

IN MEMORIAM



Amelija Kovačević, MSc (born Bartolović)

(1956 - 2016)

We are all aware that the time to say the last goodbye to our dearest ones has to come someday, but we are never prepared for that moment. But, such is the reality of life, duration of which is marked with two points – birth and death. We, biologists, might be more aware of that than others.

Amelija Kovačević was born on 12 December 1946 in Čačak, Serbia. She started her primary school in Valjevo, but since her father was a military veterinarian, the family was often moving, so she completed her primary education and graduated from the grammar school in Novi Sad. She then enrolled at the Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics in Novi Sad, Department of Biology.

After graduation, she was a volunteer with Prof. Živojin Gavrilović at the Department of Biology of the Faculty of Medicine and participated in research on anthropometric characteristics of children and youth.

In 1972, she got a permanent contract as assistant in the Institution for Experimental Biology and Medicine – Institute of Marine Biology in Kotor today. She defended her master thesis in neurobiology at the Multidisciplinary Studies of the University of Belgrade.

She built her scientific career by studying the effect of marine environment pollution with pesticides, heavy metals and other pollutants on behaviour of fish and other marine organisms. She also worked on detection of minimum concentrations of toxicants in seawater through changes in conditioned-reflex activity in fish.

During her professional, scientific and research activities, she completed a number of study visits and advanced trainings in the country and abroad.

Amelija Kovačević, MSc, is the author of a large number of scientific references published in journals of international reputation, presented to the broader scientific public in national and international conferences and symposiums. She was the author and co-author of a large number of studies, surveys and expert opinions.

Under summer schools, she held a dozens of lectures to teachers-in-residence and students from almost all universities of former Yugoslavia.

Amelija advocated team work and selflessly shared her knowledge with the younger co-workers. On January 31, 2011, she departed for a hard-earned and well-deserved retirement.

Amelija Kovačević, our dear Meja, was a modest, straightforward, quiet person – a great human being. Her kind and gentle heart, nurtured on the gentleness of the Boka Bay that she loved, was open for all. She equally respected older and younger colleagues and addressed each in her soft voice. She was never hiding her knowledge; she shared it selflessly with others. She was coming to and going from work with the same smile on her face and no one has ever heard her say: “I can’t” or “I won’t”.

After retirement, she dedicated her attention to her hobbies and various interests, enjoying the life. She liked long walks in the forests, collecting mushrooms. Here, on the slopes of the Mt. Lovćen, she discovered 16 species of edible mushrooms. She loved flowers, swimming, biking. She was a passionate fisher. She was very sociable and enjoyed the company. She always found good in people and made them laugh.

Time spent with her two daughters and grandchildren she cherished in particular. She embedded her virtues in them and taught them true values of life. In her own words and deeds, she saw retirement as a new dimension of the freedom of living and interests.

The fame of Amelija Kovačević shall be remembered in our team forever. Thank goodness, Amelia left behind baskets full of fruit, scientific as well as those of humaneness. We, as her colleagues, are proud of that, but her family is even more so.

It was our great honour and privilege to have Amelija Kovačević as a colleague and a friend.

May her gentle soul rest in peace.

Aleksandar Joksimović, PhD
Institute of marine biology