
A TOAST TO OUR EDITOR



**To Gerald E. Bergum in appreciation of
18 years of dedicated service as Editor of
*The Fibonacci Quarterly Journal***

So read the inscription on the plaque presented to Jerry Bergum at the banquet of the Eighth International Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications held in Rochester, New York, this past June. The attendees of the conference, representing 18 countries, gave Jerry a standing ovation upon his acceptance of the plaque.

But what a colossal understatement of the true feelings of gratitude that the presentation of such a plaque is meant to convey. Dedicated service, indeed! How can words describe the demands of processing over 1000 papers for potential publication in the *Quarterly*; acknowledgment of receipt of these papers from a myriad of authors; arranging for refereeing by a stellar collection of referees; follow-up of authors with articles in the pipeline, deciding whether to accept, reject, or ask for a revision of a paper; providing support and encouragement to inexperienced authors to turn ineptly presented but neat mathematical ideas into well reasoned and publishable papers; coordinating the typing, layout, and printing of each issue of the *Quarterly*; and generating a mountain of ancillary correspondence.

In addition to his *Fibonacci Quarterly* work, Jerry Bergum edited the Proceedings of our biennial international conferences—a task equivalent to producing a full year's volume of the *Quarterly*, with the associated responsibilities of negotiating with the commercial publisher of the Proceedings, admonishing authors to proofread their papers in a timely fashion, and coordinating all activities needed to provide a camera-ready copy to the publisher.

It seems inevitable that the metaphor "tip of the iceberg" comes to mind when describing Jerry's Fibonacci efforts. While handling all these responsibilities, he served as Chairman of the Department of Computer Science at South Dakota State University, taught four courses per term, served as governor for his MAA Section, gave speeches to various academic groups, and assisted in the raising of a family of ten children.

In summation, Jerry is truly a remarkable person, with an infinite capacity for arduous work, a sympathetic and helpful attitude toward authors, and an uncompromising quest for quality of achievement in himself and those with whom he is associated.

Under his leadership, *The Fibonacci Quarterly* has not only prospered but has achieved an international reputation for excellence. The members of The Fibonacci Association, and all others who have read the *Quarterly* over these past 18 years, do indeed owe a considerable debt of gratitude to our Editor for his years of dedicated and selfless effort on behalf of us all.

Last, but certainly far from least, it goes without saying that all of this could not have happened had Jerry not had the strong support and understanding of his family and, particularly, his wife, Shirley. Jerry and Shirley, know that our hats are off to both of you, and that you have the respect, appreciation, and love of the many individuals you have touched during this 18-year saga of service to an idea and an ideal.