

A REPORT ON THE 18TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FIBONACCI NUMBERS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS

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Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada was the setting for Fibonacci-18 in July 2018. The University, founded in 1818, was celebrating its bicentennial year, and this Fibonacci Conference was an official part of the scientific events that marked this significant anniversary. In addition, Canada Day fireworks greeted us on the first of July.

We would like to thank AARMS (Atlantic Association for Research in the Mathematical Sciences) and the Faculty of Science of Dalhousie University for their support. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and its office staff, especially Asmita Sodhi, Mason Maxwell, and Keith Johnson.

My hotel room number 628 was “doubly perfect,” portending a perfect conference. Of course, 18 is the sixth Lucas number and connected with the second-most important name attached to this conference. Notice that $18 = L_6$ has a perfect subscript.

Frank Johnson’s portrait of Fibonacci’s statue appeared as the logo for the conference in the program and on a commemorative cup. I presented the opening remarks. I was and am still elated. Thank you for honoring us at the conference. In particular, I wish to thank Karl Dilcher for organizing this excellent conference.

This conference, attended by 46 mathematicians and 12 accompanying persons, had representatives from 10 countries: United States, 31; Canada, 11; Thailand, 4; Germany, 4; France, 2; Israel, 1; Turkey, 1; Great Britain, 2; Mexico, 1; and Japan, 1.

We worked hard, attending 42 talks in five days. Hugh C. Williams from the University of Calgary presented the Édouard Lucas Memorial Lecture, “Mersenne, Fibonacci and Lucas: The Mersenne Prime Story and Beyond.”

We played hard, with excursions to Lunenburg and Peggy’s Cove and a banquet lobster dinner in Hubbards.

At the banquet, Bill Webb, President of the Fibonacci Association, announced the winners of the Paul Bruckman Prizes. One prize, for a paper published in the past two years in the Fibonacci Quarterly, was awarded to David Treeby for “Hidden Formulas in Fibonacci Tilings,” February 2016. The other prize, for a talk given at Fibonacci-18, went to Prapanpong Pongsriam from Thailand for “Fibonacci and Lucas Numbers Which Have Exactly Three Prime Factors and Some Unique Properties of F_{18} and L_{18} .” Both prizes recognize researchers who are early in their careers.

The Conference Fibonacci-18 was not only mind stretching but also heart warming. Friendship bonds of many years became knitted more closely, and new friendships were formed. The magnetism of common interest and shared enthusiasm overcame differences in cultural and ethnic backgrounds. We truly cared about each other. I would also like to thank all the participants, without whose work we would not have had this treat.

Goodbye then, at conference number 18 in 2018 in Halifax. I hope to say hello again to you all in 2020.

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