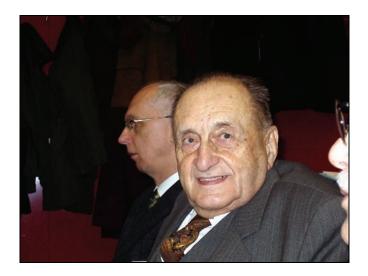
Birthday Recognition BOOK

PROBASTAT 2011 SMOLENICE, SLOVAKIA JULY 4-8, 2011

LUBOMÍR KUBÁČEK



Professor RNDr. Ing. Lubomír Kubáček, DrSc., Dr. h. c.

A phenomenon in Slovak and Czech statistical community, our teacher, colleague, and good friend, Professor Lubomír Kubáček has turned eighty this year - full of energy, vitality, and enthusiasm. With great joy and pleasure we join him in celebrating this occasion.

PROFESSOR LUBOMÍR KUBÁČEK – TURNING EIGHTY

Professor Kubáček was born on February 1, 1931, in Bratislava. After graduating from high school he continued with his studies at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava. He graduated summa cum laude majoring in geodesy in 1954.

As a fresh graduate, he immediately took





on responsibilities. For eight long years he was the head of the Computing Department of the Geodetic Institute in Bratislava. This environment, full of numbers and high demand for extremely precise calculations, turned out to be very motivating. Luboš, as we all call him, became convinced that mathematics, particularly

numerical methods and statistics, was essential for further progress of his professional



understanding. He decided to go on and continue with his education at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava, as a part-time student. He successfully graduated, first in 1957 majoring in Mathematical Analysis and later, in 1964 majoring in Probability and Mathematical Statistics, both summa cum laude.

The change point in Luboš 's career was when he joined the Institute of Theory of Measurement of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. There he managed, within a short period of time, to gather a group of young probabilists and statisticians and create the basis of the Department of Theoretical Methods.

Especially memorable are the regular seminars held every other Wednesday morning, each lasting about four hours. The collegial, open atmosphere and fruitful, sometimes heated, professional discussions were extremely attractive for statisticians - not only in

Bratislava, for some did not hesitate to travel regularly from distant cities, such as Žilina and Brno, in order to be part of the group. It was then that the so-called "Kubáček's Linear Models School" was established. Many currently successful Slovak mathematicians and statisticians, active at home academic institutions but also abroad, started their professional under the career leadership of Professor Kubáček, and



their professional interests were formed at those seminars.

The political atmosphere in the country during the late seventies and early eighties influenced every aspect of life. Changes took place also at the Slovak Academy of Sciences. In 1981 Luboš moved to the Mathematical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and during the years 1988-91 he served as its director. Even during that time he

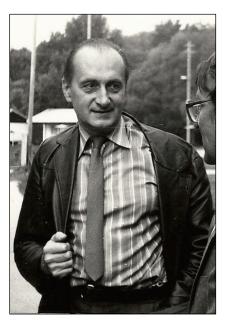
didn't slow down in his research activities or in collaboration with colleagues and particularly with students.

During Luboš's entire professional career he remained connected to geodesy. In his papers and numerous monographs, Luboš continues to address nontrivial, often very difficult problems and questions related to regression models. The questions he tries to answer are always very closely related to and motivated by practical real life problems. His work in that area led to national and international recognition. For example, his work is seminal in developing the statistical theory of geodetic networks.

Luboš's faithful and closest collaborator during his professional career until her death was his sweetheart, his wonderful wife Liduška. Together they managed to solve numerous statistical problems in geophysics.



However, Luboš's professional interest has not been limited only to technical applications. For over twenty years he had a long-standing collaboration on statistical applications in medicine and biomedicine with the 1st Clinic of Internal Medicine in Bratislava.



Those most productive years led to Luboš's habilitation, and in 1981 he was awarded the scientific title Doctor of Science and soon after that, in 1991, the academic title Professor.

In 1994, shortly after Czechoslovakia split, the Kubáčeks moved to the Czech Republic, to the beautiful old city of Olomouc. Since then Luboš continues in his activities - teaching, publishing, active collaboration with young colleagues - at the Faculty of Science of Palacky University, Olomouc. And once again he created it - he managed again to build up, practically from scratch, a group of young, enthusiastic statisticians as

part of the division of applied mathematics.

