

I really wish I didn't have to be up here talking. I really wish I could come to Philosophy Dept next week and bug Grisha for more information on this that and the other. I realized only too late (when walking through my email correspondence with Grisha, trying to find Marianna's email) how many things we discussed, stuff that we could, would've done, except that I was changing jobs, or he was traveling in Europe or the kids needed looking after, or etc, you name it.

When I first arrived in Bay Area I was terrified of Grisha, of his formidable knowledge of proof theory and also of his not mincing words, always calling things as they were, a spade is a spade, you 've proved or you didn't prove the theorem you wanted. Over the years I came to realize that under the brusque facade of the feared Russian Professor there was an extremely gentle, nice and caring human being, not in the least less sharp for being such a caring person. When I needed help and support, Grisha came to help me, and his was the support that I needed most. It said what you do is good, I trust your abilities, you can do this, and this meant the world to me. I since learned of others that he helped the same way, we're all a bit orphaned now. I miss you, Grisha.

— Valeria de Paiva