

M I S C E L L A N E A

– List of Mathematicians and Computer Scientists of Romanian extraction residing outside Romania

– Obituaries: Cezar Avramescu (1935–2007), Dan Butnariu (1950–2007)

– Izu Vaisman (on his 70th Birthday)

– Doctoral Degrees Obtained Abroad by Romanian Students (2006–2007)

– From the bookshelves

– Conferences, Congresses

– Appeal

– LIBERTAS MATHEMATICA (publication policy, subscription, exchanges)

– Authors of volume XXVIII

– Contents of volume XXVIII

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OBITUARIES

Cezar Avramescu (1935 – 2007)

Cezar Avramescu was born in the city of Galați, Romania, and graduated in 1960 from "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași. He obtained the Ph. D. degree in Mathematics, from the same university, in 1969, under the guidance of Prof. Ilie Popa, the head of the Chair of Mathematical Analysis, with a thesis on Qualitative Theory of Differential Equations.

During the period 1960-1966, he was employed by his Alma Mater as an Assistant, and distinguished himself as a member of the Seminar on Qualitative Theory of Differential Equations. In Fall 1966 he occupied a position of Lecturer (Assistant Professor) with the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Sciences at the University of Craiova. He has been promoted to Associate Professor in 1970, and in 1976 he became a Professor with the same university. In 1973 he has been a Visiting Professor at the Instituto Tecnico Nacional, Mexico City. Later in his career, he has been awarded the title of Honorary Professor, by the University of Craiova.

Cezar Avramescu has developed a successful career for more than 40 years at the University of Craiova, teaching several basic Courses in the field of Mathematical Analysis, with particular emphasis on Differential Equations (see the list of Textbooks).

He has authored a monograph entitled "Applications of the Fixed Point Method to Ordinary Differential and Integral Equations on Noncompact Intervals", in which most of his research preoccupations found place. He has recently formulated and proved an original result on Fixed Point Method in Frechet function spaces, with interesting applications to Continuum Mechanics (jointly with M. Sofonea).

His research activity is illustrated in over 60 journal papers, published in prestigious publications like *Annali Mat. Pura Applicata*, *Nonlinear Analysis TMA*, *Rendiconte Accad. Nazionale dei Lincei*, *Abstract and Applied Analysis*, *Revue Roumaine de Math. Pures et Appl.*

Several mathematicians in the fields of Differential equations have made reference to Avramescu's work. We mention here Roberto Conti, Thomas Hallam, C. Corduneanu, N. Rouche, P. Habets, Jean Mawhin, Ioan A. Rus, Athanassios Kartsatos a.o.

Young mathematicians like Cristian Vladimirescu and Octav Mustafa, with the University of Craiova, have grown as mature researchers influenced by Cezar Avramescu.

Besides his mathematical preoccupations and publications, Cezar Avramescu has dedicated time, energy and inspiration for his poetry gift. He published also numerous essays in *Gazeta de Sud*, *Curierul Național* and other periodicals. He has authored two volumes of poetry (*Neliniști*; *Torments*), and another containing articles in periodicals. His literary endeavours have been highly appreciated by Marin Sorescu, one of the prominent Romanian contemporary poets, who wrote in the Preface of a book by Avramescu: "I appreciate and

like in these poems the geometric rigour, trying to establish some order and exactness in the imprecise real of senses.

Constantin Corduneanu, University of Texas at Arlington
Cristian Vladimirescu, University of Craiova, Romania

Textbook

1. *Differential and integral equations*, Repr. Univ. Craiova, 1973, 300 pp.
2. *Guide and problems of differential and integral equations* (with I. Barbulescu), Repr. Univ. Craiova, 1976, 370 pp.
3. *Méthodes topologiques dans la théorie des équations différentielles*, Ed. I 1997, Ed. II 1998, Repr. Univ. Craiova, 98 pp.
4. *Differential equations and boundary conditions* (with O. Mustafa), Repr. Univ. Craiova, 1999, 90 pp.
5. *Calculus*, Repr. Univ. Craiova, 2000, 40 pp.
6. *Calculus for Computer Sciences College* (with C. Vladimirescu), Repr. Univ. Craiova, 2002, 294 pp.
7. *Differential and integral equations for Computer Sciences students* (with C. Vladimirescu), Repr. Univ. Craiova, 2003, 246 pp.

