

ORBEL

General Assembly meeting at UCL Louvain on Thursday January 28, 2016

Annual report of activities in 2015

Dear Chairman, Dear Members of the Administration Board, Dear Members of ORBEL,

As now traditional I will first be giving headlines on the ORBEL 29 conference, the ORBEL and Wolsey awards 2015, and finally the 4OR publications.

The 29th yearly national ORBEL conference on Operations Research organised by the ANT/OR research group headed by our administrator and colleague Kenneth Sørensen was held at University of Antwerpen on Thursday & Friday February 5-6, 2015. Many thanks to the organising and scientific committees: the attendance was important with 121 participants including 70 PhD students (an exceptionally high number showing the coming up of the new generation of young OR researchers), and 13 institutional registrations. Two distinguished invited plenary speakers took the floor, Marc Sevaux of Université de Bretagne Sud, France, with the talk “Wireless Sensor Networks - A survey on maximizing lifetime in sensor coverage problems”, and Nick Street of University of Iowa, USA, with the talk “Predictive Analytics for Personalized Health Care Decision Making”. The conference dinner took place in the prestigious Spiegelzaal in the former Royal Palace. This originally 18th century building, which is located centrally on the Meir, has been visited by important rulers such as Napoleon Bonaparte, Willem I of the Netherlands and the Belgian Royal House.

After approval of the accounts 3.810 Euro will be transferred to our society, which is a remarkable result.

The ORBEL and the Wolsey awards were also received during the Antwerpen conference after the presentations of the nominees’ works.

The ORBEL 2015 award sponsored by OM Partners with 1000 EURO award is bestowed on the author(s) of a scientifically oriented Master’s thesis. The jury, presided by Frits Spieksma, selected Matteo Balliauw of Universiteit Antwerpen with the thesis entitled “A variable neighborhood search algorithm to generate piano fingerings for polyphonic sheet music”, the supervisor were Dorien Herremans and Daniel Palhazi Cuervo.

The Wolsey award is rewarded each year with an iPad and a full registration to the ORBEL conference to the author(s) of the best and most significant OR implementation contributing to Open-Source. The laureate in 2015 was Broes De Cat for the implementation of the “IDP + MinisatID – Multi-inference Knowledge Base System”.

During the General Assembly of ORBEL taking place during the conference three new administrators were elected: An Caris (UHasselt), Dries Goossens (UGent), and Roel Leus (KU Leuven). Welcome!

Regarding 4OR, Yves Crama succeeded in 2015 to Thierry Marchant as the Belgian editor-in-chief. Next to Thierry Marchant and Frank Plastria (senior editors) and Marc Pirlot (board member), two additional board members affiliated with Belgian

universities have been appointed in 2015, namely, Kenneth Sörensen and Frits Spieksma.

In 2015, Volume 13 contains 448 pages, 3 invited surveys, 11 research papers, 2 industry papers, 10 PhD Thesis summaries, and acknowledgements to the referees. An editorial section (pages 1-13 of the first issue) provides many more details and statistics about the papers published in 2012-2014. Note that the quality of accepted papers (currently less than 10% of the total number of submissions) is very high, so that the impact factor of the journal is now 1.0.

In 2015 financial support has been given by ORBEL to two activities:

- The 2nd International Workshop on “PROMETHEE: Research and Case Studies” organised by Yves De Smet on 23rd January 2015 at ULB. The aim of the workshop is to bring together researchers and practitioners from all the disciplines that engage with the Multi-Criteria Decision Aid PROMETHEE;
- MAPSP 2015 standing for “Models and Algorithms for Planning and Scheduling Problems” was organised in common by KUL, UGent and ULg on 8-12 June 2015 in La Roche-en-Ardenne. MAPSP is a biennial workshop dedicated to all aspects of scheduling, planning, and timetabling.

Additional news in 2015:

- A special session to commemorate our long-time member of the administration board and treasurer Philippe Van Asbroeck deceased in July 2014 was organised by Martine Labbé during the EURO 2015 conference in Glasgow. Philippe was the EURO Permanent Secretary between 1993 and 2012. His service was recognised through an award which was handed out at the EURO Conference in Vilnius in July 2012. He was a great friend of many of us. We will keep his memory in high esteem.
- Hans Degroote PhD student of Patrick De Causmaecker at KUL proposed by ORBEL as a candidate for ELAVIO 2016, Latin-American Summer School in Operations Research, to take place in Cali, Columbia, May 9-13, 2016. This student is one of the two participants nominated by EURO. Proficiat!

To conclude this 2015 report I would like to thank you all for your contributions to our society, in particular our new president Frits Spieksma who took charge in 2015 after the ORBEL conference; Bernard Fortz, our treasurer and liaison officer with EURO and IFORS; Yves Crama the past-president and the new Belgian 4OR editor-in-chief; Pieter Vansteenwegen for his active work as ORBEL secretary; Filip Van Utterbeek, hosting our meetings at the Royal Military Academy.

On behalf of our society I wish you all a very happy and successful year 2016!

Pierre Kunsch, Delegate Administrator

ORBEL Activity report 2015 by Pierre Kunsch, Delegate Administrator, January 2016