

Math Musings

*The Newsletter of
the Elon Math
Department
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Richard Haworth Retires



Richard Haworth leads the graduation procession

In one of his last duties before retirement, Richard Haworth proudly led the 2008 graduation procession carrying the university's mace. The mace bearer is by tradition a senior member of the faculty who has led a distinctive career at Elon. Richard's love of Elon and his service to the school for 34 years earned him this honor.

He has been teaching for 45 years and joined the Elon faculty in 1974. He received his bachelor's of science degree at Wake Forest University and his master's in teaching from Duke. He also received a master's of arts in mathematics from Appalachian State University and a doctorate of philosophy in mathematics from Virginia Tech. He came to Elon for his first interview, found exactly what he wanted, and never looked further.

Richard has been a role model and campus leader through the years. He has served on Academic Council and the Promotions and Tenure committee several times. He chaired a freshman year task force that produced a document to transform the freshman experience. As an exemplary teacher, he received the Daniels-Danieley teaching award in 1982. His presence in education has also been felt across the state. He has served as the regional president of the North Carolina Council for the Teachers of Mathematics as well as the chair of the state conference. He was selected for the W. W. Rankin Award for Excellence in Education in

1996. NCCTM annually presents this highest award to deserving colleagues for contributions to the organization and to mathematics education in North Carolina. For 30 years he was in charge of a 10-county area math competition which Elon hosts annually.

On his last day of class, he received a rousing surprise from his students in his 8 a.m. class. They had refreshments and decorated the classroom with crepe paper and signs saying "Happy Retirement." He said that it was difficult to concentrate on reviewing for the final after such a touching start to the class. Later in the day three faculty members sat in on another of his classes to listen to him teach for the last time. The students began to ask really advanced questions, making Richard struggle for the answers. Then he realized that his colleagues had instigated the questions as a joke. At a retirement party in May, more than 150 of Richard's colleagues, friends, and former students provided tributes and memories. Some of the oldest students, whom he called "senior citizens," have now turned 55. Richard reiterated his love for Elon and the tradition of openness between faculty and students. He describes his years at Elon as "hitting the jackpot."

Richard has family ties to Elon. His daughter, Cheryl, and her husband are both Elon graduates. In fact, he taught Cheryl in two different math classes. This spring he watched his great niece graduate in the Class of 2008 with his brother in attendance at the ceremony.

His wife, Judy, recently retired, and their future plans include more international travel. However, they are not the usual tourists. They sleep in youth hostels, dine on food from grocery stores, and use public transportation. His son, Carlisle, showed him how to travel this way. Richard also likes to ride his Harley Davidson. He and his brother rode their bikes last summer to Iowa for the National Hobo Convention. Richard also spends much time with his four granddaughters, Katherine, Caroline, Elizabeth, and Abigail, and twin grandsons, Tyler and Ethan. He enjoys visits to San Francisco where his son, Carlisle, lives and to Charlotte and Columbia, S.C., where his two stepdaughters, Kimberly and Lara, and their families live.



Richard's favorite mode of transportation

ACCOLADES FOR RICHARD HAWORTH

Thanks for having a part in my educational career at Elon. **Diana Liberto '01**

I had Dr. Haworth for Analysis in the spring of 1995. It was a tough class, but I was told it was easier under him than anybody else - so he must have been a pretty good teacher! I made an A! **Crystal Reynolds Croyle '95**

Dr. Haworth has remained a very influential person in my life. **Donna Davis Westbrooks '84**

Dr. Haworth was my favorite teacher, and his linear algebra class was my favorite as well. **Kelly Holder '93**

Not only was Dr. Haworth an inspiration inside the classroom with all of his math expertise but outside of the classroom as well. I truly think I learned more from him when I would just sit in his office for an hour to talk about random math stuff (including pecking chickens), listening to stories, looking at pictures, putting packages together, blabbing about my problems and my tanning addiction, or discussing duties as his teaching assistant. I don't think I will ever forget, even if I tried, all of his crazy math jokes (like putting the pencil attached to a rubber band on my bag and laughing at me as I struggled to get it off) or his mind boggling math games (...and yes, to this day, I am still confused about the Leprechaun trick. **Kristin Mandella '07**