Dan Butnariu (1950 – 2008)

Recently, passed away Dr. Dan Butnariu, formerly a Professor of Mathematics with the University of Haifa, Israel. His basic education has been accomplished at the University Al. I. Cuza, Iasi, Romania, Department of Mathematics, where he got a Master of Science degree in pure mathematics (1974), then a Ph. D. in Operations Research (1980). His background was very strong in Topology and Game Theory; thereafter, his Ph. D. work was devoted to an existence theorem for Fuzzy Games, a topic which was emerging in those year, starting with professors Aubin (Paris) and Zimmerman (Aachen). Dan Butnariu introduced a concept of Fuzzy fixed point and succeeded to prove the existence of an equilibrium point, as an extension of the work usually done for deterministic games. The results have been published in *Fuzzy Sets and Systems*, volume 1, 1979, 181-192, and brought him an instant international recognition.

In 1984, Dan Butnariu immigrated to Israel from Romania; there he got a two year post doctoral position at Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, and became a member of the seminar organized by Professor Robert Aumann (further a Nobel Price Winner, 2005), In 1986, he got a regular position of Senior Lecturer at University of Haifa, where he continued to work and passed through the Associate Professor position (1991-1997), becoming a full professor of Mathematics in 1997. A significant improvement in his general horizon of scientific research, due to his continuous work and presentations at the main international events, brought him two one year appointments as a Visiting Assistant professor (1990-1991), then as a Visiting Associate professor (1996-1997), at the University of Texas in the Dallas- Fort Worth area, at Arlington, where he taught operations research classes. Dan Butnariu has been the Chairman of the Department of Mathematics, University of Haifa, between 1997-1999.

The work done by Dan Butnariu was reaching a wide range of topics in Operations Research at a very abstract level. The list of published papers has cca 80 items, each being a

comprehensive group of results, connected to the most recent references and published in well known journals. While his starting point was Game Theory, the results were connected to the Mathematics of various fields of Operations Research and to close adjacent subjects. The list of Dan Butnariu publications can still be found at <http://math.haifa.ac.il/dbutnarupublications>. The grants obtained from the government of Israel allowed him to carry out two main projects of cooperation at University of Linz, Austria, and Institute of Pure and Applied Mathematics, Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia. These have been materialized as two monographs published by Kluwer Academic Publishers:

D. Butnariu and E. P. Klement (1993), Triangular norm based measures and Games with fuzzy coalitions;

D. Butnariu and A.N. Iusem (2000), Totally convex functions for fixed points computation and infinite dimensional optimization.

An editorial cooperation inside his department put together a very useful research book: Inherently parallel algorithms in feasibility and optimization and their applications, D. Butnariu, Y. Censor and S. Reich (eds.), Elsevier, Amsterdam, 2001.

A humanly contribution of late Dan Butnariu has been the friendly and competent assistance he gave to his several Ph.D. students, as well as his connection with Romania, the country where he was born and which needed the recognition of the World as a professionally stronghold of Mathematics (see the joint work with professor G. Kassay, University of Cluj, in the list of publications).

Irinel Dragan, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, University of Texas, U.S.A.
Izu Vaisman, Profesor of Mathematics, University of Haifa, Israel

Izu Vaisman (on his 70th Birthday)

Izu Vaisman is a Romanian - Israeli mathematician with research interest in Modern Differential Geometry.

He was born in Iași (Jassy), Romania, on June 22, 1938, where he received the general education and his mathematical training. In 1976 he emigrated to Israel, together with his wife Silvia (Avram), a Physics teacher.

While in Iași, Izu Vaisman has been associated with the University "Al. I. Cuza", and in Israel he held positions with the University of Haifa, until his retirement in 2006. He continues the research work, extending the list of publications which currently contains over 130 items. His brilliant career, as a college professor and scientist, has made his name well known in the international mathematical community.

An illustration of his life and academic activities is given in the following pages, as well as in a list of selected publications.

Prof. Izu Vaisman is warmly Congratulated on his 70th Birthday by his colleagues from Israel, Romania, United States, Canada and other countries.

Training: Studies in Mathematics at the Univ. of Jassy (Romania), M.Sci. - 1959, Ph.D. - 1965.

