

**PROF. DR. KATARINA ČUFAR JE PREJELA JESENKOVO
NAGRADO ZA ŽIVLJENJSKO DELO**

**PROF. DR. KATARINA ČUFAR RECEIVED THE JESENKO
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

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Izvleček / Abstract

Izvleček: Prof. dr. Katarina Čufar je v marcu 2021 prejela Jesenkovo nagrado za življenjsko delo, ki je najprestižnejše priznanje Biotehniške fakultete Univerze v Ljubljani. To je tretja nagrada za Katarino Čufar v kratkem času, saj je konec leta 2020 prejela tudi Zlato plaketo Univerze v Ljubljani in Zoisovo priznanje Republike Slovenije za pomembne znanstvenoraziskovalne dosežke in uspešno pedagoško delo.

Ključne besede: Jesenkova nagrada, življenjsko delo, Biotehniška fakulteta, Univerza v Ljubljani

Abstract: In March 2021, Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar received the Jesenko Lifetime Achievement Award, the most prestigious prize of the Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana. This is the third award for Katarina Čufar within just a few months, as at the end of 2020 she also received the Golden Plaque from the University of Ljubljana and the Zois Prize of the Republic of Slovenia for significant scientific achievements and exemplary teaching.

Keywords: Jesenko Award, lifetime achievement, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana



Slika 1. Jesenkovo nagrado za življenjsko delo je nagrajenki prof. dr. Katarini Čufar podelila prva dekanja Biotehniške fakultete prof. dr. Nataša Poklar Ulrih.

Figure 1. Presentation of the Jesenko Lifetime Achievement Award to Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar by the first female Dean of the Biotechnical Faculty, Prof. Dr. Nataša Poklar Ulrih.

Prof. dr. Katarina Čufar je v marcu 2021 prejela Jesenkovo nagrado za življenjsko delo, ki je najprestižnejša nagrada Biotehniške fakultete Univer-

ze v Ljubljani (Slika 1, 2). To je že tretja nagrada za prof. dr. Katarino Čufar v kratkem času, saj je v letu 2020 prejela tudi Zlato plaketo Univerze v Ljubljani za zgledno znanstvenoraziskovalno in pedagoško delo in Zoisovo priznanje Republike Slovenije za pomembne znanstvenoraziskovalne dosežke (Vrhunci ..., 2020; Slaček, 2021). Dosežke, na osnovi katerih

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je nagrajenka prejela Zlato plaketo in Zoisovo priznanje, sta v tej reviji predstavila prof. dr. Milan Šernek in prof. dr. Marko Petrič (Šernek & Petrič, 2020), tokrat pa na kratko povzemamo še nekaj poudarkov, ki dopolnjujejo sliko nagrajenkega življenjskega dela.

Prof. dr. Katarina Čufar je redna profesorica na Biotehniški fakulteti Univerze v Ljubljani. Kot Katarina Pleško je bila rojena v Ljubljani, kjer je obiskovala tudi osnovno šolo in gimnazijo Šentvid. Na Oddelku za lesarstvo Biotehniške fakultete je zaključila univerzitetni, magistrski in doktorski študij, vse pod mentorstvom prof. dr. h. c. Nika Torellija. Po diplomu se je leta 1981 zaposlila na Biotehniški fakulteti, Oddelku za lesarstvo kot stažistka-raziskovalka ter delovala kot asistentka in nato visokošolska učiteljica, od leta 2008 redna profesorica (Velušček, 2021).

Prof. dr. Katarina Čufar se kot vrhunska znanstvenica na področju lesarstva posveča znanosti o lesu, dendrokronologiji ter vsestranskim raziskavam lesa kot tkiva živih dreves in materiala v objektih kulturne dediščine in arheologije. Na Biotehniški fakulteti je vzpostavila novo znanstveno področje dendrokronologije, s podpodročji dendroarheologije, dendroekologije in dendroklimatologije. V Katedri za tehnologijo lesa, ki jo vodi, skrbi za razvoj laboratorijev, uvajanje novih metod in njihovo uporabo za raziskovalno in strokovno delo. S sodelavci razvija vsestranske raziskave lesa od njegovega nastanka v drevesu in gozdu preko njegove predelave v industriji in uporabe kot naravnega obnovljivega materiala. Sistematično dolgoletno raziskovalno delo je posvetila tudi lesu v kulturni dediščini in arheologiji, pri čemer so najbolj odmevne in sistematične raziskave prazgodovinskih kolišč na Ljubljanskem barju. Prof. Čufarjeva se tudi na tem področju povezuje s številnimi skupinami na Biotehniški fakulteti in na drugih institucijah (Slika 3, 4). Tako je vzpostavila in razvila sodelovanje z Inštitutom za arheologijo ZRC SAZU, enotami in centri Zavoda za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije ter z muzeji nacionalnega in lokalnega pomena.

