

November 4, 2001

Brief Vita for John Dennis

John Dennis is Noah Harding Professor of Computational & Applied Mathematics at Rice University. He is in his second term as Chair of the Department of Computational and Applied Mathematics, and he also served a term as Chair of Computer Science.

His research is concerned with optimization algorithms to support engineering design and control, and to advance that work, he has been collaborating with the Boeing Design Explorer team since 1993 on the in house Design Explorer software toolkit for aerospace design.

His editorial service includes 15 years on the board of MATHEMATICAL PROGRAMMING with a term as Coeditor. He founded the SIAM JOURNAL FOR OPTIMIZATION and was its initial Editor-in-Chief. Presently he is a member of the editorial board. He recently founded and is serving as Editor-in-Chief of a new joint MPS/SIAM book series on optimization.

He served as Vice Chair and as Chair of the Mathematical Programming Society and Chair of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics Activity Group for Optimization, a member of the SIAM Council, and a member of the Program Committees for the Mathematical Programming Society and the International Consortium of Industrial and Applied Mathematics Societies.

He was for 10 years Professor of Computer Science at Cornell and a member of the graduate faculties in Operations Research, in Applied Mathematics, and in Computer Science. He has been a Fullbright Lecturer to Argentina, and twice an Erskine Fellow at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and an Adjunct Professor of Combinatorics and Optimization at the University of Waterloo and Computer Science at the University of Houston. He is a member of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, the Mathematical Programming Society, and the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics. He serves on several international and national university advisory committees.

He coauthored with Robert Schnabel the book, NUMERICAL METHODS FOR UNCONSTRAINED OPTIMIZATION AND NONLINEAR EQUATIONS, which was originally published in 1983 by Prentice-Hall, translated into Russian by Mir Press, and is now in its second printing as a SIAM Classic in Applied Mathematics. Of his 35 PhD graduates, 16 are in industry or government. On his 60th birthday, he was honored by the publication of a special issue of the SIAM JOURNAL FOR OPTIMIZATION dedicated to him.