PREFACE

It is a great honor for us to be the editors of this special issue of the journal Methods and Applications of Analysis dedicated to Dr. Henry B. Laufer, who turns seventy this year.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Laufer has made fundamental and profound contributions to surface singularities, complex variables and algebraic topology. He settled some critical questions and opened new directions of research which have inspired students and colleagues throughout the world. In light of his scientific accomplishments, Dr. Laufer won a prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship.

Since 1992, Dr. Laufer was Chief Scientist at Renaissance Technologies LLC, an investment management company using mathematical and statistical methods. He retired from the company in 2009.

Dr. Laufer is a trustee of the Stony Brook Foundation, the separate charitable entity that accepts and manages private gifts and grants for the university. He serves on the board of the Laufer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology at Stony Brook, established by his generous gift in 2008, among the largest private donations for an academic program ever given to Stony Brook University. The Center will play a key role in achieving the University's goals for innovation, scholarship, and interdisciplinary research in the 21st century.

We are his friends, colleagues, student or grand students who have had many occasions to interact with him. Like many other mathematicians, we have benefited from his presence and from his generous help.

We are very grateful to all the authors who have contributed their excellent research articles to this issue in recognition of the invaluable contribution that Dr. Laufer has made to Mathematics. At this occasion, we would like to express our deepest friendship and gratitude to Dr. Laufer and to wish him a happy birthday and many more healthy years ahead.

Guest Editors:
Stephen S.-T. Yau, Tsinghua University, China;
Gert-Martin Greuel, University of Kaiserslautern, Germany;
Jonathan Wahl, The University of North Carolina, USA;
Rong Du, East China Normal University, China;
Yun Gao, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China;
Huaiqing Zuo, Tsinghua University, China.