Nagrajenkino bogato znanstvenoraziskovalno delo se kaže v številnih objavah v vrhunskih mednarodnih revijah in na konferencah. Je avtorica preko 175 originalnih znanstvenih člankov v najprestižnejših znanstvenih revijah, med katerimi so npr. tudi revije *Nature Communications*, *Science Advances*,

Nature Plants in številne druge z visokimi faktorji vpliva (COBISS ..., 2021; Orcid ..., 2021; RUL ..., 2021). Bila je v organizacijskih odborih več kot 10 konferenc (posebej Eurodendro in World Dendro) ter na mednarodnih srečanjih sodelovala s številnimi vabljenimi plenarnimi predavanji. Prav tako je članica uredniških odborov več mednarodnih revij. Trenutno deluje predvsem kot zunanja urednica revije *Tree-Ring Research* in je glavna urednica revije *Les / Wood*, ki je pomembna za razvoj stroke v Sloveniji in slovenske strokovne terminologije.

Prof. dr. Katarina Čufar je izrazito vpeta v mednarodno raziskovalno in akademsko pedagoško okolje. Od leta 2016 je izvoljena članica IAWS (International Academy of Wood Science), kamor izvolijo vodilne znanstvenike s področja lesarstva in kjer je bila izvoljena kot prva članica iz Slovenije. Pedagoško je redno gostovala na tujih univerzah, večinoma v okviru programa SOCRATES / ERASMUS. Katedra, kjer deluje, redno gosti uveljavljene raziskovalce in doktorske in dodiplomske študente različnih smeri z vsega sveta. Bila je mentorica več študentom iz tujine in je koordinirala izmenjave študentov z Biotehniške fakultete.

Prof. dr. Katarina Čufar je izjemna pedagoginja, ki je v bogati pedagoški karieri poučevala predmete na področju anatomije in zgradbe ter bioloških lastnosti lesa. Med študenti je izjemno priljubljena, zato ne preseneča dejstvo, da je bila mentorica ali somentorica skoraj 100 diplomantkam in diplomantom, 4 doktorandkam in 1 doktorandu. Šest njenih diplomantk in diplomantov je prejelo fakultetno Prešernovo nagrado. Bila je članica komisije za zagovor pri več kot 15 doktoratih na univerzah Zagreb, Hamburg, Praga, Dunaj, Brno, Innsbruck, Padova, Neapelj, Montpellier, Alicante in Zaragoza. Trenutno je mentorica podoktorskemu kandidatu in mladi raziskovalki na doktorskem študiju. Zaradi svojega zglednega pedagoškega dela je prof. Čufar dvakratna prejemnica pohvale Biotehniške fakultete za najboljšo pedagoško delavko na Oddelku za lesarstvo. Snovila in oblikovala je različne študijske programe in aktivno sodelovala pri bolonjski prenovi študijskih programov lesarstva. Več kot deset let je oddelčna predsednica komisije za dodiplomski študij.

Prof. dr. Katarina Čufar je od leta 1999 vodja raziskovalne skupine Tehnologija lesa in Katedre za tehnologijo lesa. Bila je prodekanja za področje

lesarstva, trenutno pa je že četrty mandat namestnica prodekana za pedagoško dejavnost. Več mandatov je bila in še vedno je članica Senata Biotehniške fakultete. Je članica Komisije za dodiplomski študij Biotehniške fakultete, kjer je bila 2 mandata predsednica.

Vrhunsko raziskovalno in pedagoško delo prof. dr. Katarine Čufar je že bilo prepoznano tako na Univerzi v Ljubljani kot tudi izven nje. Je dobitnica priznanja Biotehniške fakultete ob 50-letnici delovanja fakultete (1997), priznanja Biotehniške fakultete za zgledno pedagoško in raziskovalno delo (2013) ter priznanja Društva lesarjev Slovenije za prispevek pri povezovanju članov in uspešno vodenje ALUMNI kluba (2017), ter častnega priznanja Fakultete za gozdarstvo in tehnologijo lesa Univerze Mendel v Brnu, Republika Češka ob 100 letnici ustanovitve fakultete v letu 2019 (Drolc, 2019). V zadnjem obdobju še posebej odmeva, da je v letu 2020 prejela kar dve prestižni nagradi: Zoisovo priznanje in Zlati znak Univerze v Ljubljani.

