



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor

On August 23, 2022, this letter went to 2,176 department chairs and faculty of mathematics in the United States and was featured on AMS social media on September 1, 2022.

Dear Colleague:

This week, we received a letter of concern from multiple faculty, including several of whom are directing REU programs. It seems that several of their students have encountered problems accessing the Math GRE Subject Test this fall. The exam is not offered in several states and even when it is offered, the spots are filling up quickly. If there is a test center within 125 miles (as the crow flies), students are expected to travel there to take the exam; otherwise, students can seek permission to have their home campus designated as an alternative test site. We even heard of one student who had arranged with ETS to have their school administer their test, but subsequently ETS added a new test center 110 miles away from campus so now the student has to pivot and figure out how to get to this new site.

We understand that for some graduate programs in mathematics, the GRE Subject Test provides useful information, but we are alarmed to learn that many of our students are finding scheduling and traveling to the exam to be a serious obstacle.

We want to bring this issue to your attention, and request that you be understanding in reviewing applications from students who may ultimately be unable to take the exam. We also ask that you please alert your faculty to this issue so they can take it into consideration when writing their letters of recommendation.

Sincerely,
Ruth Charney, AMS President
Catherine Roberts, AMS Executive Director

Listening to I. M. Singer with I. M. Singer

The year was 1974, the city Vancouver, B. C. Canada. The occasion: ICM 1974. During a break, I went looking for a restroom. I opened a door to a small room and there sat a gentleman listening intently to a lecture on a small TV screen. I recognized the man. I had listened to the same talk live with him as the speaker. As I was about to duck away, he said "No, join me." Together, we watched and listened to his talk as if in prayer. At the end of the talk, we shook hands silently and went our separate ways. The speaker was I. M. Singer.

Sincerely,
Frank Okoh
Department of Mathematics
Wayne State University

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