In addition to research, teaching plays an essential part of Luboš's professional life. From the beginning, when he worked at the Institute of Theory of Measurement, he started to teach and offered numerous graduate courses at the Department of Probability



and Statistics of the Comenius University in Bratislava. His lectures on Theory of Estimation are especially memorable. He has been and still is very active in supervising graduate students and young statisticians. There is no limit to his patience and willingness to help. If needed, he is ready even nowadays, as he was hundreds of times before, to sit with a student for hours and go through proofs in detail just in order to help. He managed to successfully supervise at least 15 Ph.D. students (Candidate of Sciences in former times) and at present he still supervises two graduate students, young adepts of mathematical sciences.

Regarding research, Luboš hasn't slowed down even at his ``mature" age. He continues to publish not only scientific papers but also books. He is author or co-author of eleven monographs, two of which have been published by international publishing houses. He is author or co-author of six sets of lecture notes and over 176 scientific papers in peer-reviewed international journals. His publications can be found not only in mathematically and/or statistically oriented journals but also in journals on geodesy, chemometry, and medical research. He is a member of several editorial boards. As a recognition of his work, Professor Kubáček has been awarded a number of awards and medals.

Dear Luboš, it is our privilege to join your closest family, two sons, Jirka and Zbynek with his family, and say out loud: Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Júlia Volaufová

Chair of the Program Committee

PROFESSOR LUBOMÍR KUBÁČEK'S AWARDS

- Congress Premium (1st place in a world competition of young geodesists under 35 years of age) at the XIth congress of Federation Internationale des Geometres in Rome, 1965;
- Plaque of the 25th anniversary of Geodesy and Cartography Department for merits in development of geodesy. Director of Slovak Institute of Geodesy and Cartography 1979;
- 3. Aurel Stodola Silver Honorary Plaque for merits in technology. Slov. Academy of Sci., 1981;
- Commemorative Medal of the 50th anniversary of Slovak Technical University for substantial merits in development of Slovak Technical University. Chancellor of Slovak Technical University, 1987;
- Medal for merits in development of mathematics and physics. Union of Slovak Mathematicians and Physicists, 1987;
- 6. Corresponding member of Slovak Academy of Science, 1987;
- 7. Commemorative Medal of the 200th birth anniversary of Jan Evangelista Purkyně, conferred to outstanding scientists. Slovak Academy of Science, 1988;
- Silver Medal for merits in development of mathematics and physics. Union of Slovak Mathematicians and Physicists, 1989;
- 9. Honorary Member of Union of Slovak Mathematicians and Physicists, 1990;
- Jur Hronec Golden Honorary Plaque for merits in mathematical sciences. Slovak Academy of Science, 1991;
- Golden Medal of Faculty of Mathematics and Physics. Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Komensky University, 1991;
- Bolzano Medal for merits in development of mathematical sciences. Czechoslovak Academy of Science,
 1991;
- 13. Silver Medal (pro merito) of Palacky University, 1996;
- Nummum academiae memorialm tribuit (pro singularibus meritis de studiis scientiarum provehendis).
 Slovak Academy of Science, 2001;
- Golden Commemorative Medal of Faculty of Mathematics, Physics, and Informatics. Komensky University,
 2001;
- 16. Golden Medal (pro merito) of Palacky University, 2001;
- 17. First Order Medal of Ministry of Education, Youth, and Physical Education, 2001;
- 18. Honorary degree dr. h. c. at Slovak Technical University, 2002;
- 19. Honorary membership in Scholarly Society of Slov. Academy of Sci, 2005;
- 20. Celebrity of the year 2005. Slovak Academy of Science
- 21. Silver Commemorative Medal of Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Prague, 2011;

