

Celebrating the 70th Birthday of Professor Johnny Henderson

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We are pleased and honored to serve as Guest Editors for this Special Issue of the International Journal of Difference Equations celebrating the 70th birthday of Professor Johnny Henderson. In some sense we are celebrating the outstanding achievements that Johnny continues to produce as a researcher and as an educator. More importantly, we celebrate the collaboration that Johnny continues to provide as a friend, scholar, and mentor for so many of us in the mathematics community.

Johnny was born on March 26, 1951 in Santa Monica, California and he grew up in Arkansas. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville in 1973 and 1975, respectively, and then took a college teaching position at the University of Arkansas–Monticello. In 1977, Johnny, with his wife Darlene and daughter Kathy, left Arkansas and relocated in Lincoln, Nebraska where he entered the Ph.D. program in mathematics at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Johnny received his training in differential equations from Professor Lloyd K. Jackson, a long time faculty member at UNL. Professor Jackson and his colleague, Allan Peterson, sponsored a weekly seminar in differential equations, a tradition that Allan continued for many years at UNL and a tradition that Johnny has continued at other universities throughout his career.

Upon earning a Ph.D. in 1981, Johnny took a faculty position at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. He moved to Auburn University in 1984, serving as an Alumni Endowed Chair for five years. Later, he served as the Scharnagel Endowed Professor at Auburn University. In 2002, Johnny moved to Waco, Texas with the purpose to help develop and enrich a young Ph.D. program in mathematics at Baylor University. He has served as an endowed Distinguished Professor during his tenure at Baylor.



Johnny's accomplishments in academics are numerous and outstanding; he is recognized equally for outstanding research and teaching. His tireless and selfless approach to work and life serve as a model to colleagues and students alike. He has earned numerous honors and awards; he is a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society having been selected with the Inaugural Fellows Class of 2013.

Johnny's primary research interests are in boundary value problems for differential equations where he produces significant work and impacts many researchers in multiple areas. He is a prolific writer, producing more than 600 peer reviewed articles with more than 150 collaborators. In more recent years, he has turned to writing more than 10

research monographs. These monographs address such diverse areas as functional differential equations, impulsive differential equations and inclusions, implicit fractional differential and integral equations and topological methods for differential inclusions. His work encompasses the continuous case, the discrete case and the dynamic equations on time scales.

Johnny's teaching record rivals his research record. To date, Johnny has directed 27 Ph.D. dissertations and 17 master's theses; he has certainly fulfilled his charge to help develop and enrich a young Ph.D. program in mathematics at Baylor. Equally important, Johnny has been awarded multiple teaching awards including a Mathematical Association of America Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished Teaching. In addition to the many journals for which he has served, Johnny serves on the Editorial Board for *Involve*, a leading journal that encourages student involvement. Johnny has impacted the entire spectrum of the university mathematics curriculum.

In this Special Issue, we are pleased to present 22 research articles by 47 contributors, 25 of whom have collaborations with Johnny. These contributions have been invited and each has undergone a rigorous referee process. We express our thanks to the numerous researchers who contributed to the refereeing process as well.

The Guest Editors express deep thanks to Professor Martin Bohner, Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Difference Equations*, who graciously has provided the forum for this Special Issue.

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