

In memoriam: Staszek Wawrykiewicz (1953–2018)

Norbert Preining

We have lost a dear member of our community, Staszek Wawrykiewicz. I got notice that our friend died in an accident the other day. My heart stopped for an instant when I read the news, it cannot be— one of the most friendly, open, heart-warming friends has passed.

Staszek was an active member of the Polish \TeX community, and an incredibly valuable \TeX Live team member. His insistence and perseverance have saved \TeX Live from many disasters and bugs. Although I have been in contact with Staszek over the \TeX Live mailing lists for many years, I met him in person for the first time at my first ever Bacho \TeX , the EuroBacho \TeX 2007. His friendliness, openness to all new things, his inquisitiveness, all took a great place in my heart.

I dearly remember the evenings with Staszek and our Polish friends, in one of the Bachotek huts or around the bonfire, him playing the guitar and singing traditional and not-so-traditional Polish music, inviting everyone to join and enjoy together. Rarely have technical and social abilities found such a nice combination as in Staszek.

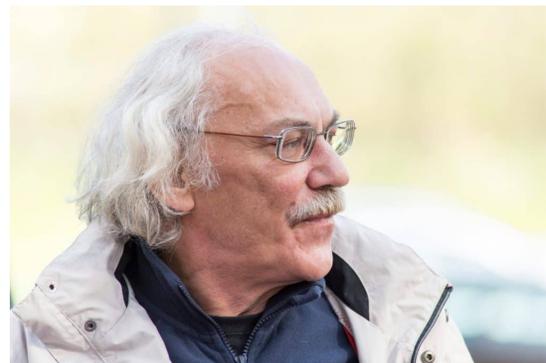
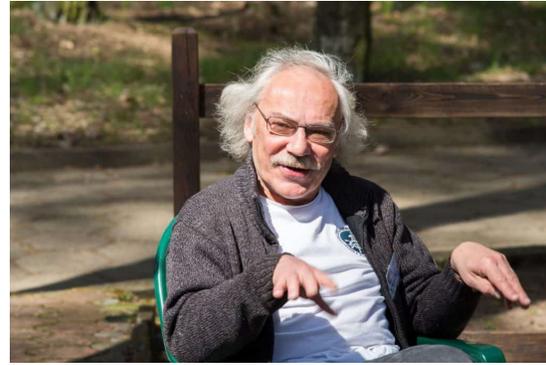
Despite his age he often felt like someone in his twenties, always ready for a joke, always ready to party, always ready to have fun. It is this kind of attitude I would like to carry with me when I get older. Thanks for giving me a great example.

The few times I managed to come to Bacho \TeX from far Japan, Staszek was always welcoming—it is the feeling of close friends that even if you haven't seen each other for long time, the moment you meet it feels like it was just yesterday. And wherever you go during a Bacho \TeX conference, his traces and humor were always present.

It is a very sad loss for all of those who knew Staszek. If I could I would like to board the plane just now and join the final service to a great man, a great friend.

Staszek, we will miss you. Bacho \TeX will miss you, \TeX Live will miss you, I will miss you badly. A good friend has passed away. May you rest in peace.

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[Editor's note: Originally written as a blog post: preining.info/blog/2018/02/in-memoriam-staszek-wawrykiewicz. More about Staszek, in Polish, is on the Polish Wikipedia: pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanis%C5%82aw_Wawrykiewicz.

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