

Grahame Bennett

Professor of Mathematics

Grahame Bennett was born in Newcastle, England, on January 23, 1945. He received his B.S. from the University of Newcastle in 1966, and then went on to the University of Cambridge, where he received his Ph.D. under D. H. J. Garling in 1970.

I first met Grahame at a National Science Foundation (NSF) conference on sequence spaces held at the State University of New York at Albany in the summer of 1969. All of us at the conference were overawed with Grahame's intelligence. We were equally impressed with his politeness and lack of bravado.

He spent the 1969–1970 academic year at Lehigh University, at the invitation of A. (Tommy) Wilansky. While at Lehigh, Tommy told Grahame about the 12 problems he was currently trying to solve. Grahame solved all of them!

Grahame came to Indiana University in the fall of 1970 as a Vaclav Hlavaty Research Assistant Professor. Most of the Hlavaty postdocs are asked to leave after their three years. Grahame was the exception, and was invited to stay. He was promoted to associate professor in 1975, and then to full professor in 1979.

During the academic years 1977–1979 he was the recipient of a prestigious Sloan Fellowship, and he spent 1977–1978 at the University of British Columbia. From 1972 to 1997 he was awarded several NSF grants.

From the late 1970s through the early 1980s, Grahame's wife was pursuing a degree in pharmacy at Purdue. Grahame assumed the duties of both parents with respect to their three children. Although he had no publications during this period, he continued to read, discuss mathematics, and attend department colloquia and seminars.

His early research interests involved sequence spaces. When he resumed his research activity, he turned to the study of inequalities, and has proved a number of very deep and beautiful results, including the solution of a long-standing conjecture of Littlewood.

Grahame has published over 50 papers, each of them a very high quality piece of work. To illustrate this I will cite one of the referees of one of his research proposals: "When I was a graduate student, my professor was fond of saying that a particular theorem was O.K., but it would not set the Thames on fire. The mathematics that Grahame describes in his grant proposal might set the Thames on fire."

Grahame is an excellent expositor and has been invited to give talks at a number of international conferences, including the plenary address in Poznań, Poland, in 2003, in honor of the centennial of Orlica; a conference in honor of Littlewood in 1975; and the Polya

Conference in Birmingham, England, in 1987. Other invited talks have been given at meetings of the American Mathematical Society, the University of Ulm, Stuttgart University, Clarkson College, Wabash College, York University, Rose Polytechnic, the University of Michigan, The Ohio State University, the University of Western Ontario, the University of Texas at Austin, Kent State University, Wright State University, Ohio University, Dalhousie University, Miami University of Ohio, St. Lawrence University, the University of Missouri, Loyola University of Chicago, Oakland University, and De Paul University. He has also spoken at conferences in Hagen, Ulm, Hong Kong, Manila, Venezuela, and Czechoslovakia, and was a recipient of a TUBITAK grant from Turkey.

His research is just one facet of his talent. He has also been a quality teacher here at Indiana. In 1997 he was given the Teaching Excellence Recognition Award. Grahame has taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses, and has produced two Ph.D. students.

He has also done his share of departmental service. He has been both director of undergraduate studies and colloquium chairman. He served on the following committees: honors division committee, salaries, recruitment, Red Carpet Day, undergraduate policy, the Putnam exam, the real variables qualifying exam, and the foreign language committee (of which he has been a mainstay in recent years). He started two activities important to the department today: he was the first math coordinator of the Advance College Project, and he was the creator of the first math awards ceremony.

At the university level he has served as a University Division counselor, on the Canterbury committee of the Office of Overseas Study, on both the university and College promotions committees, and as a reader for the Wells Scholarship Program. He is also a member of the editorial board of two journals on inequalities, and has refereed and reviewed many research papers.

His younger brother, Colin Bennett, is also a mathematician. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas under G. G. Lorentz, works in numerical analysis, and is a full professor at the University of South Carolina.

Grahame is also an avid IU soccer fan.

It has been a pleasure having Grahame as a colleague for these many years. Although we have never published any joint papers, we have spent many hours together discussing the mathematics each of us is working on.

~Billy E. Rhoades