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1 January 2013

Dear colleagues,

The **18th Annual International Conference on Difference Equations and Applications** (ICDEA 2012) took place at the Casa de Convalescència in Barcelona last July 22-27. Lluís Alseda chaired the organizing committee and is to be highly commended for the overwhelming success of the conference, which was attended by over 160 participants from around the world. Special topic sessions focused on the asymptotic behavior and periodicity of difference equations, applications to biology, complex dynamics, chaotic linear dynamics, combinatorial and topological dynamics and economic dynamics and control. Plenary addresses were given by

Robert Devaney (Boston University, USA)

João Lopes Dias (Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal)

Saber Elaydi (Trinity University, USA)

Armengol Gasull (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)

Víctor Jiménez (Universidad de Murcia, Spain)

Jaume Llibre (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)

Michał Misiurewicz (IUPUI, USA)

Rafael Ortega (Universidad de Granada, Spain)

Christian Pötzsche (Alpen-Adria Universität Klagenfurt, Austria)

Enrique Pujals (Instituto Nacional de Matemática Pura e Aplicada, Brazil)

Ana Rodrigues (KTH, Stockholm, Sweden)

Lubomir Snoha (Matej Bel University, Slovakia)

Sergei Trofimchuk (Universidad de Talca, Chile).

A special talk was given by Thorsten Hüls (Universität Bielefeld, Germany) as the winner of the Society's award given for the best paper published in the Journal of

Difference Equations for 2011 (*Homoclinic trajectories of non-autonomous maps*, JDEA 17(1):9–31, 2011). Participants at ICDEA 2012 have been invited to submit paper for a special volume, entitled *Discrete Dynamical Systems and Applications*, to be published in the Springer Proceedings in Mathematics (edited by Lluís Alsedà, Jim Cushing, Saber Elaydi and Alberto Pinto). Details about the conference can be viewed at the website <http://www.gsd.uab.cat/icdea2012/>.

The **19th Annual International Conference on Difference Equations and Applications** (ICDEA 2013) will be held at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman, May 26 - 30, 2013. Please note the earlier date for this conference this year. Ziyad AlSharawi is chairing the organizing committee for ICDEA 2013, which is putting together what is promising to be an exciting conference. There will be special topic sessions (please consider organizing one!) and proceedings will again be published by Springer. At this time confirmed speakers include:

Azmy Ackleh (University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USA)

Arno Berger (University of Alberta, Canada)

Henk Bruin (University of Vienna, Austria)

Rod Halburd (University College London, UK)

Eduardo Liz (University of Vigo, Spain)

Michał Misiurewicz (Indiana University, USA)

Hinke Osinga (The University of Auckland, New Zealand)

Martin Rasmussen (Imperial College London, UK)

Jaroslav Smital, Mathematical Institute in Opava, Czech Republic)

Yasuhiro Takeuchi (Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan)

Special features this year will include the announcement of the winner of the second Bernd Aulbach Prize and the winner of the Best JDEA Paper prize (for 2012). I hope you will plan to attend this exciting conference. For further details, please see the conference website <http://www.alsharawi.info/ICDEA2013/index.htm>.

The Society has limited funds available to support student attendance at ICDEA 2013. Eligible to apply are students of faculty mentors who are ISDE members. An applicant should send their name, address, and affiliation, as well as a letter of recommendation from their faculty mentor, via email to Professor J. M. Cushing

(President of ISDE) at cushing@math.arizona.edu . Applications received before April 1, 2013, will receive the highest priority.

Future ICDEA conferences are in the preliminary stages of organization, including ICDEA 2014 in Wuhan, China. Yiming Ding is organizing that conference. If you are, or if you know of anyone who is, interested in organizing an ICDEA conference, please contact me or a member of the Board of Directors to explore the possibility. It is never too early to plan for such a major conference.

The 2-year terms of the current Board of Directors ends this year and it will soon be time to elect a new Board & President. The election will take place earlier this year so that the transition can occur at ICDEA 2013 in May, as is our tradition.

Please consider becoming a sponsoring member of ISDE. Funds from sponsoring members defray expenses incurred by the Society from its non-profit status and help support the activities of the society. Sponsoring membership registration can now be done online on the ISDE webpage <http://isdeds.com/membershipapplication.html>. Please note that sponsoring membership includes, in addition to reduced ICDEA conference registration fees, free online availability of the Journal of Difference Equations and Applications for one year. This change from paper to online subscription to JDEA has resulted in a larger fraction of membership fees coming to ISDE – even more reason now to become a sponsoring member!

The out-going Board has discussed the possible creation of new membership categories, so as to provide more options to those wishing to support the Society. This possibility will be taken up by the new Board, so please watch for this in the (hopefully near) future.

All the best for the New Year.

Best regards,

Jim Cushing
ISDE President