

A REPORT ON THE FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FIBONACCI NUMBERS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS

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The Fifteenth Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications was held at the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Eszterházy Károly College in Eger, Hungary from June 25–30, 2012. The meeting attracted 81 Fibonacci enthusiasts from 21 countries: Algeria, Australia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. I was delighted to see so many old friends and to make some new ones as well.

Attendees hailing from academia and industry and from many diverse cultures made lively and informative presentations that often were just plain fun. Our invited Édouard Lucas Lecturer, N. J. A. Sloane, illustrated some of his sequences from The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences with sound and even a movie; you can view the OEIS movie on YouTube. Neil has collected over 213,000 sequences over 45 years; he gave A177904 and A005132 as his “favorite” sequences, but I think they all are his favorites.

We all walked to the castle up on the hill for the conference banquet; the food was wonderful, and we had a panoramic view of Eger. In fact, the goulash soup and the desserts were so good everywhere we visited in Hungary that I came home packing an extra couple of pounds. We visited a winery in Eger and finally tasted “the blood of the bull,” a famous local wine.

Our traditional wine and cheese evening was livened up by the surprise initiation of Bill Webb and Peter Anderson into Kulacs Csárda Borozó, a ceremony which involved donning special maroon robes and hats and completing the “Wine-Knight Ritual.” They each received a diploma entitling “the above-named person to drink freely in any country, any restaurant and wine-bar in the world provided the owner raises no objection” and signed by Egri-Nagy Attila and Brassó Lajos.

Christian Ballot summed up our feelings with a bit of doggerel:

I am eager to reach Eger
Get past Bavaria, Austria and even East of Buda
No doubt we all will get wiser
The hub place of all concurring and recurring sequences is Eger
Where all the modern sons of Bonacci gather
To Kalman and his troops “merci” forever
Their efforts in getting us together
Clearly have not been meager.

The Saturday excursion to Szilvásvárad let us see some of the countryside and hike through a park that featured museum exhibits on lumbering and woodcarving along the way. Lunch again was worth every calorie, and the social occasion provided more camaraderie, one last chance to visit with friends who get together only every two years.

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Our Hungarian hosts made this conference perfect in every way—a heartfelt thank you from us all. We hope to see you and Hungary again. Until then, viszont látásra!

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