Nagrajenka je izjemno izobražena, razgledana in modra profesorica, ki s svojim delom, vzgledom in vrednotami pozitivno vpliva tako na študente in študentke kakor tudi na sodelavke in sodelavce ter jih s svojo energijo in raziskovalno navdušenostjo spodbuja ter motivira pri delu. Poklic profesorice in znanstvenice na univerzi jemlje kot posebno poslanstvo, kar je ključno pri uspešnem izobraževanju in vzgoji študentk in študentov ter pri razvoju znanosti in raziskovalne odličnosti. Hkrati je njeno delovanje velik navdih za vse nas, ki imamo privilegij, da s profesorico tako ali drugače sodelujemo na svojih poteh.

Na osnovi navedenega ji je na predlog kolegic in kolegov z Oddelka za lesarstvo in po izboru komisije prva dekanja Biotehniške fakultete, prof. dr. Nataša Poklar Ulrih (pred tem so fakulteto vodili le dekani), v marcu 2021 podelila Jesenkovo nagrado za življenjsko delo. Za slovesnost podelitve je bil o nagrajenki posnet tudi kratek film, kjer je na kratko povzela in predstavila svoje raziskovalno delo in se



Slika 2. Zahvalni nagovor ob podelitvi.

Figure 2. Acknowledgement speech at the award ceremony.

zahvalila vsem za sodelovanje in podporo (Katarina Čufar - Jesenkova ..., 2021), predstavljena pa je bila tudi v Raziskovalnih novicah Univerze v Ljubljani (Z raziskovanjem lesa ..., 2021).

Nagrajenka se je ob podelitvi zahvalila sodelavkam in sodelavcem, ki so njene dosežke prepoznali, jo predlagali in izbrali, predvsem pa vsem, ki so z njo sodelovali in še sodelujejo. V prepričanju, da priznanje za življenjsko delo temelji na rezultatih skupnega dela, se je za sodelovanje in vsestransko podporo posebej zahvalila sodelavkam in sodelavcem ter kolegicam in kolegom doma in v tujini, vsem ki so jo učili in se od nje učili, ter ožji in širši družini za nenehno spodbudo in podporo. Poudarila je, da je hvaležna za uspehe in izkušnje ter da si želi, da bi lahko svoje znanje, povezave in dobre prakse še naprej izmenjevala z vsemi, ki jih veselijo les, znanje o lesu, znanost in pomembne življenjske teme. Vsi, ki smo imeli in še imamo čast sodelovati s prof. dr. Katarino Čufar, niti najmanj ne dvomimo v to, da bomo pri njej vedno dobrodošli, ko bomo potrebovali znanstveni ali strokovni nasvet s področja njenega delovanja, pa tudi kak bolj splošen nasvet ali mnenje, ki temelji na njenih bogatih znanstveno-raziskovalnih izkušnjah in življenjski modrosti.

Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar received the Jesenko Lifetime Achievement Award

Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar is the recipient of the Jesenko Lifetime Achievement Award 2021, the most prestigious award of the Biotechnical Faculty at the University of Ljubljana. This is the third award she has received in just a few months, as at the end of 2020 she also received the Golden Plaque of the University of Ljubljana and the Zois Prize of the Republic of Slovenia for significant scientific achievements as a researcher and teacher (Figure 1, 2). Her research was recently presented in this journal (Šernek & Petrič, 2020), but here we briefly summarise some of the highlights that complete the picture of the laureate's life work.

The laureate was born Katarina Pleško in Ljubljana, where she also graduated at elementary and secondary school and completed her studies at the Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Wood Science and Technology at the Bachelor's, Master's and PhD levels with theses supervised by Prof. Niko

Torelli, Dr. Dr. h. c. In 1981 she was employed as a young researcher at the Biotechnical Faculty and worked as a teaching assistant, then as a university lecturer, becoming a full professor in 2008.

Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar, is recognised as the top scientist in the field of wood research. She is dedicated to wood science, dendrochronology and general research of wood as a tissue of living trees and widely used material in numerous products, including objects of cultural heritage and archaeology. At the Biotechnical Faculty she introduced the new scientific field of dendrochronology with its subfields of dendroarchaeology, dendroecology and dendroclimatology. At the Chair of Wood Technology, which she heads, she helped to set up the laboratories, introduced new methods and their application for research and applied work. With her team, she researches wood from its origin in the tree, through its selection and processing in industry, to its use as a natural, renewable material. She has also devoted many years to the systematic study of wood in cultural heritage and archaeology, especially and systematically the prehistoric pile dwellings in the Ljubljansko barje, which existed more than 4,500 years ago. Prof. Čufar cooperates actively with research teams at the Biotechnical Faculty and other institutions in Slovenia and worldwide (Figure 3, 4).

