

The Mathematical Association of America

(Incorporated)



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Secretary

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March 23, 1973

Dear Section Officer:

As you undoubtedly are already aware, the Association participates as a co-sponsor, with the American Mathematical Society, of the new bimonthly publication entitled Employment Information for Mathematicians. EIM lists each U.S. and Canadian department in the mathematical sciences under one of three headings: the first section contains announcements of open positions, the second lists those departments who report that they currently have no open positions, and the third section lists those departments whose replies are not received in Providence before the date on which the issue is sent to the printer. In each of the three issues of EIM which have appeared up to now, the third list has been longer than the first two combined.

It is absolutely essential that the list of nonrespondents be reduced drastically if this important publication is to provide a more valuable service to the great number of mathematicians now seeking professional employment. New Ph.D.'s in the mathematical sciences are currently being produced by U.S. and Canadian universities at the rate of nearly 1,500 per year. The number of new Ph.D.'s seeking jobs each year has grown so large that there is now a severe strain on the job market. An even more critical problem is rapidly developing in the case of Ph.D.'s who have been in academic positions for five or six years and are now required to move to new positions. The publication of EIM was undertaken by the Society, with the cooperation of the Association, precisely because of the increasing difficulties encountered in locating available positions. These difficulties have resulted in hardships on both job seekers and potential employers, both of whom have been faced with a burden of correspondence which has been growing at an exponential rate.

The annual budget for the publication of EIM exceeds \$20,000 a year. The Association's financial participation is limited to \$1,000 per year. Because the Society bears such a great financial risk for this publication, I am requesting the national and sectional officers of the Association to assure the success of this new publishing venture by exerting a major effort to reduce the number of nonrespondents. On the first of April, forms will be sent from Providence to all chairmen of departments in the mathematical sciences asking for listings. I urge you to inform the chairmen in your Section how important it is to return the card promptly to Providence, appropriately filled out. If your Section meets early this Spring, I suggest an appropriate announcement concerning this matter at this meeting. Otherwise a letter or telephone call to each department chairman would be very helpful. The April and June issues of EIM will surely be the most critical ones issued during the current hiring season; it is, therefore, imperative that all departments report whether or not they have open positions. The postcards must be received in Providence by April 21, which is the deadline for listing in the April issue.

Sincerely yours,

Henry L. Alder
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Secretary

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