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61. Marian Kryszewski

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Personalities in Polymer Science



Marian Krzyszewski

Honoring Professor Marian Krzyszewski on his 70th Birthday

Marian Krzyszewski is a universal man, a teacher, organizer and scientist par excellence, and above all, a humanitarian. His work has made major impacts in **polymer physical chemistry** and **polymer physics**. He has contributed significantly to the understanding of **solution and solid state properties of polymers**, especially to dielectric, thermal and optical properties of polymers and to the thermal and photodegradation of polymers and polymer blends.

Marian Krzyszewski was born in April 1925, in Torun, in central Poland (famous as the birth place of the well known astronomer Nicolas Copernicus) into an intellectual family. Marian started his education at the Nicolas Copernicus high school but his education was interrupted by the occupation of Poland. As it was the fate for numerous Polish youth of intellectual families, he was subjected to a great deal of hardship and humiliation. In summer 1945 he graduated from high

school in Torun.

Krzyszewski entered the Nicolas Copernicus University in Torun in the Fall of 1945 at the Faculty of Astronomy, Physics and Chemistry. He obtained a Masters Degree *cum laude* based on his thesis on **Catalytic Decomposition of Chlorinated Alkanes** and was appointed an Instructor in Physical Chemistry. His fascination with polymers started during his studies at the former Institute of Fibers in Lodz. For 8 years Krzyszewski was associated with the well known physicist Professor Aleksander Jablonski and worked on luminescence and molecular optics.

In 1955, Marian Krzyszewski received his Ph.D. based on his thesis on **Photo Polymerization of Vinyl Bromide**. He later became interested in polymer solutions and spent a postdoctoral year (1956-57) with Henri Benoit in Strasbourg. Back in Poland, in Torun, Marian was appointed Assistant Professor at the Physics Department of the Nicolas Copernicus University. In 1958, he was offered and accepted the position of the Chair of Physics at the Chemical Faculty of the Technical University of Lodz. He also spent one year of leave at the Polymer Research Institute in Brooklyn, NY, with Professor Herman Mark (1960-61). Since 1972 Marian Krzyszewski has been a Full Professor at the Technical University of Lodz and has been the Head of the Polymer Physics Division of the Polymer Institute since that time.

About the same time, Marian Krzyszewski started to organize (with Professor Jan Michalski) the Center of Molecular and Macromolecular Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS) in Lodz. He served as its Director of Research until 1984. For the next three years he was also Secretary of the Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Astronomy Division of the PAS.

In 1976, Marian Krzyszewski was elected Corresponding Member and, in 1989, Full Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Marian was very active in various national scientific committees in Poland, e.g., he was a Member of the Chemistry and Physics Committee of the PAS, of various Scientific Councils of PAS Institutes, of Technical Research Centers and numerous international scientific societies. Krzyszewski is also a member of the

editorial boards of 10 international journals and was regularly invited as plenary lecturer at IUPAC and other international meetings on polymer chemistry and physics.

Marian Krzyszewski has been actively working in many areas of polymer physics and chemistry: Photo Polymerization, Polymer Solutions, Dielectric and Electrical Properties of Polymers, Semiconductors and Photoconductors, Mechanical Properties of Polymers, Morphology of Semicrystalline Polymers and its relationship with Mechanical, Thermal and Optical Properties of One- and Multicomponent Polymer Systems, Mechanical Properties and Membrane Properties, Light Scattering, Structure of Crystalline Polymers and Polymer Blends, Charge Carrier Generation and Transport in Thin Films prepared by Glow Discharge, Photo- and Thermal Degradation of Polymers and Polymer Blends.

Marian Krzyszewski is the author of over 350 scientific papers, 45 reviews, 2 monographs, the editor of two books and the holder of 22 patents. He has been a visiting scientist or visiting professor at the Technical University of New York (1980), Claude Bernard University, Paris (1987) and Kyoto University (1981 and 1988).

Krzyszewski was honored with the distinguished Marie Curie-Sklodowska Prize of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Chemistry, with five Prizes of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the prize of the Minister of Education.

Marian Krzyszewski was the supervisor of 45 Ph.D. theses. A number of his former students are now professors at Universities.

Since 1953, Marian Krzyszewski has been married to Julia Cywinska, who teaches literature. They have two sons: Stanislaw is a member of the University of Gdansk in theoretical physics and Wojciech at Nicolas Copernicus University in Torun in mathematics.

Marian Krzyszewski has had various hobbies. In his youth, he was an enthusiastic mountain climber. His interest in classic music is well known but he is also interested in artistic glass collecting and in the philosophy of science.

This article has been submitted by Otto Vogl, Herman F. Mark Professor of Polymer Science, Polytechnic University, Brooklyn NY.