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UNIVERSITATEA BABEŞ-BOLYAI, CLUJ-NAPOCA
FACULTATEA DE MATEMATICĂ ŞI INFORMATICĂ

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Magnifice Rector,
Honoured president of the University Senate,
Dear colleagues vice-rectors, deans, vice-deans,
Dear colleagues and friends,

I am very honoured to open a new important ceremony in our faculty. One of the most important mathematicians in the field of Nonlinear and Applied Analysis and one of the great friends of our Department of Mathematics, Professor Ravi P. Agarwal (Texas A&M University – Kingsville, USA) will be honoured today with the title of *Professor Honoris Causa* of the Babeş-Bolyai University.

We are also at the beginning of an important scientific event, ICNODEA Conference, so I am honoured, on behalf of the staff of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, to address a sincere WELCOME to Cluj-Napoca to all participants and to wish you a pleasant and fruitful conference.

As you probably know, our university and the mathematical studies of our university have a long history. I will do next

A short walk through the history of the university education in Cluj

The first official attestation of a higher education institution in our city was in 1581. On May 12, 1581 the prince Ştefan Bathory decided to set up at Cluj a college with three faculties: Theology, Philosophy and Law.

After a contradictory evolution of the higher education in Cluj, on October 12, 1872 the emperor Ferenc Jozsef (of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) approves a decision of the Hungarian Parliament for setting up the University of Cluj. This university had four faculties:
- Law and State Sciences,
- Medicine,
- Philosophy, Letters and History and, the last one,
- Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

During this period some pre-eminent mathematicians (such as Gyula Farkas, Lipot Fejer, Frigyes Riesz or Alfred Haar) have had essential contributions to the development of the Cluj mathematical school.

The great wish of the Romanian nation to have their own university with complete studies in Romanian was finally accomplish after the union of the province of Transylvania with the Romanian principality in 1918. On October 1st 1919, by a decree of the King Ferdinand of Romania, the Romanian University was set up under the same name as before, the University of Cluj. The faculties of the new university were:

Letters and Philosophy,
Sciences,

Medicine and
Law.

The University of Cluj starts its activity with 171 Professors and 2034 students enrolled in four faculties.

Between the Professors of the Mathematics Section of that years, let us mention some important names: Dimitrie Pompeiu, Theodor Angheluţă, Petre Sergescu, Dumitru V. Ionescu, Gheorghe Călugăreanu. The Honorary Director of the Mathematical Seminar was Paul Montel (Paris), while the Director of the Astronomical Observatory was Gheorghe Bratu.

After the Second World War, starting with 1945, two universities coexist in Cluj: a Hungarian university, Bolyai University and a Romanian one, entitled after the great Romanian biologist Victor Babeş. Finally, in 1959, the two universities were unified in a Romanian-Hungarian university called as today Babeş-Bolyai University.

From 1994 our university get the official status of multicultural and multilingual university.

Today, our university is the largest one in Romania, having almost 45.000 students enrolled in 21 faculties.

A few words about our faculty. Today, the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science has more than 2200 students enrolled in Bachelor, Master and Ph.D., programs, with complete studies in Romanian, Hungarian, German and English.

We are very proud to say that Mathematics from BBU is the only scientific domain of Romanian universities which is present (from 2013) in two very prestigious international rankings**: the Shanghai Ranking** (between the first 200 universities of the world) and in **US News & World Reports Ranking** (position 81 of the best world universities in Mathematics).

I also mention the fact that our Research Group in Nonlinear Operators and Differential Equations publish an international journal, **Fixed Point Theory**, which is indexed by Thomson Reuters and has a nice impact factor.

These results are based on the high scientific level of the staff of our faculty, working together in several research groups.

The unprecedented development of the Computer Science field in Cluj and in Romania, proved by the large number of software and IT companies working in our country and in Cluj is the consequence of the very good results obtained by our faculty staff in the laborious work with the students. These are solid arguments for the strong value of the Computer Science School from Babeş-Bolyai University.

These are in short some of the most important moments of the development of the Mathematics and Computer Science studies in our university, proving that our today's motto *Tradition and Modernity*, is completely covered by facts and realities.

Coming back from history, we are very proud that a remarkable mathematician with a prolific scientific activity as Professor Ravi P. Agarwal (Texas A&M University – Kingsville, USA) is today our guest and will be honoured with the title of Professor Honoris Causa of our university.

Finally, I would like to thank Professor Agarwal for his very interesting speech, for the nice words concerning the School of Mathematics in Cluj and Romania, as well as for accepting to be a honorary member of our academic staff. On this basis, we are looking forward, with high spirits, to the development of the scientific cooperation between our research groups and to relevant achievements in applied mathematics.

Dean-Professor Adrian Petruşel, Ph.D.