Positions: Faculty of Mathematics, Univ.of Jassy (Romania): Teaching Assistant (1959-1964), Assistant Prof. (1964-1969), Associate Prof.(1969-1976); Department of Mathematics, Univ.of Haifa (Israel): Full Professor (1976 - 2006), Head of the Department (1982-1984, 1999-2001), Professor Emeritus (2006 -).

Honorary Titles: Doctor Honoris Causa, Univ. of Jassy (Romania), (1999).

Casual Positions: Department of Math., Univ. of Tel-Aviv (Israel):

Invited Professor (March-June 1977, October 1977- January 1978); Dipartimento Matematico, Politecnico di Torino (Italy): C.N.R.-Visiting Professor (July 1979, September-October 1983); Department of Math., Mc Gill University, Montreal (Canada): Visiting Professor (January-May 1982); Institut de Math., Univ.de Montpellier II (France): Visiting Professor (October-December 1986); Departement de Math., Univ.de Strasbourg I (France): Visiting Professor (January-February 1987);

UFR de Math., Univ. de Lille I (France): Visiting Professor (October 1992-March 1993); Department of Math., La Trobe Univ., Melbourne (Australia): Visiting Research Fellow (May-June 1993); E. Schrödinger International Institute for Math. Physics, Vienna (Austria): Visiting Scientist (July-August 1993, August 1994, November-December 1998); Pennsylvania State University, University Park (USA): Visiting Scientist (September-October 1998); École Polytechnique, Palaiseau (France): Directeur de Recherche (March-May 1999), Bernoulli Center, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland, Visiting Scientist,(July-August 2006).

Subjects taught: Graduate: Differential Geometry, Differentiable Manifolds, Algebraic Topology, Differential Topology, Geometry, etc. Undergraduate: Calculus, Linear Algebra, Analytic Geometry, Projective Geometry, Analysis, General Topology, etc.

Conferences attended: Bucharest (Romania) 1964, 1966, 1969, 2007; Jassy (Romania) 1970; Varna (Bulgaria) 1967; Rostok (Germany) 1968; Lancut (Poland) 1972; Helsinki (Finland) 1978; Haifa (Israel) 1979; Arlington (Texas, USA) 1982; Torino (Italy) 1983; Debrecen (Hungary) 1984; Santiago de Compostela (Spain) 1984; Lyon (France) 1986; Marseille (France) 1986; Bari (Italy) 1987; Avignon (France) 1988; Peniscola (Spain) 1988; Dubrovnik (Yugoslavia) 1988; Eger (Hungary) 1989; Barcelona (Spain) 1991; Strasbourg (France) 1991; Lille (France) 1993; Tel-Aviv (Israel) 1993; Montpellier (France) 1995; Jassy (Romania) 1995; Budapest (Hungary) 1996; Varna (Bulgaria) 1997; Warsaw (Poland) 1998; CIM-Summer School Coimbra (Portugal) 1999; Luminy (Marseille, France) 2000; Tel-Aviv (Israel) 2001; Varna (Bulgaria) 2002; Haifa (Israel) 2002; Lecce (Italy) 2003; Luxembourg City (Luxembourg) 2004; Firenze (Italy) 2005; Mangalia (Romania) 2005; Jerusalem (Israel) 2006; Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife, Spain) 2006; Nachsholim (Haifa, Israel) 2007.

Conferences organized: Haifa (Israel) 1979 (with R. Artzy), Lille (France) 1993 (with G. M. Tuynman)

Visits and lectures at universities and mathematical institutes: Bucharest, Timișoara, Cluj (Romania); Technion (Haifa), Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem (Israel); Paris, Strasbourg, Lille, Toulouse, Lyon, Montpellier (France); Bruxelles (Univ. Libre), Leuven (Catholic Univ.) (Belgium); Torino, Parma, Rome, Bari (Italy); Santiago de Compostela, Granada, Zaragoza, Valencia, Barcelona, Sevilla, Bilbao (Spain); Oxford, Warwick-Coventry (England); Berkeley (Univ. of California and MSRI), Maryland-College Park, Illinois-Urbana, Texas-Arlington, US-Naval Academy Annapolis-Maryland (USA); Mc Gill-Montreal, Laval-Québec, Trois-Rivières (Canada); Beograd (Yugoslavia); Kyoto (Japan), Krakow (Poland), Lausanne (EPFL) (Switzerland)

