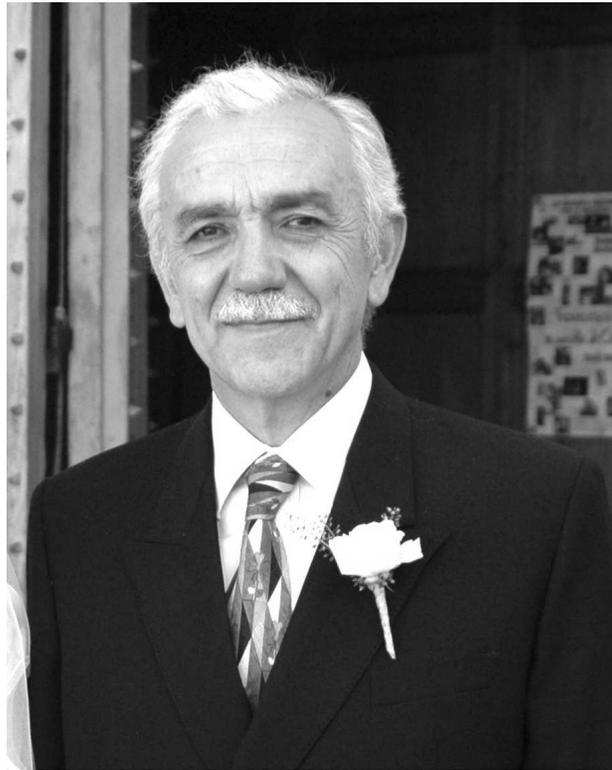


PROFESSOR ESPEDITO DE PASCALE



Esposito De Pascale was born in October 1945 near Salerno, Italy. Motivated by a thirst for truth that never abandoned him in the years to come, Espedito began his studies in Mathematics and Physics at the University of Naples. He graduated in 1969 with a dissertation in General Topology entitled “Equivalence between the theory of Cartan’s filters and the Moore-Smith-Picone theory of nets”, written under the direction of Federico Cafiero.

The University of Naples in those years was an “alma mater” that went through a dramatic change. This was due to the student unrest of 1968 and to the decision of the Universities to allow students of all the different high schools to enrol in any faculty.

Espedito did his compulsory military service in the years 1970 and 1971, and, at the end of 1971, he took up a research scholarship in Naples. At that time in Italy there was no tradition of doctoral studies, but a student would carry on research under the guidance of his supervisor; this is the reason why Espedito, with the senior researchers of the group of Cafiero and of Zitarosa (Paolo de Lucia, Nicola Fedele, Immacolata del Prete, Vincenzo Aversa, Luigi Albano), moved into Real Analysis (Theory of Differentiation of Set Functions) and Functional Analysis (Fixed Point Theory).

Two summer courses (Banach Algebras and Spectral Theory) attended at the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa led his interests further into Functional Analysis. Espedito and some of his young colleagues were given, with great joy, the office, made of wood, that Renato Caccioppoli used until his death in 1959. Espedito told us that he went into that room on tiptoe, as in a holy place, to study and also to play memorable chess games.

All of the above ended quite suddenly when, in November 1972, he moved to the nascent University of Calabria in Arcavacata, founded by Beniamino Andreatta, where Espedito spent, together with his large family, all his personal and academic life until his recent retirement.

Espedito told us that in Calabria he was given an extraordinary chance of personal and cultural growth, and the chance of taking part in a great project of social development of an entire region. In those days the University was under development and the staff members had to face considerable difficulties due to the physical construction of the campus, the lack of libraries and the fact that road, train and plane connections were very difficult.

Several practical problems including having a perfect number of children, the needs of a new University, different personal interests and the loss in 1980 of Federico Cafiero, made Espedito lose, apart from some friends, his scientific connection with the School of Naples.

Espedito, with a few of his friends (among them Renato Guzzardi, but also many others that we do not list here for brevity) found himself in a very positive human situation, but with little funds for research.

The arrival of Alfonso Vignoli, Massimo Furi and Mario Martelli, brought much enthusiasm that resulted in some collaborative works, and in the organization of

conferences, meetings and workshops that were a good advertisement for the new University of Calabria.

Several attempts to study different problems had the positive effect of the growth of great mathematical culture, that were precious for him later on.

At the beginning of the 80's the research activity of Espedito began its most productive period. A great encouragement was given to him by his former colleagues of the University of Naples (Paolo de Lucia and Guido Trombetti) and by some members of the Department in Cosenza, first of all by Pietro Pantano, a former student of his and later an unforgettable office-mate.

His research interest moved towards different parts of Functional Analysis and over the years he developed many scientific collaborations. Very important for him was to meet the young German mathematician Jürgen Appell, today at the University of Würzburg, and his Russian master Petr Petrovich Zabreiko of the University of Minsk. Jürgen Appell continued his collaboration with Espedito for many years, and gives in the following article a detailed description of Espedito's research.

Also important for Espedito were collaborations within the Department with two younger Calabrian mathematicians, Giuseppe Marino, his former student, and Paolamaria Pietramala, and with a high school teacher, Giulio Trombetta, now associate professor. An excellent contribution was also made by Pier Luigi Papini, who was in Cosenza for several years.

A strong incentive came also from students that he invited and introduced, at least in part, to research: Filomena Cianciaruso and Alessandro Trombetta, who obtained their doctoral degrees in the University of Naples, and Gennaro Infante, who completed his doctoral studies in the University of Glasgow, under the direction of Jeff Webb.

All these young mathematicians are now back in Calabria and with the "old guard", with Vittorio Colao and Luigi Muglia, students of Giuseppe Marino, and with Giampiero Chiaselotti, are part of a Nonlinear Analysis group that Espedito directed for over 30 years and where he still has contacts based on fondness and reciprocal esteem.

Among his works, we know that Espedito loved more the papers that made him suffer most, due to the fact that the solution of these problems was to begin with hidden from him, but with time he managed to unravel their secrets.

These are the papers in the references of the following note by Professor Appell, numbered [4, 5, 28, 46, 58] and also [31, 45].

Espedito had several Academic duties, for example at various times vice-head of the Department, once head of the Department, President of the Probi Viri and

many other things. We know he did not particularly like to take these duties, but he pursued these jobs with a great sense of responsibility and dedication.

His early retirement has been, without doubt, a great loss for our Department and, more in general, for our Institution.

He is a man that we admire a lot and we wish him to fully enjoy, in the future, his studies and his time.

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