

## **DR. GEORGE BERZSENYI**

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George Berzsenyi grew up on Hungary's excellent mathematical competitions and on *KöMaL*, the outstanding high school mathematical journal unique to the Land of the Magyars. He emigrated to the United States in 1957 after the ruthless crushing of Hungary's revolution against communism. After the completion of his studies in mathematics, in addition to teaching and research (in complex analysis, number theory, etc), his efforts were directed mostly to transplanting some of Hungary's mathematical culture to America and other parts of the world to whatever extent he could.

Thus his organization of the 'Lamar Mathematics Days' (1977-1982) and of the 'Texas Mathematics Olympiad' (1979-1982), the conducting of the 'Competition Corner' in the *Mathematics Student* journal (1978-1982), and the establishment of the Texas Mathematics League in support of the teams from Texas to the Atlantic Regions Mathematics League (which was renamed American Regions Mathematics League shortly afterwards) meets. He also served on the MAA committee in charge of the USAMO (1976-1987), on the AHSME (now ACM-12) committee, and chaired the one in charge of the AIME during its first 6 years. In fact, his book, *The Contest Problem Book V* (co-authored by Stephen B Maurer, who wrote the part on the AHSME) is the only book on the AIME to date. He also wrote a regular column, 'Problems, Puzzles and Paradoxes' for COMAP's *Consortium* for 12 years and another one, 'Math Investigations' for *Quantum* also for 12 years. It was only after he moved to Indiana that he initiated the USA Mathematical Talent Search (USAMTS) and its global counterpart (IMTS), which remained at least partially under his control for the first 16 years. His two-volume book on the IMTS was published in Australia (in 2010 and 2011), while he was credited as the co-author of a Korean edition on the first 20 years of the USAMTS in 2009. He is also proud of being the instigator and co-editor of *C2K -- Century 2 of KöMaL*, which appeared in Hungary in 1999.

With respect to ARML it should be noted that collection of funds for the first year was the hardest, since it was a completely new venture and the sum of \$10,000 was daunting for someone who never collected any funds for any purpose whatever. The second and third years were a lot easier, but still a challenge. That was the only aspect of the work with ARML that I don't miss.

Dr. Berzsenyi is married to Lillas Kay Markey for 51½ years; they have four grown children and 12 wonderful grandchildren. He is hugely indebted to Kay for moral, mathematical and technical support throughout the years. She too was a math major (and has a Masters in Mathematics and another B.S. in Computer Science), and hence always an ideal sounding board, who knew how to type long before he did, and is a born editor, who knows her way about computers as well. Moreover, since they retired, they enjoy traveling and doing genealogy together too.

In conclusion it should be mentioned that after assuming the chairmanship of the Department of Mathematics at RHIT, George was instrumental in getting Indiana into ARML too. Afterwards he recruited his protégée, John Rickert (who used to send him excellent solutions to the problems of the Competition Corner) to take over that. He also visited the 1993 ARML meet at the Pennsylvania site to meet with some of the USAMTS participants. His other ARML-related activities include the donation of some books and magazines to the leader of Colorado's teams, a second article in *ARMLog* (about the USAMTS, i.e., other than the one about Sam Baethge), and the preface to *ARML-- NYSML Contests 1989 -- 1994* by Zimmerman and Kessler, published in 1995 by MathPro Press.

And most importantly, it should be noted that Dr. Berzsenyi is incredibly pleased to see Edward Early as his (and more importantly, Sam's) successor in charge of Texas in ARML, since Ed was a multiple winner in the USAMTS during his high school years.