



## CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY Faculty Senate

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**Professor Paul David Hambourger** passed away in December 2019, at the age of 80, leaving behind his wife Linda (nee Mintz) who is here today.

Paul joined the CSU Physics Department in 1971 at the rank of Assistant Professor and was promoted to associated professor in 1975. Before coming to CSU, Paul was a post doc at the University of Pennsylvania. His Ph.D. from the Northwestern University was in experimental studies of magnetism in uranium dioxide and cadmium. Jules Marcus supervised his work.

At CSU, Paul was part of the solid state physics group, along with Professors Herb Schlosser and Paul Chu. Here, Paul developed a strong collaboration with Paul Chu on pressurized superconductors. In the mid 1980's Paul Chu, then at the University of Houston, contributed to the discovery a new class of materials that are superconducting at much higher temperatures. This discovery generated a tsunami of interest in the physics community. Paul immediately joined this line of research with projects supported by NASA. His research has been continually funded by NASA for the next 30 years. This is a remarkable record.

Paul has taught both introductory physics courses and advanced major courses such as solid state physics. The strongest aspect of Paul's contribution to the education of our students was the steady mentoring over the years, and the research collaborations with numerous of his students. This kind of non-lecture teaching activity involving hands-on research is effective in encouraging students to pursue science and engineering careers, and also contributes to their retention. More than 30 students are co-authors on Professor Hambourger's publications. About half of these student researchers were women whom he encouraged through his mentoring to persevere in a science career. More important than numbers are the individual success stories of these students: some earned PhD degrees in physics; others work in professional jobs at CCF, NASA etc.

Paul Hambourger's service to the department was invaluable. In the late 1990's he was undergraduate advisor and advisor to the Society of Physics Students. Paul chaired the departmental curriculum committee, developing materials to guide students during the transition from quarters to semesters. He has also contributed substantially to the creation in 2001 of the Medical Physics specialization within our MS program. He wrote the self-study document for the accrediting agency. Not least based on it, we got initial accreditation in 2012.

Paul and I overlapped at CSU from 1985, when I joined the Physics Department, until 2012 when Paul retired. I collaborated with him and with Professor Tewari from chemical engineering on a grant proposal on High Temperature Superconductivity and on a project dealing with electrical percolation on composites of graphite fibers. Paul will be missed and remembered for a

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long time. He was a distinguished physicist, a wonderful teacher, and a great colleague who worked hard to keep our department alive.

May God comfort Linda among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Please keep a moment of silence in Paul David Hamburger's memory.

✪ Written by Dr. Miron Kaufman, Physics Department  
and delivered to Faculty Senate on March 4, 2020