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In memoriam

PROF. LISARDO NUÑEZ-REGUEIRA

16 May 1939 – 1 September 2005

There are times when writing about a friend is difficult but necessary. On September 1st last, our friend and colleague Lisardo Nuñez died at the age of 66. It is now, when sorrow over his loss mingles with pride in having known and worked with him, that we are pervaded by that non-Einsteinian relativity, that peculiarly Galician sense of temporality and perspective, that was so typical of Lisardo himself. Inspired by this sentiment, Lisardo was both a master and a scholar of all he worked on; and with this spirit, and his deep understanding of the significance and potential of the techniques to which he had chosen to devote himself, he was unique in his ability to find useful application of those techniques - calorimetry and thermal analysis - in the most diverse fields.

He was born in La Coruña on May16th 1939. As a schoolboy with a promising academic future, there awoke in him two loves that he would be faithful to throughout his life: science and football. All those who knew him were aware of his fondness for Deportivo de La Coruña Football Club, and I am sure that he would have appreciated his name being linked to the last with that of his home town's team. But it is of his scientific career that it is for us to speak.

In 1956 he began to study at the University of Santiago de Compostela, and in 1961 obtained a first degree in what was then denominated simply Science. His career as a teacher and researcher in this university began in 1962, and was only interrupted by a two-year spell as a Research Fellow at the University of Manchester with a scholarship from the United States Air Force Office of Scientific Research. However, it was during those 2 years that he collaborated with two of the scientists who most influenced his life: Profs. G. Pilcher and H. A. Skinner, whose guidance was invaluable for his work on the thesis that in 1968 earned him his Ph.D. from the University of Santiago, 'High-temperature calorimetry: application to the reduction of cuprous and cupric oxides'. With his Ph.D. in his pocket, Lisardo settled for good in Santiago to teach and do research at 'his' university, where in the course of the next 37 years he became a Full Professor in the Department of Applied Physics, published a hundred or so articles in international scientific journals, presented more than 150 papers at Spanish or international scientific congresses, and supervised 28 Ph.D. theses, as well as participating in numerous other aspects of university life and playing a key role in the creation of the Faculty of Physics in 1981. He was also unsparing of the time he devoted to the organizational side of professional life outside his own university, serving as Secretary of the European Latin American Research Group; as chairman of the organizing committees of the International Society for Biological Calorimetry's 12th Congress and the 2001 Mediterranean Conference on Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis; as president of GECAT, the Calorimetry and Thermal Analysis Group of the Spanish Royal Societies of Chemistry and Physics, and, as such, as a member of the Council of the International Confederation of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry; as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry*; and as referee for a number of international scientific journals, including the *Journal of Applied Polymer Science, Energy and Fuels, Polymer* and *Macromolecular Chemistry and Physics.*

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The year 1987 saw what was at once the accomplishment of one of Lisardo's most cherished ambitions and the start of a new adventure: the creation of TERBIPROMAT, a research group based on multidisciplinary research concepts that were then, and for some are perhaps still, advanced for their time. Under his leadership, this group of physicists, chemists, biologists, pharmacists, engineers and mathematicians has earned a solid reputation in the environmental science field, contributing not only to our understanding of microbial activity in soils and of the energetics of biomass, and to the development of new materials, but also to practical solutions to environmental problems. Notably, Galicia's current EU-approved Urban Solid Waste Disposal Plan was developed by TERBIPROMAT, with Lisardo at its head.

It is this engagement with society, with the idea that science should involve everyone, be pursued with the general interest in mind and benefit all, that his disciples at the University of Santiago inherit from Lisardo and must be faithful to. We whom he leaves behind – friends, colleagues and family, and most especially his wife, son and daughters – gladly receive this legacy and adopt as our own his commitment to the aggrandizement of the University of Santiago de Compostela and the propagation of science to all, for all and with all; and we take comfort in the words of Rosalía de Castro: '*... adios vista dos meus ollos, non sei cando nos veremos*'

Prof. Dra. María Villanueva-López
Prof. Dr. José A. Rodríguez-Añón
Prof. Dr. Jorge Proupín-Castiñeiras

On behalf of the Editorial Team of the Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry we would like to salute to the memory of Professor Lisardo Nuñez. He was one of our Associate Editors whom we could always rely on whose scientific support and friendship meant a lot for all of us. He's input contributed greatly to the international success and recognition we've achieved. We will miss not only his conscientious work as an Associate Editor, and a referee, but his delightful personality as well.

J. Simon
and the Editorial Team of JTAC

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