

IN MEMORIAM - Kevin Moriarty

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IN MEMORIAM - Kevin Moriarty

Kevin J. Moriarty, retired professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, died peacefully on August 24, 2010, in the QEII Health Sciences Centre. He was 70 years old.

Having grown up in Halifax, Moriarty graduated in 1961 with a B.Sc. in Mathematics and Physics from Saint Mary's University and in 1963 with an M.Sc. in Solid State Physics from Dalhousie. He subsequently studied at Imperial College, London, where he received a Ph.D. in Mathematical Physics in 1971. He remained at the University of London until 1983, first as a Lecturer in Mathematics, and then as a Reader in Applied Mathematics, both at Royal Holloway College.

In 1983 Kevin returned to Canada and to Dalhousie as a professor in what was then the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science, with a cross-appointment in Physics. He remained in the later Department of Mathematics and Statistics until his retirement in 2005, teaching courses in both Mathematics and Physics.

Dr. Moriarty was a prolific researcher; he authored or co-authored more than 260 academic papers in theoretical physics in international scientific journals and books. He held research grants throughout his career at Dalhousie, and attracted substantial research funds from other sources. He was also a visiting scientist at leading institutes in Europe, North America and Israel, including the IAS in Princeton and the Technion in Haifa.

His research in particle physics led Dr. Moriarty to be an early user of parallel computing. He became an advocate for establishing a supercomputing centre in Nova Scotia, and formed relationships with supercomputer centres in the United States. In the early 1990s he founded his own company that produced and marketed software development tools for high-performance computing applications.

Kevin Moriarty is survived by his wife Shizuko Moriarty, sister Eleanor Moriarty and brother Patrick Moriarty, all of Halifax. He is also survived by his daughter from a previous marriage, Debbie Tearle of Surrey, England, with husband and three children.

A mass in Kevin's memory will take place on Wednesday, September 15th, at 9:30 a.m. in the chapel of St. Vincent's Guest House on 2080 Windsor St., Halifax.