

HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY PROFESSOR MUSTAFA KULENOVIĆ



It is a great pleasure to congratulate Professor Mustafa Kulenović, one of the editors of our journal, on his 70th birthday, by dedicating this issue to him in honor of his significant scientific contribution to mathematics, especially in the field of differential equations, difference equations, and discrete dynamical systems.

This is an opportunity to thank him for his outstanding achievements in the development of mathematics at the universities of Sarajevo and Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and his selfless contribution to creating excellent experts whom he mentored, advised, and helped build their university careers. His contribution to the development of scientific thought and culture in Bosnia and Herzegovina is immeasurable, as well as at the University of Rhode Island in the USA.

Additionally, all of us, his doctoral students, would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to him for his generous help, exceptional patience, optimism, and warmth as a mentor. Numerous authors, colleagues, and former students contributed to this edition, dedicating their papers to Professor Kulenović.

Mustafa R. S. Kulenović was born in Sarajevo on June 23, 1951. He graduated from the First Gymnasium in Sarajevo in 1970 and got his B. S. in Mathematics

from the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1974 with the highest honors. In 1977 he received his M. S. in Mathematics, and 1981 his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He held positions of Assistant Professor at the University of Sarajevo from 1982 to 1987, Associate Professor from 1987 to 1989, and Professor from 1990 to September 1994. He also held the Visiting Assistant Professor positions at the University of Rhode Island from 1985 to 1986 and 1987 to 1989, and from 1994 to 2000, and Visiting Associate Professor at the American University of Cairo in 1989/1990. He was promoted to the position of Professor at the University of Rhode Island in 2006. He has held the position of Distinguished Professor at the University of Tuzla since 2008. In May of 2010, he received the Outstanding Research and Intellectual Property recognition from the University of Rhode Island. In 2015-2016 he received the Maitland P. Simmons Research Award, University of Rhode Island, 2015. In December 2012 he became a Member of the Academy of Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Professor Kulenović served as a major professor for eight Master's students and twenty Ph.D. students, eleven in Bosnia and nine in the USA, and advised three Ph.D. students. He also served on the Ph.D. committees of 38 Ph.D. students. He has published two books, over 180 papers, and some software packages. His research results are widely cited, and he has more than 3000 citations in the Science Citation Index. He has almost 1500 citations in MathSciNet and more than 2570 citations in Scopus. He also has nearly 6000 citations in Google Scholar with an h-index of 37. Some of his papers have been among the top one percent of the papers by citation in mathematics since 2000. Several papers have been in the top ten most downloaded papers or are in the top ten most cited papers in some of the leading journals in discrete dynamical systems. So far, he has had 60 co-authors. The research interests of Professor Kulenović are in the theoretical and applied aspects of difference equations and discrete dynamical systems, including the global behavior of solutions. He worked in differential equations, especially in the oscillation and the asymptotic behavior of delay differential equations, where, together with G. Ladas, he started an area known as the linearized oscillation theory. In the theory of difference equations, he initiated, together with G. Ladas, the systematic study of global dynamics of linear fractional difference equations.

Today this area has more than 200 actively involved participants throughout the world. Professor Kulenović has presented several lectures at major conferences on difference and differential equations held in the United States, Canada, and Europe. He was twice an invited speaker at the World Congress of Mathematicians. Professor Kulenović has served as Vice President of the Society of Mathematicians and Physicists of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1983-1985, Chair for Applied Mathematics, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1984-1989 and Chairperson of Department of Mathematics University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and

Herzegovina, September 1991-September 1994. He was the Coordinator for the curriculum development of mathematics in elementary school and high school in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1992-94 and a Member of the Board of Directors of BIT - Bosnian Association for Information Technologies, 1992-94 and a Member of the Editorial Board of *Acta Informatica Medica*, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1993-1994. Professor Kulenović is a Member of the Editorial Board of the *Sarajevo Journal of Mathematics*, formerly *Radovi Matematički*, Academy of Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and is also on the editorial board of five international journals. He has also served as the Referee for more than 30 mathematical journals such as *Proceedings of American Mathematical Society*, *Transactions of American Mathematical Society*, *Journal of Differential Equations*, *Journal of Difference Equations and Applications*, *Nonlinear Analysis, Theory, Methods and Applications*, *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*, *Applied Mathematics Letters*, *Computers and Mathematics with Applications*, etc. Professor Kulenović was the Co-organizer of eight Special Sessions of the AMS Annual Meeting and the co-organizer of eight Special Sessions of the AMS Regional Meeting. Since 1999, he has delivered more than 40 talks at different international conferences, 17 invited talks in different universities, and gave four graduate courses in different universities in Bosnia. In addition, he taught many graduate courses in the USA. He was also the Principal Investigator in several Research Projects in both Theoretical and Applied Mathematics financed by the Research Foundation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

REFERENCES

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SOFTWARE

- [1] *Dynamica* - computer package, written in *Mathematica*, intended for use in the study of difference equations and discrete dynamical systems. (with O. Merino) (software supplement of book 2)
- [2] *Dynamic Analyzer* - computer package, written in *Mathematica*, for the study of symbolic calculations for difference equations and discrete dynamical systems (with E. Pilav).

We express our sincere congratulations to Professor Kulenović on his 70th birthday, and we wish him good health, good luck, and success in scientific work with many significant results for many years to come.

Mehmed Nurkanović