

The Oliver Club

www.math.cornell.edu/~oliver/

Eugene B. Dynkin, Cornell University ***Seventy Years in Mathematics***

My experience since 1940 when I was admitted to the Department of Mathematics (Mekhmat) of Moscow State University.

Years 1940–1976 in the USSR

An oppressive political system and the ideological pressure. A stimulating atmosphere in Mekhmat: common values and close interaction among professors and talented graduate and undergraduate students; a culture of mathematical circles and olympiads for high school students and of seminars for freshmen and sophomores.

My debut at seminars of Gelfand and Kolmogorov. Ten years of concentration on the theory of Lie groups and algebras (some output: Dynkin diagrams, explicit form of the Campbell-Hausdorff formula). A gradual move to stochastic analysis (foundations of the theory of Markov processes, the strong Markov property, characteristic operators, a generalization and new applications of Martin boundary theory...). Interactions with students starting from their high school and freshman years and continuing to a joint research. Obstacles to their advancement created by the political system.

Since 1977 — in the USA

Opening of the entire world to travel and scientific contacts. Attempts to transplant the Russian experience to work with the first groups of students.

Research: Markov processes as a tool in field theory, the general theory of superprocesses, superdiffusions and semilinear partial differential equations...) The break-off of all contacts with former students and colleagues in Russia when I left the Soviet Union and the restoration of these contacts after the crash of the Soviet system.



Friday, May 7, 2010
at 4:30 PM in 251 Malott Hall

Refreshments will be served at 4:00 PM in the Mathematics Department lounge (532 Malott Hall).