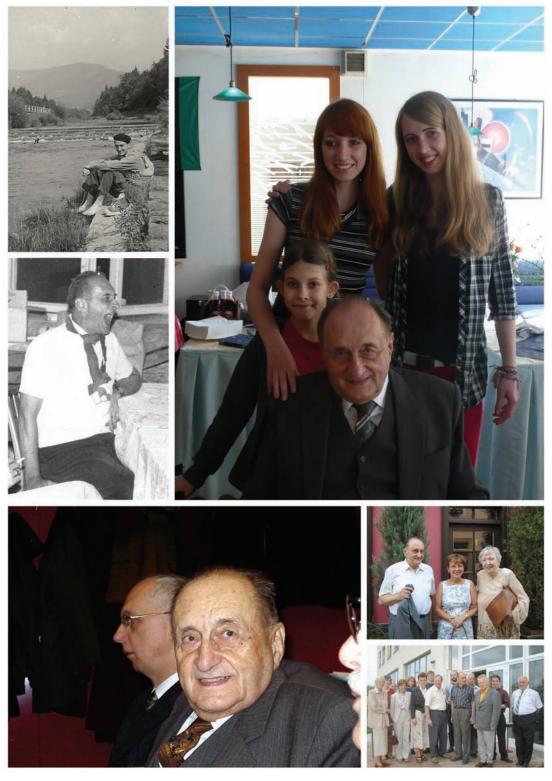


- 22. Golden Commemorative Medal of Faculty of Mathematics, Physics, and Informatics, Comenius University, Bratislava. 2011:
- 23. Silver medal "For merits in development of Palacky University" for lifetime research and pedagogy merits.

MONOGRAPHS AUTHORED AND CO-AUTHORED BY PROFESSOR LUBOMÍR KUBÁČEK

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PHOTOS OF LUBOMÍR KUBÁČEK



GENNADIJ ALEKSEEVICH OSOSKOV



Professor Gennadij

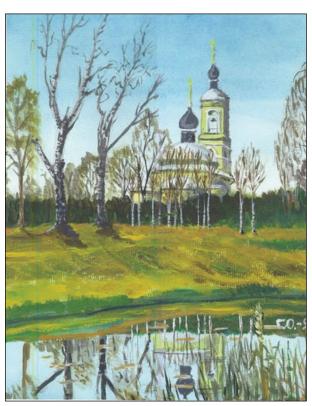
Alekseevich Ososkov

PROF. GENNADIJ ALEKSEEVICH OSOSKOV, DRSC.-OCTOGENERIAN?

In the Seventies, I have worked at the Institute of Measurement Theory of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. There was an active group of probabilists and statisticians around Prof. Kubáček. Prof. Pázman, my supervisor, at the end of the 1960s has spent a long-term stay at the Laboratory of Computing Techniques and Automatization of the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research in Dubna, Moscow region. He talked very often about his stay in Dubna and about his Russian boss, Dr. Ososkov. When I got married and I had a small daughter but no flat, Prof. Pazman advised me to go to Dubna, hoping that during my two-year stay my flat problem would likely be solved. In 1978 my problem was solved but anyway, I went to Dubna to see the situation there and introduce myself to Gennadij Alekseevich (in Russia, such a salutation is recognized as very polite in contrast to the salutation e.g., Dr. Osokov, which is very formal). Unfortunately, he was injured at that time and hospitalized in Moscow. It was then and there that I first met him. Nevertheless, we had talked in the hospital, I have accepted the possibility to work under his guidance, and in the last days of 1979, I left for Dubna for a two-year stay. The life in Dubna, in the scientific city among pine trees and forests at the bank of Volga river, the

cultural and working atmosphere, nice people, and mainly the personality of Gennadij Alekseevich caused that our stay finished after more than six years, coming back even with a there-born son. So I had plenty of occasions to see Prof. Ososkov in many situations, during collaborations, joint speeches or during common mushroom pickings.

Gennadij Alekseevich was born on Februrary 13, 1931 in Russia. After finishing his education summa cum laude at the Moscow State University in 1953, he became a PhD



student at his Alma mater. His supervisor was Academician A.Y. Khinchin, and when Khinchin became ill and was Kazan, Ososkov's new supervisor became Academician A.N. Kolmogorov. There are only few probabilists in the world who can claim that they were students of the two most important world coryphaeus probability theory and mathematical statistics. Gennadij Alekseevich's dissertation was devoted to limit processes in queuing theory where he claimed that under some natural such discrete processes conditions, converge the Poisson one. Kolmogorov had very intensive

contacts with his students. They had to take very long walks with him; they together discussed mathematical problems and theses without writing, and at the end of the trip there was a lake for swimming and they all took a nude mathematical bath (this was a reason why A.N. Kolmogorov had practically no lady-students). Gennadij Alekseevich, during the walk, tried to explain to Kolmogorov the main points of his thesis. Kolmogorov listened intensly and said that according to him, there is a gap. Then Ososkov spent several months to find the gap - and he found it – Kolmogorov was right.

After his PhD study, in 1957 he became Candidat scientarum (= PhD). During 1956-61, he worked at the Special Research Institute of Electronic Industry, Moscow, where he was interested in applications of statistical methods and in modeling of control systems. In 1961 he joined the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research, Dubna. He was a chief a group,

later of a sector. He became a professor at the Dubna branch of the Moscow State University and at the Dubna International University for Nature, Society, and Man.

