

ORBEL

General Assembly meeting at HEC Liège on Thursday Feb. 1st, 2018

Annual report of activities in 2017

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

As now traditional I will first be giving headlines on the ORBEL 31 conference at KU Leuven Brussel Campus, the ORBEL and Wolsey awards 2017, and news from other activities of our society in 2017.

The 31st yearly national ORBEL conference on Operations Research was organised by our administrators Jeroen Beliën (Conference chair) and Dries Goossens (Programme chair) at the KU Leuven Campus Brussels on Thursday & Friday February 2-3, 2017. Many thanks to them and their committees for the very successful conference with an important attendance: 152 participants (53 regular and retired and 99 students). Two distinguished invited plenary speakers took the floor: James J. Cochran Head of the Department of Information Systems, Statistics and Management Science at the University of Alabama with the very refreshing talk “Active learning in the modern Operations Research classroom: reengaging and reenergizing your students and their instructor!”, and Marco Lübbecke, Chair of Operations Research at the RWTH Aachen University, with the talk “Branch-and-price” dealing with optimisation problems with an enormous number of variables. The conference dinner took place in Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, at a stone-throw from the Campus and Brussel’s Market Square. The conference result brought an excellent net profit of 2800 Euro and in addition 2915 Euro of ORBEL membership fees.

The ORBEL and the Wolsey awards were as now traditional received during the conference.

The ORBEL 2017 award sponsored by OM Partners with 1000 EURO award is bestowed on the author(s) of a scientifically oriented Master’s thesis presented in 2016. The jury, presided by Frits Spieksma, selected among four very valuable candidates Lisa D’haeseleer of Ghent with her thesis entitled ‘Central allocation of pupils to schools’; her promoter was Dries Goossens. Note that this is the last time that Frits will be chairing the award jury: Jeroen Beliën has accepted to take over from 2018 on.

Thank you very much Jeroen on behalf of ORBEL!

The Wolsey award organised by N-side 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 for the Wolsey award 2017 was Guillaume Derval of UCL with his work ‘Oscar-Modeling, a modeling layer for Oscar including transparent parallelism’.

Congratulations to both laureates!

Regarding 4OR, the Editor-In-Chief Yves Crama will provide for the minutes the activity report on Volume 15 published in 2017.

In 2017 three activities were organised by members of the ORBEL administration board, and received a financial support from ORBEL.

- Urban Public Transport Operations Research Seminar 2017, organised by Pieter Vansteenwegen in KU Leuven on 29th September 2017.
- Computer in Scientific Discovery 8, organised by Hadrien Mélot in UMONS on 23-26 August 2017 gathering researchers making connections between mathematics, computer science, chemistry, biology and physics.
- 12th International Workshop on Cutting, Packing and Related Topics, organised by Tony Wauters in KU Leuven (campus Gent) on 23-26 August 2017.

EURO-News:

- In 2017 Túlio Toffolo (KUL) was selected by EURO to attend ELAVIO XXI, Latin-American Summer School in Operations Research, which took place in Buenos Aires and Miramar (Argentina) from February 24th to March 4th, 2017. His report is available on https://www.euro-online.org/media_site/reports/ELAVIO_17_Toffolo.pdf
- Martine Labbé (ULB) was EURO Plenary Speaker at IFORS 2017 in Quebec City.
- Greet Vanden Berghe (KU Leuven) will be chairing the Program Committee of EURO 2018 in Valencia next July 2018.

This 2017 report will be my last contribution to ORBEL as Delegate Administrator. Of course, I will continue as a member of the board and member of our society.

I would like to thank you all for your contributions to our society, in particular our president Michaël Schyns; Frits Spijksma for organizing over so many years and for the last time in 2017 the ORBEL award; Bernard Fortz, our treasurer for many years, who also wishes to be replaced from 2018 on; thank you, Bernard, for your past and on-going work, also as liaison officer with EURO and IFORS, and for organising in next September OR2018 with the German OR society; Yves Crama the 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 2018!

Pierre Kunsch, Delegate Administrator till today Feb. 1st 2018