

Extract From OP-SF Net

Topic #3----- OP-SF Net 22.2----- March 15, 2015

From: Tom Koornwinder (T.H.Koornwinder@uva.nl)

Subject: A tribute to Martin Muldoon, editor of OP-SF NET for 19 years

The present issue of OP-SF NET is the first one since March 1996 (Volume 3, Number 2) which does not mention Martin Muldoon as an editor or co-editor. That means that he has taken care for 114 issues of this electronic newsletter during 19 years.

The SIAM Activity Group on Orthogonal Polynomials and Special Functions started in 1990. Initially it had only a printed Newsletter. After a few years it was supplemented by an electronic newsletter called OP-SF NET under my editorship. Volume 1, Number 1 appeared on December 22, 1993, followed by eight more numbers in 1994. From 1995 onward there has been in each year one volume consisting of six numbers appearing bimonthly. The numbers were sent to the subscribers by email. By the end of the first year there were 160 subscriptions.

Note that in 1994 we lived in the infant years of the World Wide Web. The first time a URL was mentioned in OP-SF NET was in Volume 1, Number 8, where I introduced an announcement by Daniel Loeb (then in Bordeaux) with the words:

Daniel Loeb, who is working a.o. in umbral calculus related to special functions, writes us about his WWW (World Wide Web) home page, where he has gathered information about his research activities. Another example would be Doron Zeilberger's FTP directory, which can be approached by WWW <ftp://ftp.math.temple.edu/pub/zeilberger>. Here follows Daniel Loeb's announcement.

Afterwards the number of URL's mentioned in a number of OP-SF NET editions grew exponentially.

In Volume 3, Number 2 which appeared March 1996, Martin Muldoon was introduced as a co-editor of OP-SF NET. Starting with Volume 6, Number 1 (January 1999) he was the only editor. He remained so for seven years. In January 2006, Diego Dominici joined Martin as a co-editor. They were running OP-SF NET together until January 2015. Starting May 2007, OP-SF NET was upgraded from plain text to pdf format, which was sent to the subscribers as an email attachment. Occasionally there was even a photo included.

Martin has done his editorial work during all those years with great care and accuracy. With his great command of the English language, he has often made linguistic and stylistic improvements in items contributed by non-native writers. When soon every mathematical activity had its own web page, just URL's instead of full texts were submitted as news items, by which Martin had to select and edit content from the web page for inclusion in OP-SF NET. He had to cope also with a shrinking supply of material, and fewer contributed conference reports than was the case in the early days.

A very valuable item in each number of OP-SF NET is the list of new preprints on orthogonal polynomials and special functions which has been posted on arXiv during the

last two months. This also includes preprints posted in a category seemingly unrelated to our field. I always admired the editors that they were able to trace these. In the early days preprints in electronic form in our field were collected in an ftp archive unrelated to the official arXiv (then with URL <http://xxx.lanl.gov/archive> and dominated by physics). This ftp archive was started by Waleed Al-Salam and was continued after his death by Hans Haubold in Vienna. In 1998, the preprints in Haubold's archive were moved to the Los Alamos xxx archive.

Thanks a lot to Martin and Diego and welcome to the new editors Kerstin Jordaan and Howard Cohl.