As professors, we belong to a social class that does not interrupt, usually, the teaching and scientific research activity, but with the life. Our achievements, more modest or brighter are the measure of our existence, in these fields: The way in which, through personal achievements, we have pushed forward the progress of our society, nationally or even more, we have enriched the international scientific heritage through the penetration and recognition of our achievements by the international scientific community. As a matter of fact, it should be the permanent goal of every university professor who loves the institution in which he lives and works, the prestige in the world and the place among other universities.

Maybe, we can pass daily some besides others, but being taken each with their own affairs, we do not succeed to get to know each other, from the point of view of personal achievements and the sessions and other scientific manifestations are not sufficient for this thing.

But here is that everyone’s birthdays after a certain age, at us as in other countries, too, become personal or collective land marks, moments in our existence, as that to which we are participating in, which with serenity, we are celebrating, the fruitful balance of a colleague and in our own self, we analyse it ours.

Through the richness and the multiple aspects, the today’s balance gets a special
value for the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University and the Faculty of Biology. Therefore, we must be grateful to the University leadership for hosting this important event under the cupola of the soul University of the Romanian nation. Let’s congratulate, at the same time, our colleague, Professor Emeritus Gheorghe Mustață for the beautiful anniversary of 75 years of life and for what he has achieved in 50 years of teaching, organizational - administrative, social and scientific activity. Happy birthday, dear colleague, with health and new achievements in all the planes of life!

As a complex personality, with activity and results equally complex, it is impossible to grasp and characterize in a casual presentation, even if it is such an important an event. Indifferently, in what of the labour domains he has activated, the results were marked by excellence. As he alone confesses, he has always struggled with what he did to be well done, and where he put his hand, the mind and the soul, God has put his mercy too, according to the saying and Romanian faith. He was given himself totally to the serious professional training, with passion and perseverance, in the student days, graduating the faculty with a Diploma of merit, governmentally distributed in 1962, at the request of the Faculty and of Professor Mihail Constantineanu, Head of the Department of Zoology, as a junior teaching assistant at this Department. Until 1971, as a junior teaching assistant and assistant, he formed himself a solid basis of knowledge and teaching experience in the work with the students, that passionate and inspired him. He sustained practical works at the disciplines of Invertebrate Zoology, renowned and extremely useful applications in the field, whose reduction at the present, he regrets it now. As far back as in this early period, he cultivated his tendency for the interpretation of results and their synthesis, continuing his doctoral training where, in accordance with the supervisor, professor M. Constantineanu, he chose as a topic subject “Biology and ecology of the parasitic insects in the pest insects to vegetables in Moldova” and the presentation took place in 1974, bringing numerous new data for Romania and for science.

As a matter of fact, the thesis remains for the young Gheorghe Mustață, the spring of all subsequent entomological research fields.

In 1971, he occupied, through competition, a post of Lecturer at the Central Institute for Teacher Training, Iasi Branch, where, he carried on his activity until 1979. As a professor, Gheorghe Mustață acknowledges this period accounted for him a real school teaching, by the specific requirements and by many teaching tasks and of great responsibility, to which he had to face. Thus, the teaching of numerous biological disciplines for which he had to make the respective courses which coincided with his natural tendencies toward synthesis, allowed him the formation of a solid biological general culture, rarely encountered. On the one hand, it meant a lot in the successes achieved in the field of increasing the quality and of the progress in the Romanian pre-university education from that period, and on the other hand, it used him enormously, as he admits himself, in the next period of teaching activity within the Faculty of Biology, where he returned in 1979.

