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Office of the Provost
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September 14, 1984

Dr. Ruth Rebekka Struik, Chair
Rocky Mountain Section, MAA
Department of Mathematics
University of Colorado
Campus Box 426
Boulder, CO 80309

Dear Rebekka:

It was good to have you call this morning. It was uncanny as your letter was on top of my desk waiting for it to be time to try to reach you in Colorado. I would be delighted to come to the Rocky Mountain Section of MAA on March 29 and 30, 1985 in Casper, Wyoming. I understand that I am to give two talks--one after the banquet on Friday night and the other on Saturday morning. I suggest that the one on Friday night and the other on Saturday morning. I suggest that the one on Friday night relate to women mathematicians. I have a talk which I have given in various formats, but my favorite version is to talk about Grace Chisolm Young and Emmy Noether as two very different people, both very successful mathematicians, with the obvious moral that women mathematicians come in all varieties. I have some interesting factual information that gives insight to their personalities and I believe I can find posters of the two of them that could be displayed.

As far as my second talk is concerned, I could talk on the use of topology in material science. This is work that I did back in the late '60s and early '70s at Oak Ridge. Although it is not a hot research topic it is an interesting example of using fairly esoteric mathematics and applied mathematics. I could also talk about some of the curriculum things such as the two chapters that I wrote in "The Future of College Mathematics." One of them is about academic strategy to bring about changes in a mathematics curriculum; the other is the proceedings for the workshop I chaired at that meeting. In addition, I can talk about some of the other things listed in my MAA talk list (copy attached).

I am sorry for the confusion about my being able to lecture. I checked the date with John Bradburn from Elgin College and he told me there was a conflict with our statewide community college meeting.

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I, therefore, declined. He checked his dates again after I left for home and told you there was no conflict. I tried to clear this up with a conversation with David's office during his registration and that message got confused. Be that as it may, I plan to come. I look forward to it. Hopefully there will be no further hitches in this matter.

I would appreciate it if you would let me know whether my suggested topic for the banquet is appropriate and which topic you would like for me to use on Saturday. It would be good if I could have this information by the time of the national meeting in Boulder.

Sincerely,



Lida K. Barrett
Associate Provost

LKB:dd