



## **Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Wilfried Brauer**

IFIP is sad to announce that one of Germany's pioneers in Informatics and great contributor to IFIP, Wilfried Brauer, passed away on February 25, 2014 in Bonn at the age of 76.

Born in Berlin (August 8, 1937), Wilfried studied Mathematics, Physics and Philosophy at Technical University of Berlin. He received his doctor (PhD) degree at Bonn University (1966), followed by his Habilitation (1970), a German degree to qualify for professorship. Following some of Germany's first lectures on "Algorithms and Formal Languages" at Bonn university (1967-1970) where he also co-authored the first German Informatics textbook, he was appointed first professor for Informatics at Hamburg university. As founding professor, he established the Institute (now

Faculty) for Informatics with special focus on the development of a multidisciplinary curriculum. In his research area, he was chair of the research group on "Theoretical Informatics" until 1985 when he became the first professor on the Chair of Theoretical Computer Science and Foundations of Artificial Intelligence at Technische Universität München (Technical University of Munich).

Wilfried Brauer succeeded to establish an engaged cooperative group of people working in Theoretical Computer Science. Among the uncounted number of students, he assisted in the development of 70 doctor (PhD) degrees and 13 habilitation works. He also supported 25 students to become professors with research and work in such diverse areas as Petri and Neuronal Nets, Image and Speech Processing, Databanks, Machine Learning and Verification.

Wilfried Brauer was a very engaged member of German Informatics Society (GI) since 1967. Besides being an active supporter of the development of Informatics curricula, he founded and shaped GI's public face as chief editor of the regular magazine "Informatik Spektrum" for 20 years of important developments. In this work, as in many other functions, he was actively supported by his wife Ute who also published with him their joint resume "20 Years of Informatik Spektrum" (1998). Besides many other functions, Wilfried Brauer was president of German Informatics Society (1977-1979), and he supported his successor as member of the presidial board (1979-1982). In 2000, Wilfried Brauer was elected Honorary Member of GI.

Wilfried Brauer was an engaged representative of German Informatics on international forums. In Europe, he co-founded the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS) in Paris (1972), where he was elected as member of its General Assembly (1973), and he acted as EATCS president (1994-1997).

In IFIP, Wilfried Brauer was highly engaged in many areas and functions. Starting in IFIPs TC-3 "Education", he was an active member of the International Program Committee of TC-3s World Computer Congress on Education (WCCE) in Marseille (1975). He was an

impressive missionary for development of education, as he contributed related papers to several IFIP World Computer Congresses, among them a paper „Better Tools – Less Education?“ in San Francisco (1989) which he jointly wrote and presented with his wife Ute.

As co-author of the IFIP-UNESCO “Modular Curriculum in Computer Science” (1984), he was an important contributor to the studies of Informatics and Computer Science in many countries. Wilfried Brauer was an engaged German representative, and he was TC-3’s vice chair and subsequently TC-3 chair (1985-1990).

In IFIP General Assembly, Wilfried Brauer represented Germany from 1987 until 1998. Among several important functions, he was chair of the Publication Committee as well as of Technical Assembly. From 1994 until 1998, he was IFIP Vice President. Among many events which he shaped as chair or member of the related Program Committees, his activities as chair of the International Program Committee of IFIP World Computer Congress in Madrid (1992) as well as his activity as General Congress Chair of IFIP World Computer Congress in Hamburg (1994) will remain in our memories as outstanding contributions.

Wilfried Brauer was elected ordinary member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences, Academia Europaea and of acatech. He received many distinctions and honors, among them IFIP Silver Core (1986) and Isaac L. Auerbach Award (2002), the Werner Heisenberg medal of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2000), as well as honorary doctor degrees of Hamburg University and Free University of Berlin.

The IFIP community and all who knew him will miss Wilfried Brauer as committed and passionate colleague and friend. Our thoughts are with his wife Ute who was also a very active supporter of IFIP, as she was Wilfried’s closest collaborator.

Photo provided by Technical University of Munich, Germany