Applied Linear Algebra Conference
Novi Sad, Serbia
In honor of Ivo Marek
April 28-30, 2008

Report by Daniel B. Szyld

This conference, sponsored by ILAS, took place at the University of Novi Sad in Novi Sad, Serbia. More than sixty participants from over fifteen countries gathered to honor Ivo Marek on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday, and to celebrate his many contributions to applied linear algebra. Several speakers made references to Ivo's strong background in functional analysis, which permeates his approach to linear algebra problems, in particular to the theory of iterative methods, comparison theorems for them, aggregation-disaggregation methods, and Markov chains.

Three days of an intense schedule began with a lecture by the honored guest, followed by lectures by Richard S. Varga, Hans Schneider, and Owe Axelsson. There were three dozen other speakers and also a poster session.

Participation of young scientists was especially encouraged, and an award was given for the best lecture by a young researcher (meaning either graduate student or Ph.D. received since 2003). The winner was announced at the closing ceremony. The first prize went to Akira Imakura, from Nagoya University. Two honorable mentions were presented to Ivana Pultarova from the Czech Technical University in Prague, and Marko Stošić from the Technical University of Lisbon.

The banquet celebration took place at a restaurant on the banks of the Danube River, and the fare included fish from the Danube itself.

There will be a special issue of Numerical Linear Algebra with Applications dedicated to papers presented at the meeting.

Ljiljana Cvetković of the University of Novi Sad was Chair of the Scientific and Organizing Committees. The wonderful group of local organizers made sure that everyone enjoyed their stay in Serbia. The program and more pictures can be found at http://sites.im.ns.ac.yu/events/2008/ala2008/.

There are plans under way for a similar meeting honoring Hans Schneider, to be held in 2010.

Participants in Novi Sad Applied Linear Algebra Conference