Miscellanea: Member of the Romanian Math. Society (1959-1976); Member of the American Math. Society (1974-1985); Member of the Israeli Math. Union (1977-); Honorary Member of the Balkan Society of Geometers (1998-); Reviewer of Mathematical Reviews (1971-1990); Reviewer of Zentralblatt für Math. (1971-1991) Editor of Israel J. of Math. (1992-); Editor of Analele Științifice Univ. Iași (Romania), Secția Mat. (1997-), Editor of Mediteranean Journal of Mathematics (2003-), Editor of International Journal of Geometric Methods in Modern Physics (2003-), Editor of Journal of Geometry and Symmetry in Physics (2003-), Editor of Balkan Journal of Geometry and Applications (2006-), Editor Travaux Mathématiques Université Luxembourg (2005-)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

A. Books

Advanced Geometry (A short course in geometry for students in mathematics, computer science, physics and engineering) (in Hebrew). Department of Math., Univ. of Haifa, Israel, 2004 (235 p.)

Analytical Geometry, World Scientific, Singapore, 1997 (280 p.)

Lectures on the Geometry of Poisson Manifolds, Progress in Math., vol. 118, Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel 1994 (205 p.)

Symplectic Geometry and Secondary Characteristic Classes, Progress in Math., vol. 72, Birkhäuser, Boston, 1987 (215 p.)

A First Course in Differential Geometry, M. Dekker, Inc., New York, 1984 (169 p.)

Foundations of Three Dimensional Euclidian Geometry, M. Dekker, Inc., New York, 1980

(268 p.)

Cohomology and Differential Forms, M. Dekker, Inc., New York, 1973 (284 p.)

Foundations of Mathematics (in Rumanian), Edit. Did. Ped., Bucharest, 1968 (223 p.)

Contributions to Projective Symplectic Differential Geometry (in French), Monogr. of Anal. St. Univ. Jassy (Math.), 1966 (Ph D Thesis, 126 p.)

B. Journal Research Papers

Generalized CRF-structures, *Geometriae Dedicata*, 133 2008, 129-154;

online, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10711-008-9239-z>.

Reduction and submanifolds of generalized complex manifolds, *Diff. Geom. Appl.*, 25 (2007), 147-166.

Foliation-coupling Dirac structures. *J. of Geom. and Physics*, 56 (2006), 917-938.

Dirac submanifolds of Jacobi manifolds. In: *The Breadth of Symplectic and Poisson Geometry, Festschrift in Honor of Alan Weinstein* (J. E. Marsden and T. Ratiu, eds.), *Progress in Math.*, vol. 232, p. 603-622, Birkhauser, Boston, 2005 (arXiv:math.SG/0205019).

Complementary 2-forms of Poisson structures. *Compositio Mathematica*, 101 (1996), 55-75.

On the geometric quantization of Poisson manifolds, *J. of Math, Physics*, 32 (12) (1991), p. 3339-3345.

Remarks on the Lichnerowicz - Poisson Cohomology, *Ann. de l'Institut Fourier Grenoble*, 40 (1990), p. 951-963

The Maslov Class in a Riemannian Phase Space, *J. of Geom. and Physics*, 7 (1990), p. 383-394

Exotic Characteristic Classes of Quaternionic Bundles, *Israel J. of Math.*, 69 (1990), p. 46-58.

On Some 2-Dimensional Hermitian Manifolds (with F. Tricerri), *Math. Zeitschrift*, 192 (1986), p. 205-216

Symplectic Curvature Tensors, *Monatshefte für Math.*, 100 (1985), p. 299-327

Locally Conformal Symplectic Manifolds, *Intern. J. of Math. and Math. Sci.*, 8 (1985), p. 521-536

Generalized Hopf Manifolds, *Geometriae Dedicata*, 13 (1982), p. 231-255

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On some duality aspects in tensor theory of nets in two dimensional Riemann and Weyl spaces (in French), *Anal. St. Univ. Jassy (Mat.)*, 7 (1961), p. 321-344

(The full list may be found on the author's homepage: <http://math.haifa.ac.il/vaisman/vaisman.html> and it contains 8 books, 131 research papers reviewed in *Mathematical Reviews* and a few other occasional works.)

