PARKER RETIRES

After 35 years of service on the faculty of the department Professor S.J. "Tom" Parker will retire at the end of the current academic year.

Tom joined the faculty in 1947 as the major transition from Kansas State College to Kansas State University was seriously getting underway. The College was small by today's standards but there was a big jump in enrollment that fall as hundreds of young men and women came to the campus under the GI Bill after the Second World War. Housing was difficult to obtain and the Parkers took up residence in Hilltop Courts, a student-faculty housing development which consisted of a series of used military barracks located in what is now the parking lot south of Aokert Hall. The department was located in what is now known as Holtz Hall and classes were taught in almost all of the buildings on the campus.

Parker, a native of British Columbia, had earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1931 and his Master of Arts degree in 1934 from the University of British Columbia. In 1947 he had just completed his doctorate at the University of Cincinnati where he concentrated on the summability of divergent series under the direction of C.N. Moore and Otto Szasz.

His experience as a high school mathematics teacher in British Columbia and as instructor and assistant professor at Hobart College and the University of Louisville had prepared him well for the challenges which he found in the classrooms of Kansas State.

Parker carried responsibility for the teaching of analysis with particular attention to the applications in the sciences and engineering. Much of his time in these years was spent in consulting with faculty in these areas and in serving on graduate committees for students from outside the department. At that time K-State was authorized to grant only the master’s degree and each year he produced masters candidates who have gone on to make their mark in American mathematical circles as researchers, teachers and administrators. The fact that there are so many former students who have continued to keep in touch with Tom over the years is convincing evidence of the high esteem which his students had for him.

In the early 1950’s Tom became interested in the emerging field of computation and computers which was just beginning to take shape as the developments made during World War II were becoming more widely known. In the summers of 1953, 1955, and 1957 he gained hands-on experience with two of the very few computers in existence, one at the Aberdeen Proving Ground and the other at the IBM Research Center.

The first computing facility at Kansas State was established in 1958 and Parker became the director. This was a brave but modest beginning with an IBM 650 as the heart of the system. Tom remained as director until 1968 when he returned to full time duty in the department. During his tenure as director he was successful in introducing the students and faculty, many of whom were both reluctant and skeptical, to the computer as an effective tool in processing data and in computing in a way and to an extent which had been impossible previously. As the interest in computing grew so that the demand exceeded the capability of the equipment Tom worked with the University officials to upgrade and replace hardware as new techniques and new equipment developed. He had the satisfaction of training many persons in the mysteries of the computer who have made significant contributions to the development of computing at Kansas State, Mike Miller and Beth Unger being two examples.

Hundreds of student have had the opportunity to study in Parker's classes in numerical and classical analysis and to come in contact with him through his advising of mathematics majors.

Tom is a member of Sigma Xi, Pi Mu Epsilon, American Mathematical Society, Mathematical Association of America, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Association for Computing Machinery, and the Kansas Association of Teachers of Mathematics.

Parker has had the opportunity to participate in the development of the Department of Mathematics from what was essentially a service group teaching mathematics to engineers and scientists in 1947 to the full grown department offering a doctoral program with faculty members recognized around the world which we have today. Even more than that he has had the privilege of introducing the new idea of computing to the entire campus and of seeing it develop into the essential program which it is today.

Kansas State University and the Department of Mathematics is truly grateful to you, Tom, for what you have contributed over the years to the life of the campus and the community. As you enter into this new phase of your life we salute you and wish you God speed.
BRADT LECTURE

LOUIS PIGNO gave the first annual Russell N. Bradt Lecture at the University of Kansas on April 29. His talk was titled "On exponential sums." On April 30 he gave a colloquium to the graduate faculty at KU on the subject "Proof of the Littlewood conjecture."

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PUBLICATIONS


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COMMENTARY

JOSEPH EURON has been asked by R.B. Kallman, editor of the Selected Works of Shizuo Kakutani of Yale University to write commentaries on Kakutani's papers which will appear under the heading "Rings of Functions." This book is a volume in the series "Contemporary Mathematicians" published by Birkhaeuser Boston Inc.

SCHOLARSHIPS

BEN LANGE, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lange of Mankato, Kansas has been awarded the Friends of Mathematics Scholarship. This is an annual award of $250 given to the outstanding mathematics major at the junior level.

GALEN SUPPES and KERRY MONROE have received a renewal of their Capitol Federal Savings and Loan Association scholarships for 1982-83. Suppess, a graduate of Bison High School, will be a sophomore in Electrical Engineering as will also Monroe who is a graduate of Eldorado High School. The scholarship award of $125 per semester is based on the recipient's standing on the Kansas High School Mathematics Contest and is renewed on the basis of continuing achievement in mathematics.

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PROMOTIONS

DAN CURTIS has been promoted to professor and DAVE SUROWSKI to associate professor effective with the 1982-83 academic year.

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CONFERENCES


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REVIEW

E. Beck in reviewing KARL STROMBERG'S An Introduction to Classical Real Analysis in the Zentralblatt für Mathematik comments: "...stellt diese Einführung ein klar und verständlich geschriebenes, reichhaltiges Buch dar. ... Die überaus zahlreichen Übungen... verleihen besondere beachtung. ... Zusammentfassen las sich sagen, das diese Einführung in die klassische reelle Analysis von Karl R. Stromberg eine bemerkenswerte und interessante Bereicherung der einschlägigen Lehrbuchliteratur darstellt."

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COLLOQUIA

ALEX RAMM: Univ. of Manchester, April; KU Physics, Electrical Engineering, Mathematics departments; KU Mathematics; a forty minute talk at the AMS Cincinnati meeting; Lecture course and workshop on non-linear analysis at the Naval Research Lab., June, 1982; Univ. of Bonn, Philips Research Lab., Brussels, Vrije Univ., Univ. of Gothenburg, Royal Inst. of Tech., Stockholm; summer, 1982.