

## YEAR END FINALE

This marks my first year as Editor/Co-Editor of *CRUX with MAYHEM*, and my first year end finale. As I write in this space, which Jim Totten wrote in just one year ago, I am reminded of him and the non-permanence of things. Just as the surf swirls sand and pebbles on a beach, so does time alter words and ourselves. Islands disappear and are built up somewhere else. When I remember Jim's incredible enthusiasm and passion for mathematics and his outreach work, I am moved. An ocean is there for us to feel its power and its cool refreshing spray, to play in it and be cleansed by its soothing sound.

Which reminds me that issues of *CRUX with MAYHEM* are now delayed by several weeks! My apologies to all the readers for this considerable delay, and in 2009 we will work hard to close the gap.

Many people have served this past year (I will borrow Jim's habit of capitalizing their names). First, I shall forever be grateful to the late JIM TOTTON for all the support he gave me during the time I Co-Edited with him (until the end of February, 2008). After Jim's sudden passing on March 9, 2008, three individuals in particular came to my rescue. I thank CHRIS FISHER for his humour and good spirits in those tough early days. I thank BRUCE CROFOOT for his solid support as Mission Control in the CRUX office at Thompson Rivers University and for listening to me when I needed someone to talk to. I thank BRUCE SHAWYER for his continuing help and advice on *CRUX with MAYHEM*, indeed for effectively stepping into the role of Editor-at-Large (which Jim was going to take up after stepping down as Editor-in-Chief). I also thank Bruce S. for his hospitality in Newfoundland and for providing me with a much needed sense of continuity.

I thank the members of the Editorial Board for their hard work and for bringing their unique talents to *CRUX*: JEFF HOOPER, the Associate Editor, for his careful reading and sound judgment; IAN VANDERBURGH, the *MAYHEM* Editor, whose Problem of the Month column is a joy to read and who is ahead of schedule (!); ROBERT BILINSKI, for serving as Skoliad Editor for the past four years; ROBERT WOODROW, for handling the Olympiad Corner on top of his immense administrative duties; JOHN GRANT McLOUGHLIN, for his solid support as Book Reviews Editor and for his fantastic proof reading skills. This is John's last issue as Book Reviews Editor, but he will continue as the Guest Editor for the Jim Totten special issue of May, 2009. I welcome AMAR SODHI to the Board who is taking over as Book Reviews Editor from John. I thank my colleague here in Winnipeg and Articles Editor JAMES CURRIE, for taking on the position and then turning a backlog of articles into a cornucopia. I thank the Problems Editors for their continuing support and hard work: ILIYA BLUSKOV, CHRIS FISHER, MARIA TORRES, and EDWARD WANG. The job of being a Problems Editor is perhaps one of the most difficult on the Board, with tight deadlines and a deluge of problem proposals and solutions in all areas of mathematics coming from all over the world etched, scrawled, or digitally recorded on every conceivable medium known to man. A big thank you to the four of you.

I thank GRAHAM WRIGHT, the Managing Editor, for his solid support and also for providing that vital sense of continuity.

Others who are not on the Editorial Board but whose work is just as crucial are MONIKA KHBEIS and ERIC ROBERT who serve on the *Mayhem* staff; a big thank you Monika and Eric. I thank JEAN-MARC TERRIER for translating the problems that appear in *CRUX with MAYHEM*. The Canadian Mathematical Society recently honoured Jean-Marc at the 2008 Winter Meeting for his many years of service. It is

well deserved! I look forward to working with Jean-Marc in the New Year. As well, I welcome ROLLAND GAUDET of Collège Universitaire Saint-Boniface, Winnipeg. Rolland is also helping with translations, especially in times of crisis! I thank our past *CRUX* editor BILL SANDS for his proof reading and sound advice.

My colleagues in the Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics have lent their support. Those who have taken pity on this Editor-in-Chief are ANNA STOKKE, ROSS STOKKE, TERRY VISENTIN, and JEFF BABB. Our secretary, JULIE BEAVER, has also helped out in a pinch as little emergencies have arisen. I thank the previous Dean of Science, GABOR KUNSTATTER, for his understanding and foresight in supporting *CRUX with MAYHEM* at the University of Winnipeg.

The  $\text{\LaTeX}$  expertise of JOANNE CANAPE at the University of Calgary, and TAO GONG and JUNE ALEONG at Wilfrid Laurier University goes a long way to producing high quality copy. Joanne is finishing up her work in this area, so after my one year of service here I thank her for giving twenty! I welcome JILL AINSWORTH on board who is taking over from Joanne to prepare the Olympiads.

Thanks go to the University of Toronto Press and to Thistle Printing, in particular TAMI EHRLICH. The quality finished copy and the purple covers are just lovely.

I thank you MICHAEL DOOB and CRAIG PLATT for technical support, and JUDI BORWEIN for putting *CRUX* on the net.

—Someone special who has helped me through my first year with her careful proof reading and knowledge of geometry is CHARLENE PAWLUCK. Thank you for sharing your copy of Euclid with me, and so much more.

Finally, I thank you, the readers, for all that you have done for me and for the journal. *CRUX with MAYHEM* is built from your contributions and all the time, care and creativity that you put into your submissions is reflected in these pages. I wish I could mention all the truly marvellous people that I have gotten to know in the last year, but this margin is too small to hold all the names and praises.

I close with a call for a new Skoliad Editor. Please refer anyone to us you may think is suitable. Skoliad is missing from this issue, but will be back next year; from now on please send all Skoliad materials directly to the Editor-in-Chief (or resend your past submissions if you did not receive a reply from us).

I wish each of you the very best in 2009 in all areas of life,

Václav (Vazz) Linek

## **Crux Mathematicorum with Mathematical Mayhem**

Former Editors / Anciens Rédacteurs: Bruce L.R. Shawyer, James E. Totten

### **Crux Mathematicorum**

Founding Editors / Rédacteurs-fondateurs: Léopold Sauv  & Frederick G.B. Maskell

Former Editors / Anciens Rédacteurs: G.W. Sands, R.E. Woodrow, Bruce L.R. Shawyer

### **Mathematical Mayhem**

Founding Editors / Rédacteurs-fondateurs: Patrick Surry & Ravi Vakil

Former Editors / Anciens Rédacteurs: Philip Jong, Jeff Higham, J.P. Grossman,  
Andre Chang, Naoki Sato, Cyrus Hsia, Shawn Godin, Jeff Hooper