

My 50 years in MSU

Exactly 50 years ago Today March-11-1967, I arrived at MSU campus (I was 17 with almost no ability to speak english). Tired and disoriented after a long trip, I got out of Greyhound bus with my suitcase, walked across Grand River Ave, there was snow all around, after some anxious wanderings I managed to find the International Center and then my dorm (I.C. looked just the same as today, minus the blaring TV-monitors and fast-food windows. The Crossroads then was a quiet student-ran cafeteria). That Spring, I took an english class from ELC, which was run by the friendly director S. Imamura (I heard he was one time a kamikaze pilot), and I sat through Jay Kurtz's grad course on set theory, after meeting warm hospitality of Gib Hocking (with dinner in his house) and motivated by his pep talk about topology (I was already converted in that direction by my father who was a mathematician). The faded photo below shows me in front of my dorm (I think it is Wilson Hall). 5 months after this picture was taken, I was on my way to a new adventure (boarding a train with my clumsy suitcase for a long train ride to UC Berkeley, at the Harrison Street station on south campus). 14 years later I returned to MSU as a faculty member, and happily went to work to improve the math dept. On my return in 1981, I was happy to see that Wells Hall gained a wonderful math library (Vernon G. Grove Library) and the nearby I.C. bookstore expanded its shelves to math books . . . But It looks like lately we had some setbacks (hopefully temporary). In this happy anniversary day there is no point in ranting about some recent rancid events (but rest assured I wont let them be forgotten, until they are repaired fairly). Please accept my apologies for this self-indulgent message on my golden anniversary. March-11-2017, Selman Akbulut

