

INTRODUCTION

On May 28-31, 1997, the Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences sponsored its 11th conference. These conferences have been held every 2 years since 1977. While this conference was held at Wheaton College, the previous one was at Taylor University in 1995, and the next one will be at Gordon College in 1999.

For the second conference in a row, more than 100 delegates attended the conference. For thirty-nine delegates, this was their first ACMS conference, and several of these participated in the program. Almost 20 students also attended, which was a welcome addition. The conference program was very full, with several parallel sessions held to accommodate the large numbers of contributed papers. A new feature was a Wednesday night session on the sharing of interests when 16 delegates shared briefly some aspects of their personal or professional life.

Our featured speaker was Owen Gingerich, who has joint appointments from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and Harvard University. His extended study of astronomy and his travels all over the world provided a wealth of background for his presentations. We also had a major presentation on linear algebra by David Lay from the University of Maryland, but are not able to include a copy of his paper in the Proceedings. David's work in Linear Algebra Reform has been very visible through his work in the MAA during the past several years. We were pleasantly surprised to have Gennadiy Kalyabin from Russian as a last minute addition to our program, and there was much to be learned from the experience of our Christian brother.

At the Business Meeting, we recognized the work of Russ Howell and Carol Harrison, who completed their term of service on the ACMS Board. Two new board members, Charles Hampton and Barbara Rose, will join Alice Iverson, David Lay, Michael Stob, and Richard Stout as board members during the next two years. Alice Iverson was chosen to serve as President and Michael Stob as Vice-President until 1999.

A writing project was also announced during the conference, and volunteers are being sought to serve at working conferences in the summer of 1998 on materials that discuss the nature of mathematics and its relationship to the Christian faith. Also announced was the participation of ACMS as a charter member of the organization called the Coalition of Christian Scholarly Societies. This subgroup of IFACS meets each March for a conference to discuss ways to integrate the Christian faith across a variety of disciplines.

This conference marked the 20th anniversary since the first conference was held in 1977. This event was celebrated at the Friday night banquet. There is also a brief history of the first 20 years in the last paper of the Proceedings. We are thankful for all the good things during the past 20 years of ACMS, and are looking forward to the next twenty with enthusiasm.