My favorite memory of Dr. Haworth occurred during my freshman Winter Term. As with many freshmen, I had enjoyed that fall semester too much and my grades were nothing to brag about. I had received many lectures from my parents over the break and was just glad to be back on campus. Dr. Haworth called me to his office and begins to lecture as well. I will never forget his words as long as I live. Dr. Haworth said, "Chris, in four years there will be people graduating cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. If you don't buckle down, you will only graduate Thank You Lordy." Remembering that conversation makes me smile every time I think about it. He cared for me as if I were his own child. He was a great professor, mentor and friend. **Chris Davis '91**

Dr. Haworth – an inspiration, a great teacher and person, the kind of teacher I now model in my own classroom. **Dana Redmon Watson '96**

Dr. Haworth was not only my favorite professor during my four years at Elon, but I also consider him a mentor and, most of all, a close friend. I've known him for almost nineteen years now, and I can honestly say that he is one of the most down-to-earth people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. As anyone that has been to college can attest, professors and instructors at the college level can sometimes be quite intimidating, but not Dr. H. He didn't have to prove to everyone that he knew his stuff. He created an excitement in the classroom. While I did enjoy his Modern Geometry class a lot, I'd have never gotten out of Analysis without his extra help. He would always make time for his students. He was my advisor the entire four years that I was at Elon, and he was always there for me when I had the most trivial questions. **Todd Coleman '93**

Climbing through Dr. Haworth's office window the night before exams is an exciting memory! Fortunately, his office was on the first floor of the Duke building at that time! We had to climb through his window because a group of us was there to beg for help with a different teacher's class, and we didn't want to be seen going in his door. With no advance preparation he jumped in and tutored our little group of panicked exam-takers so that we could try to pass the exam the next day. Topology was my most interesting Winter Term class during my entire time at Elon. Dr. Haworth performed the "remove-your-vest-without-taking-off-your-coat" trick flawlessly. **Jane Cooper Colson '80**

My first math class at Elon was Calculus I at 8 a.m. On the first day of class, Dr. Haworth asked us to write the grade that we hoped to earn in the course. I still see that "A" each time I refer to my Calculus notebook, as I currently teach AP Calculus at East Surry High School. I also remember going to Homework Labs in the afternoon to check my homework in Dr. Haworth's manual, only to realize that I would be the only student to attend. When I took Modern Geometry under Dr. Haworth, I did a project on the Geometer's Sketchpad, which taught me the basic skills that I still use in the teaching profession. How could anyone ever forget "surds," the video convincing us that the world was flat, or the take-home tests for that course? My senior project was on Penrose Tilings, and Dr. Haworth and I carefully studied the four transformations that preserve congruency. Dr. Haworth was an amazing mentor, and I treasure the time that I spent in his presence. I only hope that I can have such a profound influence on my students. **Lyndsey Jessup Haywood '99**

Dr. Haworth was a great example to me as a future teacher. He exemplified so many of the characteristics of an effective educator. He was firm yet kind (and funny). He was informative and also interesting. Most of all, he was inspirational. I always looked forward to class because I knew there would be a smile there waiting for me. What more could any student want? What more could any educator strive to be? **Allyson Randolph Neeriemer '00**

TWO MATH MAJORS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS LUMEN PRIZE



The Lumen recipients were honored at a dinner at Maynard House on April 24. Left to right : Dr. Todd Lee, Cynthia Goodson, Amanda Brown, President Leo Lambert, and Dean Steven House.

Rising juniors **Amanda Brown '10** from Gahanna, Ohio, and **Cynthia Goodson '10** from Maryville, Tenn. are among the 15 recipients of the inaugural Lumen Prize, Elon's premier award that comes with a \$15,000 scholarship to support and celebrate their academic achievements and research proposals. **Dr. Todd Lee** helped them through the application process and will serve as their mentor during the next two years. Brown will work on mathematical modeling of malaria epidemics in various regions of sub-Saharan Africa. Goodson will research the teaching of

statistical literacy in middle schools through community-based service learning projects, emphasizing analysis of locally meaningful databases. The award money will help pay for travel abroad, research expenses, and tuition.

