

DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA Professor Peter George Oliver FREUND – University of Chicago

Professor Peter George Oliver Freund was born on September 7th 1936 in Timisoara and graduated the “C. D. Loga” high school in 1953. He completed his undergraduate studies between 1953-1958 at the Electrotechnic Faculty of the Politehnica University (former Polytechnic Institute in Timisoara). He earned the diploma of engineer in 1958 with a diploma work under the guidance of Professor Plautius Andronescu, a prominent educator, who profoundly influenced his way of thinking for the entire career.

A fundamental feature of his scientific thought has been the fact that he has been convinced from the start of the necessity of a radical change in modern physics concerning perception of the concept of physical field and its dimensions. Consequently, throughout his career, he devoted himself to research and description of physical phenomena in spaces with a higher number of dimensions in the larger context of unification of physical fields. He obtained a series of pioneering results in the field of supersymmetry, in string theory (i.e. theory of elementary particles seen as extending in space – strings – rather than point like objects). He proposed a hypothesis in string theory, the so-called Freund-Harari conjecture whose validity has been confirmed in many experiments.

In the scientific world, Professor Freund is best known and praised mainly for his contributions in two-component duality, in multi-dimensional unification, in superstrings with 26 dimensions and in p-adic strings. Professor Freund authored or co-authored more than 400 scientific papers that he published or presented at scientific conferences in his field of expertise. Scientific databases (Scopus, Web of Knowledge or Google Academic) count almost 4500 citations of his work at the present time, and this number is constantly increasing.

Professor Freund demonstrated his creative capabilities not only in the scientific domain, but also in literature, by publishing volumes of memories and fiction. We remark his books: *A Passion For Discovery* (2007), *West of West End* (2008), *Tales in a Minor Key* (2012) and the very interesting one *Dialog across the Atlantic* (written through the Internet together with his friend from childhood, the writer Radu Ciobanu), of which two editions have been already issued.

