On October 11 2001, Prof. Dr. Olga Costinescu, one of the most distinguished and appreciated professors that the Faculty of Mathematics in Jassy has ever had, reached the age of 80, an opportunity for her former students to pay their affectionate respects to her.

She was an outstanding example for more than 35 generations of students, a great professor, of an impeccable academical status, a person full of nobility and sensibility, as we, those who were her students and collaborators used to know her.

It is, of course, very hard for me to make, in few words, a portrait of a such complex personality as it was our distinguished professor, to point out her main achievements, but I will assume the risks.

Prof. Olga Costinescu entered the Faculty of Mathematics in Jassy for the first time in October 1943, when she became a student of this faculty; she graduated it in 1948, and, the same year, she was named a teacher of Mathematics at the "Oltea Doamna" High School in Jassy, whose wise student she had been. She taught there for two years, and, after that, she was named a teacher at the "Special School of 2 years" in Jassy.

At the same time, she began her activity at the University, at first giving lessons from an assistant norm at the Faculty of Mathematics, and, after that, in 1953, she became a titular lecturer at the Analysis Department, position on which she taught till 1961 when she was advanced to the assistant professor degree. She activated till 1970 on this position, when, by competition, she got the professor degree at the same department, position held till 1983, when she was retired.

Prof. Olga Costinescu taught many courses in her career, from which we can mention: Differential Calculus, Real Functions, Topology, Special Chapters of Measure Theory. The classes she held were remarkable for a high level, didactical skills,
rigour and scientific competence. All of us who were her students remember with pleasure and emotion the beautiful and solid classes, the elegance and clarity of the exposition, the noble and distinguished attitude of Mrs Professor. By the content of her courses, she mainly contributed to the modernization of the Mathematical Analysis in our faculty, meeting the already existing preoccupations in faculty in order to introduce the Bourbaki tendencies.

At the same time, Professor Costinescu also had many preoccupations in modernizing the secondary school education, the experience got by teaching at the secondary school having a great impact on this activity.

Besides the remarkable didactical achievements, Prof. O. Costinescu has also obtained important results in the field of scientific research. She maintained her thesis, entitled "Generalizations of Mean Theorems. Applications" in 1960, the work being elaborated under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Doc. Ilie Popa.

Her thesis, although had a classical analysis subject, in which everything seemed to be closed, succeeded in getting new results, generalizing or refining some of already known results, discovered by great mathematicians as: Hardy, Young, M. Nicolescu.

After she maintained her thesis, her scientific preoccupations diversified, being directed to more actual fields such as: Topology, Measure Theory and, later, to the study of Fuzzy Structures. Concerning the Topology field we can mention the realization of the book entitled "Elements of General Topology", that appeared in 1969, which had a great impact among the readers. It is one of the few works in Romanian in which there can be found the main concepts of general topology, being rigorously and methodically exposed. In the same directions we also mention the two books written in cooperation with members of Mathematical Analysis Department: "Elements of Topology in Metric Spaces" and "General Topology. Problems."

In the Measure Theory field we mention her preoccupations on measures on topological groups.

Prof. Costinescu participated to many scientific meetings in our country or abroad, her works having drawn the attention of specialists.

She led for many years a Topology and Measure Theory Seminar, first with Prof. Dr. N. Negoescu and then with the researcher P. Caraman, seminar in which many young researchers from the Faculty of Mathematics of "Al.I.Cuza" University or "Gh.Asachi" Technical University served their apprenticeship. She also led with passion and competence a Seminar of Mathematical Philosophy for students, which had a great audience not only among the students, but also among the young universitary specialists.

In everything she done, she implicated with all her soul, giving generously from the bottom of her heart, radiating light and hope all around.

By all she has achieved, Prof. O. Costinescu definitively entered her name in the gallery of the great professors of the Faculty of Mathematics, who honour by their activity and their efforts the Romanian education and science; in recognition of her remarkable professional activity, in 2001 she was awarded the honorary title of "Professor of Excellence" of the "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași.

Prof. Dr. Anca Precupanu