DOCTORAL DEGREES OBTAINED ABROAD BY ROMANIAN STUDENTS (2006 – 2007)

1. Berbec, Ioan, University of California, Group schemes over artinian rings and applications.
2. Cruceanu, Ștefan, Colorado State University, Numerical solution of nonlinear systems derived from semilinear elliptical equations.
3. Herbei, Radu, Florida State University, Quasi-3D statistical inversion of oceanographic tracer data.
4. Mancaș, Ștefan C., University of Central Florida, Dissipative solutions in the cubic-quintic complex Ginzburg-Landau equation; Bifurcation and spatiotemporal structure.
5. Voineagu, Micea, Northwestern University, Semi-topological K -theory of certain projective varieties.
6. Zănescu, Arghir, University of Chicago, Analytic study of models of complex non-Newtonian fluids.
7. Dumitrescu, Florin, University of Notre Dame, Super connections and super parallel transport.
8. Popa, Bianca, Louisiana Technology University, Membrane systems with limited parallelism.
9. Onofrei, Daniel, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, New results in the multiscale analysis on perforated domains and applications.
10. Costea, Șerban, University of Michigan, Strong A_∞ -weights and scaling invariant Besov and Sobolev-Lorentz capacities.
11. Furdai, Ovidiu, Western Michigan University, The Fock space and related Bergman type integral operator.
12. Ștefan, Despina, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Multi-block relationships in high dimensions.
13. Calmescu, Corina (Nicoleta), Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Intertwining vertex operators and representations of affine Lie algebras.
14. Maxim, Andrei, Cornell University, Aspects of the finite element method for elliptic partial differential equations.
15. Sapariuc, Ioan, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, A numerical study of a fractional step scheme for the reactive Euler equation.

16. Staic, Mihai, State University of New York at Buffalo, Quantum groups at intersection between algebra and geometry.
17. Stancu, Alin, State University of New York at Buffalo, Hochschild cohomology and derived categories.
18. Buzoianu, Elena, Syracuse University, Selection procedures for binomial populations.
19. Luta Gheorghe, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Empirical likelihood-based adjustment methods.
20. Gal, Ciprian, University of Memphis, Wentzell boundary conditions in the context of wave equations, Sturm-Liouville operators and Cahn-Hilliard models.
21. Tohăneanu, Ștefan, Texas AM University, Homological algebra and problems in combinatorics and geometry.

FROM THE BOOKSHELVES

LIVIU I. NICOLAESCU: *Lectures on the Geometry of Manifolds Second Edition*, World Scientific, Singapore, 2007, XVII + 589 pp.

This comprehensive book contains the treatment of modern Theory of Differentiable Manifolds, including Calculus on Manifolds, Riemannian Geometry, Elements of the Calculus of Variations, Cohomology Theory, Chern-Weil Theory, Classical Integral Geometry and Elliptic Equations on Manifolds, with a last section on Dirac Operators. The text is presented in a rather attractive form, with many illustrations of the basic concepts and results. The author has concentrated his attention on very significant aspects of Modern Geometry and Global Analysis. The interaction between these "Fundamental Structures of Analysis" is profusely illustrated and we have to commend the author for a hard work, well done. Founders of various branches of Mathematics, such as Lie, Stokes, Bianchi, Levi-Civita, Riemann, Cartan, Poincare, Noether, DeRham, Cech, Gauss, Sobolev, Hodge, Potryagin are present in the exposition, their names being related to the major contributions brought to so many concepts and theories of modern mathematics. The list of references contains over 100 items, mostly monographs and treatises. The book is also provided with a comprehensive Index.

ALBERTO BRESSAN and BENEDETTO PICCOLI: *Introduction to the Mathematical Theory of Control*, American Institute of Mathematical Sciences, 2007, XIII+312 pp.

