

I want to thank Angie and Darci for keeping the mathematics community updated on Joe Diestel's health problems and his recent passing.

I met Joe in 1970 and worked with him as a valued colleague until my retirement in 2003. The many positive comments and memorials I have read in the last week are very accurate reflections on his passion for mathematics and his ability to recruit graduate students and faculty to KSU. It is no exaggeration to say that Joe was instrumental in helping some areas of KSU's fledgling Ph. D. program in mathematics gain both national and international recognition through the organizing of conferences and by cultivating relationships in the mathematical community that led to many visits by important researchers in these areas. In addition, his graduate-level textbooks, some co-authored with colleagues, are invaluable additions to the research literature.

Most of his mathematics colleagues at KSU became quickly aware that Joe's passion for mathematics was not limited only to mathematics. In fact, Joe's passion for the Three Bs (Banach spaces, baseball, beer) was legendary. I can recall many hours spent having a few pints of the third B while listening to Joe tell stories regarding the first two Bs. He was a very interesting story teller and his stories got better as more of the third B was consumed.

Joe has left KSU and Kent with a legacy that will not soon be forgotten. He had a unique journey in life, and I wish him the best in his new journey.

Bob Lohman