

# Preface

This book is devoted to Professor Jürgen Lehn, who passed away on September 29, 2008, at the age of 67. It contains invited papers that were presented at the *Workshop on Recent Developments in Applied Probability and Statistics Dedicated to the Memory of Professor Jürgen Lehn*, Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, April 23–24, 2009, which was jointly organized by the Technische Universität Darmstadt (TUD) and METU. The papers present surveys on recent developments in the area of applied probability and statistics. In addition, papers from the *Panel Discussion: Impact of Mathematics in Science, Technology and Economics* are included.

Jürgen Lehn was born on the 28th of April, 1941 in Karlsruhe. From 1961 to 1968 he studied mathematics in Freiburg and Karlsruhe, and obtained a Diploma in Mathematics from the University of Karlsruhe in 1968. He obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Regensburg in 1972, and his Habilitation at the University of Karlsruhe in 1978. Later in 1978, he became a C3 level professor of Mathematical Statistics at the University of Marburg. In 1980 he was promoted to a C4 level professorship in mathematics at the TUD where he was a researcher until his death.

Jürgen Lehn supervised many theses, wrote three books, published numerous articles and was the editor of proceedings and journals such as *Statistical Papers*, *Statistics and Decisions*, *Mathematische Semesterberichte* and *Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics*. He managed the interdisciplinary Center for Practical Mathematics in Darmstadt, where he founded the stochastic simulation research group and cooperated with structural engineering teams using principles of applied mathematical statistics. His interdisciplinary work in mathematics gave him satisfaction and joy, and not a small degree of success. He also organized an interdisciplinary series of lectures entitled “What lies behind?”, and was a member of the German federal selection committee for mathematical research.

Jürgen Lehn was a devoted teacher and a caring person. His ex-students, some of whom are now professors, are thankful for having known him. Jürgen Lehn rose from the rank of assistant to Dean and senator of TUD. He served on several high-level committees within his university. In addition, the community of mathematicians remembers Jürgen Lehn for his selfless dedication and unconditional depend-

ability. He consulted often for the German Research Foundation (DFG), and he was sought after by hiring committees at various universities. Through his work as a founding member at the DFG and his activities in the Stochastik group of the German Mathematician's Union, he helped the general stochastics community in the country. For six years he served as the secretary of the Conference of University Teachers of Mathematical Stochastics. Throughout all this, Jürgen Lehn tried to include and help the younger scientific generation in research and professional life.

In his work for the mathematical community, the Mathematical Research Institute at Oberwolfach played a special role. From 1992 until 2003, Jürgen Lehn was the treasurer of the association *Friends of Oberwolfach*, and from 2003 on, he served as its secretary. As one of the founding fathers of this association, Jürgen Lehn's energy and dedication saw the group through difficult early years, and was instrumental in many emergency relief measures.

He played a most important role in establishing international cooperation between the Department of Mathematics of TUD and several mathematics departments around the globe. In particular, he was one of the leading figures in the foundation of The Institute of Applied Mathematics (IAM) at METU.

As the editors of this book, we would like to express our thanks to all contributors, many of whom were not only his scientific colleagues but also his personal friends. We are specially grateful to Alice Blanck and Dr. Niels Peter Thomas from Springer for their cooperation with the publication of this book.

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