From the period of perfecting of the teaching Staff 1971- 1979, Professor Gh. Mustață appreciates as having a great significance, the over 200 special inspections for the first degree in the secondary teachers in Moldova, as well as numerous courses and conferences realized within that specialized training for all the teachers in Moldavia. The professor Gh. Mustață as far as back in the student days he manifested a great, justified and beautiful respect for the teachers he had, in general, important personalities of the
Romanian and universal Biology. Among all of them, however, a special place was occupied by Professor Dr. Mihail Constantineanu, to him he practically owns the success of his teaching and scientific career. To this titan of Entomology, the most abundant ram of the tree of the Romanian Zoology, created by the primordial of the Romanian Zoology, Professor of our University, Ioan Borcea. The Independence of outlook and the work done by Gheorghe Mustață within the Central Institute for Perfecting of Teachers allowed him, among other things, to put in the light of present, the achievements of the important biological personalities from Romania and to start from here one of his preferred fields of activity, the history of the Romanian science. And it is not accidental the fact that to the life and activity of his master professor Mihail Constantineanu, the most papers were dedicated to him, seven of the 60 written in to this field. Criticising the numerous negative aspects of the organization and development of the actual pre-university education and of its quality, in general, Professor Gheorghe Mustață regrets that there is no such an institution at present, for training and continuous perfecting of the teachers and education. As a matter of fact, too, he fully capitalized the experience got then within the National Council for Academic Evaluation and Accreditation, in his capacity as Chairman of the Exact Sciences Committee II, between 1994 and 2004.

In 1979, he came back to the University, Faculty of Biology on a position of lecturer for the disciplines, Biology of Animal pests and Biogeography. On that time, the promotions were made with difficulty, due to the lack of funds and of excessive savings, therefore, the revolution caught almost all of us at the rank of Lecturer, Scientific researcher III. Thus, the colleague Dr. Gheorghe Mustață was passing the revolution at the age of 51 years with the rank of lecturer, and the undersigned with the same rank at the age of 56 years. Were there exceptions, too? Yes, there were! Truly, rare and like any exception, hard to explain!

So that, hardly in 1991, he accessed, through competition, for the position of a Reader.

Beginning with 1979, using his experience made at the Central Institute for Perfecting of Teaching Staff, biological general culture, the eloquence and the enthusiasm of the new beginning, the Lecturer, and then the Reader (1991), and the Professor (1993), Gheorghe Mustață represents particularly brilliant grace, the quality and teacher duties for another series of thirty of students, biologists. In 1985, he got the course of General Biology for which he was ready and that he wanted it. He drafted it with enthusiasm, helped by his wife and collaborator, Reader Dr. Mariana Mustață and by his son, doctor Georgian Tiberiu Mustață. As the professor confesses, it was the course of his life, which he published it in two editions in 1999 and 2001: “Origin, Evolution and Evolutionism”. Shortly, he obtained also the course of Hydrobiology, an opportunity with which he modernized the respective laboratory, too.

The year 1990, after the revolution, was a crucial year for the University and Faculty. In that context, with the effort of several local personalities, under the aegis of the University and with the benevolent support of some important local personalities from Constanța, “Professor Ioan Borcea” Marine Biological Station in Agigea, which was included in the Institute of Marine Research from Constanța, in 1970, and the only building in other local institutions in 1975, was taken aback by the Alma Mater, the University of Iași.

The main role in the development of that approach was played by Professor Dr.
Gheorghe Mustață, to whom the leadership of the University entrusted him the function of director of the Station and who, in a short time, put it back in function on all levels. This was a great success for the University and Faculty, being able to resume the training of students and the traditional marine researches. The big provocation did not find professor Mustață unprepared. The organizer qualities and the legendary attachment to the University and the duties to the predecessors were the moral support and substantiated the courage with which he soared in the reorganization of the Station and the rebuilding of its prestige and reputation. And all in this goal, to link the education from Iasi to the marine environment, he introduced into the curriculum a course of marine Biology, which he supported and published later. He also introduced and taught a course of Saprobiology, after he had introduced the first course of Ecological Monitoring in 1990. Following his renewing spirit, in 1995, he reintroduced the course of Anthropology in the biology curriculum, taught other time by the renowned Academician, Professor Olga Necrasov. The preparation and multilateral and multidisciplinary competence of the professor allowed him during the teaching activity to take also other optional and master courses: Biodiversity in Aquatic Environments, Productivity of Aquatic Environments, Pests of Ornamental Plants and Vegetables, Animal Phylogeny, Evolutionary Strategies in the Animal World, Relationships between Species. And finally, another category of courses that transcend the exact science, according to the professor’s spiritual philosophy, the festive courses treated problems as Logics of Living in Eminescu’s thinking, From the Music of Spheres to the Music of Genes; Homocromy, Mimicry and Anthropomorphism; Time and the Existence in Time, etc.

