

Faculty Evaluation

My first encounter with Dr. Krioukov was during my freshman year of college, when I was looking over a book on differential geometry. I was having trouble with some of the terminology and a friend who was taking a class with Dr. Krioukov recommended that I ask him for help. I was skeptical at first because I did not want to bother a professor whom I had never met with questions that were as elementary as clarifying definitions. My friend assured me that if I was having problems with math Dr. Krioukov was the person to ask. My friend went on to explain that he is a very kind and understanding person and he has a unique way of presenting difficult material in an easily understandable way. I decided to ask him a couple of questions and he was an incredible help. Not only did he answer my questions, he asked me additional questions to see what concepts I had understood. When I had misinterpreted a concept, he would clarify it for me immediately.

Since my first meeting with Dr. Krioukov, I have had four courses with him: Calculus—functions of several variables, An Introduction to General Relativity, Quantum Mechanics, and An Introduction to Quantum Field Theory. After taking those courses, my opinion of him has only further solidified. My friend was right; he presents extremely difficult concepts in an easily ascertainable manner. Before taking these classes, I had very little background in math or physics; but he presented the difficult material in such a way that it seemed as intuitive as elementary math. I have since taken two graduate level courses, Cosmology and General Relativity, and with the background that Dr. Krioukov provided, the courses were rather easy for me.

My only complaint was that there were not enough math and physics courses offered at the university. While Calculus was a course offered through the university, the other three courses were constructed by Dr. Krioukov and students interested in those topics attended the lectures. He gave these lectures during his free time and worked around the students' schedules so that the students who were interested could attend.

Before meeting Dr. Krioukov, I had not chosen a major, but he instilled in me an intense desire to learn as much as I can about the mathematical and physical sciences. He is the reason I chose math as a major.

Since taking courses with Dr. Krioukov, I have had seven collegiate math professors and approximately thirty other collegiate professors in various subjects and I have not yet met another professor who has been able to teach as effectively as him. I also have not met another professor who has had such a genuine concern for his students learning as he has. Dr. Krioukov is the best professor I have had and is among the nicest and most caring people I have met in my life.