

At the Third International Conference on Ethnomathematics in New Zealand, I was appointed to organize and host the next meeting at my university, Towson University, in Maryland USA. With much cooperation from the university facilities staff, and support from my academic colleagues at the University, the Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the North American Study Group on Ethnomathematics (NASGEm), we were pleased to open the Fourth International Conference on Ethnomathematics (ICEM-4) on July 25, 2010.

The Conference brought together about seventy-five ethnomathematicians, from schools, universities, and educational administrative offices from around the world. They came from 23 states of the United States, plus the District of Columbia and Guam, and from twenty countries on all continents (well, no one came from Antarctica!). Only a few had met before, but by the end of the week, we had become a group of friends. The conference language was English, but we heard much Spanish and Portuguese, as well as other languages.

Conference events included an pre-conference reception on the Towson University Center for the Arts, an Opening Ceremony in the University Union, a tour of the museum at the farm of Benjamin Banneker (a prominent African-American scientist and mathematician in the 18<sup>th</sup> century), a multicultural lunch, a special buffet dinner of local Maryland food, and an excursion to Washington DC and tour of the National Museum of the American Indian.

The conference website, <http://pages.towson.edu/shirley/ICEM-4.htm> has all the details of the conference, including several post-conference updates, PowerPoints, and photos.

However, the main business of ICEM-4 was academic. We gathered to exchange reports of research and projects, studying and using the mathematics of cultures for insight into societies, cultures, and philosophy, and for applications in mathematics education curricula in and out of schools.

It was easy and enjoyable for conference participants to sit and hear the presentations and to discuss the issues with the presenters. However, it was a very difficult task to assemble all of these papers and arrange them as a comprehensive record of the conference. This job went to Tod Shockey (who himself was unable to attend the conference), one of the co-editors of the NASGEm online journal, the Journal of Mathematics and Culture, <http://nasgem.rpi.edu/pl/journal-mathematics-culture-s37>

I must especially thank Tod for his efforts, collecting, collating, and editing the papers, and putting up with questions from presenters (and me) about the progress of the work. His communications went world-wide in several languages, to keep up with all the presenters. However, his efforts have borne fruit with this special issue of the Journal of Mathematics and Culture, a massive issue of nearly four hundred pages. I congratulate Tod on this production.

I also thank all of the presenters for their cooperation and their special work to get their papers ready for publication.

I hope this document will serve as a guide to the state of ethnomathematics and a reference for continuing work in the field.

Now we look ahead for the Fifth International Conference on Ethnomathematics in Mozambique in 2014.

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