



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Women Underrepresented in Mathematics? Not Everywhere!

I was moved when I saw the name of Mary Dolciani on page 304 of the March issue of the *Notices*. We were colleagues at Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in the 1970s and early 1980s, and I remember her as a wonderful person: highly sensitive to the students, open to the world, friendly to all colleagues, sometimes looking so happy as if she were in her twenties.

I never realized she had been a kind of pioneer among US female mathematicians; I myself never questioned the place of women in mathematics. I graduated from the University of Coimbra, in Portugal, in 1962. We were 11 males and 16 females. In Portugal, mathematics attracted more girls than boys. Nowadays, the math department in Coimbra has more women than men at the top faculty level: six females and five males as full professors, plus three females and one male as associate professors holding a degree which is the equivalent of the German *Habilitation*; not to forget two emeritus professors, one male and one female!

My comment: In the absence of discrimination women mathematicians flourish!

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