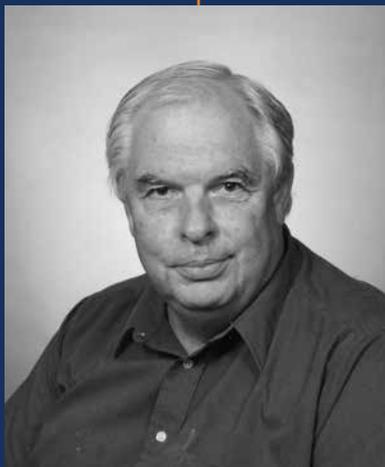


Larry Dornhoff, 1942-2017

Larry Dornhoff passed away February 10, 2017, at Carle Hospital in Urbana, IL. He completed his PhD at the University of Chicago in 1966 and was an Instructor at Yale from 1966-1968 before joining the mathematics faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1968 where he worked until his retirement in 2005.



Dornhoff was born on April 13, 1942, in Heartwell, Nebraska, growing up the eldest of three children on the family farm. He met his wife-to-be while pursuing post-graduate work at Yale University, and moved to central Illinois to accept a position at the University of Illinois following his marriage on June 8, 1968.

He is survived by his wife, Meridee Hutt Dornhoff, and their two daughters, Sharon Dornhoff of Allentown, PA and Janet Dornhoff of Wheeling, IL. His brother, Gene Dornhoff of White Rock, NM, and his sister Carol Dornhoff Simon of Columbia, MO, also survive. He was predeceased by his parents, Melvin Dornhoff and Wilhemina Peters Dornhoff.

From an early age, Larry was an avid scholar, tutor and classroom speaker. He authored two well-regarded books on group representations and a series of interactive math-teaching programs, which were licensed to NovaNet (now Pearson) and distributed around the world. He taught calculus for many years at Illinois, devoting ample time to helping students one-on-one as well as to classroom instruction, and mentoring teaching assistants.

In 1986 he received two campus grants almost simultaneously and became manager of PLATO and PC classrooms for the department, and he was the founder and director of the department's EXCEL Lab. He made a substantial contribution to mathematics education through interactive computer lessons, writing educational mathematics lessons for upper-level high school math (algebra, trigonometry and early calculus) using the PLATO system that was developed at the University of Illinois. He received Honorable mention in 1999 for the U of I Campus Award for Innovation in Undergraduate Instruction.

Dornhoff was fond of radio programs, sports (baseball especially), folk music, and comedy; he seldom missed an episode of *Midnight Special* or *Prairie Home Companion*. He bicycled extensively during his student days, and continued biking to and from work for many years. He was fond of dogs and enjoyed pampering his Brittney with walks and treats. He also liked to travel, bringing his family on numerous cross-country vacations – zoos especially, a favorite of his daughters – and escorting his wife on trips to England, Germany, and Japan.

A loving father and devoted husband, Dornhoff spoke by phone weekly with his daughters, and took great pride in their achievements. Even as his own health declined from diabetes and weight issues, he selflessly nursed his wife through a broken leg and subsequent knee replacement.

At the time of his passing, Larry was looking forward to celebrating his 75th birthday in the company of his loved ones. Now, it is they who will honor, remember, and miss this gentle, intelligent, honest, and wonderful man.

Donations can be made to the American Diabetes Foundation or the American Cancer Society.