The name for the Lumen Prize comes from Elon's historic motto, "Numen Lumen," which are Latin words meaning "spiritual light" and "intellectual light." The words, which are found on the Elon University seal, signify the highest purposes of an Elon education. Scholarship recipients were chosen through a two-step process. Candidates submitted applications with background statements and research proposals, a letter of nomination from their mentor, and an additional letter of recommendation. The second stage consisted of an interview.

The selection committee considered several criteria for choosing the winners: intellectual inquiry and integration, intellectual curiosity and reflection, and originality and feasibility. Sixty-two students submitted applications for the award.

Dr. Janet Myers, coordinator of national and international fellowships, will work with Lumen Scholars to identify and apply for appropriate fellowships and graduate scholarships.

Our warmest congratulations to Cynthia and Amanda for this fine achievement!

MORE ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

Elon has 65 declared math majors this year, up from 41 last year.

Abby Lauer was accepted into Rice University's Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in statistics this summer.

Laura Sinden and **Maria Fedora** presented talks and posters at the southeastern meeting of the Mathematics Association of America in April.

Laura Sinden will attend graduate school at Emory University in public health. **George Hall** has been accepted to George Washington University in physics. **Maria Fedora** will participate in the Teach for America program in Houston for a year and then plans to attend graduate school. **Elizabeth Moffitt** will teach this fall at the Southern School of Engineering, a Bill Gates school in Durham.

In May, three students were recognized in an award ceremony hosted by the Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences. **Laura Sinden** received an award for her academic achievement in mathematics. **Maria Fedore** received the mathematics research award, and **Nick Walton** received the service award from the department.

Laura Sinden served as president of Elon's Pi Mu Epsilon chapter. The 2008 initiates include **Vanessa Armstrong**, **Allison Arpin**, **Aundrea Carter**, **Maria Fedora**, **Cynthia Goodson**, **Colleen McCarty**, and **Rachel Scott**.

ELON TO HOST MATH MEETING

Elon University has been chosen to host the southeastern regional MAA meeting in 2010. The dates for the meeting are March 25-27. Please take this opportunity to attend the conference and to visit your alma mater. Your former professors will serve as hosts.

NEWS FROM THE ALUMNI

Chloe Dean McPherson '61 has just completed her 47th year of employment in education. She has a master's of science degree in educational administration from North Carolina A&T University and a master's in education from UNC-Greensboro. She is currently a part-time test coordinator with the Alamance-Burlington School System and a part-time math instructor at Alamance Community College. She retired in 2002 as the principal of Cummings High School in Burlington.

Hughes Rhodes '73 worked for Belk while attending Elon and stayed with them as a division manager after graduation. Then he moved to New York in 1982 to work in the garment industry. He lives with his wife, Sarah Venner (also an Elon graduate) on the Upper West Side. They have two children.

Bryant Ford '74 retired in January after 33 years of teaching math at West Montgomery High School. He lives in Albemarle, N.C., and enjoys his beach house at Oak Island, N.C.

Donna Davis Westbrooks '84 is an assistant principal at Walter M. Williams High School in Burlington. She and her husband, Ricky, have been married for 22 years and have two children, Grant, currently in the culinary program at Alamance Community College, and Lauren, a freshman at Williams High School. They adopted a rescued greyhound, JaDa, three years ago.

Chris Davis '91 has worked for Erie Insurance for more than four years. He lives in Gibsonville with his wife, Donna (class of '89), son, Cameron (age 14), and daughter, Caroline (age 11).

Matt Wright '91 graduated from Pfeiffer University in August 2007 with an MBA degree.

Kelly Holder '93 is a math teacher and head football coach at Mt. Airy High School.

Crystal Reynolds Croyle '95 was married in 2004 and had a son, Nathan, on January 4, 2007. After 10 years as a computer programmer for Shamrock Corporation in Greensboro, N.C., she decided to spend her days with her son. Her husband, Jerald, is a deputy sheriff with the Rowan County Sheriff's

Department in Salisbury, N.C. They make their home in Salisbury.

Doris Redmon Watson '96 is a math teacher at East Forsyth High School and Senior Girl's Club Sponsor. She and her husband, David, live in Belews Creek, N.C.

