

GRAHAME BENNETT

Grahame Bennett received his B.S. from the University of Newcastle in 1966, and then went on to the University of Cambridge, where he received his PhD under D. H. J. Garling in 1970. He spent the 1969–1970 academic year at Lehigh University, at the invitation of A. (Tommy) Wilansky. While at Lehigh, Tommy told Grahame about the 12 problems he was currently trying to solve. Grahame solved all of them!

Grahame came to Indiana University in the fall of 1970 as a Vaclav Hlavaty Research Assistant Professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1975 and then to full professor in 1979. During the academic years 1977–1979, he was the recipient of a prestigious Sloan Fellowship, and he spent 1977–1978 at the University of British Columbia. From 1972 to 1997, he was awarded several NSF grants. His early research interests involved Banach spaces, especially sequence spaces. When he resumed his research activity, he turned to the study of inequalities, and proved a number of very deep and beautiful results, including the solution of a long-standing conjecture of Littlewood.

Grahame published over sixty papers, each of them of very high quality. Grahame's exposition, both written and oral, was characterized by clarity, wit, and humor. He was invited to give talks at a number of international conferences, including a conference in honor of Littlewood in 1975, the Polya Conference in Birmingham, England in 1987, and the plenary address in Poznan, Poland (in 2003) in honor of the Centennial of Orlicz.

His research was just one facet of his talent. In 1997, he was given the Teaching Excellence Recognition Award. Grahame taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses, and produced two PhD students.



It is important to note the key role that Grahame played in the start of the now large and very successful Advanced College Program (ACP). This program links high schools and Indiana University with a strong, rigorous program for dual credit. The program started with the two public high schools in Bloomington and with two departments at IU (Chemistry and Mathematics). Grahame was the key contact person for the Mathematics Department, and he helped get the program off to a very good start and to expand it in mathematics to many very good high schools around the state.

Born: Gateshead, England January 23, 1945
Died: Zionsville, Indiana December 16, 2016
Years at IU: 1945-2008