

40 years ago,

Starting from the famous guilds of the city of Sibiu, which for the past 600 years had produced goods that arrived to Western Europe, passing through Conrad Haas's experiments with the three steps rocket, and continuing with the great professor of interplanetary flights, Hermann Oberth, in 1976 in Sibiu was founded the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, as a confirmation of the technical traditions of the city.

Due to a favorable economic situation, Sibiu reaching the first places in the country in per capita industrial production and with an open political and administrative leadership, by a decree of the State Council no. 203/06.30.1976 the Institute of Higher Education was founded in Sibiu, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering was being one among its faculties.

The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of Sibiu opened its gates at September 15, 1976. The first nine professors were transferred to Sibiu from other technical universities within the country, from research institutes and from Romanian industry. The nine professors formed the first council of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. This council was coordinated by the associate professor Ph.D. Grațian-Vincentiu Ștețiu, transferred from Polytechnic Institute of Cluj-Napoca, which became the first dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. From the same university came to Sibiu his wife, lecturer Ph.D Cosmina Ștețiu. They were joined by the mathematicians, husband and wife, Sc.D. Alexandru Lupaș and Sc.D. Luciana Lupaș, the first one transferred from the Romanian Academy Institute of Mathematics of Cluj Napoca and Mrs. Lupaș from Babeș-Boylai University of Cluj-Napoca where she was an Assistant Professor. From Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest came lecturer Ph.D. Ilie Isarie and from Agronomical Institute of Bucharest came associate professor Ph.D. Ioan Sava, which previously worked as a researcher at Romanian Academy Institute of Solid Mechanics. Also from Polytechnic Institute of Cluj-Napoca came engineer Vasile Urdaș, while engineers Octavian Bologa and Ioan Sasu came from Automotive Parts Factory from Sibiu.

For tenure on the job, according to the law, during the first academic year were held contests, so the first holders of the teaching positions were: professors: Grațian-Vincentiu Ștețiu and Ioan Sava,

associate professors: Cosmina-Elena Ștețiu and Ilie Isarie, lecturers: Alexandru Lupaș and Luciana Lupaș, teaching assistants: Vasile Urdaș, Octavian Bologa and Ioan Sasu. These tenured professors covered the following disciplines existing in the payroll of the Department of Technology, during the first academic year: Technology of materials (Grațian-Vincentiu Ștețiu and Vasile Urdaș), Mechanics (Ioan Sava), Electrical Engineering (Ilie Isarie), Descriptive Geometry and Technical Drawing (Cosmina-Elena Ștețiu, Octavian Bologa and Ioan Sasu), Mathematics (Alexandru Lupaș and Luciana Lupaș). During the second semester of the first academic year, the tenth member joined the teaching team, coming from a high school from Sibiu, first as an associate, then tenured as lecturer, the mathematician Dorin Blezu. Also in the first academic year engineer Stefan Grunfeld, coming from Textile Factory from Cisnădie, near Sibiu, was hired as non-didactic auxiliary personnel. Later on, during the next academic year, he was tenured as teacher assistant at Mechanics.

The organizational scheme of the faculty in the first academic year of operation contained a single chair, Department of Technology whose first head of department was professor Ioan Sava and scientific secretary, teaching assistant Octavian Bologa. Later in the spring that followed, during the first academic year professor Grațian-Vincentiu Ștețiu was elected rector of the Institute of Higher Education of Sibiu, the institute which was composed of three faculties Faculty of Philology and History, Faculty of Economic and Administrative Law and Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. The position of dean of the latter, vacant, was elected professor Ioan Sava, and the head of the Department of Technology was elected associate professor Ilie Isarie.

A first objective of the newly established faculty was to train engineers and sub-engineers in Machine Building Technology specialization, by means of day courses and night courses. The first graduate of the faculty, sub-engineers, three year day courses stepped into industry in 1979, followed by sub-engineers, four years night courses in 1980 and engineers, five years day courses in 1981.

A few years later, at the admission in 1980, the number for which was held entrance exam was 365 (200 - engineer day courses 25 - engineer night

courses, 50 – sub-engineers day courses 90 – sub-engineers night courses), for which 1376 high school graduates candidate. The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering still had only one specialization, Machine Building Technology.

A report by the dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, April 18, 1981, after five years of operation, indicates that of educational activities were held in appropriate conditions, the faculty owned laboratory with appropriate endowments (22), with a total surface of 3000 square meters, the teaching activities were coordinated by 49 tenured professors, 14 out of them hold the Ph.D. degree and 10 out of them being doctoral students, 80% of the teaching activities were covered by manuals, laboratory guides and exercise books, elaborated by faculty professors and printed in the faculty's own printing workshop. The same report mentioned that most of the disciplines within the curriculum have organized scientific circles for the students. Thus, during academic year 1980/1981, 13 scientific circles encompassing 200 students were active and 85 research themes were tackled. The practical activities for the students in the I-III years of study was carried out in the faculty's own workshop located inside enterprise Independența of Sibiu, and the research and design activities of the students within the final years took place in the design workshops Independența, Balanța, IPAS, Mecanica from Sibiu and Mecanica form Mârșa enterprises, where students were performing actual research and design.

The same report mentioned above referred to the central library of the Institute of Higher Education of Sibiu, library which numbered at that time over 91.000 volumes, with a rich technical and scientific publications fund that provide necessary documentation for teaching and research of professors and students. Then, the Institute of Higher Education of Sibiu had a total of three dormitories with a total of 750 seats, a dining room, centrally located in the vicinity of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. In the 1980/1981 academic year, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering had been awarded over 500 scholarships to students.

The cultural and fun activities of the students were performed mainly in the Cultural House of the students, where many cultural, artistic and scientific circles were organized. Sports activity was characterized by organizing competitions at group level and years of study (soccer, tennis, volleyball, skiing, hiking, etc.) and by performance

sports (basketball, football, judo) or ski camps organized annually in different mountain resorts.

The outstanding results achieved in educational activities conducted at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering were appreciated by granting third place in the country in the academic year 1979/1980 in the contest between the student associations.

Today, 40 years after its founding, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, fully developed and became Faculty of Engineering aims general objectives such as: the development of continuous training and e-learning system; regular evaluation of the professors in order to improve and adapt the educational process at the request of students; adapting the teaching style and how to attract and obtain better results in teaching activities ; practical vocational skills training for students; development of infrastructure of laboratories and research centers; tutoring business development; continuation of interfacing students and graduates with employment by the Office of guidance and professional services; increasing the visibility of the faculty in the social - economic and cultural life of the city and county of Sibiu and throughout the country.

Recorded by,

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