

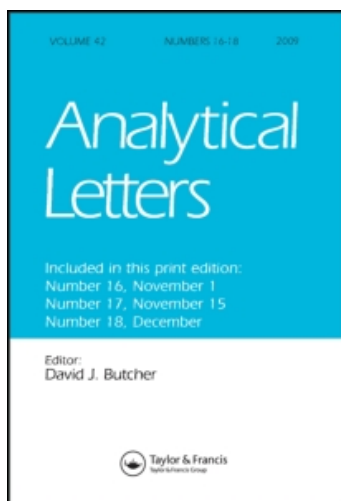
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## **Tribute to Boaventura Freire dos Reis Universidade de São Paulo**

**by Prof. Mário César Ugulino de Araújo, Prof. Celio Pasquini, and  
Prof. Ivo M. Raimundo Jr.**



Professor Boaventura Freire dos Reis (“Boa,” to his friends) graduated in Physics from Universidade Estadual Paulista “Julio de Mesquita Filho” (UNESP) in Rio Claro, São Paulo state, in 1975. However, he is a “baiano,” having been born in the little town of Mairi, located in the countryside of Bahia state in northeast Brazil. After graduation he was hired by CENA-USP (Centro de Energia Nuclear na Agricultura-Universidade de São Paulo), a research and graduate teaching unit of, ESALQ-USP (Escola Superior de Agricultura “Luiz de Queiróz”-Universidade de São Paulo), that, as most people know, contributed effectively to the development of Flow Injection Analysis (FIA) from its very beginnings.

There at CENA, in the city of Piracicaba, Prof. Boaventura earned his master of science degree in 1978, under the supervision of

Prof. Henrique Bergamin Filho. The theme of his dissertation was, naturally, on the emerging technology of FIA. Some time after, Prof. Boaventura went to Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) to work with Prof. Osvaldo Godinho in a Ph.D. program. He continued with the theme of automation, now applying it to a novel approach to potentiometric titrations of proteins.

He concluded his Ph.D. program in 1986. It was a polemic thesis because, at that time, instrumentation and automation were, in Brazil, alien to the area of analytical chemistry. In 1996, Prof. Boaventura was approved in a public examination for the title of Associate Professor at CENA-USP and, in 2006, he reached the top of his career by obtaining the position of Full Professor of Analytical Chemistry of the University of São Paulo, through another public examination.

From these few words, the academic life of Prof. Boaventura appears to have followed a very similar path to many other professionals having a scientific career. However, there are several distinguishing features that mark the career of Prof. Boaventura. It happens that these achievements were not as easy for him as they were for many of us. Born in the countryside of Bahia state into a poor family, he learned to read from pamphlets of folk publications called “Cordell” Literature. From this humble start, he has become a researcher at one of the best universities of Brazil and one of the authors most cited in the international scientific literature. His persistence should serve as an example for all of us and particularly for our young students. There were many difficulties, in both his personal life and in his academic career, which Prof. Boaventura faced in order to achieve the high standards he enjoys at the moment. Even when he achieved this position, he kept one of his most notable characteristics—modesty—which only a person who has fought each battle and has faced difficulties beyond what most can imagine, never loses. This distinction makes one think again of old ideals and dreams of equality, opportunity, a strong will, and of overcoming obstacles. The personality of Prof. Boaventura and his extra-academia culture are expressed by his wide and sincere smile and through his warm discussions with his colleagues at work, whether about politics, history, or, of course, science—mainly flow analysis.

Today, the curriculum vitae of Prof. Boaventura shows more than 175 works published in the best scientific journals for analytical chemistry. During his career, he has supervised 11 M.Sc and 19 Ph.D. students. The papers he has authored and co-authored have received more than 2800 citations and, for those who like scientific metrology, his h index (nowadays in fashion) is 27.

Prof. Boaventura is already part of the history of the analytical chemistry in Brazil. Nevertheless, he is still very active and continues to

make that history in a way that one could describe as a “child playing with his toys,” contributing to the development of automatic methods of chemical analysis, a multifaceted theme, now common to many research and teaching laboratories throughout Brazil and the world, thanks to the work developed by this notable scientist.

Thank you, “Boa,” for serving as an example to be followed.