About a year ago, two of your former graduate students, Davide Cervone and Ockle Johnson, asked me to be the "secretary" for the 65th birthday celebration conference they were planning in your honor. And with the permission of my department chairman and academic manager I enthusiastically began the social directing of the conference. Although this message in a bottle is dated April 7, 2003 (your true natal day), it is being posted on your conference web site as a simple but sincere wish for a most happy and memorable 65th birthday celebration conference and a year full of surprises and memories to be made.

Because of you, I know what a Mӧbius strip is, I can describe a fractal, I recognize a torus, polygons are a part of my life, I have held a Klein bottle, I use a wooden tetrahedron as a paper weight, I own copies of Flatland and Beyond The Third Dimension and one of my favorite movies is "The Hypercube: Projections and Slicing". Because you invited me to visit you when you were on sabbatical at Notre Dame, I have lit a candle in the Grotto, stood at the grave of Knute Rochne, heard the hoof beats of The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse blowing in the wind whipping across the Notre Dame campus and am now a part of that select group because my hands, too, have touched the words "Play Like A Champion" in the football field tunnel at Notre Dame. And, of course, I now own a copy of the video "Rudy", Our friendly USC-Notre Dame rivalry and annual television get-together when the Trojans clash with the Fighting Irish is something I look forward to with much anticipation every Fall. I had tears in my eyes when you allowed me to preview your acceptance speech for the Mathematical Association of America's national award for distinguished college or university teaching. I look forward to the start of each new semester when you come into my office to practice putting to memory the names of the students in your courses. And for the past several years, with your permission, I have chosen one of your "surfaces beyond the third dimension" for the cover of my now campus-wide-recognizable department Commencement brochure.

Being the social director of the conference has been great fun. Enjoy your special week-end.

And know that because of you, I now exist on a "higher plane". "Fight On"!

The Trojan Lady