Diana Liberto '01 teaches math at North Harford High School and also algebra part time at Harford Community College. She is currently working on her Administrator I License at Towson University and is seeking a Ph.D.

Katie Park Taylor '02 became a National Board Certified Teacher in December. She received a master's degree in Math Education from N.C. State University and married on June 23, 2007.

Bob Davis '03 graduated from Wake Forest University with a master's in mathematics in May 2005.

Aja Johnson '05 graduated with a master's in mathematics from the University of Georgia this spring.

Amy Oliver Nicholson '04 teaches mathematics at Eastern High School in Alamance County and lives in Mebane, N.C.

Laura Snipes '06 is currently employed at Wilkes Central High School where she teaches math and is the JV cheerleading coach. On July 12, she will marry David Brooks, the choral director and an assistant football and basketball coach at the same school. Laura and David will wed at First Baptist Church in North Wilkesboro, which is where Laura's parents were married 34 years ago. Laura's father will perform the ceremony, and her mother will direct the wedding.

David Runkle '06 finished his master's in science degree at UNC-Chapel Hill in May. He will teach math at Carrboro High School in Carrboro, N.C. in the fall.

Kristin Mandella '07 works for Computer Sciences Corporation in Arlington, Va. She provides cost estimates to the Missile Defense Agency.

NEED E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Each spring we contact all Elon math alumni by e-mail to seek news for this publication. However, we have the e-mail addresses of only half of the Elon math graduates. Please send us your e-mail address so you can be a part of our network. Send it (and any news) to Helen Walton in the math department at walton@elon.edu.

THREE MATH PROFESSORS SPEND SEMESTERS ABROAD



Ellen Mir at top of St. Paul's Cathedral

This past year, three math professor traveled to three different continents with Elon classes. Dr. Ellen Mir traveled to London during Winter Term. Professor Janice Richardson led a group to Costa Rica, and Dr. Crista Coles Arangala spent her spring sabbatical in Sri Lanka.

Ellen Mir taught a class titled "History and Culture of Mathematics" in London, reviving a class that was taught about 10 years ago. Seventy students were part of the London group, and they were offered one of four classes. Ellen's class focused on the origins of modern mathematics, the development of the modern number system, and the historical events that motivated mathematical techniques. The class visited several sites around London important to the history of mathematics and science. They traveled by train to Bletchley Park, where Nazi codes were broken during World War II, and to Oxford, to explore the university and visit the History of Science Museum. In London, they toured the Imperial War Museum, the Royal Society, and the Science Museum. They went behind the scenes at the British Museum to view the Rhind Papyrus, the source of knowledge about ancient Egyptian mathematics. The trip also promoted cultural awareness at the theatre, journeys to Wales and Canterbury, and independent exploration of London.



Janice Richardson in Costa Rica

Janice Richardson traveled to San Jose, Costa Rica, for the spring 2008 semester with 15 Elon University students. She taught a general studies interdisciplinary seminar on numbers and culture. The students all took Spanish, and the education majors interned in the schools. Some students took classes in environmental science, and others took political science. For the first time, two senior education majors did their student teaching here at Marian Baker School. Visit their blog at <http://eloncostaricaspring2008.wordpress.com/> to see beautiful photos of the Costa Rica sites and to read more about the experiences of these students.

Crista Coles Arangala along with physics professor, Martin Kamela, led a

project for Elon University students to bring inquiry-based educational experiences to a large number of children in Sri Lanka, in the form of a Traveling Science Centre. In the process, Elon students have learned about various approaches to science education in the United States and in Sri Lanka and the importance of the scientific inquiry process to science education and literacy. By interacting with Sri Lankan partners and school children, Elon students learned about Sri Lanka's culture, nature, and history through two general studies courses offered on campus, and as volunteers through science/math/engineering clubs. They built science exhibits and took them to local schools for students to use. Crista received three internal grants to fund the project. The Community Partnership Initiative Grant, through the Kernodle Center for Service Learning, provided funds for building the exhibits through a partnership with the National Science Foundation in Sri Lanka. A grant of \$5,000 from the Funds for Excellence, a program that promotes the values of the liberal arts and sciences, paid for flights and materials. Crista also received a grant from the Elon Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning. She took the science projects to Sri Lanka during Winter Term and spent her spring sabbatical doing research there.



