



Dr. David Hallenbeck (1941--2007)

This past April we lost a dear colleague and friend whose passing was untimely. David Hallenbeck served in the Department of Mathematical Sciences for over 31 years before his retirement in 2003. His invaluable contributions to the profession and to the University included an active research career, dedication to teaching, and administrative service.

David served in the US Army until he was injured during a rock climbing incident while stationed in Colorado. After discharge from the Service, he went on to study at SUNY Albany as an undergraduate, and continued his graduate work there. He was the first PhD student that came out from a then budding mathematics department which has now become a premier center for mathematical analysis.

He is well known for his contributions to Complex Analysis, in particular to univalent functions and related areas. The author or co-author of 59 papers in refereed journals, he was also co-author (with Tom MacGregor) of the book "Linear Problems and Convexity Techniques in Geometric Function Theory." One of his papers (with Brickman, MacGregor and Wilken), "Convex hulls and extreme points

of families of starlike and convex mappings," published in the prestigious Transactions of the American Mathematical Society, in 1973, has been widely cited and is one of several seminal papers which laid the foundation for the application of functional analysis to function theoretic problems. Their use of the theory of extreme points and support points in convex analysis to develop extremal problems in complex analysis has been incorporated as a standard chapter in many modern books on classical function theory.

David served as interim chair of the Department during the last year and a half before his retirement. His temperament, efficiency and organizational skills proved to be true assets. He conducted the Department's business with extreme efficiency, and probably holds the record for the shortest faculty meetings in the history of the Department – something much appreciated by all of us, his colleagues. It was not that he had nothing to say, or that he neglected important departmental matters; it was because he was always extremely well prepared and efficient in leading those faculty meetings. If the business at hand could be taken care of in 15 minutes, that's how long the meeting would last. Before David served as interim chair of the Department, he served as Director of Undergraduate Studies. Those who served as chairs before him, Drs. Pam Cook and Ivar Stakgold, valued his advice, reliability, competence and collegiality. And those of us who were privileged to have him as a friend and colleague will miss him dearly.

Besides his love for mathematics, David was also a genuine naturalist. His knowledge of birds and love for birding made him a valuable resource for the community of birders in the East coast; many admired him for his passion and deep knowledge. It has been said that he was one of the people who knew most about falcons in the United States. Talking about peregrine falcons, Dr. Bill Seegar, chairman of the board of directors of Earthspan, a non-profit, environmental science organization, said, "he knew as much if not more about the bird's behavior and activities on the island than we did." Dr. Seegar was referring to his research team and Assateague Island. Dr. Seegar: "Dave was an accomplished scientist, a meticulous observer, a wonderful note taker and knew his birds, and not just falcons and hawks. In fact we often quote Dave's notes and observations on the predation of shorebirds by the adult peregrine falcons."

This excerpt from the Johns Hopkins Magazine (02/1997) shows the respect Dr. Seegar had for Dave's knowledge of birds: "AT

ASSATEAGUE, SEEGAR ANGLES HIS TRUCK inland from the beach. Ahead on a dune a tall man carrying a pair of binoculars is waving. "That's Dave Hallenbeck," says Seegar. "He probably knows as much about falcons as anyone." When Hallenbeck is not teaching math at the University of Delaware, he walks the beach, neck craned backward, in search of falcons."

Dr. Mike Yates, a research biologist and director of Earthspan, and co-investigator of the peregrine falcon survey at the Assateague Island, MD/VA: "Any other person frequenting the places Dave did during our survey would have been not only an unwelcome distraction but a detriment to our survey results. But Dave's intellect and skills enabled him to become part of the landscape and he never affected either the behavior of the peregrines or our survey's efficiency. If anything, he increased our efficiency. When we would enter the area and spot Dave, it became mandatory that we pay him a quick visit. He would recount to us in short order every peregrine present, including its relative location, age and sex, and whether it was one we'd already color marked. His information was invariably correct."

David was an accomplished athlete who ran the Boston marathon in 2 hours and 47 minutes – a nontrivial feat. Typical of his commitment to everything he undertook, he trained for the Boston marathon for one year running 16 miles a day, 6 days a week. During the cold winter days in Albany (NY), he would run miles in the tunnels that connect the buildings of the SUNY Albany campus. He was also a serious student of chess.

David had many loves and was passionate about whatever he did, but his greatest love was undeniably his family. He and his wife Kasia have two beautiful children: Alex and Michelle. Anyone who visited the Hallenbecks' home could not help but to note the wonderful family environment they created. Alex and Michelle learned to love reading, math, music, chess, nature and sports. David's decision to take early retirement was a fortunate one, as it allowed him to dedicate himself to his wife and children during the last few years of his life. His example will no doubt inspire Kasia, Alex and Michelle to continue to grow, support and love each other, and to achieve great success in their endeavors. We look forward to having Alex as a student at UD -- he will be a freshman chemical engineering student this coming fall semester, in the honors program.

We will always remember David as an accomplished mathematician, a trusted colleague, a model parent, an honorable man, and a dear friend.

Y. J. Leung and Gilberto Schleiniger



(Earthspan's logo – it could be about David's spirit!)