A REPORT ON THE FOURTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FIBONACCI NUMBERS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS

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The Fourteenth Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications held at Instituto de Matemáticas de la UNAM in Morelia, Mexico from July 5 - 9 found over 50 Fibonacci number enthusiasts from Algeria, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, Taiwan, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the continental United States, and the Virgin Islands presenting and listening to a variety of Fibonacci and related topics. During breaks and over savory lunches old friends and new discussed the presentations and exchanged ideas for future investigations while warmly remembering and greatly missing those who were unable to attend the conference.

Attendees hailing from Academia and Industry consisted of Fibonacci Association members of long standing and first time participants including several bright young Fibonacci neophytes. The talks were both informative and entertaining as lively repartee between speaker and audience often ruled the sessions. In fact, presentations were often just plain fun.

In addition to the academic portion of the agenda there were a variety of social excursions. On Wednesday afternoon the group boarded a pair of trolleys and were treated to a tour of historic Morelia, stopping at the beautifully ornate church, Santuario de Guadalupe and later witnessed the making of local candy (with samples, of course). Followed, was a brisk walk back to respective hotels with the opportunity to stop in various shops along the way. That evening everyone enjoyed the conference banquet at the magnificent mountaintop restaurant, Villa Monaña. The food was superb and the spectacular panoramic evening view of the city was overwhelming. Cameras were flashing all evening.

In addition, the Association, via Cal Long and Bill Webb, honored charter member Marjorie Johnson for her many years of service and also Karl Dilcher for all the work he has done and continues to do in maintaining the home page of the Fibonacci Association.

But the pièce de résistance had to be the Mexican Fiesta, complete with an eleven pièce mariachi band held at the home of our host, Florian Luca, on Thursday evening. Supplied with authentic Mexican food and drink many members let down their Fibonacci fleece and provided a dandy display of dancing (in the rain, just like Gene) for those who preferred to sit back and watch while their cameras recorded the event.

Some had to leave on Friday, but Marjorie Johnson reported that on Saturday about thirty intrepid Fibonaccians visited an archeological site, a museum of Aztec relics in Patzcuaro and other interesting sites. Peter Anderson noted that the group also visited a basilica and many interesting shops, including one with some "funky ice cream". He was later witnessed dueling with a bevy of balloons after being snagged by a street clown in Cathedral Square.

THE FIBONACCI QUARTERLY

Several noted that 14 is half perfect, but there was nothing half-perfect about the conference and all of its activities. It was, in every way imaginable, PERFECT. Our host, Florian Luca and his team of organizers and aides all deserve accolades that would challenge the vocabulary of Roget.

Finally, amid smiles and a bit of sadness this memorable sojourn to Morelia, Mexico came to an end. The time had arrived for Fibonaccians, one and all, to bid adios, a Mexican goodbye to Conference XIV while, perhaps, thinking of isten hozott, a Hungarian welcome to Conference XV in 2012.