This is a textbook aiming at graduate students. The AA. have experienced this volume, as a textbook, in their schools. It does cover the basic concepts and methods introduced in science during the last 50 years, the presentation being of very good quality. The following chapters contain an excellent introduction to Control Theory, and a student acquainted with the topics included in this book will have access to the journal literature. These chapters are entitled as follows: 1. Introduction (a few examples are examined); 2. Review of Differential Equations; 3. Control Systems (control, trajectories, reachable sets, linear systems, Lie brackets and the Bang-Bang theorem); 4. Asymptotic stabilization (both linear and nonlinear systems); 5. Existence of optimal controls; 6. Necessary conditions; 7. Sufficient conditions (connection with Dynamic Programming, the linear-quadratic case); 8. Viscosity solutions of Hamilton-Jacobi equations; 9. Patchy Feedbacks; 10. Impulsive control systems. Ten Appendices provide a good amount of auxiliary concepts from Modern Analysis. The list of references contains 92 items, which includes all majors textbooks, treatises and monographs published during the last 50 years, by such scientists like Pontrjagin et al., Lee and Markus, Fleming and Rishel, Berkovitz, Clarke, Cesari, Zabczyk, as well as many basic survey papers dedicated to various aspects of the Control Theory (Brunovsky, Conti, Crandall, Filipov, Hermes, Isidori et al.). This book is highly recommended for graduate courses in Control Theory, addressing primarily Science and Engineering students.

Note. This publication is vol. 2 in the Applied Mathematics Series of the American Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), a relatively new presence in the editorial field.

We notice with interest the appearance of this new mathematical entity.

ILIE TALPAȘANU, TACHUNG C. YIH: *Micro and Nano Manipulations for Biomedical Applications*, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston, MA, 2008.

Prof. Ilie Talpașanu is with the Wentworth Institute of Technology, while T.C. Yih is a professor of Engineering with Oakland University, and the coeditor chief of the journal *Nanomedicine: Nanotechnology, Biology and Medicine*.

The book focuses on the following topics: the fabrication and properties of metallic nanoparticles, quantum dots-nanocrystals, based on semiconductors, current applications and trends in imaging manipulations such as 3D imaging; laser induced micro-dissection; nanosurgery characterization; dielectrophoretic methods for cell manipulations. In addition, the book presents an overview of technologies for cancer diagnoses and therapy.

The book is addressed to specialists in Nanotechnology and presents interest for applied mathematicians who are involved in research related to the use of mathematical methods in Biology and Medicine. This is a welcome additions to the existing literature in a very new interdisciplinary field, in which the mathematical method play an ever increasing role.

JOHN OPREA: *Differential Geometry and its applications* (Second Edition). The Mathematical Association of America, 2007, 510 pp.

This book is a textbook on Differential Geometry of Curves and Surfaces, with main goal to help the students undergo the transition from compartmentalized courses in standard curricula to a type of mathematical courses that is unifying Geometry, Calculus, Linear Algebra, Differential Equations, Complex Analysis, Calculus of Variations and various notions from diverse Science fields.

The book is not addressed only to mathematics majors, but is aimed at helping students in Science and Engineering. The use of computer algebra is emphasized, and systems such as Maple are utilized.

This book is rich in results and selected exercises, such that the student is invited to pass through a continuous spectrum, from simple calculations to proofs requiring an abstract approach.

The author is convinced that such a course in Differential Geometry constitutes a good transitions towards higher mathematics and its various applications, and it helps students to move from calculators to thinkers.

It is our opinion that the author is making significant progress on this road. Also, one must stress the fact that connection, between the Differential Geometry and the applications of thus classical fields to machinery design, or to study of DNA.

The textbook is suitable for one-semester, as well as for one-year courses, depending on the choice of chapters to be taught in class.

A three-page "Note to Students" follows the Preface, and details on the content of each chapter are provided.

We shall end this short presentation of the book, enumerating the title of the eight chapters. Chapter 1, The Geometry of Curves; Chapter 2, Surfaces; Chapter 3, Curvatures; Chapter 4, Constant Curvature Surfaces; Chapter 5, Geodesics, Metrics and Isometries; Chapter 6, Holonomy and Gauss-Bonnet Theorem, Chapter 7, The Calculus of Variations and Geometry, Chapter 8, A Glimpse on Higher Dimensions.

The 7th AIMS Conference on Dynamical Systems and Differential Equations

For a short presentation of the AIMS = American Institute for Mathematical Sciences, see the review (in this volume) of the book on Control Theory by Bressan et al.

