In Memoriam

Victor Klee, 1925–2007

Victor Klee, who was MAA President from 1971–72, died August 18 at Lakewood Hospital in Lakewood, Ohio. He was Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at the University of Washington, Seattle, where he had spent nearly his entire career.

Born in San Francisco in 1925, Klee received his PhD in mathematics from the University of Virginia in 1949. Accepting an appointment at the University of Washington in 1953, Klee specialized in convex sets, functional analysis, analysis of algorithms, optimization, and combinatorics. He wrote more than 200 research papers and posed what came to be known as Klee's Measure Problem and the Art Gallery Theorem. In 1990, in honor of Klee's 65th birthday and the broad range of his mathematical interests, Peter Gritzmann and Bernd Sturmfels edited a volume in his honor, entitled *Applied Geometry and Discrete Mathematics*.

Klee was the recipient of the MAA's Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics in 1977 and co-author of *Old and New Unsolved Problems in Plane Geometry and Number Theory*, published by the MAA in 1991. In 1972, he won the Lester R. Ford Award for his article "What Is a Convex Set?" in the *American Mathematical Monthly*, and, in 1999, the Carl B. Allendoerfer Award for his article (with John R. Reay) "A Surprising but Easily Proved Geometric Decomposition Theorem" in *Mathematics Magazine*.

A longer article on Klee's life and work will appear in the November issue of FOCUS.

Atle Selberg, 1917–2007

Norwegian number theorist Atle Selberg died on August 6, 2007. He was 90 years old. Selberg, who had long been a permanent member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, was known for his work in analytic number theory, including important results on the zeros of the Riemann zeta function and an elementary proof of the Prime Number Theorem. As happens to many great mathematicians, one can see the impact of his work in the way his name has been attached to important ideas, from the Selberg trace formula to the Ranking-Selberg method.

Selberg was born on June 14, 1917, in Langesund, Norway. He received his PhD in 1943 from the University of Oslo and became a member of IAS soon afterward. In 1950, he received the Fields Medal (together with Laurent Schwartz), and he continued to be influential and productive for many years. He retired from IAS in 1987, but remained an active mathematician. For example, he participated in several conferences on the Riemann Hypotheses organized by the American Institute of Mathematics over the last few years, even giving the keynote address at one of them.

A detailed obituary can be found at the IAS web site, at http://www.ias.edu/newsroom/announcements/view/1186683853.html.

Lee Cohen, 1962–2007

Lee Cohen, who was Associate Professor of Mathematics at Hampden Sydney College, died on Monday, July 16, 2007, of complications related to pancreatic cancer. Educated at Emory University and the University of Virginia, he began teaching at Hampden Sydney in 1986. In 1995–96, Cohen was one of the participants in the first summer of the MAA's Institute on the History of Mathematics and Its Use in Teaching. He was a member of the Association since 1988.

Dov Tamari, 1911-2006

Dov Tamari passed away on August 11, 2006 in Jerusalem. He was 95 years old. Born Bernhard Teitler in Germany in 1911, Tamari was educated at Vienna, Giessen, and Frankfurt. He left Germany in 1933 when the Nazis came to power, without completing his PhD, moving to Palestine. A staunch Zionist, Tamari got involved in politics, but also managed to complete his doctoral work at the University of Paris. His mathematical work, mostly in logic and related fields, led to several appointments at U.S. institutions, including a stint as chair of the Department of Mathematics at SUNY Buffalo in the 1960s.

Shortly before his death, Tamari had completed a biography of Moritz Pasch, a German mathematician of Jewish faith, to be published in Germany this November. An account of his life, emphasizing his political activities, will appear as an appendix to the book. Tamari had been a member of the MAA since 1963.

James T. Bruening, 1949–2007

Jim Bruening, who was Professor of Mathematics at Southeast Missouri State University and Governor of the Missouri Section of the MAA, passed away on September 9, 2007. Bruening received his PhD from the University of Missouri at Rolla in 1977 and had taught at Southeast Missouri State since 1985. His main mathematical interests were in algebra and combinatorics, and he especially enjoyed problem-solving. Among his many roles within the MAA, he was editor of the "Problems and Solutions" section of the *College Mathematics Journal* and Governor of the Missouri Section. He began his term as Governor in July, 2006, and had made a special effort to be at the meeting of the Board of Governors in San Jose. Martha Siegel, Secretary of the Association, says that "he wanted to be at every minute of the meeting, although I know he was tired." He was a member of the Association since 1987.

In Memoriam Online

We maintain an *In Memoriam* page at the MAA web site. Short obituaries for this page may be submitted directly to Carol Baxter at cbaxter@maa.org.