

OPENING REMARKS

BY

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As a representative of the Sloan Foundation, I am very pleased to be here to participate in this scientific and sentimental occasion. As many of you know, Sloan has for many years been interested in mathematics and has been supportive of applied mathematics ever since the days of Warren Weaver. In that sense, it is especially appropriate for the Foundation to be able to participate in a look at the future of applied mathematics as we also honor its illustrious history at Brown.

As an applied mathematician who came to Brown almost exactly 50 years ago to begin graduate studies, I have a personal sense of what happened here and what has developed from that beginning. It is quite remarkable that this small Baptist College, known mostly until then as a sound but lesser Ivy that would take Rockefeller and Watson offspring, should become the leading center for applied mathematics in the critical early days of World War II. We know, of course, that the impetus came from Dean Richardson and the same Warren Weaver, but we should remember that Brown turned itself to this new task with will and zeal and then maintained that interest for the next fifty years.

For those of us who were fortunate to come here in the 1940s, there was, of course, little sense of making history, starting a new field of American Scholarship and laying down the potential for technical and economic contributions as well. It was fun to be here in the relaxed post-war climate, making friends of teachers and fellow students that have lasted for some of us for half a century.

So, let us thank Brown University for the spirit and insight to begin this venture and for the skill and competence to maintain it, and let us hope for at least another fifty years!