

THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FIBONACCI NUMBERS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS

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Rochester Institute of Technology, which has been internationally respected as a world leader in career-oriented and professional education since 1829, was the inspired choice of setting for our Eighth Conference. We are indeed grateful to RIT, as well as to the Fibonacci Association, for sponsoring our conference. A special word of thanks goes to Dr. Albert Simone, President of RIT, Wiley R. McKinzie, Dean of Applied Science and Technology, and Dr. Walter A. Wolf, Chair of the Computer Science Department.

The participants came from eighteen different countries: 28 from the USA, three each from Australia, Canada, and Japan, two each from Germany and Italy, and one participant from each of Austria, Belarus, Cyprus, Denmark, England, France, Greece, Iceland, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, and Scotland. Five of the presenters were women. There were four mathematicians who have attended all of the eight conferences, many who have attended several, most happily, several who have attended for the first time. The magnetism of Fibonacci-type mathematics drew even some who did not present a paper. The ages ranged from a few who were in their twenties to one who will soon earn the title of nonagenarian.

There have been two major changes since our last conference, both involving Jerry Bergum. After eighteen years as editor of *The Fibonacci Quarterly*, he has handed over the baton to Curtis Cooper. We wish Curtis all success and fulfillment in his new role. At the same time, Jerry has been succeeded as conference organizer by Fred Howard, who also has our best wishes. Fred is already widely respected for his wisdom and kindness. We hope that Jerry will attend many more of our conferences. We deeply appreciate all he has done. He has been in a very real sense the heart and soul of our Association. We would also like to renew our thanks to Calvin Long for his continuing work as our President. Our discussions have been illuminated by his fine mathematical insights.

This is a conference where all of the talks are attended by almost all of the participants, who appreciated the diversity of topics covered and the remarkable level of quality of the papers. All of the presentations displayed the high enthusiasm of the speakers for their studies. And they all showed enjoyment over the opportunity of sharing their ideas with each others.

As well as working hard (51 talks in five days!), the group also enjoyed some delightful social events, the highlight being a "cook-out" at the Andersons' home with Peter and Jane our gracious hosts. Through his wit and warmth, Peter immediately set the stage for a conference where we not only saw a fellow mathematician in each other (which would already be enjoyable) but, moreover, a friend. We are deeply grateful to Peter and his helpers for all their hard work in preparing those delightful outings for us and the extra care they took in looking after us in Rochester.

The friendships created by this sequence of Fibonacci conferences has produced many worthwhile results in the area of mathematics. At this conference we enjoyed renewing old friendships and beginning new ones. The "Goddess Mathesis" (to use Howard Eves' term) looks favorably on these friendships.

Finally, we had to part. But now, we greatly look forward to meeting again in two years in Luxembourg in 2000.