



CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY Faculty Senate

Professor Emeritus Sundaresan Kondagunta, Mathematics

Sundaresan Kondagunta joined the Cleveland State faculty in the fall of 1977, one of a pair of distinguished mathematicians who came here at that time and made major contributions to mathematical life at CSU during the last quarter of the 20th century (the other being Wojbor Woyczynski presently at CWRU).

Professor Kondagunta was born and began his education in south India. He commenced his teaching career at age 19 after receiving a Masters degree at the University in Madras (now Chennai). During this period in his life Sundaresan introduced mathematics to several young people who later achieved fame based on their profound work. V. S. Varadarajan, now emeritus at UCLA, was among the most outstanding of Sundaresan's Madras students.

Sundaresan arrived in Seattle in the early 60s and completed a doctoral dissertation entitled "Some Geometrical Properties in Normed Linear Spaces" at the University of Washington in 1964 under the direction of Victor Klee. Next he spent several years at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where he directed at least three doctoral dissertations. The soft money supporting his research and teaching at Carnegie-Mellon having dried up, he moved on to the University of Wyoming in Laramie, WY for a couple of years before being invited to Cleveland State.

Sundaresan published upwards of 80 papers in refereed journals and he was proud that often his papers settled difficult questions which had remained as open problems in his field. His work dealt with finite and infinite dimensional complete linear spaces with respect to various topologies, mainly Banach spaces. The issues which came up often were quite subtle and where speculation failed it was often difficult to come up with counter examples, not to speak of proofs when the guesses were good.

As a researcher Sundaresan was a tenacious and ingenious problem solver, not given to throw in the towel when the going got rough and usually able to bring home the prize. As a teacher he was patient and extremely lucid in his blackboard style and this was key to his success in this category. He was a loyal colleague who knew quality and practiced it for his whole career. He was also a warm and loyal friend and those of us who knew him treasure his memory.

In recent years he and wife Lakshmi have lived in an apartment in Goshen, NY near their daughter Varuni's oncology practice, where she and her husband Greg are raising three clever sons, who are about to enter their teens.



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∞ Dr. Barbara Margolius delivered the eulogy
written by Professor Emeritus Allan Silberger on March 6, 2019