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Title: ***On Shreeram Abhyankar and George Andrews***

Presented by: **Krishnaswami Alladi, University of Florida**

ABSTRACT: Shreeram Abhyankar, one of the giants in the field of Algebraic Geometry, had a very engaging personality. I knew him since my boyhood in the early sixties when he visited MATSCIENCE, The Institute of Mathematical Sciences in Madras, at the invitation of my father, the late Professor Alladi Ramakrishnan, its Director. He and his wife were our house guests in India and so I observed him in close quarters. He was passionate about mathematics and also about Indian culture. I will recall some interesting mathematical anecdotes starting from his visits to India in the sixties to the time when he was my guest at the University of Florida in recent years, that will reflect his unusual personality and genius.

George Andrews is the unquestioned leader in the theory of partitions and on the work of the Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. My first contact with him was in 1981 in connection with his first visit to India when I put him in touch with my father who hosted him there. From then on our friendship grew and was strengthened by his visits to India and Florida as our guest, and my frequent visits to Penn State. We collaborated on some of the most appealing problems in the theory of partitions, and I had the opportunity to observe this genius at work. I will also recall some wonderful incidents ranging from Andrews' visit to the Ramanujan Centennial in India in 1987, to his getting honorary doctorates at the University of Florida in 2002 and at SASTRA University in India in 2012 for Ramanujan's 125-th Birth Anniversary.

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