

INTRODUCTION

The twelfth biennial conference of the Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences was held at Gordon College, May 26-29, 1999. Eighty-seven delegates attended, coming from across the United States, Canada, and South Africa. It was the first ACMS conference held in New England and the response was very encouraging.

Our keynote speaker was Professor William Dunham who is the Truman Koehler Professor of Mathematics at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Professor Dunham has received awards for excellence in expository writing and his skill was evident in his two talks, titled "Euler Sums and Euler Crumbs." Professor Dunham led us through the development of several results of Leonhard Euler, illustrating many of the surprising, rich, and clever techniques that Euler used. Because much of this material is included in his recent book, Euler: The Master of Us All, published by the Mathematical Association of America, Professor Dunham did not include any papers in these proceedings.

Another highlight of the conference was a series of four talks, presented as part of an ongoing ACMS project which is expected to result in a book, tentatively titled "Mathematics in a Post-Modern World: A Christian Perspective." Designed to stimulate scholarly activity among Christians interested in mathematics, the book will approach mathematics from three main perspectives: historical (pre-modern, modern, and post-modern views of mathematics), internal (questions dealing with the nature of mathematics and our knowledge of it), and contextual (questions of values, relationship to theology, and the influence of mathematics on culture.) This project is receiving funding from a grant provided by the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship. The talks were presented by four of the project's team members, Scott VanderStoep, David Klanderman, Glen VanBrumelen, and Paul Zwier. Because these presentations consisted of working papers that will later appear in the book, copies of the papers are not included in these proceedings.

Conference delegates also enjoyed talks and book reviews given by a variety of ACMS members. Among the highlights was a presentation by Professor Victor Hill of Williams College who gave an enlightening and entertaining talk on "Mathematical Aspects of the Music of Bach." Professor Dave Neuhouser of Taylor University was the conference banquet speaker, considering the work of Lewis Carroll as a mathematician, an author, and a Christian. For the first time an evening session provided opportunity for delegates to review a number of trade books on mathematical topics. Many of these reviews are included in the proceedings. Finally, we appreciated the series of devotions presented by Harold Heie from the Center for Christian Studies at Gordon College. Harold was prominent in the early conferences of what would become the ACMS and it was good to again have him participate in an ACMS conference.

As with past conferences, new friendships were made, old acquaintances renewed, and numerous opportunities for fellowship were enjoyed. We look forward to the next ACMS conference, scheduled to be held at Calvin College in 2001.

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