

Professor Marianna Sankiewicz

In Memoriam

Associate Professor Marianna Sankiewicz, Eng.D. was born in Suwałki region, where She spent her early years. She attended the State Higher Junior High School in Suwałki and then the Secondary School in Starogard Gdański.

After the outbreak of the Second World War She was sent from Vilnius to a forced labor camp in Germany. On many occasions She reminisced the dreadful memories of war, the German occupation and the time spent in the concentration camp.

She was once arrested by Soviet soldiers, placed against the wall and sentenced to death. She escaped death at the very last moment thanks to an unexpected air raid. Throughout the years She continually wondered about the life mission She was summoned to accomplish in return for Her miraculous prolongation of life. Soon She concluded that there is an important role She has to play and subjected all Her life to this idea, first by Her involvement in conspiracy activities. After She was detained in Hammerstein concentration camp She contacted the Polish POW organization and joined in intelligence activities which She continued until February 1945. Their aim was to provide information concerning the development of German rocket weapon. She was imprisoned in Szczecin and subjected to severe investigation by Gestapo. Her activity was an important contribution to the chain of events which changed the course of history.

After She returned to Poland in February 1945 She started work for the Polish Radio in Warsaw and then moved to Gdańsk. She started studies at the Faculty of Electronics of Gdańsk University of Technology where She obtained Her Master of Engineering degree in 1950 and became an assistant lecturer in the Department of Radio Broadcasting Engineering. In 1968 Professor Sankiewicz obtained Her Doctor of Engineering degree and became an associate professor at the Faculty of Electronics in 1970. Her research was supervised by a legendary Polish Professor Janusz Groszkowski. She worked at the Faculty of Electronics, Telecommunications and Informatics of Gdańsk University of Technology until Her retirement in 1992.

She simultaneously continued Her cooperation with the Polish Radio where She taught technical and program specialists for the centers of Polish Radio and Television in Northern Poland. Professor Sankiewicz was one of the architects and the witnesses of the development of radiophony at the Gdańsk Coast.

As an independent researcher Professor Sankiewicz, together with Her husband and collaborator Gustaw Budzyński, was the co-founder of a new specialization at the Faculty and a new department of Electrophonics, later transformed into the

Department of Sound Engineering. This unique specialization proved to be extremely prolific in terms of both M.Eng. and D.Eng. graduates, many of whom developed their professional careers in Polish and foreign broadcasting stations.

Professor Sankiewicz was the author of over 140 publications which contributed to the scientific position of Gdańsk University of Technology. She was also a member of the Committee of Acoustics of the Polish Academy of Science.

Driven by strong social instinct, alongside Her pedagogical and scientific activity, She accepted the functions of the Deputy Dean and later of the Vice Rector for Education, which She performed for 17 years. This period of Her academic career is well known to hundreds of graduates of the Faculty.

It has to be remembered that the period in which She became a member of the University authorities coincided with the difficult time of the Martial Law in 1981. Her caring instinct made Her stand against the then authorities and protected numerous students against the oppressive communist state.

Apart from Her activities at the University, Professor Sankiewicz was the initiator of many social and scientific organizations. It was Her energy that contributed to the development of scout organizations and the Brotherly Help of Students of Gdańsk University of Technology. She was also a member of the world organization of former Home Army soldiers.

Professor Sankiewicz was a member of many scientific societies, a pioneer of sound engineering and it was Her who introduced Poland to the Audio Engineering Society, whose Vice President She became later. For Her social activity She was awarded with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and the Medal for the Service for Gdańsk, as well as many scientific awards.

Those who knew Her are aware that She did not work for awards. Till the very end of Her life She actively developed a private system of support for those who, due to life and social reasons, were not able to support themselves. She supported many people whose life paths complicated and organized material and moral help, often offering Her home as Shelter.

It was Professor Marianna Sankiewicz and people of her kind who against all dramatic obstacles successfully defended and developed the free country we are living in today.

We cherish and respect Her Memory for all that She did for us, including the decluttering of the University area after the war. Every graduate and every researcher and employee was then and is now Her foster child.