Fonzo Haviar is seventy this year

Alfonz Haviar was born on February 24, 1939, in Poluvsie, a small village in Central Slovakia. After attending a secondary school in Prievidza in 1954-57, he entered Faculty of Natural Sciences at Pedagogic School in Bratislava where he studied teaching combination mathematics-physics. After graduation in 1961, he started to work as a teacher of mathematics and physics at secondary school in Stropkov, a small town in Eastern Slovakia. Here he nurtured and trained talented students of which many were successful in mathematical and physics olympiads.

In 1965 he moved to Banská Bystrica where he was interviewed and subsequently awarded a position of an assistant professor at Mathematics Department of Pedagogic Faculty. Fonzo remained faithful to this department for his entire professional life. The department, originally belonging to Pedagogic Faculty, became a part of newly-established Matej Bel University in 1992.

Fonzo Haviar, one of the most emblematic figures of Banská Bystrica mathematics.

Since 1970 until 1992 he regularly attended algebraic seminars in Bratislava headed by the legendary professor Milan Kolibiar. The seminar was usually held every two weeks during the semester and according to seminar's program, each of the participants gave 3–4 talks on new results in universal algebra, lattice theory or posets. Usually papers from research journals or submitted manuscripts were read, whose copies were obtained by different canals from the western world. Sometimes these were parts of monographs which were often still in preparation. Occasionally, own results of the participants were presented. Many of the seminar members have nice memories also on traditional (at the time) algebra winter schools.

In Bratislava Fonzo was awarded a degree RNDr. (Rerum Naturalium Doctor) in 1973 and a PhD degree (Candidate of Sciences in those times) in 1981 under the supervision of prof. Milan Kolibiar. Since 1984 until now he has been holding a position of an associate professor (called also Reader or Dozent) at the Department of Mathematics. He was the head of this department for two periods, 1998-2001 and 2004-2006.

In 1992, after Matej Bel University was established and prof. Ján Findra became its first rector, he chose Fonzo to the position of the vice-rector responsible

for the further development of the university. Their main goal was that the university should first of all become a research and cultural center of the Central Slovakian region. The idea of promoting an international research scarred many members of the academic community whose ideas of university research were associated with certain regional explorations.

Fonzo's main merit is that, in conditions of a regional higher education institution, he recognized the importance of a research on an international level and its necessity for further development of this institution. He was one of few who advocated this idea while for many others the research was either a kind of a hobby of few "odd fellows" or a synonym of writing papers in obscure regional publications (just in order their list of papers is long enough so that they be eligible for becoming full professors). In that period of time Fonzo played a crucial role in discussions about the future routing of the university. Also thanks to him it was the goal of establishing a research university which finally won (at least apparently), and not the strategy of a university aimed at producing new 'professors' by means of decreasing requirements for the title of "Professor" and doing business at the expense of doing research. However, Fonzo's service in the position of a vice-rector ended in 1993 with the appointment of prof. Findra as the head of the Presidential office in Bratislava. Unfortunately, this happened earlier than the tendency towards a research university could become irreversible. Otherwise, science at Matej Bel University would almost certainly be in a stronger position today. Fortunately, Fonzo's strong influence sustained at least at the Department of Mathematics of Faculty of Natural Sciences. No matter whether he was a head of the department or just a member of it, he always emphasized the necessity of a research, which also affected the personal policy at the department. It is therefore also his merit that today Banská Bystrica belongs to important mathematical centers in Slovakia.

After 1990 Fonzo also had various duties in academic senates; in 1994-95 he was the principal of the academic senate of the Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences. He was a member of the scientific board of Matej Bel University in 1994-2000 and the statutory ambassador of the Foundation Matthias Belius for supporting university science and research in 1995-96. In 1993 he established the journal Acta Univ. M. Belii, ser. Mathematics and until 2000 was its editor-in-chief. Fonzo served the academic community also as a member of Board ŠVOČ (students' research competition), a head-teacher at different levels, a member of the scientific boards of the faculty and the university. His sharp thinking, strong will and organizational skills were always beneficial for the academic community in Banská Bystrica.

Fonzo also served the academic and in particular mathematical communities at regional and national levels. He was an advisor of the regional pedagogic institute for modernizing teaching of mathematics at secondary schools in 1972-75,

a member of the Czechoslovak committee for teaching mathematics and drawing at primary schools in 1973-84 and a member of the committee for doctoral studies in didactics of mathematics in 1998-2005. He was also a member of different committees and boards within the Union of Czech and Slovak Mathematicians and Physicists (JČSMF), and later within the Union of Slovak Mathematicians and Physicists (JSMF).

Now, after his 45-year pedagogic work at the Department of Mathematics in Banská Bystrica, he says he taught all subjects in future teacher training except probability and statistics. However, in his pedagogic work he focused mainly on algebra and number theory. Algebra has always been the field in which he specialized, and was also awarded his PhD and became an associate professor.

