ROBERT J. DAVERMAN:
A SHORT MATHEMATICAL TRIBUTE

Robert Jay Daverman was born on September 28, 1941 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He earned a B.A. from Calvin College in 1963, after which he entered graduate school at the University of Wisconsin. In 1967 he was awarded a Ph.D. for his thesis *Locally Fenced 2-spheres in S^3*, written under the direction of R. H. Bing. Shortly thereafter he moved, with wife Lana and their children Kurt and Lara, to Knoxville to join the faculty at the University of Tennessee. There he quickly rose to the rank of Full Professor—a position he continues to hold today.

A world renowned expert in the topology of manifolds, Daverman has authored or co-authored more than a hundred original research articles. He co-edited *The Collected Papers of R. H. Bing*, and more recently the *Handbook of Geometric Topology*. Best known for his work in embedding and decomposition theory, Davermans book *Decompositions of Manifolds* has become "the bible" of that subject and may be found in research libraries and in offices of geometric topologists worldwide.

To his many friends in the field of geometric topology, "Bob" is best known for his energy, enthusiasm and generosity. Students at the University of Tennessee have benefited greatly from his willingness to offer courses and seminars on a remarkable range of topics. Among these students, eleven have earned Ph.D.s under his direction. Many other young topologists have adopted him as an unofficial mentor. The lively and collegial atmosphere fostered by Bob has attracted long- and short-term visitors from across the globe to Knoxville. His outgoing style of doing mathematics is illustrated by his publication list which contains nearly fifty collaborative papers written with no fewer than twenty-five different co-authors.

In recent years, Bob has expanded the reach of his work through his involvement in the American Mathematical Society. He served as Secretary of the Southeast Region from 1993 through 1999, after which he became the ninth Secretary of the AMS in the 114-year history of the organization. Here his broad view and unselfish attitude have served the greater mathematical community well. Through all of this, his own research has continued to thrive.

The past and present organizers of the summer Workshops in Geometric Topology wish to make a special acknowledgement of Bobs contributions to this series of conferences. It is very appropriate that an event commemorating Bob's 60th birthday is associated with the 19th Annual Workshop in Geometric Topology. Twice Bob has served as the principal speaker at a summer workshop. More importantly, his regular involvement with the workshop series has benefited all participants. His warmth, friendship and unfailing eagerness to do some real mathematics are to many of us the highlight of these annual gatherings.

Craig Guilbault
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