

Introduction

The 1989 conference of the Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences (ACMS) was held at Messiah College between May 31 and June 2. The principal speaker was Dr. Thomas F. Banchoff, Professor of Geometry at Brown University. Professor Banchoff gave two talks and was available for informal discussion. An edited transcript of his faith/discipline talk appears in these Proceedings. For information from Professor Banchoff's mathematical talk, you are referred to the bibliography of his works which also appears here.

Professor Banchoff's talks were visually rich with slides, films, videotapes, and even sample homeworks from his students. It seemed appropriate therefore to include a picture of conferees in these Proceedings as well as of Professor Banchoff and of Edwin A. Abbott. The two men were born 100 years apart, and were married 100 years apart. In 1984, Professor Banchoff held a conference on the fourth dimension at Brown University to celebrate 100 years since the publication of Flatland.

In expressing appreciation to Professor Banchoff for his work, I read the following citation.

Thomas Francis Banchoff, we became mathematicians because it is fun. You have never lost your boyish enthusiasm for the surprise and joy of doing mathematics. Many of us teach mathematics. You teach mathematics with an historical perspective by which you show us your love for our discipline. We've seen evidence of your care for your students in treating them as colleagues rather than as containers. We share with you the affirmation that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Saint Peter says "Add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. If you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." [II Peter 1:5-8] That is our prayer for you.

Thank you for sharing your work and yourself during this short day and a half. You have honored us in coming. We honor you now with appreciation for your gifts.

Other talks explored the applications, history, and teaching of Mathematics. Videotapes of all of the talks are available for loan or purchase from me. You may write to me at Messiah College.

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