

ANNOUNCEMENT



## In memory of Professor Ernst-Ulrich Schlünder: An outstanding scientist in drying technology

Emeritus Professor Ernst-Ulrich Schlünder of the University Karlsruhe (TH), now Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), passed away on July 2nd in 2019 - before the worldwide pandemic started.

Professor Schlünder was a successful outstanding scientist in the field of drying technology. He served as a visiting professor at the Departments of Chemical Engineering of the *Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras*, *University of California Berkeley*, *Ecole Nationale Supérieure, University of Canterbury*, and *Trinity College, University of Cambridge*. He received honorary doctorates from universities in *France*, *England* and *Slovakia*. He also received many awards, e.g., the *Arnold Eucken Award* in 1966, *Medaille Gustave Trassenster* in 1987, *Award for Excellence in Drying Research* at the International Drying Symposium (IDS) in 1988 at Versailles, France as well as *Ernest Solvay Award* in 1998. He substantially broadened the various fields in science, especially in mass transfer and drying technology. For instance, coming back from his visiting professorship at University of California Berkeley, he wrote a new book on mass transfer, which was different from all available textbooks on that matter at the time.

Despite his retirement in 1997 and became an Emeritus, Professor Schlünder continued teaching and conducting research at the University of Miami for a couple of years. Back in Germany, he continued his research at the Max Planck Institute (MPI) and later on as an “KIT Excellent Retired Scientist,” he continued his engagement from 2009 on by giving extraordinary courses before Christmas time for my advanced Mass Transfer students at KIT. He served as an instructor in my annual Short Course on “Drying of Thins Films” from 2009 until 2016.


Ernst-Ulrich Schlünder (EUS) started his career as a research assistant in the group of the well known *Professor Krischer* in Darmstadt and received his PhD in 1962 on “drying of single droplets.” He continued his research in drying technology with great success over the next half century. He knew how to make

drying technology a subject of science and mathematics. His work found worldwide recognition and in more than 50 active years, he published more than 500 highly original contributions.

He was a passionate poet as well, when he e.g. left Cambridge from his Fellowship stay he dedicated his colleagues this limerick: “There was a visitor at Cambridge, who always used the same bridge, when crossing the river Cam, to buy some cheese and ham, for his breakfast sandwich” (EUS).

Besides many other students of his school, Professor Schlünder was as well for me a great teacher and influential mentor. My first contact was during my bachelor’s thesis in 1996 in his group on “selective drying of different volatile solvents.” Since then I got stuck in this interesting field of Drying, even completing a PhD on “drying of polymer solvent films.” Over the last decades, Ernst and I became not just colleagues, but close friends. Like many of his former students, I learned important lessons from him; such lessons served as guidelines for me as a scientist for my entire career, whether in industry, or in academic research. One of these lessons can be formulated as “Never trust what you read, check it yourself!” or “climb up to the original sources to receive your wisdom.” Ernst taught his students really excellently how to check scientific statements in a precise way, with useful limiting physical cases and novel dimensionless considerations.

Professor Dr.-Ing. habil. Dr. h. c. mult. Ernst-Ulrich Schlünder passed away before the worldwide pandemic started and only a few months before he could reach the desired age of 90 years. Here is a photo on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and birthday during a conference in Karlsruhe. We will all miss you, Ernst.

Wilhelm Schabel  
Karlsruhe, Germany  
 [wilhelm.schabel@kit.edu](mailto:wilhelm.schabel@kit.edu)



Professor Wilhelm Schabel (Chairman) and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h.c. mult. Ernst-Ulrich Schlünder on the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday  
FOTO – Press Office KIT –