The area of his scientific interests is extremely large: mathematics, computational statistics, Monte Carlo simulation, etc.. During the last decades, G.A. Osokov has been involved in several physical projects, such as data handling in experimental physics. He is an expert in applications of robust methods, neural networks, cellular automata, wavelet analysis for data handling in experimental physics as well in other fields like in medicine and genetics, human face and car license plate recognition. These methods were realized as programs and then successively used in frameworks of such famous high physics experiments like STAR, CERES/NA 45, CBM, HYPERON, ARES, etc.

His results from 1961-87 were used by a scanning system Spriral Reader in CERN, by a spiral measuring device AELT-2/160, and viewer tables BPS/2 in JINR Dubna. These noteworthy mathematical applications brought new physical observations and they were a basis for his scientific degree Doctor of Sciences, 1987, the highest scientific degree in the former Soviet Union.

In the last years, the development of nuclear physics brought also new measuring methods in experimental physics and in heavy ions accelerators. Hence, the scientific interests of Prof. Ososkov became oriented to that direction. New fast and highly effective methods of recognition of Cherenkov radiation circles and of centers of

electron avalanches were needed. These new methods were developed under his guidance using robust estimation of searched parameters and cellular automata of filtering original data measured by registration of particle traces. Many of his new mathematical methods were used also in data analysis of ionosphere or medical and biological information.



He, as a recognized expert in data handling in experimental physics, was invited to the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics, Heidelberg, Yale University, New Haven, Florida University, Gainesville, DESY, Hamburg, Darmstadt, and several others.

After his arrival to JINR, G.A. Osokov became a collaborate with the Institute of Measurement Theory SAS, Bratislava, and many of Bratislava's collaborators came to Dubna: A. Pazman was inspired here by new methods of statistical design. After him, I. Bajla, A. Dvurečenskij, M. Turzova, arrived to Dubna for long-term stays. The collaboration was extended also to other institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences: K. Nemoga (Institute of Mathematics), M. Vajteršic and L. Halada (Institute of Theoretical Cybernetics) came to short-term stays, and also colleagues from the Comenius University arrived. All these Slovak collaborators highly appreciate not only a very high scientific erudition of Gennadij Alekseevich but also his human attitude to all of us. He visited many times our Institutes as well as the conference PROBASTAT. At the Slovak Academy of Science he was awarded by a medal for this collaboration.

When I started to collaborate with him in Dubna, my task was related to the estimation of ionization parameters in track chambers of high energy physics. Looking at scanned



trajectories, I have observed that probably it is possible to look at them as queuing systems with infinitely many servers. And this meant his come-back to his original PhD study of queuing theory.

Gennadij Alekseevich is married to Inna Zakharovna, they have two sons and now many grand-children as well as the first grand-grand children had appeared. He likes to spend his free time with both cross-

country-skiing and downhill-skiing, swimming, music, painting, and traveling. He is very active at his age in mathematics, and for me it is a great puzzle whether his year of birth is correct: is Gennadij Alekseevich really octogenerian?

All his former Slovak collaborators in Dubna wish him happiness and sound healthy, many nice new mathematical results and long years of the active life.

Ad multos annos, dear Gennadij Alekseevich!

Anatolij Dvurečenskij

Institute of Mathematics, Slovak Academy of Sciences



JEFFREY JOSEPH HUNTER



Professor Jeffrey Joseph Hunter

MANY HAPPY RETURNS, JEFFREY JOSEPH HUNTER!

Jeffrey Joseph Hunter was born 70 years ago, 27 March 1941; Otahuhu, in a suburb of Auckland, New Zealand. In 1954-58 Jeff was educated at King's College, Otahuhu. According to Wikipedia, Otahuhu was home to the country's first supermarket, and King's College is one of the largest boarding schools in New Zealand, being originally a boysonly school but now also admits girls in the sixth and seventh forms (years 12 and 13).

I met Jeff first time in May 1985 in Auckland, and by then, Jeff was pretty fully-educated and after all wild years was enjoying regular family life with his wife Hazel and children Michelle and Mark. The key to my first visit to New Zealand was my collaborator George P. H. Styan who was spending his sabbatical in Auckland. The University of Auckland organized the First



Pacific Statistical Congress 20--24 May 1985; the Photograph [1] is taken at the reception

of this conference. One evening during the conference time, Jeff and Hazel organized a cozy dinner party at their home in St Heliers, see Photograph [2]. I still remember how heavy the rain was that evening -- when it rains in NZ it really rains.



