



My dear friend and colleague, Dr. Ralph Oberste-Vorth, lost his battle with Parkinson's Disease on Thursday, November 23, 2023, at his home in Largo, Florida. Ralph served as the Chair of the Mathematics Department at Marshall University from 2002 to 2011. He brought his own brand of leadership to the Department, encouraging and supporting research and excellence in teaching. His belief in the importance of shared governance was reflected in his initiation of a faculty-developed set of bylaws for the Department. This document attempts to offer clarity concerning vital processes, such as tenure and promotion, and committees constructed to develop and maintain the Programs in the Department.

Ralph was a scholar, a devoted educator, and an analytically driven administrator. His leadership had a profound impact on the careers of many young academic scholars. He had a kind soul and his joyful and friendly spirit contributed to the lives of his colleagues and, most importantly, our students.

Dr. Oberste-Vorth's wife, Deborah, sent me the following information about the memorial service in his honor:

"We will gather in a private room in the Sea Sea Rider Restaurant (221 Main Street) on Saturday, 20 January, beginning at 2pm in Dunedin, FL. The plan is for anyone who wishes to speak about Ralph or experiences they have had with Ralph, to have the time to do so. For those who wish to, the scattering of Ralph's ashes will be after this. Boarding a boat, privately captained by ParrotDise Tours, will begin at 3:30pm, with a departure time of 4pm (or when everyone who wishes to attend gets on board)."

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