

## FOREWORD

Phil Griffith came to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1970, just two years after receiving his Ph.D. degree. On September 16–18, 2005, the University hosted a *Commutative Algebra Conference honoring the Contributions of Phillip Griffith*, organized by Andrew Kustin, Matthew Miller, Anurag Singh and Sandra Spiroff, with financial support from the National Security Agency, the University of Illinois, and the University of South Carolina. Fifteen invited lectures were given, several of them by former students, covering many aspects of commutative algebras on which Phil’s work has exerted a significant influence.

Two announcements were made at the end of the meeting. One was Phil’s decision to retire. The other was the decision of the *Illinois Journal of Mathematics* to mark that occasion, Phil Griffith’s 35 years of service to the University of Illinois, and his contributions to mathematics with the publication of a special issue. Invitations to contribute were extended to the speakers at the meeting, its organizers, and to a number of experts whose work connects with Phil’s own research. The result is the present volume.

We want to thank the authors for accepting our invitations, the referees for responding to our requests, the Managing Editor, A. J. Hildebrand, for support and valuable advice, and the Editorial Assistant, Debbie Broadrick, for expert help throughout the process.

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