Crista Coles Arangala with son Chaythan in Sri Lanka

AYESHA DELPISH RECEIVES SERVICE AWARD



Delpish accepts the Service-Leadership award from Dr. Nancy Harris, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Ayesha Delpish was recognized with an award in May from Elon College, the College of Arts and Sciences, for her excellence in service-leadership. Ayesha has served on the Lyceum Committee, the Graduate Council, the Philips-Perry Black Excellence Awards Program Committee, the African/African American Studies Committee, and the Georgeo Scholarship selection committee. She was also instrumental in designing and implementing the new statistics minor at Elon, which enrolled approximately 20 students in its first year. Ayesha currently serves as the statistics program coordinator within the department and recently implemented two new statistics courses that count toward the statistics minor--MTH 213: Survey Sampling and MTH 232: Statistical Modeling. She ran a three-day workshop last summer for faculty on the new Statistics in Application class, which was crucial for instructors who taught the class for the first time in the fall semester. Ayesha has received grants

from both the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning and from SAS to support her teaching and program development. She is also the faculty-in-residence in the International Pavilion. In that role, she organizes cultural and social events and serves as the faculty mentor for the 22 students who live with her in the pavilion. These students undertook several service projects this past year, including the collection of toothbrushes for Morocco and lice shampoo for Nicaragua.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE FACULTY

Todd Lee gave a talk at the Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education conference with his wife, Hollylynn, in San Diego last March. Todd and Hollylynn were also invited panelists for the Technology in Probability session at the National NCTM conference in Salt Lake City. He continues as director of the math/science branch of the Elon College Fellows. **Todd, Crista Arangala** and **Ellen Mir** published an article on the mathematics behind trading cards in *UMAP Module (Modules of Undergraduate Mathematics and its application)*. Todd co-chaired the Working Group For Learning To Reason Probabilistically Through Experiments And Simulations at the annual conference for the North American chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education. The work of this group has resulted in several waves of research in the different approaches to the learning of probability.

Ellen Mir serves on the Faculty Research and Development Committee at Elon. She presented "Leximorphic Spaces" at MathFest, the annual meeting of the Mathematical Association of America, held in San Jose, Calif., last August. She co-authored with Todd Lee, Crista Coles Arangula, and Aja Johnson '05 an article titled "Leximorphic Spaces," which appeared in the *Rocky Mountain Journal of Math*. She also published an article in the fall 2007 issue of *Commentationes Mathematicae Universitatis Carolinae*, a journal published by the Charles University Mathematical Institute in Prague. She and her husband, David, are expecting her first child in July, and she will be on maternity leave during the upcoming fall semester.

Lisa Beuerle will be the new first-year coordinator in the math department beginning in the fall 2008. In August 2007, she gave a talk at the Alamance-Burlington Elementary Curriculum Development Conference in Burlington titled "ActivBoard Use in the Elementary Classroom." She served on the Athletics Committee as an at-large member during the academic year. In the

fall 2007 semester, she and Janice Richardson set up a math homework hotline. Students in MTH 210 and EDU 422 were required to work evening shifts answering phone calls from K-12 public school students who needed help with math homework.

Helen Walton continues her work on the Phi Beta Kappa initiative. She spent last summer compiling a General Report for the PBK Committee on Qualification. She facilitated a site visit in February and has prepared periodic update reports this spring. She will continue to update information until the final vote at the PBK Triennial Convention in October 2009. She also serves on the Lumen Committee (see page 3).

Crista Coles Arangala gave a talk at MathFest titled "Presenting Mathematics through the Elon Traveling Science Center," in which she gave details about how to do math and science research in a service course on interactive science museum exhibits.

