

DEPARTMENT OF ASTRONOMY OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

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Abstract. The development of the Department (Chair) of Astronomy of the University of Belgrade is briefly described. The list of the staff since 1880 to 2002 is presented.

1. INTRODUCTION

The beginning of higher university-like education in Serbia can be traced down to 1838, when the "Licej" (a kind of advanced secondary school) was founded in Kragujevac. The "Licej" was separated from the "Gimnazija" in 1839 and transferred to Belgrade in 1841. Judging by the content of the textbooks, elements of astronomy were lectured at the "Licej". The traces of "physical" astronomy in its curricula can be found in the academic year 1854/55.

The law of 1863, regulating the transformation of the "Licej" into the Grand School (a forerunner of the University), did not include teaching astronomy. This was corrected by the 1880 law on changes and annexes, which stipulated the astronomy to be taught together with meteorology. Nevertheless, lectures did not start until 1884 when Milan Nedeljković was elected suplent (supplementary lecturer) for these courses. He became a professor of the Grand School in 1886, the first director of the Astronomical and Meteorological Observatory in 1887 and an associate professor of the University after its foundation in 1905 (according to the new ranking). Professor Nedeljković's career was interrupted for one year, when the director and professor was Đorđe Stanojević (1899/1900). When the University was founded, the Chair of Astronomy and Meteorology remained within the Faculty of Philosophy. If the year 1880 is taken to mark its foundation, the year 1924 marks the next step: separation of meteorology from astronomy.

A great advance took place when Milutin Milanković was elected professor of the University of Belgrade in 1909. He taught subjects related to applied mathematics and remained a professor for more than four decades. He became the most famous Serbian astronomer of the XX century. His best works concern the theory of climate.

Vojislav Mišković, who got his Ph.D. in stellar astronomy in France, became professor of the University of Belgrade in 1925. The new regulations of the Faculty of

Philosophy introduced in 1925, for the first time treated astronomy as a separate teaching subject. The final educational scheme established a separate study group for astronomy in 1927. Mišković was also appointed director of the new Astronomical Observatory of the University of Belgrade which has grown into a modern institution under his supervision. The Observatory started working on its present location in 1932. The best of Mišković's later research was related to minor planets.

After the foundation of the Faculty of Mathematics and Sciences within the frames of the University of Belgrade in 1947, the Chair of Celestial Mechanics and Astronomy was formed. After a short while, it changed the name into the Chair of Mechanics and Astronomy. The process of separation into chairs of Mechanics and of Astronomy started in 1960 and ended in 1962; therefore, this period can be taken as the time when a separate Chair of Astronomy is mentioned for the first time. The first Head of the new Chair of Astronomy, from 1964 to 1979, was Branislav Ševarlić. Following the reorganization of the Faculty of Sciences, the Chair of Astronomy became the Institute of Astronomy in 1971 and then the Department of Astronomy in 1995. It remained within the Faculty of Mathematics in the process of the latest reorganization.

The University of Belgrade was and still is the only one in Yugoslavia with a Department of Astronomy.

Astrophysics was introduced as an obligatory course at the Chair of Astronomy in 1958. It has developed into several courses since. Important changes in curricula were introduced in 1961 when two separate study groups were formed: Astronomy and Astrophysics.

The Department of Astronomy has an output of 198 graduate students, 49 M.Sc. and 25 Ph.D degrees, up to 2002 inclusive. The first astronomy student graduated in 1936, the first M.Sc. degree was obtained in 1968 and the first Ph.D. degree in 1958.

2. STAFF

From the foundation of the Department (Chair) of Astronomy till 2002 inclusive, 37 graduate persons officially were engaged in the teaching process at the undergraduate studies. Their names and surnames (in alphabetical order), basic data on life, and of career within the Department of Astronomy are presented in the enclosed Table, as compiled from many sources, including the archive of the Faculty of Mathematics. As this Table covers a period during which many changes in the hierarchy happened, a certain unification of ranks had to be done. The equivalent present titles were inserted into the Table. Unless stated otherwise, the full-time job dates are given.

The adopted policy in this article was to enclose in the Table only names of the persons who were officially employed and to explain some ambivalent cases.

At least dozen other persons who worked at the Astronomical (and Meteorological) Observatory, old and new, indirectly helped in education, working on instruments, demonstrating them, performing calculations and preparing publications. The first two assistants were Petar L. Vukićević who worked only a few months in 1887, and Jelenko M. Mihailović who worked from 1897 to 1906 helping with the instruments and being more active in Seismology and Meteorology. The most difficult for the classification was the period when the Astronomical Observatory was incorporated into the University, particularly between the World Wars. Younger members of the staff were mainly working on the professors' projects. Officially they were employed as assistants, calculators, observers and in one case even as an archive clerk. Most of

Table
The staff of the Department (Chair) of Astronomy engaged for undergraduate studies
 (current number, name and surname, basic life facts, academic degrees, teaching career connected with the Department
 (asteric means that transfer from (left) or to (right) an other institution occurred),
 subscripts mean: o – observer, l – laboratory staff, le – lecturer without a Ph.D., superscripts mean: p – part-time job, f – full-time job)

