Editorial

Preface to the 11th ILAS Conference Proceedings, Coimbra 2004

This special issue of LAA contains papers presented at the 11th Conference of the International Linear Algebra Society, held at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, July 19–22, 2004. The conference was dedicated to Richard Brualdi in honor of his 65th birthday. There were 204 participants, from 30 countries (in all five continents).

The scientific program included plenary talks by Rajendra Bhatia, Hal Caswell, George Cybenko, Erik Elmroth, Shmuel Friedland, Peter Gritzmann, Robert Guralnick, Uwe Helmke, William Helton, Christian Krattenthaler, Peter Lancaster (Hans Schneider Prize speaker), Beatrice Meini (SIAG/LA speaker), Julio Moro (SIAG/LA speaker), Matjaž Omladič, Xavier Puerta, Arun Ram, Joachim Rosenthal, Siegfried Rump, Peter Šemrl (Taussky-Todd speaker) and Fernando Silva.

There were five mini-symposia: on Combinatorial Matrix Theory (organized by Bryan Shader), on Group Representations (organized by Ana Paula Santana and Carlos André), on Markov Methods for Search Engines (organized by Ilse Ipsen and Steve Kirkland), on Nonnegative Matrices (organized by Thomas Laffey) and on Matrix Inequalities (organized by Chi-Kwong Li), as well as many contributed talks.

In the days before and after the conference other scientific events took place in the Coimbra Mathematics Department: the 7th Workshop on Numerical Ranges and Numerical Radii, and short courses by Persi Diaconis, Arun Ram, Erik Elmroth and Beatrice Meini.

Before the conference dinner, the Hans Schneider Prize was presented to Peter Lancaster, with the *laudatio* given by prize committee chairman Harm Bart. After the dinner, there were speeches honouring Richard Brualdi by Bryan Shader and Alan Hoffman.

Excellent plenary talks, informative mini-symposia and varied contributed talks were presented at the meeting. The main objectives of the meeting were to display the depth and breadth of Linear Algebra and its applications and to allow personal contacts and interactions between people with diversified interests. These objectives were indeed achieved. We hope the papers contained in this issue of LAA, which were submitted to the usual refereeing process, reflect and represent much of the mathematics discussed at the conference.

The members of the Organizing Committee were Danny Hershkowitz (ILAS President), Hans Schneider, Thomas Laffey, Raphael Loewy, Ion Zaballa, Bryan Shader, Graciano de Oliveira, José Dias da Silva, Eduardo Marques de Sá and João Filipe Queiró (chair). The Local Organizing Committee was constituted by Olga Azenhas, Cristina Caldeira, Jesús Clemente Gallardo, António Leal Duarte, João Filipe Queiró and Ana Paula Santana.

The sponsors of the conference were the Center for Linear and Combinatorial Structures (Lisbon), the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, the Gulbenkian, Orient and Luso-American foundations, SIAM, and the University of Coimbra (including the Mathematics Department and Center).

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