These conferences were, otherwise, bundled into two volumes of essays. But, professor Mustață was equally interested in the organization and conduct of examinations, which had to take place calmly, with full respect for the student and full objectivity, as he had learned from his master, Professor Mihai Constantineanu, at whose exams he assisted, as the good habit of time. The manner of preferred examination was that oral through as students could better prove their knowledge, the power of synthesis and the way of presentation. Professor confesses “I did not find another moral satisfaction for the work done in my career as a professor than the good answers given by students in the exam”. But the education process does not stop here; there is the dissertation paper, the master, the dissertation. Here are the professor’s opinions: “the coordination activity of some licence and dissertation papers requires experience and teaching grace, too. The professor had to introduce the student in the field of scientific research; to initiate him in the field of scientific research; to initiate him in the methodology of scientific research and even in the concrete scientific investigation ...” and further: “Now in the twilight of the teaching activity, I realize how complex this activity is, but also how important and what influence can it have to direct the activity of a disciple”. But surely, the most important and responsible among the activities of the professor was the conducting of doctorate theses. In this field, professor Mustață has conducted a special activity with those 23 Ph.D. students since 1996.

The professor’s opinion is that “You cannot be a good professional if you are out of touch with collective social problems in which you are working, and even of your nation”. That is why he did not refuse when he was elected a Scientific Secretary of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Senate, 1996-2000. Then, in 2000-2001, he became head of the Department of Zoology and Ecology, and for the 2001-2003 period, he was
elected Dean of the Faculty of Biology. In these functions, he did some very important things, as the bringing of the Biochemistry Section within the Faculty and the arrangement of some laboratories, the modernization of the classroom 339 and the laboratories of Hydrobiology, Animal Morphology, Animal Physiology, Biophysics, Cellular Biology and a significant achievement, the establishment of the Biology-Geography specialization and some master specializations.

As particularly special achievements, we can mention the redeeming of the Aquatic Ecology Laboratory from Piatra Neamț, separated from the former “Stejarul” Biological, Geographical and Geological Station from Pângârați – Neamț and the Ecological Research and Aquaculture Station from Iași. These could be achieved with the support of the university leadership, in the period of the Rector, Professor Dr. Dumitru Oprea. Professor Gheorghe Mustață was also elected, in the legislature 2004, general Chancellor of the Senate. As I outlined above, in the 1994-2000 period, Professor Gheorghe Mustață, as Chairman of the Exact Sciences 2 Committee, within Central Institute for Perfecting of Teachers and later as a member of this committee, contributed fully to impose of the requirements of the Central Institute for Perfecting of Teachers and to highly maintain education quality. The scientific research occupies in the professor’s Mustață concerns a place as important as teaching activity, and the results are equally brilliant.

As a result of the concerns and the complex professional activities of the Professor Gheorghe Mustață, his scientific research has embraced several fields. Thus, he begins his scientific research work within the vast theme and of great present-day importance, formulated and promoted by the Professor Mihail Constantineanu, regarding the knowledge of entomophagous insects and their role in the natural balance and in the biological control of pest insects.

Within this theme, Professor Gheorghe Mustață tackles some of the most important aspects, such as the knowledge of biodiversity especially of Ichneumonids, the knowledge of complexes of pest insects of the vegetable plants and of their natural enemies that is of the complexes of entomophagous insects that adjust their populations. The special merit of the Professor Gh. Mustață is that, starting from the knowledge of the parasitoid complexes of phytophagous insects (many harmful), he deepens the knowledge of structure and of their complex role in the providing of population balance.

As a model, in the personal researches, he took mostly the parasitoid biocoenoses particularly complex of aphids (plant lices), establishing, detailing, enunciating the role of the hyperparasitoid species in the parasitoid biocoenosis. On the other hand, especially in relation to the parasitoid biocoenosis of the Plutella xylostella, and other parasitoid biocoenoses in our geographical zone, particularly efficient in limiting the populations of hosts and extremely rich in species, he explains the richness and efficiency of these biocoenoses, by their age and their formation in the genetic centre of the host plant and of the respective phytophagous insects.

