

July 11, 2008

Search Committee
Department of Mathematics
Augsburg College
2211 Riverside Avenue S
Minneapolis, MN 55454

Dear Search Committee,

I am writing you to apply for the advertised position of Assistant Professor. I believe that I am well qualified for this position and would be an asset to Augsburg College. I am currently completing my Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Oregon where I have gained teaching experience and developed a research program, both of which will enable me to make a significant contribution to the Department of Mathematics and Augsburg College as a whole. Additionally, my liberal arts background and focus on teaching harmonize with the mission of Augsburg College to nurture future leaders in service to the world. My experience working with people with disabilities would also allow me to contribute to Augsburg's status as a nationally recognized leader in providing services to students with disabilities.

I would like to call your attention to several aspects of my background that are pertinent to my qualifications for this position. The first of these is my five years of teaching experience. During my time at the University of Oregon, I have been the sole instructor for three undergraduate math classes per year. I find teaching math to be enjoyable because it is challenging and stimulating and look forward to making it a major part of my career. For more detailed information about my teaching methods and style, please refer to the attached teaching statement where you will also find a complete list of all courses taught. I would enjoy teaching an introductory real analysis course or a dynamical systems course occasionally along with the usual curriculum. Students report that my teaching is accessible and entertaining. Copies of teaching evaluations are available upon request.

My research program would also be an asset to Augsburg College. While at the University of Oregon I have developed this program under the supervision of my advisor, Professor N. Christopher Phillips. My primary research area is Functional Analysis, more specifically, C^* -algebras. My dissertation discusses properties of crossed product C^* -algebras formed by actions of finite groups. There are several related questions that I happily anticipate exploring in the next stages of my research. For more details about my research plans, please see the attached research statement. In my research statement, I have also indicated what some potential points of access are for undergraduate researchers.

Finally, from a very young age I was educated from a liberal arts perspective and so am ideally

suiting to contribute to a liberal arts learning environment such as Augsburg College. As a child, my parents encouraged the mixing of disciplines such as writing journal entries about trips to the science museum or understanding baking as a form of chemistry. Thus it was no surprise when I chose a liberal arts college, Kalamazoo College, to continue my education. There, I learned to appreciate the value of having a wide breadth of knowledge and an ability to relate seemingly distant areas such as poetry and mathematics. One of the contributions I would make at Augsburg College is to help students make these interdisciplinary connections. This could be accomplished via interdisciplinary courses such as the class on reading about mathematicians I mention in my teaching statement or a scientific art class. Additionally, it could be accomplished more informally, with mathematical talks aimed at general audiences.

I will be attending the 2008 Joint Meeting of the AMS and MAA and invite any members of your department present to attend my talk entitled “The tracial Rokhlin property: very outer group actions” which is scheduled for Wednesday the 9th at 2:30pm in the AMS Session on Analysis and Functional Analysis II. Additionally, I have registered with the Employment Center should you wish to schedule an interview or otherwise contact me through the messaging system there.

Enclosed, please find my curriculum vitae, teaching statement, research statement, graduate transcripts and AMS cover sheet. I have arranged for letters of recommendation to be sent directly to you by the University of Oregon Department of Mathematics. To find out more about me, or to find the handouts referred to in my teaching statement, please visit my web page <http://uoregon.edu/~dashley>. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Because I am attending the Thematic Program on Operator Algebras at the Fields Institute until December 21, 2007, the best way to reach me is by electronic mail at dashley@uoregon.edu. Alternately, you can leave a message for me at my home phone (541) 346-7331 or call my office at the Fields Institute, (416) 348-9710 ext. 4032.

Thank you for your consideration of my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dawn Elizabeth Archey