PROFESSOR BOGDAN BOJARSKI, MY MEMORABLE ADVISER

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1. Good mathematical societies celebrate and cherish their distinguished scholars, academic leaders, accomplished administrators and teachers. It gives me a special pleasure to write a few words in recollection of my mentor Professor Bogdan Bojarski. I consider myself lucky and proud to be his former student. He never tutored me to become routine mathematician, but prepared me to become independent scholar. More importantly, he always believed in me and made me feel successful. I thank him for this.

2. Bogdan Bojarski was a brilliant research associate in the team of the Georgian academician I.N. Vekua. His close ties with Russian mathematical schools (Steklov's Institute in Moscow) and subsequent contacts with European and American mathematicians helped him establish and run his own extremely effective program in Poland. It originated with his early work on elliptic partial differential equations, boundary value problems by methods of complex function theory, singular integrals and quasiconformal mappings. His program also included some general aspects of so-called global analysis (index theory, Fredholm pairs, etc.). In the last two decades, Bojarski extended this program by successfully attracting new PhD students (P. Hajłasz, P. Strzelecki, A. Kałamajska) to work with him on geometric theory of Sobolev spaces. Their studies and results became crucial parts of the flourishing and internationally acclaimed theory called analysis on metric spaces.

3. After habilitation in Steklov's Institute (1959) and a year later in the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Bogdan Bojarski came to Warsaw as a docent (1960-1968) and then was appointed to a professorship. By that time he had already done an impressive amount of research. Three years later Professor Bojarski offered me an assistant-mastership at the University of Warsaw under his supervision. It was fascinating opportunity for me to learn about his work and to develop it later as his PhD student. I accepted his offer.

4. However, Bojarski's goal was not only to do research but also to serve the Department of Mathematics and the greater mathematical community. He became