

1014-N1-1391 **Reza Sarhangi*** (rsarhangi@towson.edu), Towson University, Department of Mathematics, Towson, MD 21252. *Renaissance Banff Conference: A Three-Day Bridges Conference, and a Coxeter Day A Collaborative Effort for a Mathematics and Art Conference in Canada.*

During the European Renaissance, art, mathematics, architecture, science, and music flourished side by side. This is no longer the case, and although many artists and scientists are calling for ways to regain the lost mutual understanding, appreciation, and exchange, it has been hard to know how to create environments in which this can happen in a meaningful way. The Bridges Conferences, created in 1998 and running annually since, have provided a model of how these divides can be crossed. The Banff Centre in Canada is a home to a world-class conference facility. The Banff International Research Station is a component of the Pacific Institute for Mathematical Science that organizes numerous mathematics research workshops annually at the Banff Centre. The directors of BIRS, the Canadian Mathematical Society, and the Banff Centre noticed a serious disconnection between this research station and the rest of the Banff Centre. They felt that a Bridges Conference, which exactly matches with their ideas for a major gathering would introduce a new value to this center. The conference was titled "Renaissance Banff" to indicate its innovation: This was the first time a mathematics/arts event of this magnitude was brought to Canada and in particular to the western Canadian community. (Received September 28, 2005)