

Deddens-Minda Undergraduate Scholarship

Professors Jim Deddens and David Minda were both born and raised in Cincinnati and were mathematics majors at UC from 1961-65 graduating with a BS in Mathematics. They were in virtually every mathematics class together, and were both in Phi Beta Kappa. While at UC they were inspired by the teaching of newly hired Professor Ed Merkes, taking Complex Analysis from him in their senior year. They both participated in a Ford Foundation grant with Professor Gaylord Merriman in their junior and senior years.

When Professor Deddens returned to UC to join faculty in 1977, he realized there were virtually no undergraduate scholarships in mathematics. Together with Professors David Minda and James Osterburg he established a new undergraduate scholarship which they named after Professor Harris Hancock, an early 20th-century department leader. In 2022 Professors Deddens and Minda decided to make a significant contribution to the Harris Hancock Scholarship Fund and rename the Fund as the Deddens-Minda Undergraduate Scholarship. They expanded the scope of the scholarship to include both undergraduate students of Mathematics and students of the recently established undergraduate degree in Statistics. They also committed to make an appeal to all their former students, with a goal of at least doubling the prior endowment.

After graduating from UC Professor Deddens accepted a full NASA fellowship to Indiana University and received his PhD in Functional Analysis. Professor Deddens then held an Assistant Professorship at University of Michigan. In 1970 Professor Deddens accepted a teaching position at the University of Kansas. He spent the academic year 1974 at SUNY at Buffalo and then returned to KU as an Associate Professor in 1975. In 1977 he accepted an Associate Professorship at UC and taught there for 35 years until 2012. He received numerous research NSF grants and is best known for his work with Professor John Bunce at KU, the so-called Bunce-Deddens Algebra. After returning to UC, Professor Deddens became interested in Applied Statistics, especially Biostatistics. He was responsible for coordinating the statistics curriculum and expanding it. He introduced an Applied Statistics, Applied Regression, Applied ANOVA, Applied Bayesian, and Robust Statistics, and a Survival analysis course and SAS programming I and II courses at the Junior/Senior/first year graduate level. He taught SAS Programming I and II, every year until he retired. It was responsible for many undergraduates and graduate students getting jobs locally. He later worked to get approval of a new MS in Statistics. He supervised about 100 MS students and 11 PhD students. He consulted with NIOSH, VA, and Wood Hudson Cancer Research Laboratory, and published over 80 articles with them. His most cited work was with Dr. Martin Petersen at NIOSH on methods for estimating

Prevalence Ratios using standard software. Together with Professor Sivaganesan he established an internship program with P&G, Children's Hospital, NIOSH and Medpace.

After graduating from UC Professor Minda stayed at UC and completed his MS degree, then went to University of California San Diego and received his PhD in 1970 in complex analysis. He then accepted a post-doctoral Fellowship at the University of Minnesota. In 1971 Professor Minda returned to teach at UC. He was an outstanding researcher. He had numerous NSF grants for research in complex analysis and for Teaching STEM curriculums. He is perhaps best known for his work with one of his PhD students (W. Ma) on a unified treatment of classes of univariant functions. He is the Charles Phelps Taft Professor of Mathematics. He received the Deans award for Distinguished Scholarship and two AIMS Research Fellowships. He was an outstanding teacher: he was awarded the university-wide Dolly Cohen Award for Excellence in Teaching, he was awarded the MAA Ohio Section Award for Distinguished Teaching, the University Award for Excellence in Teaching, and was named UC Honors Program Teacher of the Year. He served as Head of the department. He was instrumental in positioning the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) for sustained success. It has now run for about 25 years offering high school teachers the ability to obtain a mathematical content Masters degree over 3 summers. As part of his research, he has had several extended visits to the University of California San Diego. As part of his collaboration with Professor AF Beardon of Cambridge University in England, he has made several extended research trips to the University of Cambridge, England, and the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Cape Town South Africa.