The month of May 1985 was a starting point for my long-lasting delightful co-operation with the Kiwi friends: how could I have imagined that 25 years later on 20th of May 2010, Soile (my wife) and I would arrive at 6:55 am by AY051 at the Beijing Capital Airport and meet 20 Kiwis arriving at 7:20 am by NZ87 and

then hit the road for two weeks in China under the excellent leadership of Jeff! To Soile and me it all nicely resulted Honorary Citizenships of NZ.

Jeff is an NBL, a natural-born-leader. I have had a pleasure to experience this not only when touring with him in China, but also following closely his chairing the organizing committees of the International Workshops on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS) in Auckland, March 2005, and in Shanghai, June 2010, and being an active member of the organizing committees of several other IWMSs; see a subset of the rat pack in Photograph 6 which is taken by Harold V. Henderson, all other photos in this article are taken by SP who, by the way, is far too humble to compare his photographic skills with those of Jeff.

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In addition to his impressive list of academic administrative tasks, Jeff is the author of numerous refereed articles in top-journals, author of books, editor of special issues of journals, and a teacher of statistics, probability and operations research. Jeff's research has been in applied probability, focusing on Markov and semi-Markov processes, generalized matrix inverses, queueing theory and two-dimensional renewal theory. All in all, he's a thoroughly experienced university professor familiar with all spices the academic life can offer.

In 2007, George Styan and Götz Trenkler interestingly and colourfully characterized Jeff's

research topics in their paper "A philatelic excursion with Jeff Hunter in probability and matrix theory" in the Special Issue of the *Journal of Applied Mathematics and Decision Sciences*. Here is their abstract: "We present an excursion with Jeff Hunter, visiting some of his research topics. Specifically, we will present some facts about certain people whose work seems to have influenced Jeff in his scientific career; we illustrate our presentation with postage stamps that have been issued in honour of these people. Our main guide is Hunter's two-volume book entitled *Mathematical Techniques of Applied Probability* (Academic Press, 1983)."

In April 2005 Jeff graduated with his Doctor of Science degree in Applied Probability from Massey University; his thesis was a compilation of his research papers spanning his career. In 2006 Jeff received the Campbell Award, the highest award of the New Zealand Statistical Association, to recognise his contributions to statistical research and education, and his services to the profession of statistics. In 2007 Jeff was appointed Professor Emeritus of Statistics, at Massey University. Since then he's been working at the Auckland University of Technology, School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences, where he is now a Professor and Head of Mathematical Sciences.

But what happened before?

After receiving his master's degree at the University of Auckland in 1963, Jeff stayed the years 1964-68 in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA, receiving his Ph.D. in Statistics in June 1968, with the thesis "On the Renewal Density Matrix of a Semi-Markov Process" (adviser Walter L. Smith). In 1969-90, Jeff worked at the University of Auckland,

and in 1990-2007 at the Massey University, working at the Institute of Information and

Mathematical Sciences (IIMS), Albany Campus, in 1998-2007.

It is interesting to cite here the Newsletter of the IIMS % Institute of Information and

Mathematical Sciences (January-February 2005) where Jeff describes his research

philosophy as follows:

"Over the years I have kept a notebook sectionalized into various topics with a

list of key papers that referred to that problem. This went with me wherever I

went! In many instances as the result of my reading (and thinking!) new ideas

started to emerge. This was the precursor to the next stage in my ``research

process". This entailed putting the background material away and putting my

own ideas to paper. Stored in one's brain are concepts and approaches that

others have taken but the important next stage is to really flesh out your own

approach. Nothing is better that putting pen (or pencil!) to paper in a quiet

environment and seeing what evolves! You are often surprised and once you

have the problem "tiger by its tail" it is difficult to put it aside. It often preoccupies your thoughts for many a day - the thought process is often ongoing - and the

urge to continue grappling with the problem insatiable. Your partner often

detects that you appear to be in a trance and non-communicative. The

pleasure at solving the problem is however very satisfying."

Jeff and Hazel are great travelers -- but nobody's perfect: they have not yet been to

Nokia. But now when writing this in April 2011, I'm pleased to know that this gap will be

fixed and Jeff and Hazel will visit Nokia in June 2011 before coming to Smolenice Castle

via the Tartu IWMS.

Wishing you happy traveling and many happy returns, Jeff!

Simo Puntanen

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PHOTOS OF JEFFREY HUNTER

