



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor, *Notices of the AMS*

My year at I.H.E.S., 1985–86, brought wonderful benefits, including the opportunity to meet and get to know Steve Zucker. We had contrasting mathematical interests, intersecting in Grassmannians. Steve’s friendly, warm, unassuming personality, combined with his vast experience and perspective, led me to many discussions with him. Famous for his Conjecture, I once showed him a paper draft with the phrase “I conjecture” included. With his usual kindness, he politely suggested that I revise it to “I suspect.”

Seemingly not long after that year, but in fact in 2003, the *Notices* carried Steve’s Opinion piece “Telling The Truth,”¹ later abbreviated as T^3 , about students transitioning from high school to college mathematics. I shared it with my students and included a link in the syllabus. I shared T^3 with colleagues, and some shared it with their students. In time, new students brought it up, of their own accord, some stating that they took this approach in making their own transition.

As the years passed, I thought that maybe I should tell Steve about the impact of T^3 . A couple of years ago I tried to track his recent mathematical activity, without much success. Concerns came, and led me to write at last. No reply came, but I hoped that he saw the letter. Two days ago, on July 16, 2021, I read the *Notices* article “Remembering Steve Zucker.” I looked up my letter to Steve. It was dated July 16, 2018.

As I continue to promulgate T^3 , I’ll think of Steve Zucker, and his legacy.

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*We invite readers to submit letters to the editor at notices-letters@ams.org.

¹*Commentary*, Volume 50, Number 3, p. 326, 2003.