



## In Memoriam



Professor Leif Bjørnø

It is with great sorrow that we report the death of one of the Senior Editors of the Journal of Computational Acoustics Professor Leif Bjørnø, on 24 October 2015 after a short illness. Leif was Professor of Industrial Acoustics at the Technical University of Denmark from 1978 to 2000 and, during the course of a long and distinguished career, he held many Visiting Professor appointments in university departments in Chile, China, Greece, South Africa, UK and USA Professor Bjørnø will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues around the world but his scientific legacy will be passed on through the many graduate students that he nourished and mentored.

Professor Bjørnø was born in Svendborg, Denmark, on 30 March 1937 and he graduated from the Technical University of Denmark with an M.Sc. in 1962 in Mechanical Engineering and a Ph.D. in 1967 in Fluid Mechanics and Acoustics with the thesis “About underwater explosions and transmission of shock waves through the foam sheets immersed in water”. In 1971 he was awarded a DIC (Diploma of the Imperial College) in Physics-Acoustics from

the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. His scientific interests were extensive, including underwater acoustics, structural vibration, non-linear ultrasonics, underwater shock waves, acoustic imaging, robotics, transducers and arrays, and biomechanics. Beyond academia, his sphere of influence extended into scientific policy making. He was a Member and Chairman of the Scientific Council of National Representatives (SCNR) for SACLANT Undersea Research Centre, La Spezia, Italy (as it was then); a Member of the International Programme Committee for NATO Advanced Study Institutes (ASI) on Underwater Acoustics and Signal Processing; and a National Delegate to the European Community Programme on Marine Science and Technology (MAST).

In parallel with his illustrious scientific career, he was a successful businessman, being the co-founder with the three Reson brothers, in 1976 of the international company RESON A/S, headquartered in Denmark. Professor Bjørnø was the first Director of the Board, where his expertise in underwater acoustics helped the company prosper with tools such as digital multi-beam systems for underwater surveying. He remained a member of the board until 2013 when the company was sold to Teledyne and is now known as Teledyne-Reson. He was also the Chairman or a Member of the Board of Directors for many industrial companies in Denmark and abroad.

Professor Bjørnø was a prolific author, publishing much of his scientific research in prestigious scientific journals and the proceedings of international conferences. He was also Editor or a member of the Editorial Board of several international journals on acoustics, including the Journal of Computational Acoustics, Ultrasonics, Acustica, the Journal of the Acoustical Society of Japan, the Journal of Sciences of the Polish Naval Academy, and Soviet Physics - Acoustics. He was a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America, the Institute of Acoustics, UK, and the South African Acoustical Institute; and he was a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers, USA. Besides his scientific writing, he was instrumental in organizing many international scientific co-operations through a variety of organizations, and in recent years was heavily involved in the European Conference in Underwater Acoustics (ECUA), the symposia on Underwater Acoustics Measurements (UAM) and the Underwater Acoustics Conference and Exhibition (UACE). The UAM and UACE, which he co-chaired with Professor John Papadakis, were held in Greece, either on one of the Greek islands or on the mainland. These conferences will be remembered by many in the underwater acoustics community, not only for their scientific excellence, but also for the wonderful welcoming atmosphere of the meetings, which in no small part was due to Leif's cheerful demeanor and his palpable enjoyment at meeting friends, old and new, from around the world. As part of Leif's legacy to his friends and colleagues in the underwater acoustics community, the UACE conferences are planned to continue into the foreseeable future.

Early in his career, Professor Bjørnø served as a First Lieutenant of National Service in the Royal Danish Navy and subsequently he was a research associate at the Danish Defence Research Establishment, working on the protection of ships against underwater explosions. Throughout his life, he retained a close connection with Danish defense, particularly the

navy, and during the Cold War he was considered to be one of the world's leading experts on underwater explosions and sound propagation in the ocean.

Professor Leif Bjørnø was the recipient of numerous international honors and awards, including Knight of the Order of Dannebrog, the Lord Rayleigh Medal from the Institute of Acoustics, UK, the Ignacy Malecki Medal from the Polish Acoustical Society, and the Foreign Acoustician Medal from the Société Française d'Acoustique. His funeral was held at Roskilde Cathedral, where Danish kings and queens have been buried for centuries. He is survived by his wife, Irina, and many close friends, and he will be sadly missed.

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