

## ON RETIREMENT

BRUCE BERNDT

I would like to begin with a quote from a theologian.

Gratitude is one of the finest feelings in life . . . nothing beats gratitude for sheer joy; it is, perhaps, the genesis of all other really good feelings in the human repertoire.

Please permit me to express my gratitude to several people. It is, indeed, a joy for me to do so.

First, I am very grateful to the members of the organizing committee, in particular, A.J. Hildebrand, Scott Ahlgren, Ae Ja Yee, and Atul Dixit, for their dedication and work in making this conference a joy for all of us, and especially for me.

Second, I would like to thank my parents. My mother was one of 17 children, and so my family was rather large, but I am the first in our family to go to college. My father went to high school for only two years, but getting a strong education for my sister and me was a high priority. My work ethic was inherited from my father. For several years, he worked daily on our farm from about 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., when he would go to Whirlpool Corporation to work an 8-hour shift until midnight.

Third, I thank my wife Helen and our three children Kristin, Sonja, and Brooks for their loving support while I worked on Ramanujan, doubtless frequently thinking that maybe I inherited too much of a work ethic from my father.

Fourth, I have had inspiring teachers beginning with Keith Moore, who taught me almost all of my undergraduate mathematics at Albion College, and Rod Smart, Marvin Knopp, and Dick Askey at Wisconsin.

Fifth, despite the unusual thrust of my research, I have always had the support of our mathematics department, especially from the number theory group, which has always been the most talented and cordial group of number theorists in the number theory world.

Sixth, our department has always been blessed with exceptional staff, who have aided me an infinite number of times, beginning several years ago with Pat Coombs and Hilda Britt, among others, and continuing to current times with Tori, Paula, Jane, Ann, Tony, and many others.

Seventh, although I have written some papers and books, and indeed it has been a pleasure to do so, my greatest joy as a mathematician has been to supervise 37 graduate students and about a dozen postdocs. Although I have lost contact with a few of them, and one died much too early, their continued friendship via mathematics or otherwise has been a source of great happiness for me.

Lastly, thanks to all of you for sharing these enjoyable moments with me.