

# From the Editor

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It is my great pleasure to introduce the inaugural issue of *The Harvard College Mathematics Review* (HCMR). Since I first proposed the journal, I have hoped that The HCMR would help students learn and appreciate advanced mathematics. True to the magazine's mission, this issue contains expository articles on topics drawn from undergraduate-level foundations and surveys of undergraduate research, as well as student-appropriate original problems.

Back in high school, my mathematics teacher gave me her collection of old issues of *The College Mathematics Journal* and *The American Mathematical Monthly*. I dove in, skimming abstract after abstract. Every so often, I would manage to find an article with an introduction I understood.

I would always start to read these articles, but I never quite had the mathematical background to finish them. Nonetheless, it was exciting to see what "mathematics" really is. Reading about a range of fields helped awaken me to the depth and beauty of mathematics.

I go back to that same stack of journals annually. Each time I return, I find that I understand more than I did the last time. This is how math evolves for me. As I learn, I feel myself approach the day when I can open a journal to a random article and comprehend it in its entirety.

I would appreciate any commentary or feedback you have. Please direct your comments and questions to [hcmr@hcs.harvard.edu](mailto:hcmr@hcs.harvard.edu) or to me personally at [kominers@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:kominers@fas.harvard.edu). I also invite you to submit to future issues. We publish articles, short notes, and problems in any field of pure or applied mathematics at the undergraduate level. Please see the inside cover for submission guidelines.

We at The HCMR are greatly indebted to **Dean Benedict H. Gross**, who has volunteered his time, advice, and expertise throughout the production process and to **Professor Peter Kronheimer**, who has been with The HCMR as an advisor since our earliest days. We also extend our warmest thanks to **Professor Noam D. Elkies** for guidance, commentary, and of course for his fantastic feature article on "The ABC's of Number Theory," and to **Professor Dennis Gaiatsgory** for sharing one of his early teaching experiences in our endpaper. We are grateful to **Dean Paul J. McLoughlin II** for his administrative help in establishing The HCMR organization and to **Mr. Christopher C. Mihelich '02** for his L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X advice. Finally, we could never have produced this issue without the generous support of **The Harvard Mathematics Department**.

Every one of us currently involved in The HCMR is a founding member; we are proud and excited to have seen our project finally come to fruition.  $\square$

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Editor-In-Chief, The HCMR