The AIMS biannual conference has been hosted by the University of Texas at Arlington, from May 18 to May 21, 2008. This was the 7th conference in the series of AIMS conferences dedicated to Dynamical Systems and Differential Equations (both ODE and PDE, as well as related equations). The Scientific Committee was chaired by Prof. Sochuan Hu from the Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. He is a graduate from the University of Texas at Arlington. The Scientific Committee included well known mathematicians like Jerry Bona, Alberto Bressan, Adrian Constantin, N. S. Papageorgiou and Hiroshi Matano. The local organizing committee was chaired by Prof. Jianzhong Su and included other faculty members from the Department of Mathematics at the University of Texas at Arlington (Jianping Zhu, Gaik Ambartsoumian, Tuncay Aktosun, Hristo Kojouharov, Yue Liu, Hua Shan) and colleagues from neighboring universities (Alain Bensoussan, Peter Moore). The attendance was excellent with 658 participants who presented 803 communications in the sessions of the conference. There have been some plenary sessions, as well as contributed papers sessions, tailored according to the specific fields embraced by the participants. Among the speakers in the plenary sessions we notice the presence of Lisa Fauci (Tulane University), Walter Strauss (Brown University), Hans Weinberger (University of Minnesota), George Papanicolaou (Stanford University), Sijue Wu (University of Michigan), Carlangelo Liverani (University of Rome, "Tor Vergata") and Jean-Claude Saut (University of Paris-Sud).

The next AIMS Conference, the 8th, will take place at Dresden University of Technology, Germany, from May 25-May 28, 2010. For information about the American Institute of Mathematical Sciences, see <http://aimsciences.org/index.html>.

The Fifth World Congress of Nonlinear Analysis, 2–9, July 2008

This fifth congress of the International Federation of Nonlinear Analysts has been held in Orlando, Florida, and attracted over 1200 participants from 53 countries. An encouraging fact is the participation of more than 20 Romanian mathematicians, both from the country and from Diaspora.

The topics discussed by the participants were from the most varied fields in which Non-linearity plays a significant role, and covered such fields as Differential Equations (Ordinary and with Partial Derivatives), Integral, Integrodifferential and Delay Equations, Control Theory, Optimization Theory, Applications of the above mentioned domains to Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering, Social Sciences including Economics and Business, Cybernetics and other fields.

The Congress was organized in many parallel sessions, sometimes ten at a time, and the presentations were classified in the following categories: Keynote Addresses, Invited Presentations and Contributed Papers. The minimal time dedicated to any of the presentations was 45 minutes, a feature that has contributed to an orderly and meaningful type of meeting.

The Romanian participants have presented each a communication, and it is worthwhile pointing out that several universities and technical universities from Romania have been represented, sometimes by several participants. For example, from Iasi, there have been Professors Ioan Vrabie and Constantin Zălinescu from the "A.I.Cuza" University, and Prof. Rodica Luca from the Technical University "Gh.Asachi". Also, among the former scientists from Iasi, there have been Prof. C. Corduneanu (University of Texas at Arlington), and Prof. Dumitru Motreanu (Perpignan, France). We also mention Prof. Vasile Staicu from Universidad de Aveiro, Portugal, Prof. Sever Silvestru Dragomir from Melbourne, Australia, Prof. Florin Diacu from Victoria University of British Columbia, Canada. From the West University of Timisoara there has been Prof. S. Balint and a number of young participants of Romanian extraction included: Nicolae and Nicoleta Tarfulea, Agneta Balint, Lorena Bociu, Florin Isaia, Elena Resmerita, Harry Gingold, L. Leustean, Ioan Sirbu.

The congress had many social programs and events, and also a free day (Sunday) which allowed the participants to visit the entertainment facilities from Orlando.

American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences The 32nd ARA Annual Congress

The 2008 ARA Annual Congress was held from July 22 to July 26, in Boston, MA, being hosted by the Wentworth Institute of Technology. The local organizing committee was headed by Professor Ilie Talpasanu from Wentworth Institute of Technology, who has accepted the tenuous job of Chairman, the necessary help being provided by Prof. Marian Simion from Harvard University, as well as other colleagues from Academe, Julieta Roz, Robert J. Lind and Cristina Cosma. Dr. Zorica Pantic, the President of Wentworth Institute of Technology, the host institution, was chosen to be the Honorary Chairman of the Congress.

