

# H. David Lipsich



Dr Lipsich, Professor Emeritus, University of Cincinnati, died January 12, 2012 in Cincinnati at the age of 91. He received his Ph D in 1949. under Otto Szasz, a student of L. Fejer. His dissertation was entitled "On Hypergeometric Summability".

He had been on the UC faculty since 1942, except for 1945-46 which he spent at Princeton. He became Department Head in 1961, and was Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 1976-1981. In 1966 he received the prestigious UC Dolly Cohen Award for excellence in teaching.

He was an active member of the Ohio Section, serving as Section Chairman 1966-67, Program Chair 1956-57, and was the first chair of CONCUR. His Retiring Chairman's address was entitled, "Some New Directions for the Ohio Section"

He was my first "real" mathematics teacher. It was advanced calculus (really real analysis) and the text was Courant. It was the perfect course. Carefully done, and thorough. I learned how to easily negate a definition, that was a good lesson for a neophyte., and to take notes by ear. Dr. Lipsich was into mathematical logic about then.

The last time I saw him was at an ORESME dinner; he happened to be in the same restaurant. His remark about Dr. I. A. Barnett, from whom I took number theory, was : "That man scares me."

*Thomas Hern  
hern@bgsu.edu*

From another of Dr.Lipsich's students (Steve Lameier):

Hi David was the best expositor of mathematics at UC in my estimation. I remember telling a friend about the time he gave an extemporaneous hour long talk on the history and development of Fourier Series. You always felt like he was speaking to you alone, and he made the presentation more interesting by sprinkling in little tidbits of history. He made mathematics seem like just common sense by adding that human element.

I benefitted when he brought me late into the Ford Foundation's Master's program with Paul Richman and Bob Herbold (who later was hired by Bill Gates as COO of Microsoft). I was rejected when I first applied because I had dropped out of a course taught by a foreign teacher. I could not understand what he was saying because of his heavy accent. It took me a month to realize that when he said "co-ippitions", he meant "coefficients". Dr. Lipsich actually apologized for not accepting me a year earlier after I performed well in his Advanced Calculus course.

My wife and I shared a table with him at a friend's wedding reception. He became kind of a father figure for me. If I could find my old exam from that Advanced Calculus course I would frame it. He wrote the words "Beautiful Paper" at the top of the first page and there were other little complimentary comments written next to my solutions.

He was a good guy and a great teacher. He studied under some big names in mathematics.