Professor Ireneusz Recław (1960–2012)

Professor Recław was born October 31, 1960 in Kościerzyna, Poland where he attended the J. Wybicki High School. At the University of Gdansk he studied under Prof. Edward Grzegorek and in 1988 received the Ph.D. degree by defending his thesis On Subsets of the Real Line Small in the Sense of Measure and Category. He received his habilitation from University of Warsaw, Singular Subsets of the Reals and Infinite Combinatorics. In 2008 received the title of Professor of Mathematics from the President of Poland.

Professor Ireneusz Reclaw was an outstanding mathematician, world renown for his work in set theory. His work focused on applications of set theory in topology, measure theory and real functions. He solved a great number of problems posed by D. Fremlin, F. Galvin, E. Grzegorek, M. Laczkovich, A. Miller, J. Mycielski, and others. In 1987, assuming CH, Reclaw proved that the product of two perfectly meager sets does not need to be perfectly meager solving a 55 year old problem of Edward Marczewski. At that time he collaborated with J. Cichoń and B. Weglorz at the University of Wroclaw. Later worked with J. Brown and G. Gruenhage at the Auburn University, with H. Judah in Israel, S. Koppelberg at the Free University of Berlin and J. Jasiński at the University of Scranton. Jointly with A. Nowik (Andryszczak), T. Bartoszyński and J. Pawlikowski he wrote several papers concerning small subsets of the real line. His proof that every Lusin set is undetermined in the Point-open game is among his most cited results. Reclaw's unprecedented understanding of product sets led him to discover generalizations of the Fubini Theorem with P. Zakrzewski and the Kuratowski-Ulam Theorem with D. Fremlin and T. Natkaniec. His collaborations with L. Bukowski and M. Repicky produced several papers on pointwise versus quiasi-normal convergence of sequences of real functions. Working with K. Płotka he published a paper on finite-continuous Hamel functions and with J. Jasiński on continuous restrictions of real functions. Many of his late works were on ideal convergence of sequences of real functions. With D. Borzestowski, R. Filipów, J. Jasiński, M. Laczkovich, N. Mrożek, and P. Szuca Reclaw proved generalizations of classic theorems of Ramsey, Mazurkiewicz, Bolzano-Weierstrass and Lunina. He was an author of 37 papers, recipient of scholarships from Humbolt and Kościuszko Foundations, a Contributing Editor for the Real Analysis Exchange.

Professor Ireneusz (Irek) Recław was a dedicated teacher of mathematics. He taught numerous courses in Poland and in the USA. His enthusiasm for mathematics was well received by his graduate and undergraduate students. He supervised two Ph.D. students, R. Filipów and N. Mrozek. Most recently he directed the Division of Algorithm Design at the University of Gdansk. Irek's life was interrupted at a time when he and all those around him enjoyed every moment of it. His warm personality and witty sense of humor will be missed by his loving family and many friends around the world.