field of the materials, manufacturing technologies, methods for the assessment and improvement of the durability, technical state verification, maintenance and quality assurance for the oilfield, petrochemical and refinery equipment and for the systems for the transmission and storage of petroleum products. He has been a Ph.D. coordinator since 1990 in the field of mechanical engineering for the Petroleum – Gas University of Ploiești, guiding with great proficiency and forming as skilled researchers many doctoral students.

Furthermore, he has been involved in activities of design, inspection and certification of projects for pressure vessels and pipelines. He has been author or co-author of 19 books, 170 scientific papers published in speciality journals, he has successfully led the working teams of more than 180 projects of scientific research, design and technological engineering, performed based on contracts with commercial companies, and of several national grants obtained on the basis of competition and he was among the authors of 7 patents.

For his outstanding professional achievements, Professor Vlad ULMANU has been awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Universities of Petrosani, Ovidius of Constanța and Lucian Blaga of Sibiu, and, in the year 1986, he has been awarded the Traian Vuia prize of the Romanian Academy for the work „Construction and Operation of the Drill String”.

Professor Vlad ULMANU has been a member of the Romanian Fracture Mechanics Association since the year 1996 and has been elected as its President in the year 2003, being successively re-elected to this position. He was a member of E.S.I.S. since 2005, coordinating the E.S.I.S. Romanian National Committee. He was also a member of the Romanian Welding Association and President of the Technical Committee 169 (Materials, equipment and marine structures for the petroleum and natural gas industries) of the Romanian Standards Association – ASRO.

The entire activity of Professor Vlad ULMANU, which took place within Petroleum – Gas University of Ploiești from the year 1966 and until his last days of life, has been characterized by rigour, perseverance, creative spirit, exemplary moral conduct and ethics and has profoundly and positively marked the Romanian petroleum and gas school. By his disappearance, the Romanian Fracture Mechanics Association suffers a great and irreparable loss.

We bring a last and pious homage to the one who has been Professor Vlad ULMANU, Ph.D. Eng., our teacher, leader, colleague and friend.

The Council of the Romanian Fracture Mechanics Association
(A.R.M.R. – Asociatia Romana de Mecanica Ruperii)