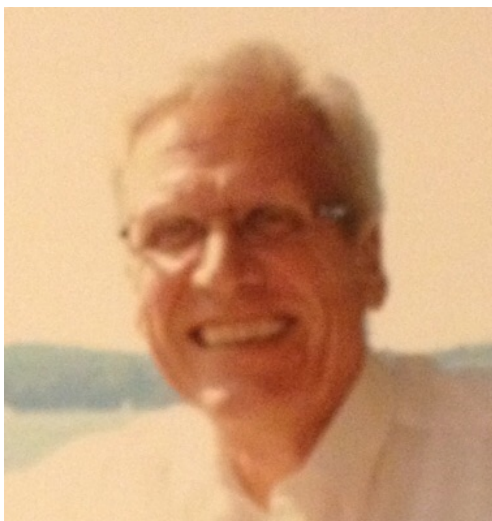# Preface

This issue of Communications in Combinatorics and Optimization is dedicated to the eminent German graph theorist Prof. Dr. **Lutz Volkmann** on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Lutz Volkmann

Lutz Volkmann was born 1 January 1944 in Liebenwalde, Germany. A few years after completing his studies at the Freie Universität Berlin, where he obtained his doctorate in 1973, he moved to the Rheinisch-Westälische Technische Hochschule Aachen (RWTH Aachen University) which became his academic home for the next 45 years.

An extraordinarily productive researcher throughout his life, Lutz Volkmann has, according. to MathSci, 419 publications under his belt, among those four books. He started off his research career in complex analysis, to which he contributed almost 30 publications. During the late 1980s he got attracted to graph theory on which he soon concentrated all his research efforts. Although the majority of his research papers has been on domination and its many varieties, he has published important results on a wide range of disciplines in graph theory, such as connectivity, matchings, factor theory, tournaments and their generalizations, cycles, and distances.

Lutz Volkmann's enjoyment of doing research rubbed off on his students. Many a paper began its life at the daily coffee and biscuit meetings with his students in his office. 19 doctoral students cut their mathematical teeth under his supervision, and the current count of doctoral descendants stands at 56.

Stamina and determination are among Lutz Volkmann's many good traits. He shows this not only in persistently pursuing an elusive proof, but also in sports: in 2014 he completed a half-Marathon in two hours and six minutes - aged 70. He is also a great family man, to which his wife of more than 50 years, Hannelore and their daughters Andrea and Kira, as well as their grandchildren Tom, Dina and Mats, can attest.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Lutz Volkmann on his 75th birthday, and we wish him many more years of happiness, health and mathematical productivity.