As a matter of fact, a part of these results and concepts was the basis of a fruitful collaboration of the Professor Gh. Mustață with “The Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre” in Taiwan, referring to parasitoids of the species Plutella xylostella (important pest of the cabbage) and its control.

On the basis of these researches and collaborations, Professor Gh. Mustață was recruited in 1990 as a member of the International Working Group regarding the biological control of this pest within the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC).
We have to mention the fact that a good part of these researches of the professor Gh. Mustață were made in collaboration with his wife, Reader Dr. Mariana Mustață, a close collaborator in almost all the fields of research of the professor.

Over 40 papers and three books were thus dedicated to the results of these researches referring to the parasitoid biocenoses of phytophagous insects. This category was much amplified by several Ph.D. theses, coordinated by Professor Gh. Mustață. Remaining in the field of Entomology, another category of researches, even in the beginning years, was that relating to the biodiversity of ichneumons and of other Hymenoptera, a field in which new species were discovered for the fauna of Romania, but also a genus *Dolichochorus*. Referring to this field, of great importance at present, regarding the knowledge on biodiversity, Professor Gh. Mustață has published 30 scientific papers and a volume in the fauna of Romania in collaboration with his master, Professor M.I. Constantineanu.

Beginning with the ’70s, along with his wife, Reader Dr. Mariana Mustață, Professor Gh. Mustață has promoted researches on the pest insects of the patrimony objects, especially by the 4 coordinated theses. By the scope and results, these studies, published papers and Ph.D. theses, can be considered as launching of a new research. In 1990, by taking the Station from Agigea and the quality of its director, Professor did not accept only to be director, but, actually, he identified himself with the goal and the profile of the station, from all points of view, bringing it back again to the rank of science teaching institution of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University. Thus, besides the hydrobiological field, as teaching and research discipline, Professor Gh. Mustață tackles, together with his collaborators and Ph.D. students, current problems of Ecology and the researches of Hydrobiology were related to some aspects of the Cladocera - in the complex of Cîrc-Chiria lakes (Iași) and to the biodiversity and the dynamics of invertebrates in the Golovița, Razelm and Sinoe lakes. They constituted the second big direction of research, honoured with an extraordinary effort and results in a short time, concertized in 20 papers, three academic books, three scientific sessions at Agigea on problems of Aquatic and Marine Biology, etc.

The third field of scientific concerns of the Professor Gh. Mustață is an ample proof of generosity and responsibility towards the nation to which it belongs. It is about the history of science, giving back, evaluation and introduction in the modern utilization of the Romanian Biology achievements, values belonging to the world scientific patrimony and of the life of creators of these values. Besides these, however, the professor and his collaborators and especially his wife, Reader Dr. give to all Romanians interested in the field, and the achievements and lives of great biologists from abroad: C. von Linné, G.L.L. de Buffon, J.B. de Lamarck, E. Haeckel, A.L. von Humbold.

This field is illustrated by Professor Gh. Mustață in over 50 papers referring to 40 personalities of the Romanian Biology and supplemented with 5 papers related, strictly, to the History of Biology in Romania. The latter deals with the Evolutionism in Romania, One hundred years after the introduction of the term biological Control in Romania, “Professor Ioan Borcea” Marine Research Station from Agigea, 100 years of entomology at Iași.

Like other disciplines of the curriculum, General Biology, preferred discipline, have inspired to the professor original analyses and considerations on some theoretical aspects and phenomena such as: Synergetic Theory, the Metaphor of Nature as Language, Evolution and Crystallization of Mental Meanings, etc. To these, we have to mention the unique works in the Romanian biological literature, in collaboration with Reader Dr.

Also, the great problems of Ecology were in the attention of the family of the Professor Gh. Mustăță, who published a series of works, some for the first time in the Romanian literature or even the European one. We mention the most important, excepting the field of Entomology, “Problems of General and Human Ecology” (2003), “Somatic Ecology” (2001), “Ecological Decalog, The Commandments of the Christian Ecology or the Divine Commandments Interpreted Ecologically” (2005).

