

## **In Memoriam to Stanley Zoltek**

### **Some recollections delivered by Harold Geller**

I am Harold Geller, a friend and colleague of Stan's. I will probably best be remembered by those who recall seeing me with Stan, as the chap who helped Stan maintain his wheels, his electric wheelchair wheels, that is. I often reset screws, adjusted his back support, and covered up wall dings from that wheelchair. I also helped with routine changing of batteries for his computer. I was looking over my e-mail correspondence with Stan this morning and one of the last ones dealt with a job opening at George Mason about which Stan thought I might have some interest. He also sent me numerous articles about current events; and, announcements about colleagues' health and death.

I remember well conversations with Stan during my brother's losing battle with cancer in 2011. My brother was a mathematician like Stan, and Stan met my brother on numerous occasions. In fact, Stan was one of the first to donate to a scholarship I set up in my brother's name at George Mason. I actually set up a scholarship in my brother's name before he died. Stan used to joke that if my brother survived his battle with cancer, he would ask for his money back. He of course was joking; but, he never had to ask for his money back anyway. It is fitting that something similar is being done in Stanley Zoltek's name.

During my brother's battle with cancer in 2011, I recall many conversations with Stan about life, religion and death. Those who knew him, knew he was not a religious man. I recall sharing with him something I had come up with, which summarized my view of things regarding life in general. "There is no justice; there are no gods; just me and thee against the odds." He thought that was cute.

I am certain that Stan would have shared with me some quips about the death of another wheelchair bound professor, Stephen Hawking. I disagreed with some comments made by Hawking and even gave a talk about those disagreements and my own views on the search for extraterrestrial intelligence in the galaxy. A student made a graphic for my talk; which the administration did not allow to be utilized. I ended up sending that graphic to Stephen Hawking and a student of his responded to me that they had shown it to him, and even he thought it was funny. Stan enjoyed that entire episode, including the graphic with Hawking in the wheelchair.

Although Stan is gone now, I know he would want to personally thank those at the university who went out of their way to help him with particular odds and ends. I am sorry that Amin Jazaeri could not be here, he was one of Stan's best friends at GMU, now in California. Other friends that went above and beyond for Stan, were Duane King, Justin Brown, Peter Becker and John Wallin. In the words of the Beatles, Stan got by with a little help from his friends.

I was looking for something to say to end my recollections. Obviously, I will miss Stan and his visits to my office, which he could never completely get in, because of the mess within my office. The best way I know to conclude is to borrow my brother's favorite catch phrase, which Stan also liked, "Math is #1."