

From the Editorial Board

In this issue, we present papers of colleagues and students of the late professor Vadim Petrovich Romanov, professor of the Statistical Physics Department, Faculty of Physics, St Petersburg State University.

First of all, it should be said that V.P. was an outstanding scientist and teacher. He used to tell us that once when he started working at a physics department, Faculty of Physics, being a fresh graduate, the department chief told him: “Teaching could be performed in two ways – first way is when the scientific activity hinders teaching and the second way is when teaching hinders your scientific work. At our department the second way is preferred and accepted”. It should be pointed out that V.P. himself never preferred either of these extremes, always managing to successfully combine both - research and education.



Science has much in common with art and sport – in both there is a place for brilliant guess and unexpected discovery; for prolonged learning, training, repetition and hard every-day work; for struggle to achieve the best results in certain area. In all these endeavors, people communicate with colleagues from various places within the country and all over the world. The role of V.P. could be best of all described by words concerning to sport, i.e. he was a real “player-manager”; or by words from the theatrical world – he was a director-producer who simultaneously played several principal roles in the piece.

However, V.P. was primarily a physicist. He possessed a rare feeling for physics and could qualitatively foresee possible interesting effects based on a semi-intuitive and skillfully simplified perception. Being a theoretician, he collaborated frequently with the experimentalists and often suggested ideas for new experiments. He did it in such an interesting and eloquent way that it later

gave rise to a whole series of scientific works, jointly written with experimentalists. This was the case when he worked on the statistical physics of liquid crystals, on the theory of electromagnetic and acoustic wave propagation and scattering in strongly anisotropic media. The results of these studies attained wide scientific recognition.

His regular friendliness and patience were also characteristic features of Vadim Petrovich when working with students and colleagues. He never hesitated to put, as he called them himself, “foolish questions”, he was always ready to spend his time to aid his students in overcoming scientific difficulties, readily sharing with his colleagues his reach research and teaching experience. It was always clear that when V.P. entered a room, talks, conversations and discussions began around. He truly facilitated the joyful discussions and interactions of people with different ideas.

V.P. very much disliked all sorts of paper-bureaucratic “assistance” for the scientific-educational process, which, over the last few years, became catastrophically strong, clearly harming both education and science. The scientist, as a researcher, and as a teacher, has to neglect his basic work with students and acolytes in order to create all manner of “plans”, “reports”, “projects”, “programs” and a lot of other “very important papers”. However, V. P. was an optimist, and hence, no negative tendencies could be considered by him in any other way than as temporal obstacles which should be overcome with minimal damage.

V.P. was a harmonic person, a loving family man, and research was his passion. If the scientific problem occupied his mind, nothing could prevent him from thinking on it at any time and any place. It would be right to say that science and teaching, together with his family, were for him the main guiding points of life. For us, his students and colleagues, V.P. is and will further remain a benchmark teacher and scholar.