

A Life Mathematical

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Good evening everyone and welcome to the convention
I just had a few thoughts that I wanted to mention

From my friendships and kinships to my life's occupation
I owe much of who I am to this organization

I started like you as a freshman-aged boy
At the '98 convention in Chicago Illinois

I loved it and dreamed of the next place we may go
Which turned out to be Gatlinburg and then San Diego

After Denver in '01, though my senior year finished
My love for this club had been left undiminished

So I came back two years later to help in Atlanta
And again in '04 in Huntsville Alabama

And I realized while out at Hawaii '05
I'd been part of this club for a third of my life

But really much longer; I grew up around Mu
With my mother, the sponsor from Lincoln named Sue

And my little bro Jimmy who followed her path
He competed in MAO then went on to teach math

And my dad Joe who always came along on the trips
Recording short movies and audio clips

See, for me math was always a family event
And I carried that with me wherever I went

When I moved south and got my mathematics degree
And then moved on out west for a math PhD

And then moved to New York for a mathy career
And then got on a bus to come speak to you here

Math was sometimes a chore, math was sometimes a duty
But a life of mathematics is a life filled with beauty

The patterns of nature, the shape of a face
We see common things with an uncommon grace

And we all gather here to partake in these gifts
Forming friendships that change us with vertical shifts

So divide not by zero, and remember plus C
And be sure that you mean it when you say QED

And when problems appear may you solve them ecstatically
Love the world, love your mind, live your life mathematically.