The Opening Session of the Congress took place in the morning of July 23rd, and has been chaired by Prof. Talpasanu, who welcomed the participants. Then Prof. Zorica Pantic

pronounced a salute from the part of the hostess institution, while the General Consul of Romania in New York has greeted the participants and the invitees. Prof. Ion Paraschivoiu, the President of ARA, also pronounced a welcome to the participants and invitees, informing them about the status of the Academy.

The presentations/communications of the participants (about 150) have been scheduled in ten sections of the congress, as follows: Computer Sciences; History-Anthropology; Environmental Problems; Education; Engineering; Literature-Linguistics-Fine Arts; Law; Theology-Philosophy; Medical Sciences; Chemistry-Biology-Applied Mathematics. In the Section Computer Science there have been 14 presentations, while in the field of Mathematics only three communications have been scheduled. The most presentations have been in the Sections of Economics and Engineering. Some papers in the Engineering had fairly advanced mathematical apparatus. The presenters in Applied Mathematics were Todor Fabian (Canada), Mihai Talmaciu (Bacau) and V. I. Zelentsov, A. M. Romanov and A. A. Mandru (Chisinau).

A large number of universities were represented at the congress. Besides a good number of Romanian universities, we notice the contributions of colleagues from Moldova, United States of America, Canada, Germany and Sweden. Besides the traditional state universities from Romania, there have been participants from relatively new universities (Targoviste, Oradea, Alba Iulia, Arad), as well as from private universities (Spiru Haret, Petre Andrei, Romano-Americana).

The Congress scheduled other significant activities, among which we shall mention the awarding of Honorary Membership of ARA to the artist of Romanian origin, residing in the US, Alexandra Nechita. Also the Honorary Membership of ARA has been awarded to Dr. Zorica Pantic. She has the origin in a Serbian small town in the vicinity of Romanian-Serbian border. Another significant award of Honorary ARA Membership has been bestowed on Prof. Michael Dukakis from Northeastern University in Boston, a former Governor of the State of Massachusetts and Democratic Presidential nominee in 1988. In a memorable speech, he stressed the old connections between the Greeks and Romanians, and mentioned the fact that his mother belonged to a Vlach family of Greece (in Romanian we call the Vlachs by the name Aromani or Macedo-Romani).

The congress concluded with a banquet, in which occasion several distinctions of ARA have been awarded to some of its members for activities deployed in the promotion of the institution. At the same time, the announcement has been made for the 2009 ARA Congress, to be held in the city of Sibiu of Transylvania.

The organizing committee, as well as the leadership of ARA deserve our best congratulations for a very successful Congress.

APPEAL

The year 2010 will be the Centennial year of the Mathematical Seminar "A. Myller" of the University "Al. I. Cuza" in Iasi.

All former and present members of this venerable institution are kindly invited to prepare their participation at the Conference dedicated to the Centennial Celebration, which will take place sometime during the year 2010 at the University of Iasi (jointly with the Romanian Academy, Branch of Iasi).

As a result of the Conference, one or several volumes will be published, containing the proceedings. The papers to be presented must be in Mathematics, both Pure and Applied.

Beside, over 100 members of the "Seminar" residing in Romania, a conspicuous number of former members are residing in France, Germany, England, the United States of America, Canada and other countries.

The editor has contacted the following persons, in the last category: Sergiu Aizicovici, Nicolae Pavel, Irinel Drăgan, Liviu Nicolaescu, Daniel Tătaru in the US; Izu Vaisman, Sender Solomon, in Israel.

Prof. Radu Miron and Prof. Viorel Barbu, both members of the "Seminar" and of the Romanian Academy, have expressed their interest in celebrating this event.

Any ideas from the members, as well as from other colleagues, will be highly appreciated.

Each coming volume of *Libertas Mathematica* will contain further information.

Volumes XXIX and XXX will be dedicated to the Centenary. Current and former members of the Mathematical Seminar "A. Myller" are cordially invited to submit their contributions as soon as possible.

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as attachment. The text must be in \LaTeX and accompanied by a pdf and dvi files. Confirmation of receipt will follow.