

## Houston and Nash Presented on the Same Day at ICM 2002 in Beijing, China

On August 20 - 28, 2002, The International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM 2002) was held in Beijing, China. China's current population is 6.2 billion people (the largest country on earth) and its capital, Beijing has 13 million people. More than 4,000 mathematicians from more than 100 different countries attended this Congress which is held every four years. The Congress officially began on August 20, 2002 with an Opening Ceremony, followed by a Reception and Banquet in the



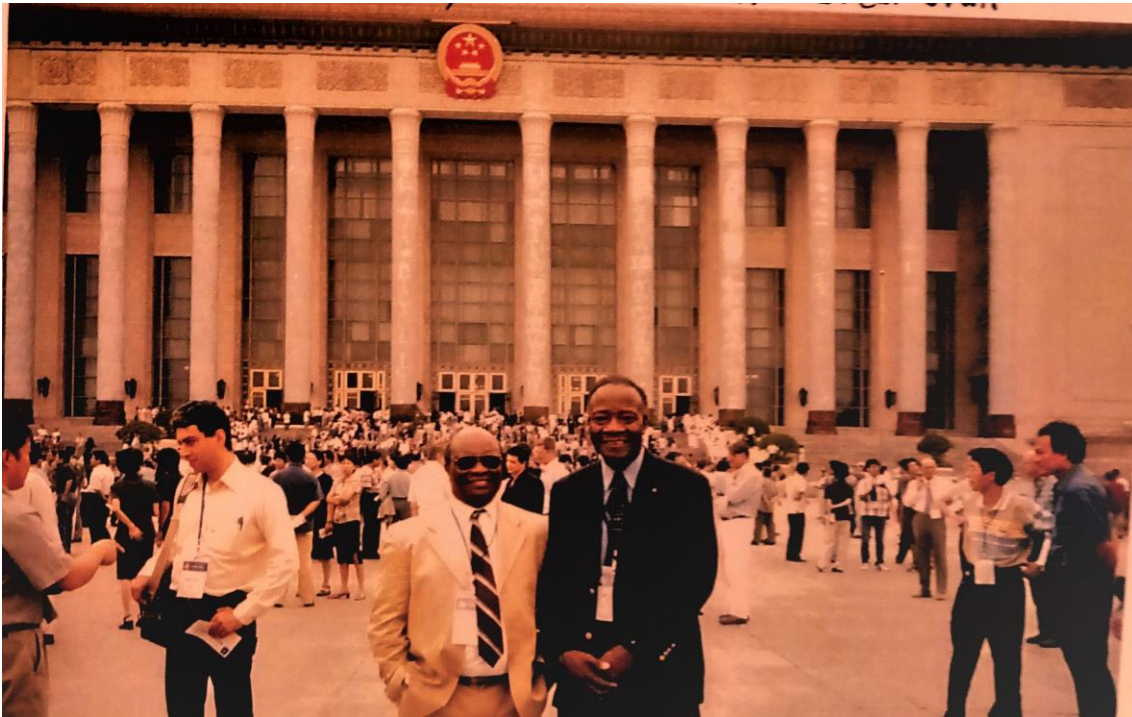
Beijing. This Hall has an auditorium that can hold 10,000 persons and a banquet room that can seat 5,000 persons. At the Opening Ceremony, the President Jiang Zeming of the People's Republic of China attended and presented the Field Medals to the two mathematicians with the most impressive research in mathematics during the last two years. President Zeming was accompanied by Vice Premier Li Lanqing and Education Minister Wen Jiabao. Both Nash and Houston attended the Opening Ceremony and Banquet, Nash was on the dais at the Ceremony. Earlier on the day of the Ceremony, Houston and Nash met and after a brief conversation, they posed for the above photograph.

A number of distinguished mathematicians were invited to make scholarly presentations in various areas of mathematics for the Congress. On Wednesday, August 21, 2002, two of the presenters were John F. Nash, Jr., the 1994 Nobel Laureate and Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at Princeton University and Johnny L. Houston, Senior Research Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at Elizabeth City State University. Dr. Nash's presentation: "Studying Cooperation in Games Via Agencies" was on his research that earned him the Nobel Prize in 1994; the only mathematician who has been awarded a Nobel Prize. An adaptation of his life story is portrayed in the recently released oscar-winning movie entitled: "A Beautiful Mind." Professor Nash's one-hour evening presentation was restricted to a limited audience (1000) which included Houston from ECSU. In the afternoon of August 21st, Houston chaired a session in computational science (numerical analysis and scientific computing) in which he gave the first presentation entitled: "On the Use of Iterative Algorithms for Solving Partial Differential Equations (PDEs), Numerically." Other persons giving presentations in this session included Professors Jingfang Huang from UNC Chapel Hill, Bosko Jovanonic from Bulgaria and Lucia Gastaldi from Italy.

At ECSU, Houston is also the Director of ECSU's nationally recognized Computational Science - Scientific Visualization Center (ECSU's CSSV Center) which is currently conducting research and research training in computational science and scientific visualization for ECSU's faculty and students in the School of Mathematics, Science and Technology as well as other faculty and students nationally. The Center is currently supported with a \$750,000 grant from the Department of Energy (DoE). Houston is also involved in a number of international scholarly efforts; especially, on the continent of Africa.

There was an occasion earlier this year when Houston and Nash might have met. In June 2002 Houston was invited to attend The Conference for African American Researchers in the Mathematical Sciences (CAARMS8) at Princeton U which was coordinated by Professor William A. Massey, professor

of mathematics at Princeton University. During that conference Houston's elder daughter, Mave T. Houston, made a presentation of her current research as a doctoral student in computer science at Auburn University; however, a meeting with Nash did not occur at that time.



Dr. Aderemi O. Kuku and Johnny Houston in China



JOHNNY HOUSTON IN FRONT OF THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA