The Leslie Fox Prize

As many people will know, Professor Leslie Fox retired in September 1983, from the Chair of Numerical Analysis at Oxford University and in the previous year from the Directorship of the Oxford University Computing Laboratory. Leslie has inspired many talented scholars to enter the field of numerical analysis and has done much to develop educational and research opportunities for students of computational mathematics. To show our appreciation of his devotion and to continue his work of encouragement to others, a capital fund has been established in his honour for the award of an annual prize to a promising numerical analyst. This year the Leslie Fox Prize is to be awarded for the first time.

To illustrate Leslie's far-reaching achievements some numerical data seem appropriate here. During his tenure at the Oxford Computing Laboratory from its inception in 1957 to 1983, seventy students from the Laboratory were awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in numerical analysis. Forty-three additional students successfully completed the Master of Science degree (or the equivalent Diploma in Advanced Mathematics) with specialisation in numerical analysis, and several have since received PhD degrees at other universities. These students are now working and teaching in some twenty-one different countries, on nearly every continent. Leslie, himself, has supervised, wholly or in part, twenty-four

Table I

List of DPhil students supervised wholly, or in part, by Professor Leslie Fox of the University of Oxford (with last known address)

1961	J. E. Walsh (Manchester)
1962	C. E. Phelps (Oxford)
1963	D. B. Taylor (Glasgow)
1964	R. N. Maddison (Sheffield) [with P. Hodgson]
1965	J. K. Reid (Harwell)
1967	R. Sankar (Kanpur, India)
1968	M. El-A. El-Tom (Khartoum, Sudan) [with D. C. Handscomb]
1969	N. K. Nichols (Reading)
	J. P. D. Donnelly (Oxford)
	N. G. Campbell (deceased) [with K. W. Morton]
1971	A. V. J. Buttigieg (Oxford)
	A. Ganado (Malta) [with J. P. D. Donnelly]
	J. M. Aitchison (née Taylor) (Shrivenham) [with D. F. Mayers]
1972	I. S. Duff (Harwell) [with J. K. Reid]
1973	F. Ris (New York, USA)
1974	K. S. Thomas (Southampton) [with B. Noble]
1976	P. Gaffney (Bergen, Norway) [with M. J. D. Powell]
1977	P. E. M. Curtis (née Ward) (London)
1978	T. H. Bromilow (Milton Keynes) [with J. P. D. Donnelly]
1979	M. R. Valenca (Minho, Portugal)
1980	R. M. Chamberlain (?) [with M. J. D. Powell]
1981	H. Dahmardah (Iran) [with D. F. Mayers]
1982	N. O. Nicholas (Harwell)
	C. H. Li (Hefei, China) [with J. P. D. Donnelly]

successful doctoral candidates plus twelve MSc students. Several of these are themselves now lecturing in universities and have supervised postgraduates—giving Leslie many "grand-children" and even "great-grand-children," in whom he takes justifiable pride. A "family tree" is being constructed but is so far very incomplete, and I would welcome any information from Leslie's former students, especially those living abroad. (See Table I.) The records available show that Leslie's own students are now employed in fourteen different countries and his students' students in (at least) a further seven countries.

Besides the many postgraduates from the Computing Laboratory, Leslie has touched a much wider audience through his undergraduate teaching and especially through his work with the Open University. He has continued to encourage the introduction of computational mathematics into the undergraduate syllabus of universities and polytechnics and also into the school curriculum.

Leslie has also endeavoured to strengthen the relations between industrial, governmental and university research groups and has been instrumental in the development of the Oxford Industrial Study Groups and the foundation of the University Consortium for Industrial Numerical Analysis (UCINA). These institutions have become models for cooperative research and are now being emulated in other countries.

Throughout his career Leslie has continued to pursue his own research, publishing *so far* 85 research papers and 5 books. (The manuscript of another book is now nearly complete.) He has travelled throughout the world lecturing on his research and teaching. It is hoped that the Prize awards established in his honour will further encourage talented young numerical analysts in pursuing their own research and also in training others in the field.

Entries for the first Leslie Fox Prize are now being accepted. The entry is to consist of a short research paper suitable for delivery at a numerical analysis symposium. The best selected papers will be presented at a one-day meeting to be held in London on Friday, August 30th, 1985, at which the Prize (or prizes) will be awarded. Details are given in a "call for entries" following this article. Anyone under the age of 31 at the beginning of this year is eligible and young research workers and postgraduate students, not only from Great Britain, but also from other countries, are encouraged to enter. The award of a First Prize in the first competition should be a singular honour!!

Contributions to the Prize Fund are still very welcome. Although sufficient capital is available for the first awards to be made, the Fund must be kept in a healthy state in order to guarantee its continuation, and donations at any time would be most helpful. The IMA is kindly administering the fund and cheques (payable to the Leslie Fox Prize Fund) may be sent either to me or directly to the IMA. The Fund is a designated charity and covenant forms are available from me at the following address: Department of Mathematics, University of Reading, P.O. Box 220, Reading RG6 2AX.

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