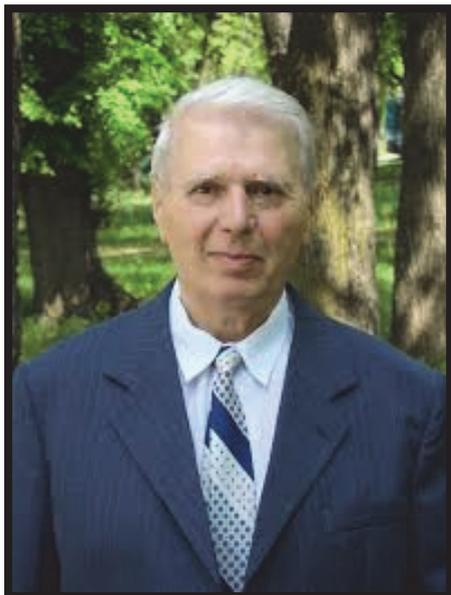


**IN MEMORIAM UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR DR.
GRIGOR P. POP
(1933-2019)**



Grigor Pop, our longtime faculty member, professor, colleague and friend, passed away on June 24, 2019, at the age of 85. He has enjoyed a great appreciation in the academic community and has served as a research model and professor for many generations of students and teachers. He has been an inspiration to many young researchers, and his investigation and teaching methods remain professional benchmarks for many of us. He also influenced many persons to follow him on the path of geographical knowledge. Besides being a remarkable scholar, Professor Pop was a wonderful colleague and counselor, a simple, kind and modest man who will be sorely missed by those who knew him. Five

years ago, on a September day, we celebrated his 80 years of birth in a large audience in our main amphitheater. He then decided to retire from his professional activity and to take care of his personal and family life, after an outstanding career spanning more than 55 years of Geography. He was recognized within the geographical collectivity in Romania for his scientific accomplishments and service to the community.

Born in Calna, a small village north of Cluj-Napoca, on September 16, 1933, he grew up in a family with 5 children, as the second oldest one. His childhood years were often remembered with great charm in his stories about the birthplace and life in the beautiful and honorable family he grew up in. Like most of the young people of that time, he accomplished his education in the very difficult conditions of the Second World War and of the hard times that followed. He left his home village for the gymnasium in the nearby city of Dej and for the high school in Câmpia Turzii, where he worked to live and to complete his medium education.

After a rigorous entrance examination, he became a student in 1955, fulfilling his dream of following the path of Earth Sciences. He followed the specialization of Geography-Geology, enjoying the courses, field applications and summer practices during the five years of study. Since the time of his studies, Grigor Pop has shown tenacity, passion and hard work, the field activities being

completed with several studies, some awarded or published in various scientific journals. He graduated in 1960 after which he was a teacher and manager in a secondary school near the adoptive town. One year later he became teaching assistant in the Faculty of History and Geography at the Pedagogical Institute of Cluj and later on of Oradea. During his stage in Oradea, Grigor Pop obtained his doctorate from Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași in 1971, under the competent supervising of Professor Ion Șandru. He successfully defend his thesis "Criș Plain – an economical-geographical study" (Câmpia Crișurilor - studiu geografico-economic), marking his obvious orientation towards human geography. He went through all the stages of his teaching career and the steps of the academic hierarchy, in Oradea and Cluj, after his returning at the "Babeș-Bolyai" University in 1978. He was appointed as a full professor and PhD coordinator in 1990. More than thirty PhD students managed to defend their thesis under his supervision, on new research directions in social, political, historical and economical geography.

His scholarly contributions have strongly influenced human and regional geography in Romania and his scientific authority was widely recognized nationally as evidenced by his many and diverse publications, citations, keynotes and collaborations. Professor Pop was the author of more than 220 scientific works, published in the country and abroad. His name is associated in human geography with comprehensive works such as: "Romania. An Economical Geography"; "Romania. Geography of Circulation" and "Romania. The Geography of Hydro Energy", all of them as unique models of approach in the Romanian economic geography. In the last period of his career, professor Pop elaborated the great geographical synthesis such as "Carpathians and Sub-Carpathians of Romania" (2000), "Depression of Transylvania" (2001), "Western Hills and Western Plain" (2005) or the monograph "Cluj County" (2007), as a meeting of a long teaching and research activity. For all this contribution to the development of Romanian Geography, Professor Pop was awarded the distinction Doctor Honoris Causa of University of Oradea and Honorary Professor of Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași.

From 1990 to 2000 Professor Pop was elected as the Head of the newly founded Department of Human and Regional Geography and later on, of the Human Geography Department. During his terms of office, he led our small human geography community with heart and soul and laid the foundation for the healthy growth and development of our faculty with all its specializations. He fulfilled his administrative function amiably, maintaining a friendly and harmonious atmosphere, with strong academic and personal connection among faculty members. His presence has always been comfortable and friendly, pleasant in all stages, lacking in superiority or hypocrisy.

Professor Pop has worked enthusiastically and tirelessly for our geographical community and has long been associated with our scientific journal, *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai*, whose editor was. We owe him a number of valuable historiographical works, the most important being "Cluj Geographical School" (*Școala geografică clujeană*) published in 2007 and "Scientific

IN MEMORIAM

Publications of Cluj Geographical School (1919-2010)” (Publicația științifică a Școlii Geografice Clujene (1919-2010)”, published in 2010.

In the context of international organization, he had a key role in the development of some important educational programmes, such as EU-Phare TEMPUS JEP 11070/96 - “Geography Initiative on Tourism in Higher Education” a large project that has made a decisive contribution to the structural development of the Faculty of Geography, especially the specialization of Tourism Geography. Its partner institutions in the project were both academic and professional ones from Romania, United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland: University College Chichester in Bognor Regis, Weald and Downland Open Air Museum from Singleton, CSA Computing Services Dublin, Transilvania Turism SA and the Ethnographic Museum of Transylvania. Professor Pop was the coordinator of this four-year project and he was actively involved in all its stages and complex activities. He was also implicated in different scientific activities with international audience in France, United Kingdom (British-Romanian Seminar), Austria, Germany, Italy or Norway.

Professor Grigor P. Pop was a great classical geographer and educator, showing people how important is geography in understanding the real world that no other subject does. He was an honest man, a model of personal and professional ethics. We will miss his presence in our department but we will remember him with pleasure, as a friend and mentor, and with contentment that we had the privilege to know him.

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