

**A REPORT ON THE THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON FIBONACCI NUMBERS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS**

**UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS, GREECE  
JULY 7–12, 2008**

MARJORIE BICKNELL JOHNSON

The Fibonacci Association returned to the University of Patras, the location of the First International Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications in 1984, for a week-long exchange of knowledge and fellowship. Conference host Professor Andreas Philippou - organizer of both the First and the Thirteenth International Conferences - greeted sixty-four presenters from twenty-one different countries: Australia, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States. We are indeed grateful to the University of Patras for sponsoring our conference. A special word of thanks goes to Andreas and Athina Philippou, to the Rector of the University of Patras, Professor Stavros Koumbias, and to Professor D. Antzoulakos, the Mathematics Department at Patras, and to the local committee. Thank you. *Efharistó*.

This was a conference where all of the talks were attended by virtually all of the participants. The papers covered diverse topics with a remarkable level of quality, fifteen minutes per talk, and an hour-long invited lecture by Professor Carl Pomerance, Dartmouth College: Primality Testing - Variations on a Theme of Lucas.

As well as working hard (52 talks in five days!), the group enjoyed some delightful social events, the highlights starting Monday with a wine and cheese social in Ceremony Hall featuring traditional Greek folk dancers. Professors Andreas Philippou and Stavros Koumbias took the stage to present honorary diplomas to Bill Webb, President of the Fibonacci Association; Larry Somer who has attended every International Conference; and Marjorie Bicknell Johnson for forty-five years of service to the Fibonacci community as Secretary of the Fibonacci Association and collaborator of the founder of the Fibonacci Association, Verner Hoggatt, Jr. A group photo opportunity was taken on the steps of the Church of Agios Andreas in Patras Wednesday morning. The evening banquet was held Thursday at the Achaia Beach Hotel, in view of the spectacular Rion-Andirio Bridge over the Peloponnese Bay. The gracious Philippou family led us in our turn to participate in Greek dancing. Again, *Efharistó*.

The traditional conference field trip was held on Saturday, a visit to Ancient Olympia in the hills of Ilia, where the symbolic flame is lit for its worldwide journey to invite participants from every country to the Olympic Games. We visited the ancient stadium track itself, 192 meters long and a dusty ghost of former grandeur. One could sense the embers of the 2004 Athens games. In the spirit of the day and in spite of 40° C heat, Curtis Cooper, Richard Ollerton, Christian Ballot, and Zvonko Cerin ran the length of the stadium barefoot but clad. Ancient Olympians performed naked and oiled, showing perfect harmony of mind and

## THE FIBONACCI QUARTERLY

body; our modern contenders had sunscreen and developed toe cuts and scorched feet. In the second heat, Curtis vs. Andrzej Rotkiewicz, the latter ran the full length of the stadium dressed in dark suit and tie, black dress shoes, and a white hat, leaving the former in the dust.

We were sorry to say goodbye *yassous* to Greece and to our friends in the Fibonacci Association, but we look forward to the 2010 conference scheduled for the first week in July in Morelia, Mexico.

665 FAIRLANE AVE., SANTA CLARA, CA 95051

*E-mail address:* marjohnson@mac.com