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From the Editor

Scott D. Kominers
Harvard University '09
Cambridge, MA 02138
kominers@fas.harvard.edu

This spring, Professor John Duncan, the instructor teaching my algebraic geometry class, assigned supplementary readings from *The Harvard College Mathematics Review* (HCMR):

“Alexander Ellis’s article gives an excellent taste of the Poincaré-Hopf Index Theorem,”

Professor Duncan explained, strongly recommending that all the students read Ellis’s article (Dunking donuts: Culinary calculations of the Euler characteristic, *HCMR* 1 #1 (2007), 3–14) to complement the day’s lecture.

In a single year, The HCMR has already reached the status of a teaching tool. Indeed, articles from The HCMR have appeared not only in Harvard classrooms but also in classes at other schools (e.g. Professor Ivars Peterson’s “Communicating Mathematics” course) and in summer programs (e.g. Professor Keith Conrad’s 2007 PROMYS lectures).

This new step in The HCMR’s maturation is truly impressive. The HCMR could never have reached this level without its scholarly **authors**, nor could have it even existed without its dedicated **editors**, tireless **business staff**, and sleepless **production directors**.

Furthermore, the success of The HCMR has been facilitated by the journal’s **sponsors** and **advisers**, both at Harvard and elsewhere. In particular, we at The HCMR are especially indebted to **Professor Benedict H. Gross ’71**, **Professor Peter Kronheimer**, and **Dr. Alon Amit**, who have advised the journal and to **Professor Clifford H. Taubes** for his continued support and encouragement. We also appreciate the administrative assistance provided by **Dean Paul J. McLoughlin II** and **Mr. David R. Friedrich** as well as the continued, generous support of **The Harvard Mathematics Department**.

This issue is my last as Editor-In-Chief. I am glad to see that The HCMR’s future looks so bright at this juncture.

The incoming Co-Editors-In-Chief, **Zachary Abel ’10** and **Ernest E. Fontes ’10**, are both dedicated members of The HCMR’s staff. Both are talented mathematicians and energetic leaders, and both have been deeply involved in the production of this and past issues. I look forward to seeing The HCMR continue to expand under their joint administration.

On a personal note, I would like to thank those teachers most responsible for my involvement in the founding of The HCMR, {**Mrs. Susan Schwartz Wildstrom**, **Professor Noam D. Elkies**, **Professor Andreea C. Nicoara**}, and to wish good luck to the new Co-Editors-In-Chief. \square

Scott D. Kominers '09
Editor-In-Chief, The HCMR