In his research he focused, besides algebra, on graph theory. He published 9 research papers in journals abroad, of which the most cited is the paper *All trees of diameter five are graceful* published in *Discrete Mathematics* in 2001 jointly with P. Hrnčiar. In this paper they proved the result in the title regarding the famous Ringel-Kotzig conjecture on graceful labelings of trees from early 1960s and this result is still the best worldwide in this direction. He also published results on varieties of graphs and orgraphs (both in *Discuss. Math. Graph Theory*, the former with R. Nedela, the latter with G. Monoszová) and on varieties of posets (in *Order*, with J. Lihová). For *Order* he also wrote a paper with P. Hrnčiar on the dimension of orthomodular posets constructed by pasting Boolean algebras. In Slovak journals he published 13 papers (among them 6 joint papers with colleagues from the department) and in local proceedings *Acta Fac. Paed. B. Bystrica* he published 9 papers between 1972 and 1989. Moreover, he coauthored 8 lecture notes or text-

Fonzo with his wife Milka and the elder son Alfonz in 1965 when they moved to Banská Bystrica (the first author of this article is in mum's womb).

books, of which *Algebra and theoretical arithmetic 2* from 1986 published in *Alfa* Bratislava became a national textbook. His full List of publications (which is attached) comprises moreover 6 articles in teachers' vocational journals and 7 other articles. He was a member of several grant projects of Slovak grant agencies VEGA, KEGA, APVT and APVV.

Fonzo Haviar received Award for excellent pedagogic work at anniversary conference of Union of Czech and Slovak Mathematicians and Physicists in Prague

(1987), became an honorary member of the Union (2002) and was awarded a Great medal and Silver medal of Matej Bel University by its rector (1999 and 2004, respectively). Probably the most important award would be given to him by his colleagues for his great character and personality, for suppressing his own ambitions to serve the others.

List of publications of Alfonz Haviar

Research papers in mathematical journals abroad

(1) The dimension of orthomodular posets constructed by pasting Boolean algebras, *Order* **10** (1993), 183 – 197 (with P. Hrnčiar).

(2) V-lattices of varieties of algebras of different types, *Czechoslovak Math. J.* **46** (1993), 419 – 428.

(3) Some characteristics of the edge distance between graphs, *Czechoslovak Math. J.* **46** (1996), 665 – 675 (with P. Hrnčiar and G. Monoszová).

(4) A metric on a system of ordered sets, *Math. Bohem.* **121** (1996), 123 – 131 (with P. Klenovčan).

(5) On varieties of graphs, *Discuss. Math. Graph Theory* **18** (1998), 209 – 223 (with R. Nedela).

(6) All trees of diameter five are graceful, *Discrete Math.* **233** (2001), 133 – 150 (with P. Hrnčiar).

(7) Varieties of orgraphs, *Discuss. Math. Graph Theory* **21** (2001), 207 – 221 (with G. Monoszová).

(8) Constructions of cell algebras, *Math. Bohem.* **130** (2005), 89 – 100 (with G. Monoszová).

(9) Varieties of posets, *Order* **22** (2005), 343 – 356 (with J. Lihová).

Research papers in Slovak mathematical journals

(10) N-Schrägverbände und Quasiordnungen, *Mat. Časopis Sloven. Akad. Vied* **23** (1973), 240 – 248.

(11) On a generalized distributivity in modular lattices, *Acta Fac. Rerum Natur. Univ. Comenian. Math. Publ.* **29** (1974), 35 – 42.

(12) On G-lattices, *Math. Slovaca* **29** (1979), 17 – 24.

(13) Notes on the congruence lattices of algebras, *Acta Univ. M. Belii, ser. Mathematics* **1** (1993), 7 – 14.

(14) The lattice of order varieties, *Acta Univ. M. Belii, ser. Mathematics* **1** (1993), 15 – 20 (with P. Konôpka).

(15) On congruence lattice representations, *Acta Univ. M. Belii, ser. Mathematics* **2** (1994), 9 – 16.

(16) Metrics on systems of finite algebra, *Acta Univ. M. Belii, ser. Mathematics* **3** (1995), 9 – 16.

(17) Valuations and metrics on a poset, *Acta Univ. M. Belii, ser. Mathematics* **4** (1996), 25 - 38 (with G. Monoszová).

(18) Minimal eccentric sequences with least eccentricity three, *Acta Univ. M. Belii, ser. Mathematics* **5** (1997), 27 – 50 (with P. Hrnčiar and G. Monoszová).

(19) The Dimension of orthomodular posets constructed by pasting Boolean algebras II, *Acta Univ. M. Belii, ser. Mathematics* **7** (1999), 63 – 70 (with P. Hrnčiar).

(20) The lattice of varieties of graphs, *Acta Univ. M. Belii, ser. Mathematics* **8** (2000), 11 – 19.

(21) The lattice of varieties of orgraphs, *Acta Univ. M. Belii, ser. Mathematics* **9** (2001), 43 – 50 (with G. Monoszová).

