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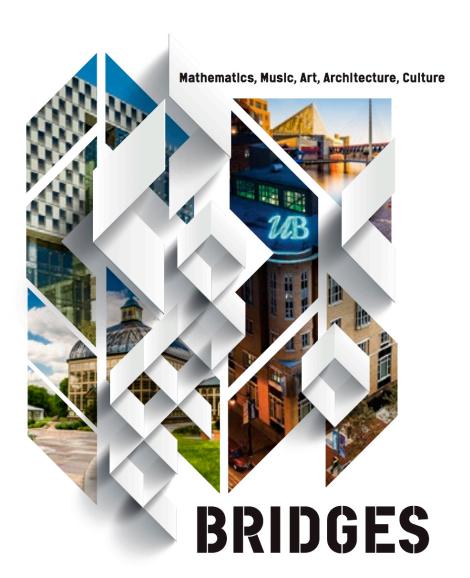
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Preface

This year, we are pleased to bring the Bridges Conference to the city of Baltimore, Maryland for the first time. Also known as "Charm City", Baltimore is full of treasures and wonderful sightseeing spots: The George Peabody Library, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Walters Art Museum, American Visionary Art Museum, Maryland Science Center, Baltimore Museum of Art, and National Aquarium are all just a short distance from conference venue.

According to the American Institute of Economic Research, Baltimore ranks in the top 10 in a study of large U.S. cities that are the best places to attend college. The city provides an inspiring academic environment, good quality of life, and many professional opportunities for college students of all types. The University of Baltimore (UB), comprising the public undergraduate, graduate, and professional universities, is also located in the heart of Baltimore. UB's schools and colleges provide real-world education in business, law, public affairs and the applied arts and sciences.

The Bridges Organization is grateful that the University of Baltimore has opened its doors to the Bridges Conference for this year. The mission of the Bridges Organization and of this conference is to expose, discuss, and popularize the many connections between mathematics and other elements of art and culture, including fine arts, architecture, music, dance, poetry, origami, puzzles, and the sciences. It attracts a diverse audience of mathematicians, artists, educators, musicians, writers, dancers, weavers, model builders, architects, and computer scientists. This inspiring mix is reflected again in this years proceedings and in the various special activities integrated into the conference, such as the art exhibition, the public lectures, the short movie festival, the music, theater, and poetry sessions, and Family Day. Our thanks go to Robert Bosch, Andrea Hawksley, Mike Naylor and Sujan Shrestha, who served as the jury for the movie festival, and to Kristof Fenyvesi for organizing Family Day.

This year's Bridges Program Chair is Kelly Delp. She coordinated an international Program Committee of over 50 experts who provided extensive reviews and editorial comments on submissions. Kelly also served as chair of the regular paper track. Douglas M. McKenna acted as chair of the short papers track with strong support from Carlo Séquin. For the first time this year, we also formed a full committee of reviewers to examine Workshop submissions. Craig S. Kaplan served as chair, and recruited 13 members from the program committee. Many thanks go to the members of the Program Committee who reviewed the large number of papers received.

The 2015 edition of the Bridges Proceedings includes 43 regular papers, 47 short papers, and 14 workshop papers. A wide range of topics are explored in this publication; you will find new work on fractals, patterns, poetry, polyhedra, weaving, origami, sculpture, visualization, image processing, outreach and education, and more. Also, you will find papers in which authors describe the novel ways they are exploring the connections between culture and mathematics: we have a virtual reality game where a player explores 4-dimensional polytopes by changing the orientation of their head in 3-space, a workshop that gives participants a gustatory experience of ratios and sequences, and perhaps the first ever collaboration between a computer scientist and a cowboy. We thank all of the authors and reviewers for their generous contributions to this year's proceedings. We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Mara Alagic, Paul Gailiunas, George Hart, Craig Kaplan, Douglas M. McKenna, Reza Sarhangi, and Carlo Séquin who provided extra support.

An exhibition of mathematical art has been an annual feature of Bridges since 2001. This years exhibition could well be the largest exhibition of mathematical art ever assembled, with over 150 artists taking part.

More than twenty countries and more than half the states in the U.S. are represented. A wide variety of artistic media are included in the exhibition, including 2D and 3D digital prints, painting, beadwork, ceramics, wood, metal, quilting, and folded paper. Artists drew inspiration from the mathematics of fractals, polyhedra, non-Euclidean and four-dimensional geometry, tiling, knot theory, number theory, and more. This year Katie McCallum and Robert Fathauer served as co-curators of the exhibition, and were joined by Chris Bartlett, Nat Friedman, and Sujan Shrestha to make up the jury. The print catalog was prepared by Conan Chadbourne, and the art submission website was created and administered by Nathan Selikoff. Leading up to the Bridges Conference, Chris Bartlett is taking primary responsibility for a month-long gallery exhibition that will be held at the College of Fine Arts Gallery at Towson University. That exhibition, and a subsequent exhibition at the Centennial MAA MathFest in Washington, D.C., will showcase of a subset of the artworks shown at Bridges.

We would also like to thank faculty from the University of Baltimore who have provided substantial contributions to Bridges Baltimore 2015. In particular, we thank Sujan Shrestha for his leadership in this regard. Design faculty member Thomas James O'Donnell played a key role in designing the Bridges poster and banner, as well as the covers of the proceedings and art catalog. In addition, Joseph Achille Fioramonti, Jonathan L. Shorr, Jeffery Hoover and Sujan Shrestha worked on the Bridges Baltimore 2015 announcement movie. Our sincere thanks to all faculty from the Division of Science, Information Arts and Technology and to the Klein Family School of Communication Design for their collaboration and participation in this conference. We would also like to acknowledge Monica Queen, Michael Zemarel, Peter Toran, Chris Hart, Terry Stumpf and all other staff members at the University of Baltimore who have put a considerable amount of time and effort into organizing this conference. Our sincere thanks to Provost Joseph S. Wood and Dean Laura Bryan for agreeing to host and support the conference. And finally, Kathryn Summers and Division Chair Deborah Kohl have been key in providing logistical support to Sujan Shrestha, who is also the main conference organizer and faculty coordinator at the University of Baltimore.

Once again, welcome to Bridges 2015. We hope you enjoy the conference and find inspiration in this wonderful collection of new ideas.

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