In Memoriam

David A. Legg

September 7, 1947 – July 5, 2014

Professor David Legg passed away in July 2014, at home with his family after treatment for cancer. At that time he was survived by his wife Colette; his children Alan, Eric (who more recently died), and Lisa; and his brother, Steve.

Dave was a graduate of Purdue University (B.S. 1969, M.S. 1970, Ph.D. 1973). He taught for a year at West Lafayette and then came to IPFW in 1974 as a professor of mathematics, and remained here for his entire career. He served as Chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences from 2000 until 2012, and, at times, served in other administrative positions, including Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He was a member of the Scientific Research Society Sigma Xi, and the long-time treasurer of the IPFW chapter. He was also a member of the Mathematics Honor Society Pi Mu Epsilon, and the Physics Honor Society Sigma Pi Sigma.

Dave's research in approximation theory and real analysis will be long remembered. He published over thirty papers in collaboration with 14 co-authors, including IPFW Professors Coffman, Dragnev, Huotari, Pan, and Townsend. His 2002 result on minimal energy points with colleagues Dragnev and Townsend, also known as the "Mastodon Theorem", was prominently cited this May by Henry Cohn of Microsoft Research during his School on Minimal Energy Configurations at the Constructive Functions 2014 International Conference in Nashville, TN.

Dave taught a wide range of courses from Calculus to graduate level real analysis. His students appreciated his commitment to their success in learning.

During his time as Chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences, he served with outstanding professionalism and commitment. He was a Chair who would get things done. He kept a very large, very diverse, multi-disciplined department running smoothly. During his tenure the department exhibited an incredible growth in credit hours from 11,000 to 18,000. New programs, such as the Business Option and Computing Option in the BS in mathematics and the Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics were developed. He guided us through our first two departmental program reviews, and followed up on the recommendations they contained. Many things came from those reviews, including the recently opened Math Assistance Learning Lab (or MALL).

The Department of Mathematical Sciences and IPFW have lost a great colleague. He will be missed.