(22) Eccentric sequences and cycles in graphs, *Acta Univ. M. Belii, ser. Mathematics* **11** (2004), 7 – 25 (with P. Hrnčiar and G. Monoszová).

Research papers in local proceedings (in Slovak)

(23) Úplné *N*-šikmé zväzy, *Acta Fac. Paed. B. Bystrica, Matematika* **I** (1972), 97 – 103.

(24) O distributívnosti a doplnkoch zväzu, *Acta Fac. Paed. B. Bystrica, Matematika* **I** (1972), 59 – 75.

(25) O distributívnych *G*-zväzoch, *Fac. Paed. B. Bystrica, Matematika* **II** (1979), 67 – 81.

(26) O *N*-zväzoch, *Acta Fac. Paed. B. Bystrica, Prírodné vedy* **II** (1980), 191 – 213.

(27) O kongruenciách a varietách *N*-zväzov, *Acta Fac. Paed. B. Bystrica, Prírodné vedy* **III** (1982), 291 – 314.

(28) Variety *G*-zväzov, *Acta Fac. Paed. B. Bystrica, Prírodné vedy* **IV** (1983), 497 – 513.

(29) Konštrukcia unárnej algebry s dvoma operáciami, *Acta Fac. Paed. B. Bystrica, Prírodné vedy* **IX** (1989), 15 – 21.

(30) Dimenzia usporiadaných množín, *Acta Fac. Paed. B. Bystrica, Prírodné vedy* **X** (1989), 35-48 (with P. Hrnčiar and P. Konôpka).

(31) Usporiadané množiny s operáciou komplementu, *Acta Fac. Paed. B. Bystrica, Prírodné vedy* **X** (1989), 17 – 33 (with P. Klenovčan).

Vocational articles (in Slovak)

(32) Poznatky z prijímacích pohovorov z matematiky na SVŠ v Stropkove, *Pedagogický obzor*, Bardejov, 1965 (with V. Smolko).

(33) Použitie zvyškových tried pri riešení lineárnych diofantických rovníc, *Matematicko-fyz. rozhledy* **58** (1980), 342 – 345.

(34) Filozofické aspekty niektorých problémov teórie množín, *Zborník príspevkov RŠ-4-03*, PF B. Bystrica, 1988, 137 – 143.

(35) O niektorých filozofických problémoch matematiky, *Acta Fac. Paed. B. Bystrica, Prírodné vedy* **IX** (1991), 281 – 290.

(36) Vzdelávanie bez "predmetárov" je nebezpečná ilúzia, *Pedagogická revue* **2** (2008).

(37) Poznámky k tvorbe učiteľských kompetencií a spôsobilostí, *Pedagogické rozhľady* **2** (2008), 16 – 17.

Other articles (in Slovak)

(38) K životnému jubileu Ľudmily Berackovej, *Pokroky matematiky, fyziky a astronómie*, 1981.

(39) Doc. Ondrej Gábor šesťdesiatpäťročný, *Pokroky matematiky, fyziky a astronómie*, 1987.

(40) O činnosti pobočky JSMF Zvolen, *Zjazdový zborník JČSMF*, 1987.

(41) K životnému jubileu Ľ. Berackovej, *Obzory matematiky, fyziky a informatiky*, 1995.

(42) Osemročné gymnáziá a pedagogická prax študentov, *Učiteľské noviny*, roč. 44, č. 27, 1994 (with J. Klincková).

(43) Nadácia Matthias Belius pri UMB, *Spravodaj UMB* 2, č. 1, 1996.

(44) Spomienky pri príležitosti dvoch jubileí, *Obzory matematiky, fyziky a informatiky* 31, č. 4, 2002.

Textbooks (in Slovak)

(45) Algebra pre poslucháčov pedagogických fakúlt, *Pedagogická fakulta*, B. Bystrica, 1972 (with Ľ. Beracková and Š. Fekiač).

(46) Operácie a algebrické štruktúry, *SPN*, Bratislava, 1973 (with Ľ. Beracková).

(47) Algebrické štruktúry, *SPN*, Bratislava, 1977 (with A. Legéň).

(48) Algebra a teoretická aritmetika 2, *Alfa*, Bratislava, 1986 (with T. Šalát, T. Hecht and T. Katriňák).

(49) Metodický materiál pre činnosť v matematických záujmových útvaroch žiakov 5. ročníka ZŠ, *KDPM*, B. Bystrica, 1986 (with J. Gombalová).

(50) Zbierka náročnejších úloh z matematiky pre žiakov 5. roč. ZŠ, *KPÚ*, B.Bystrica, 1990 (with Ž. Sobôtková).

(51) Algebra I, *Pedagogická fakulta*, B. Bystrica, 1991 (with P. Hrnčiar and P. Klenovčan).

(52) Úvod do štúdia matematiky, *Pedagogická fakulta UMB*, B. Bystrica, 1996 (with P. Klenovčan and M. Haviar).

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