

3rd Heidelberg Laureate Forum Report

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The 3rd Heidelberg Laureate Forum (HLF) was held in Heidelberg's picturesque old city in Germany on 23–28 August 2015. Supported by the Klaus-Tschira-Stiftung, since 2013, the Forum has brought young researchers from around the globe together with a handful of laureates — outstanding mathematicians and computer scientists who have been recipients of either the Abel Prize, ACM A.M. Turing Award, Fields Medal, or the Nevanlinna Prize. This year's forum was no different, and included approximately 200 young researchers and 26 laureates including Leonard Adleman (ACM Turing Award recipient and co-inventor of the RSA cryptosystem), Shigefumi Mori (Fields Medalist and president of the International Mathematical Union), and Vinton Gray Cerf (ACM Turing Award recipient and co-inventor of the TCP/IP protocols). The group of young researchers included five young mathematicians working in Australia (see Figure 2).



Figure 1. Fancy souvenirs. (Photo: Matthew Tam.)

It was, of course, an honour to be given the opportunity to meet with the laureates, and to be able to put a face and a personality to their famous names. It was also somewhat humbling that many of them, when asked about how they decided which problems and areas to work on, simply replied ‘I just do what I find interesting’.

The Forum's program was full of activities which gave both the young researchers and the laureates a great deal of time to get better acquainted. Each day of the academic program began with a number of engaging talks from the laureates. The afternoon sessions included a number of short workshops given by the more senior young researchers, stimulating ‘hot topic’ discussions, and visits to local institutions including the German Cancer Research Centre and the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics. Highlights of the social program included dinner in a museum

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Figure 2. 2015 HLF attendees (left to right): Matthew Tam, Melissa Lee, Philipp Bader, Anna Tomskova and Ioannis Tsartsafis. (Photo: ©HLFF// C. Flemming. All rights reserved 2015.)

aside a Russian space shuttle in the nearby town of Speyer, a Bavarian Night with a little *Schuhplattler* (Bavarian dance) just for good measure, and, no visit to Heidelberg would be complete without the renaissance ruins of the spectacular Heidelberg Castle.

In summary, the Heidelberg Laureate Forum was a fantastic opportunity to engage with, learn from, and be inspired by mathematicians and computer scientists who have achieved remarkable things and reached the top of their respective fields, as well as to network with an international cohort of up and coming young researchers.

Further information regarding the Heidelberg Laureate Forum can be found online at <http://www.heidelberg-laureate-forum.org/>.