



*Tribute to
Jeffrey B. Remmel*

*January 9, 2018
Atkinson Pavilion,
Ida and Cecil
Green Faculty Club*

UC San Diego

UC San Diego



Tribute to Jeffrey B. Rummel

January 9, 2018

Lei Ni

Chair, Department of Mathematics

Elizabeth H. Simmons

Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

Steven Boggs

Dean, Division of Physical Sciences

Mark Thiemens

Founding Dean, Division of Physical Sciences

Douglas Censer

Chair, Department of Mathematics
University of Florida

Alfred Manaster

Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics

Adriano Garsia

Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics

Peter Ebenfelt

Associate Dean, Division of Physical Sciences

Fan Chung Graham

Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics

Ruth Williams

Professor, Department of Mathematics

Sam Buss

Professor, Department of Mathematics

Jeffrey Liese

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

Christopher Rummel

Son of Jeffrey B. Rummel

A Remembrance

Professor Jeffrey B. Rummel is remembered as a distinguished mathematician, scholar, and mentor. A tireless nurturer of students, Jeff dedicated his entire professional career to the expansion of his students' understanding of complex mathematic computation. Jeff's passing leaves a tremendous void in the UC San Diego community.

Born October 12, 1948 in Clintonville, Wisconsin, Jeff earned his Ph.D. in math from Cornell University in 1974 and soon after joined the UC San Diego Department of Mathematics. During his long and distinguished tenure at UC San Diego, where he worked his entire professional career, Jeff served as Chair of the Department of Mathematics from 1998 to 2002, and as Associate Dean of the Division of Physical Sciences from 2000 to 2016. As Associate Dean, he spearheaded projects that would expand STEM educational programs at UC San Diego, most notably the Science and Math Teacher Initiative (CalTeach). Jeff served as founding director of the program from 2005 until his passing. CalTeach addresses the shortage of teachers in high-need fields by preparing undergraduates for careers as math or science educators. Hundreds of UC San Diego students completed the CalTeach program and received California credentials for science and mathematics education. Claudia Martinez, Executive Director of Educator Programs and the California Subject Matter Project at University of California Office of the President, remembers that, "Jeff was steadfast in his support and passion for students and future teachers and programs that serve to expand educational pathways for our youth. His leadership and advocacy as chair of the CalTeach Executive Committee will be sorely missed."

Jeff touched the minds of numerous students by advising over 30 Ph.D. candidates and mentoring countless others outside of the Department of Mathematics as Adjunct Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and as Adjunct Professor of the Rady School of Management. He played an instrumental role creating the graduate program in computational science, mathematics and engineering and in the founding of the Rady School of Management. He was also critical to the formation of the new data science major (and minor), a joint effort of the Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science and Engineering in cooperation with the Department of Cognitive Science. The major began admitting students in 2016.

In addition to being a dedicated instructor and administrator, Jeff was a prolific researcher, grappling with a wide range of mathematic topics from enumerative combinatorics to shuffle conjectures and permutation theory. His research findings were presented in over 300 publications for conferences and journals with over 90 co-authors. Jeff also served as co-editor of the "Handbook of Recursive Mathematics".

Jeff was a profound thinker who was generous with his wisdom and with his time supporting students and colleagues. Though his presence will be missed, his rich legacy in education will forever be remembered.

At his passing, Professor Jeffrey B. Rummel was 68 and is survived by his wife Paula, son Christopher, and daughter Saramaria.