A REPORT ON THE 21ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FIBONACCI NUMBERS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS
JULY 8–12, 2024
HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE
CLAREMONT, CA

MARJORIE BICKNELL JOHNSON

I attended a magical conference on Fibonacci Numbers this summer. The cover page for the schedule of events featured a juggler with the first terms of the Fibonacci sequence: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13 in the air and 21 below on his shirt. The juggler set the conference's friendly and magical atmosphere.

The 21st International Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications had 86 registered attendees, of which 16 were remote. We had speakers from Bahrain, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. There were 60 talks given, of which 11 were virtual. The conference was made possible by the generous support of the National Science Foundation, Harvey Mudd College, Williams College, and the Dr. Herchel Smith Fellowship, as well as several anonymous donors.

Talks ranged from number theoretic considerations to growth patterns of plants applied to cancer research. We heard about mathematics in art and music and the Golden Ratio in geometry and life.

On Monday, July 8, we had a cake party reception where the work of Curtis Cooper, Karl Dilcher, Ashley DeFazio, and Marjorie Bicknell-Johnson was recognized with Fibonacci T-shirts. Marjorie was presented a golden rectangle pendant, and Art was given a golden ring bearing the Fibonacci Star. We also enjoyed an informal chat with Marjorie Bicknell-Johnson, Curtis Cooper, and Clark Kimberling, reflecting on the history of the association.

Wednesday was a special day devoted to fun. In the morning, we heard from Brian Transeau, a Grammy-nominated artist, interviewed by Zoe Messenger; Jacqueline Cordes: How Vast Is Music? Exploring Musical Chromesthesia and the "Scale Space" with the Fibonacci Sequence; Jeanette Shakalli: The Fibonacci Game Show; and Jenny Quinn: Lessons that Really Count: The Fibonacci Edition. As an additional treat, Art Benjamin presented a special magic show.

On Wednesday afternoon, we made an excursion to the world-famous Magic Castle in Los Angeles. A great time was had by all.

The conference ended with Art Benjamin handing over the reins to incoming President of the Fibonacci Association, Steven J. Miller from Williams College. *The Fibonacci Quarterly* will have a new publisher, Taylor and Francis, which publishes the journals of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and the American Mathematical Society (AMS).

Anitha Srinivasan is the incoming Editor of *The Fibonacci Quarterly*.

Our next international conference will be in Istanbul in 2026. To see a list of the places we have been, go to our website

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`https://www.mathstat.dal.ca/fibonacci`

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We incorporated in 1963 when we began publication of *The Fibonacci Quarterly* journal. I was there in the beginning, in 1962.

I have attended 19 of these conferences. There is no way to choose the "best" one. For me, it's the congenial people I meet and see conference after conference. I was excited to see friends I had not seen in person since before Covid.

Auf wiedersehen, as my dear Fibonacci friend Herta Frietag used to tell us after every conference when she wrote the meeting report.

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