There is however interesting to note that the philosopher in the mind and soul of the biologist Gh. Mustăță, eventually is pushed by the amount of exact knowledge, on the way of transcendence. We discover this in those 6 papers published together with his wife in the Journal Orthodox Dialog, Epiphany, between 2010 and 2013, and we especially refer to two titles: “Mirror Neurons (The Neurons of God), Learning by Imitation and Empathy and “The Memory of Cells and Organs, the Double Personality and the Power of Thought”.

Another category of scientific research of the Professor Gh. Mustăță was that of the contracts and projects carried out during the years 1991-2008. The professor coordinated 16 such projects of which two international, as a partner from the Romanian part. These contracts had values comprised between 3,000 and 370,000 RON and they referred to the fields of research of the Professor Gh. Mustăță and to the organization and the endowment of the “Prof. Ioan Borcea” Teaching and Marine Research Station from Agigea. In his capacity of Ph.D. supervisor, Professor Gh. Mustăță coordinated 23 theses through which he led further his research, forming already recognized professionals in museums, institutes of research and education. These 23 theses were referring almost equally to the Biodiversity in the Terrestrial and Aquatic Entomophauna, Biology and Ecology of Marine Invertebrates and pest insects to the patrimony objects.

Professor Gh. Mustăță had particularly important preoccupations with regard to the supporting of the scientific research by organizing, alone or in collaboration, of some important scientific manifestations. It is about 11 national and two international Symposia as well as a series of 15 annual symposia (1985-2000), dedicated to the Romanian Biology personalities. Among these symposia, we can mention those specific to Entomology in Iași, scientific soul manifestations of the Professor Gh. Mustăță, initiated and organized by him and remarkable through the content and their scientific importance. We refer specifically to the symposia dedicated to entomophagous insects and their role in the keeping of natural balance, organized in 1998, 2004, 2008 and 2010.

In his turn, Professor Mustăță attended as a guest to numerous scientific manifestations in Romania and abroad, among which, very important for the subsequent collaborations of the professor, was that in Taiwan, in 1990, referring to the Plutella xylostella and other pest cruciferous plants. Also, Professor Gh. Mustăță as a guest, gave numerous lectures at the University of Chișinău (Republic of Moldova), the Romanian Academy and some Universities in Romania. At the same time, he belongs and activates in 11 scientific societies among which two abroad, including the Directing Committee of the International Working Group for the Biological Control of Plutella xylostella species - from the Asian Centre of Research, Development for Vegetables, from Tinian – Taiwan.

One of the particularly important and fruitful activities of the professor Gh.
Mustață is that of Editor of the Annals of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University (new series), Animal Biology. The soul Journal of our Faculty. In this sense, Professor Gh. Mustață activates as a member of the editorial committee of other Journals in Romania, too: The Scientific Journal “Vasile Adamachi Iași” Studies and Research of Animal Biology of the Romanian Academy, The Scientific Journal of the University of Bacău, Journal of Orthodox Dialog, Epiphany, etc.

On the whole, Professor Gh. Mustață alone or in collaboration published 16 volumes with character of university handbooks and 5 chapters in volumes with didactic character and 27 volumes of scientific book. To these, there are added 178 papers and 8 scientific summaries, among which six abroad and 60 referring to the history of science.

The prodigious publicist and teaching scientific activity of the Professor Gh. Mustață is appreciated both in Romania and abroad. Thus, abroad he was co-opted in a scientific organism as mentioned above, as well as in the International Society of Hymenopterologists from the United States, member of the Academy of Ecology from the Republic of Moldova, member of the National Committee for Accreditation in the Field of Ecology Moldova. In Romania, he has received numerous leaderships.

Also, the brilliant achievements under the aegis of the University and for the University and Romania have been rewarded with appreciable distinctions: “The Emil Racoviță” Romanian Academy Prize, 1994; The Merit for Education in the Rank of Commander – 2004, Emeritus Professor - 2007, and as a corollary, Titular Member of the Academy of Scientists of Romania.

It is fitted that, alongside of these appreciations and distinctions for the impressive balance to join our sincere congratulations and collegial wishes of health and new successes to the colleague and our magister, Professor Emeritus Dr. Gheorge Mustață!

Happy Birthday!