No	name and surname	life	degrees		teaching career				(full) professor		
			B.Sc.	M.Sc.	Ph.D.	junior assistant	teaching assistant	assistant professor		associate professor	
1.	Trajkó D. Angelov	1945-	1969	1972	1981	-	-	*1970-1981	1981-1991	1991-1996	1996-
2.	Olgá M. Atanacković-Vukmanović	1959-	1981	1986	1991	-	-	(*1993-1995)* ^p	(*1995-1996) ^p (1996-2002) ^f	2002-	-
3.	Ivan M. Atanasijević	1919-1998	1947	-	1956	-	-	-	*1958-1965	1965-1967*	-
4.	Zaharije M. Brkić	1910-1979	1936	-	1958	-	-	o>(*1938-1955)*	-	*1959-1966	1966-1978
5.	Zlatko S. Čatović	1963-	1987	1990	1997	-	-	1991-1998	1998-1999*	-	-
6.	Radmilo M. Đorđević	1926-	1952	-	1963	-	-	1956-1960*	-	-	-
7.	Dragutin M. Đurović	1937-	1963	1972	1974	-	-	*1964-1975	1975-1982	1982-1988	1988-2000
8.	Sanja R. Erkačić	1961-	1986	1996	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Dragana J. Ilić	1978-	2002	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Katarina J. Kovač	1976-	2000	-	-	-	-	2001-	-	-	-
11.	Andelka B. Kovačević	1972-	1997	2000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Vladimir M. Kršljanin	1960-	1983	1986	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Mike S. Kuzmanoski	1947-	1970	1973	1980	-	-	1971-1981	1981-1989	1989-1998	1998-
14.	Jovan P. Lazović	1931-	1954	-	1964	-	-	1957-1967	1967-1976	1976-1982	1982-1996
15.	Dobrivoje T. Mihailović	1909-1987	1932	-	1956	-	-	le(*1952-1956)* ^p	-	-	-
16.	Milutin M. Milanović	1879-1958	1903	-	1904	-	-	-	1983-1989	*1909	1920-1955
17.	Jelena S. Milogradov-Turin	1935-	1959	1972	1982	-	-	1960-1983	-	1989-2002	2002-2002
18.	Vojislav V. Mišković	1891-1976	1919	-	1924	-	-	-	-	*1925-1936	1936-1962
19.	Mirko G. Nagl	1969-	1994	-	-	-	-	(1995-1998)* ^p	-	-	-
20.	Milan G. Nedeljković	1857-1950	1876	-	-	-	-	1884-1887	-	1905-1924	1886-1899, 1900-1905
21.	Vasilije S. Oskanjan	1921-1989	1949	-	1961	-	-	-	*1964-1966*	-	-
22.	Nadežda R. Pejović	1952-	1976	1984	1989	-	-	1981-1989	1989-1996	1996-	-
23.	Jelena I. Petrović	1974-	1998	2001	-	-	-	-	1998-2000	-	-
24.	Tamara M. Plavšin	1971-	1996	-	-	-	-	l(1999-2001)* ^p	-	-	-
25.	Predrag D. Pamošević	1971-	1995	-	-	-	-	1995-1997*	-	-	-
26.	Milivoje J. Rakić	1924-2001	1953	-	1976	-	-	-	*1980-1989	-	-
27.	Jovan L. Simovljević	1929-	1952	-	1963	-	-	1956-1964	1964-1971	1971-1980	1980-1994
28.	Jovan N. Skuljan	1959-	1985	1991	1999	-	-	1992-1998*	-	-	-
29.	Đorđe M. Stanojević	1858-1921	1881	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1899-1900*
30.	Stevo D. Segan	1952-	1977	1981	1987	-	-	1982-1988	1988-1996	1996-	-
31.	Branislav M. Ševarić	1914-2001	1936	-	1960	-	-	1938, 1946-1948*	-	-	*1963-1979
32.	Dejan V. Urošević	1970-	1994	1996	2001	-	-	1997-2001	2001-	-	-
33.	Ištvan I. Vince	1947-	1971	1981	1986	-	-	-	-	(*1993-) ^p	-
34.	Nikola D. Vitas	1974-	1999	-	-	-	-	1999-	-	-	-
35.	Mirjana M. Vukićević-Karabin	1933-	1957	-	1965	-	-	-	*1968-1977	1977-1983	1983-1996
36.	Milan S. Vuletić	1963-	1988	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
37.	Aleksandar M. Živković	1928-	1953	-	1962	-	-	-	(*1966-1972)* ^p	-	-

them were either students of mathematics or graduate mathematicians. Ten of them: Gojko Đ. Vujaklija, Vojislav J. Grujić, Stanimir L. Fempl, Miloš K. Radojčić, Milorad B. Protić, Fran F. Dominko, Stojša Đukanović, Dragoslav S. Mitrinović, Ružica S. Mitrinović and Petar V. Muzen were not included in the Table since they were not engaged in the teaching process although they took part in demonstrating the instruments. Branislav M. Ševarlić and Zaharije M. Brkić, although first employed at the Astronomical Observatory, were included in the Table because they proceeded with the teaching career. The administrative division between the teaching and research jobs became more clear after the World War II. Nevertheless, some complex cases happened: Pero M. Đurković and Ljubiša A. Mitić as well as some others from the Astronomical Observatory, then already separated from the University, occasionally demonstrated the instruments at the Observatory without any official contract.

Those who came from other institutions (2, 8, 12, 15, 33 and 37), officially engaged on part-time basis for teaching of undergraduates, were also included in the Table.

The number of full-time staff has risen from one in 1884 to twelve in 1989, reaching ten in 1978. Within the last three decades the number fluctuated around ten.

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