

## *In Memoriam*



In February 2010, Associate Professor George Nikolaidis left us after a short and difficult fight with cancer. His loss is irretrievable for the Greek and international scientific community, especially in the field of Phycology.

George Nikolaidis was born in July 1950 in the village of Damaskinia (Western Macedonia). He studied in the University of Giessen (Frankfurt, Germany) from which he received the Biology Diploma in December 1977.

Following his graduation, he received a grant from the Greek Scholarships Foundation to work on a PhD thesis. In order to get familiar with modern techniques on marine botany, he stayed at Giessen for experimental training. In June 1985, he defended successfully his PhD thesis entitled “Qualitative and quantitative study of benthic macrophyte communities in polluted and non polluted areas”. He was elected a Lecturer in 1986, Assistant Professor of Hydrobotany in 1991, and Associated Professor in 1998 at the Department of Botany, School of Biology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

In his career, he lectured on subjects of Botany (Plant Anatomy and Physiology) and Hydrobiology (Phycology, Oceanography, Aquaculture, Applied Phycology etc). He supervised more than 20 undergraduate and 10 postgraduate theses as well as three Doctoral Dissertations. He actively participated in committees and councils in the School of Biology. He was a founding member of the Greek Phycological Society, serving as a chairman during the period 1999-2005.

His research activities included environmental and applied hydrobiological issues, such as studies of aquatic ecosystems based on environmental factors, systematic identification of microalgae and microalgal culturing. He wrote a number of handouts for student courses and published several scientific articles in peer reviewed journals.

His most recent research field was that of harmful algae. He actually initiated the Greek Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) monitoring project on a regular basis in accordance to national and EU recommendations. In this way, he was scientifically responsible for numerous research projects providing equipment and securing a continuous research activity. He also made a significant contribution towards sustainable fisheries, especially in the field of bivalve mollusks, generating job opportunities for Greek hydrobiologists.

He actively participated in several committees and councils of local authorities (e.g. Prefecture and Municipality of Thessaloniki) by transferring his scientific experience and consultancy.

His colleagues and students will always remember his pointed humor, his restless spirit, and his passion for the progress of science.

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