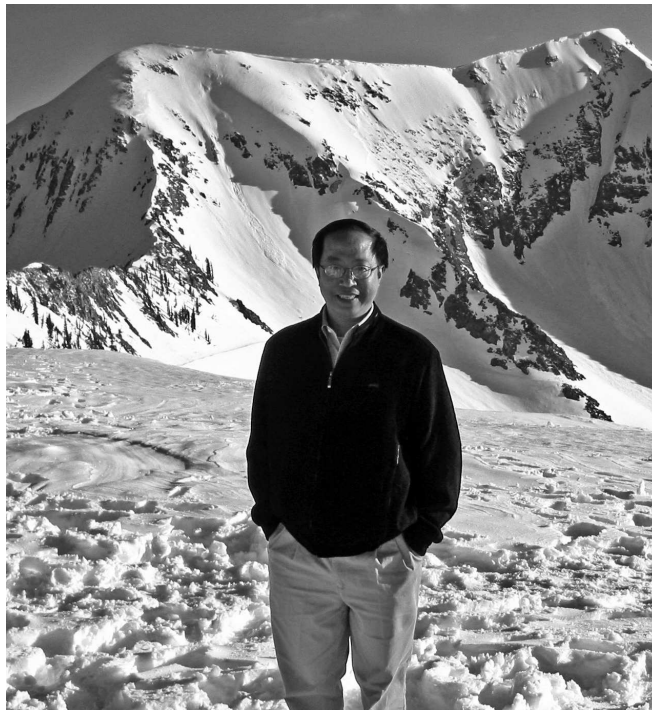


Xiao-Song Lin (1957-2007)

Oliver T. Dasbach and Efstratia Kalfagianni



Xiao-Song Lin, Snowbird, 2005

When the editors asked us to compile a special preface to the article “Alternating sum formulae for the determinant and other link invariants” we remembered a quote by the Chinese Poet Jia Dao (777-841) that Xiao-Song Lin chose for a paper with one of us [3]:

When I questioned your pupil, under a pine-tree
”My teacher”, he answered, ”went for herbs,
But toward which corner of the mountain,
How can I tell, through all these clouds?”

We both started to collaborate with Xiao-Song Lin shortly after receiving our PhDs. We were lucky to have interacted with Xiao-Song Lin early on in our careers

2 *O. Dasbach, E. Kalfagianni*

and so were many other young mathematicians. Xiao-Song Lin was an incredible mathematician and a generous mentor. His papers contain a vast amount of ideas, many of which are still waiting to be picked up by others and to be further developed. We refer to the beautifully compiled “Proceedings of the Nankai International Conference in Memory of Xiao-Song Lin” [4] and to the special volume of the Communications in Contemporary Mathematics [1] in his memory. Xiao-Song Lin was the founding Co-Editor-in-Chief of this journal.

The article that follows is an application of earlier joint work with Xiao-Song Lin [2]. Xiao-Song Lin was taken ill while we were working on this article. His untimely death leaves us all with a profound loss.



From left: Walter Neumann, Xiao-Song Lin, Abhijit Champanerkar, Effie Kalfagianni, Ilya Kofman, Oliver Dasbach; FRG meeting, New York, 2005

References

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- [4] Kevin Lin, Zhenghan Wang, and Weiping Zhang, editors. *Topology and physics*, volume 12 of *Nankai Tracts in Mathematics*. World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd., Hackensack, NJ, 2008.