



Over a 4-day period at the end of October, 2005, the second Integers Conference was held at the University of West Georgia, in Carrollton. The theme of the conference was the same as for the journal *Integers*, namely discrete mathematics with a number-theoretic flavor. And who better to honor at such a conference than Ron Graham! Almost perfectly coincident with his 70th birthday, friends and colleagues of Ron from around the world came to celebrate him and recognize his continuing influence in combinatorics and number theory.

The conference attracted over one hundred participants, and seventy-three talks, many of which are represented in this refereed volume. The one-hour plenary speakers were Daniel Goldston, Neil Hindman, Jozsef Solymosi, and Doron Zeilberger, with additional featured talks by Aviezri Fraenkel, Ron Graham, Melvyn Nathanson, Jarik Nesetril, and Carl Pomerance.

Entertainment at the banquet honoring Ron was provided by the Dazzling Mills Family, a professional juggling and comedy act from Ohio, who came especially to honor Ron.

There is a connection here. Ron Graham is not just a great mathematician; he is also the past president of the International Jugglers Association, he is an expert gymnast, and is into bungee trampolining. Other equally high offices he has held include stints as president of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America. He is currently the treasurer of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. Most of Ron's career was spent at Bell Labs (and later AT&T Labs when Lucent took over Bell Labs). At age 65, having become an AT&T vice president and chief scientist, he faced mandatory retirement. No problem, he then took a position as the Irwin and Joan Jacobs Chair of Computer and Information Science at UCSD, which he still holds.

Ron Graham has been a pioneer in several fields, including combinatorial number theory, Ramsey theory (the idea that there cannot be complete disorder; in any large system there must always be some structure), complexity of algorithms, quasirandom graphs and combinatorial structures (jointly with Fan Chung), packing problems, computational geometry, etc. He likes to quip that a pioneer is the one with arrows in his chest. He seems to have dodged these fairly well; but he did pick up plenty of prizes along the way, including the Polya Prize, the Euler Medal, and the Steele Prize for Lifetime Achievement (from the AMS).

Ron Graham is also justly famous for his popularization of mathematics. As anyone who has ever tried knows full well, it is not easy to get the general public excited about mathematical ideas. Ron has mastered this talent, and continues to exercise it all over the world. In the old days, he was a virtuoso of the overhead projector, now of PowerPoint, but always it is the mathematics that comes shining through. Through his lectures and personal contact he has brought many new people into mathematical research, and he continues to do so, with no sign of slowing down.

It was a joy to organize this conference in honor of Ron Graham and to assemble this volume of papers dedicated to him on his 70th birthday.

The conference itself was made possible by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Number Theory Foundation, and the University of West Georgia. We thank all of the participants for helping to make such a lively and stimulating conference. We are grateful to Aaron Robertson, the Associate Managing Editor of *Integers*, for his invaluable work on this project. We also warmly thank Robert Plato of de Gruyter for his assistance with the publication of this volume.