

# Late UTC astronomy professor honored by Czech postal service

## Former student says Karel Hujer would be proud

**By Dorie Turner Staff Writer**

Seeing the words "Czech Republic" stamped on a postcard would have delighted late UTC professor Karel Hujer, according to a former student. The astronomer, who died in 1988, a year before the Berlin Wall fell, is being honored with a commemorative postcard issued by his home country.

"He always dreamed of a Czechoslovakia without communism," said Hal McAlister, a student of Dr. Hujer's who teaches astronomy at Georgia State University. "He would love to see his image on a postcard that says 'Czech Republic.'"

Dr. Hujer spent nearly 30 years teaching astronomy and physics at the University of Chattanooga and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He spoke eight languages and gave lectures on astronomy and physics around the world. He was a friend of Mahatma Gandhi and Albert Einstein.

Dr. Hujer, who attended the University of Prague and the University of Chicago, was a member of the American Astronomical Society, the Royal Astronomical Society of London, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and the French Astronomical Society.

Marie Ctrnacta of the Czech postal service said the postcard was issued in honor of Dr. Hujer's 100th birthday this year. The cards are collected and traded at stamp shows in the republic and abroad, she said.

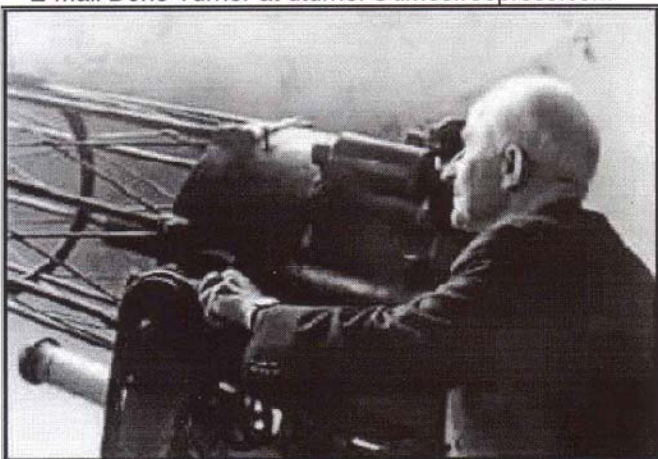
The postcards are issued by the Czech government to honor "outstanding personalities," she said.

Dr. McAlister said Dr. Hujer loved his country but hated the communism that tore apart much of Europe.

"One of the heartbreaks in his later life was on his last trip to Czechoslovakia," Dr. McAlister said. "He landed in Prague and was refused entry into the country by Czech officials."

UTC Chancellor Bill Stacy said Dr. Hujer played "an integral role" in the university's history. "Karel Hujer's life as a scholar and advocate of world peace continues to affect the minds and hearts of those in his native country and around the world," Dr. Stacy said. "Chattanooga's university stands taller thanks to Dr. Hujer."

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Contributed Photo This postcard issued by the postal service of the Czech Republic will honor the late Dr. Karel Hujer, who taught physics and astronomy at UTC.