

A REPORT ON THE 19TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FIBONACCI NUMBERS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS

MARJORIE BICKNELL JOHNSON

The 19th International Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications, July 20–25, 2020, at the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, was first announced in the February 2019 issue of *The Fibonacci Quarterly*. However, because of travel restrictions caused by the pandemic, organizers Steven J. Miller (Williams College) and Leija Smajlovic (University of Sarajevo) had to act fast on their feet. Without Zoom, we would have had no conference.

The 19th became the first Fibonacci Conference conducted online, with 40 speakers from 16 countries: United States, 19; Colombia, 2; India, 2; Israel, 2; Japan, 2; South Africa, 2; and Thailand, 2; and one speaker each from Australia, Croatia, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Morocco, and Spain. The first talk included 77 participants in the audience; no participant data was available. The plenary speakers were Florian Luca (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg) and Katherine Stange (University of Colorado Boulder).

Think for a moment on the wonder of this. A hundred years ago, my grandfather commuted across the Yuba River in a Flying Dutchman to work his gold mining claim in Downieville, Calif., in the Sierra Nevada mountains, 100 miles from Sacramento. (No, not the legendary ghost ship – my grandfather’s name for the contraption that he built to cross the river. Cables moved around wheels on each end, like a large clothesline; he sat in a basket and reeled himself across.) He had no computer, no Internet, no television, and only rudimentary telephone service.

Our first plenary speaker, Florian Luca, spoke from his home in South Africa to me in my study. I wish I could tell my grandfather; he loved science fiction books written by Jules Verne and Edgar Rice Burroughs. The conference was well planned and all the talks were excellent. YouTube videos are available at <http://www.pmf.unsa.ba/fibonacci19/index.php>. However, I missed interacting with people.

A big thank you to all the conference organizers: Steven J. Miller and Leija Smajlovic, Thomas Martinez (Harvey Mudd College), and Zenan Sabanac and Lamija Sceta (both from the University of Sarajevo).

I hope to see all of you in 2022.

SANTA CLARA, CA 95051
Email address: marjohnson89@earthlink.net