

## Parabola Volume 41, Issue 2 (2005)

### George Szekeres (1911–2005)

As we are about to go to press I have just been informed about the death of Professor George Szekeres on 28 August 2005. George's wife Esther, herself a prominent mathematician, died a little later in the same nursing home. At 95 years of age, Esther was one year older than George. George was appointed as Professor in Pure Mathematics at the University of New South Wales in 1963 and one of his first activities in this position was to establish *Parabola* with the first issue in 1964. George remained on the Editorial Board of *Parabola* for the remainder of his life. An earlier edition of *Parabola* (Vol.38. No.1 2002) has a short article in celebration of George's life when he turned 90. In my mind and the minds of many others, George has always been a part of, and always will be a part of, the School of Mathematics at UNSW. I recall, shortly after George's 90th birthday at an informal School gathering asking George if he could tell me the meaning of life. George smiled in reply and said that this was one of the great problems that he did not yet have an answer too, but I should ask him again in a few years time.

In conveying the sad news of George's death to us, one of the members of the Editorial Board of *Parabola*, David Tacon, drew our attention to a quote much loved by George as George felt it resonated with the relationship that he had with his wife Esther. These lines about mathematical life are from Hilbert's eulogy to Minkowski:

"Our science, which was our greatest love, has brought us together; it appeared as a garden in bloom; in this garden there are well graded paths which one can enjoy without effort, where one can look around, sometimes in the company of a kindred soul. But we also visited hidden trails and discovered some new and beautiful viewpoints, and if one showed it to the other, our joy was complete."

The next issue of *Parabola* will be a special issue celebrating the mathematical lives of George and Esther Szekeres.

B.I. Henry  
Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this issue of *Parabola* which contains, in addition to regular articles and problems, the list of prizewinners and complete solutions for the UNSW School of Mathematics Competition in 2005. The winner of the First Prize in the Senior Division, Graham White, and the winner of the First Prize in the Junior Division, Vinoth Nandakumar, are both from James Ruse Agricultural High School. Both students represented Australia at the International Mathematical Olympiad held in Yucatan, Mexico in July this year and they were each awarded Bronze medals for their outstanding performances.

In this issue we were also delighted to include solutions to some of our problems from our readers. A special thank you to John Barton and Julius Guest for providing their solutions to us.

B.I. Henry  
Editor