

This issue of Note di Matematica is dedicated to the memory of our Teacher and Friend Bruno Moscatelli. Bruno was Editor in Chief of this journal; this position he would hold until his death in October 2008.

As Editors of this special issue, we are very grateful to all authors of the papers included in the issue. We are also very grateful to Prof. D. Perrone, Editor in Chief of the journal after the death of Bruno, for his helpful support.

Angela Albanese, Elisabetta Mangino, Giorgio Metafune

Bruno Moscatelli remembered

Vincenzo Bruno Moscatelli, Bruno for all who knew him, died on the 18th of October 2008 surrounded by his closest friends.

Bruno was born on the 22nd of June 1945 in Chiusi (located in Tuscany). He attended high school in nearby Montepulciano; during those years he developed a deep interest for philosophy, an interest which would stay with him for the rest of his life. As a matter of fact, he even thought of choosing Philosophy as his subject of study on entering Rome University. However, in his wide-ranging readings he had encountered quantum mechanics; this appeared to him as the most modern form of philosophy; therefore he decided to read Physics. He graduated in the autumn of 1968. During his University years two important realizations shaped his life for the future. First, he found out that Mathematics was his real interest, and, then, he was disgusted by the turmoil that engulfed Italian Universities in the late sixties; hence his decision to leave this country and to go to London to pursue Ph.D. studies in Mathematics (it has to be remembered that no Ph.D. programme existed at the time in Italy). The results he quickly derived allowed him to obtain a position as *lecturer* at the University of Sussex. For the next few years he divided his time between England and various Universities in Brazil. In the meantime there was a growing recognition of the value of his results in Functional Analysis. On the occasion of a series of talks that he had been invited to give at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, he decided to apply for a full professorship in Italy; he got such a position in Lecce in 1980. Here he would remain, always declining the offers to move to a different University. In Lecce he started many new friendships, directed the theses of many students, some of whom entered an academic career, and, especially in his first years here, he invited from different countries many brilliant mathematicians, both famous and young ones, who came to Lecce to talk and work with him. For a term he was Chairman of the Department of Mathematics and later was appointed as Editor of the journal published by the Department, *Note di Matematica*; this position he would hold until his death.

All those who knew him well were impressed by the quickness of his mind, by the vastness of his culture and of his mathematical interests, by the range and depth of his readings and rapidly cherished the chance of being in Bruno's company.

It is, however, impossible to hide the fact that Bruno's mind was never at rest and was often pained and that, in a certain sense, he was completely unarmed with respect to the unavoidable difficulties, often of the very minor difficulties, of life. In Lecce he married and had a deeply loved daughter. These were probably the most serene years of his life; unfortunately this period of Bruno's life ended abruptly when cancer brought away his wife. From that moment, his friends have seen his slow but unavoidable decline.

Until the very end, he showed his deep interest for his students, even for their human problems, his attachment to teaching, in its highest form, of conveying a culture and not just of imparting notions. In the spring of 2008 doctors diagnosed the cancer that was to bring Bruno to his death in very few months. Since the end of classes, long periods in several hospitals were followed by short ones at home.

Bruno has left a lesson of life to all those of us who have known and loved him, accepting

his disease with the highest dignity, without ever uttering a complaint, and, on the contrary, with the serene, explicit declaration that he did not fear death. This attitude of his never failed to impress doctors and nurses even when it was evident that the end was near.

Between 1972 and 2001 Bruno Moscatelli has published more than 60 articles on international journals and a book. His scientific interests were mainly devoted to the structure of Fréchet spaces, the theory of bounded operators between Banach spaces the spectral theory for elliptic operators. Many were his cooperations with mathematicians of all the world: at the beginning of career in England mainly with H. Hogbe-Nlend on bornological structures and with D. Edmunds on linear and nonlinear elliptical problems; later, when he was in Lecce with his former students and with Spanish and German colleagues on the fine structure of Fréchet spaces. His paper *Fréchet spaces without continuous norms and without bases* introduced a new class of functional spaces that are now known, among the specialists, as “spaces of type Moscatelli”.

Bruno’s interest for elliptic equations remained unchanged during his academic life. He loved to “make” Mathematics in collaboration, voicing his thoughts and letting interlocutors share his attempts, never afraid of starting along a path that lead nowhere. He listened to his collaborators and immediately saw what was relevant in what they told him; he loved to teach, from the rudiments to highest level. In Lecce he mainly gave courses on Functional Analysis, but with the same enthusiasm, he conducted labs for first and second year calculus courses when the official teachers were his former students.

Carlo Sempi

List of Publications of V.B. Moscatelli

- [1] V. B. MOSCATELLI: *Espaces bornologiques à dénombrable dont la topologie de la Mackey-fermeture est localement convexe*, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris Sér. A-B, **275** (1972), A389–A391.
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