The rich scientific and research work of the awardee is reflected in numerous publications in top scientific journals, where she has (co-)authored over 175 original scientific articles, among them *Nature Communications*, *Science Advances*, *Nature Plants* and other journals with high impact factors (COBISS..., 2021; Orcid..., 2021; RUL..., 2021). She has presented her work at numerous conferences and was a member of the scientific and organisational committees of more than 10 conferences, especially Eurodendro and World Dendro. She has served on the editorial boards of several journals. Currently she serves in the editorial board of *Tree-Ring Research* and as the editor-in-chief of *Les/Wood*, which is important for the development of wood science and of Slovene professional terminology.

Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar is heavily involved in the international research and academic teaching environment. She has regularly been a guest teacher and researcher at foreign universities, mainly in the frame of the SOCRATES / ERASMUS program-

me. The research group she leads regularly hosts international guests, including renowned researchers and graduate and undergraduate students from around the world. She has been a mentor for

numerous outgoing and incoming students in the framework of mobility programmes, and coordinated studies at foreign universities for students from the Biotechnical Faculty.



Slika 3. Življenjsko delo temelji na sodelovanju in medsebojni podpori. Na slikah Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar s sodelavkami in sodelavci z Oddelka za lesarstvo (a, d), Gozdarskega inštituta Slovenije (b), Inštituta za arheologijo ZRC SAZU (c) in Univerze Zaragoza (b, d).

Figure 3. A life time of successful work is based on the good cooperation and mutual support of colleagues on national and international levels. In the pictures Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar with researchers from the Department of Wood Science and Technology (a, d), Slovenian Forestry Institute (b), Institute of Archaeology of the ZRC SAZU (c), and University Zaragoza (b, d).

Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar is an excellent teacher who has taught courses on wood anatomy, structure and biology during her teaching career. She is extremely popular among students. She has been (co-)supervisor of nearly 100 graduation theses and five doctoral dissertations. She has been a member of the defence committees of about 15 PhD theses at universities in Zagreb, Hamburg, Prague, Vienna, Brno, Innsbruck, Padova, Napoli, Montpellier, Alicante and Zaragoza. She is currently mentoring a postdoctoral researcher and a young researcher-doctoral student. Due to her exemplary

work, Prof. Čufar has twice received the award for the best teacher of the year in the Department of Wood Science, Biotechnical Faculty. She has designed and developed various study programmes. For more than ten years she has been the department chairperson of the committee for Student Affairs.

Since 1999, Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar has been the head of the Chair of Wood Science. She has been Vice-Dean for Wood Science and Technology and is currently in her fourth term as Deputy Vice-Dean for Teaching Affairs. She has been a member of the Senate of Biotechnical Faculty for several



Slika 4. Nagrajenka s študenti Oddelka za lesarstvo (a, b) in z mednarodnimi udeleženkami in udeleženci srečanja Historical Wood Utilization v Sloveniji.

Figure 4. With colleagues and students of the Department of Wood Science and Technology (a, b) and with international participants of the meeting Historical Wood Utilisation in Slovenia.

terms. She is the member of the Undergraduate Studies committee of the Biotechnical Faculty, where she has been chair for two terms.

Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar's outstanding research and teaching activities have already been recognised both inside and outside the University of Ljubljana. Furthermore, she has been an elected member of IAWS (International Academy of Wood Science) since 2016 and a member of the IAWS Board since 2018. She received the Biotechnical Faculty Award on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Faculty (1997), the Biotechnical Faculty Award for exemplary teaching and research (2013), the Slovenian Woodworkers' Association's Award for her contributions to member networking and successful leadership of the ALUMNI Club (2017), and the Honorary Award of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology of Mendel University of Brno, Czech Republic, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Faculty's foundation (2019). As mentioned above, she received two prestigious awards in 2020: the Zois Prize and the Golden Plaque of the University of Ljubljana.

Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar is an exceptionally knowledgeable, insightful and wise professor who positively influences both students and colleagues through her work, example and values, encouraging and motivating them in their work with her energy and enthusiasm for research. She sees the profession of professor and scientist at the University as a special mission that is crucial for the successful education of students and for the development of teaching and research excellence. At the same time, her work is a great inspiration to all of us who have had, and continue to have, the privilege of working with her in one way or another on our own journeys.

Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar received the Jesenko Lifetime Achievement Award in March 2021 from the first female Dean of the Biotechnical Faculty, Prof. Dr. Nataša Poklar Ulrih. The short documentation (in Slovenian) briefly summarised her life's work (Katarina Čufar - Jesenkova..., 2021).

At the award ceremony, she thanked all those who had recognised her achievements, nominated her and awarded her. She gave special thanks to all her colleagues, teachers, students and her family, as she believes that the Lifetime Achievement Award is based on the results of cooperation and

mutual support.

All of us who have the privilege of working with Prof. Dr. Katarina Čufar believe that we will continue to meet with her, whether for professional or general discussions or opinions, or just for fun.

VIRI

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