Jeff Clark presented at the International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics in San Antonio, Texas, on March 7, 2008. His talk was titled "Teaching Students LaTeX." Also in March he presented a talk titled "A Brief Introduction to Term Rewriting" at the Southeastern Section of the Mathematics Association of America in Charleston. He gave the same talk at the Faculty Research Presentations at Elon University in April. He is working on the fourth edition to his book, *Statistics The Easy Way*. This past year he served as co-chair to the Alcohol Task Force, which looked into ways to curb excessive use of alcohol among Elon students. He is also on the Curriculum Committee. His wife, Laura, is making the transition to a new hospital building. She is a psychiatrist at John Umstead Mental Hospital. His son, David, will be in middle school next year and is moving from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. His daughter, Elizabeth, sings in the church choir.

MORE NEWS FROM FACULTY

Jim Beuerle has recently been elected as the math/science representative to Academic Council. He was elected to be a FANS member for the 2007-08 academic year. He headed the high school math contest at Elon this year and is the faculty advisor for Pi Mu Epsilon.

Skip Allis continues his work on Academic Council. This past year he chaired an ad hoc governance study group for Academic Council. He is taking classes in Higher Education at UNCG and has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Higher Education.



Jan Mays attended a workshop to work on a certification plan for math specialists in elementary education. Educators from all over North Carolina attended the workshop. Jan and her family traveled to London last Christmas and stayed in the Elon flats. She will participate in two triathlons in May and June this year. Her three children have graduated from college and are employed.

Alan Russell presented "Origami, Papierfalten, and Papiroflexia: Paper Folding in Mathematics Education," at the International Conference of the Mathematics Education into the 21st Century Project, held last fall in Charlotte. His fall general studies class in Math Origami folded 1,000 cranes in the form of a black ribbon to honor the victims in the Virginia Tech shooting. They were delivered to the Director of Students at Virginia Tech and were placed in a remembrance room. His class also donated a 1,000-cranes ribbon in pink to Williams' Medical Supply where they were on display in its mastectomy clinic to promote breast cancer awareness. Alan has been selected as a scholar by the Center for the Advancement for Teaching and Learning. He will work on statistics education research.

THREE NEW PROFESSORS JOIN THE DEPARTMENT

Three new faces will join the math department in the fall as assistant tenure-track professors. **Karen Yokley** will replace Richard Haworth, who is retiring after 34 years of teaching at Elon. Karen completed her doctorate in computational mathematics at N.C. State University in 2005 and has been working as a post-doctoral fellow in toxicology at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her specialty is applied mathematics.

Laura Taylor comes to Elon from the University of South Carolina where she received her doctorate in statistics. She said that Elon is the perfect place for her — a smaller, private school close to family and friends. **Kirsten Doehler** is currently an assistant professor at UNC-Greensboro. She received her doctorate in statistics from N.C. State University. She is looking forward to Elon's smaller classes and a more personal relationship with students. Both will assist Ayesha Delpish in the implementation of the statistics minor and the eventual development of a statistic concentration within the math major.

GERRY FRANCIS TO STEP DOWN AS PROVOST

Gerry Francis has announced plans to move from the provost's position after 14 years in that role. Starting in June 2009, he will move into the President's Office to become Elon's first executive vice president. Even though he is changing positions, many of his duties will remain the same. The new provost will deal only with academic affairs and student life. Gerry will be responsible for admissions, cultural programs, athletics, and several other programs. He joined Elon in 1974 as an assistant professor in the math department and became dean in 1983. He has been working on the administrative staff ever since. The provost search will begin in the fall.



ROZ REICHARD IS INAUGURATED

Dr. Rosalind Reichard, a former Elon math professor, was inaugurated as the 25th president of Emory and Henry College on Sept. 21, 2007. Richard Haworth, Janice Richardson, and Jeff Clark attended the ceremony. Rosalind joined the Elon math department in 1984, serving as department chair and chair of Academic Council. In 1991, she became the associate dean of math and sciences and supervised the building of McMichael Science Building in 1998. In 2000, she left Elon for Meredith College in Raleigh, eventually becoming the senior vice president there. Emory and Henry is a liberal arts college with approximately 1,000 students located in southwest Virginia.

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To find out the latest information about the math department, to see our photos, and to get our email addresses and phone numbers, check our web site at <http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/math/>.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR RESPONSES. Please continue to send your news to Helen Walton at her mailing address or email address listed below. This newsletter is not possible without you. Even if you have replied previously, please write again. We continue to circulate your responses to the math faculty and our retired faculty.

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