

HOPE COLLEGE
HOLLAND, MICHIGAN 49423



September 20, 1974

Professor Herbert Dersham
Department of Mathematics

Dear Herb:

I am pleased to appoint you Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science for the 1974-1975 academic year. I appreciate the contributions you have already made to the Department and look forward to working with you in the future. I particularly appreciate your willingness to take on responsibilities associated with being Associate Chairman of the Computer Science Department.

Cordially yours,

David Marker
Provost

DM:mo

cc: Dr. Elliot Tanis ✓

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HOPE COLLEGE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN 49423



January 20, 1975

Dr. Herbert Dershem, Chairman
Department of Computer Science

Dear Herb:

I am delighted that you have agreed to accept the appointment as Chairman for the Department of Computer Science. You bring many personal and professional qualities to this position which I believe make you an excellent choice.

The term of appointment is for three years. At that time, we will discuss your interests in light of the Department's needs and make a decision on whether an appointment for an additional term seems desirable.

Dean Wettack and I will give you every possible support in carrying out this new responsibility.

Congratulations and best wishes as you undertake this important new responsibility for the College.

Cordially yours,

David Marker
Provost

DM:mo

cc: Dr. F. Sheldon Wettack
Dean

HOPE COLLEGE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN 49423



October 30, 1978

Dr. Herbert Dershem
Computer Science Department
Hope College
Holland, Michigan 49423

Dear Herb:

As I mentioned to you several weeks ago, it was my intention to reappoint you as Chairman of the Computer Science Department for a 3 year term. In my own mind this has been done, but I thought it would be well to set down on paper the official appointment. Thus this letter will serve to inform you and others that I am appointing you Chairman of the Computer Science Department for a 3 year term beginning in August of 1978. This term will carry through the 1980-81 academic year.

I've been very pleased with the results of your chairmanship over the past few years and know that it has played a large part in the overall success of the computer science program. I look forward to seeing the department develop even further during the next 3 years under your leadership.

We are clearly at a critical point in the development of the computer science program in view of the strong student interest in this field and the strong employment situation across the country. Furthermore, the rapid developments in technology and the advent of many new personal computing tools makes your leadership in the program extremely important at this time. I am hopeful that we will be able to continue to evolve a program which demonstrates the correct way for computer science to be included in a liberal arts college to the many other such institutions around the country. You have begun this with the modular approach to the beginning course and it is my feeling that a second step will deal with the advent of new computing tools which we see on the horizon.

Since we discussed this appointment some time ago and since you gave me a positive reaction to the appointment at that time, I want to thank you in advance for reacting positively to this official appointment letter. Unless I hear from you otherwise I will assume that you are still in agreement with the appointment. If there is anything at all that I can do to help you in your leadership role over the next 3 years I sincerely hope that you will not hesitate to ask.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Sheldon Wettack
Dean for the Natural
and Social Sciences

cc: David Marker
Gordon Van Wylen
Computer Science Faculty



HOPE COLLEGE

DEAN FOR THE NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

February 2, 1988

Dr. Herbert Dershem, Chairperson
Computer Science Department
Hope College

Dear Herb:

June 30, 1987 marked the end of a three-year term for you as Chairperson of the Computer Science Department. Due to an oversight on my part, this important anniversary date went overlooked and as a consequence, on paper at least, the department has been operating without a designated chair. Fortunately for all concerned, you graciously overlooked my memory lapse and proceeded to serve in your usual effective way as Chairperson without an official appointment as such. I apologize for my oversight and express my appreciation for not only the excellent work that you did as chairperson since the lapse of your former appointment but also during the three-year period that ended with the June 30th date.

You do such a good job in your role as chair that its very easy to assume that you will continue in that role indefinitely. However, we have a policy of appointing chairs for either three or four year terms and it is incumbent upon us to follow that policy. In keeping with our discussions about how best to handle the departmental chair and as a result of my discussions with the Provost and other members of the department, I am pleased to appoint you as chairperson for another three-year term retroactive to July 1, 1987. This appointment will run through June 30th of 1990. I am grateful that you have agreed to accept this appointment because you make my job so much easier because of the efficient way in which you carry out your chairperson's responsibilities. It has been a genuine joy to work with you during the time that I have been Dean and I look forward to our continuing relationship until the time that I pass the Deanship on to Jim Gentile. Best wishes for a very productive and enjoyable sabbatical leave.

Sincerely yours,

Irwin J. Brink
Dean for the Natural Sciences

IJB:np/n4.tex

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 8, 1988

To: Members of the Computer Science Department

From: Irwin Brink *IB*

Subject: Appointment of Herb Dershem as Chair of the Department for a Three-year Term

Due to an oversight on my part I missed an important fact relative to the operation of the Computer Science Department, namely, that Herb Dershem's appointment as chair of the department expired on June 31, 1987. Fortunately for all of us Herb, undaunted by this lapse, continued to serve the department and the college as chair until he took his sabbatical leave. I have talked this matter over with Herb and with the other members of the computer science faculty and we all agree that it is desireable to have Herb continue as chair for another three-year appointment retroactive to July 1, 1987. This means that he will continue in his current leadership position until June 30, 1990.



March 25, 1988

Dr. Herbert Dershem
Chairperson, Computer Science Department

Dear Herb:

I was pleased to receive a copy of Irwin Brink's letter of March 8 to you, in which he confirms your reappointment as chairperson through June 30, 1990.

Thanks to your fine leadership and your perseverance in the recruitment of faculty, the Computer Science Department has become well established as a separate department. Your mentoring of Mike Jipping was unquestionably a major factor in our ability to recruit him from the University of Iowa. Under your continuing mentoring he should develop into a fine teacher/scholar, thereby strengthening the department.

I wish you all the best as you continue to discharge your responsibilities as chairperson. I also wish you well during the remainder of your well-deserved sabbatical leave.

Cordially,

Jacob E. Nyenhuis
Provost

JEN:bm/VII.mar
cc: Dean Irwin J. Brink

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 2, 1990

To: Jim Gentile

From: Herb Dershem

Subject: Department Chairperson Appointment

I happened to be rummaging through my files today, looking for something else, when I ran across the attached letter from Irwin Brink. You will note that it indicates that my appointment as chairperson of the Computer Science Department expired on June 30, 1990. Since you and I did not discuss this matter this year, I assume that we have not done anything about this matter.

As you can see from the attached memo, Irwin made the same oversight in 1987, and you will also be comforted to know that Sheldon Wettack initiated the practice of forgetting to reappoint me in 1978.

The department and I have discussed the position of chairperson only recently, but before I knew that it was indeed vacant. I can inform you that they support me for not only another term, but for a life-time appointment. I would accept the former, but reject that latter. I trust the process of selecting the chairperson for Computer Science will be a simpler one than were those of the other two departments in our building.



August 6, 1990

Dr. Herbert Dershem, Chairperson
Computer Science Department
Hope College
Holland, MI 49423

Dear Herb:

June 30, 1990 marked the end of a three-year term for you as Chairperson of the Computer Science Department. Through my own fault, I overlooked this important event and failed to acknowledge the significant contributions you have made in this position. I apologize for my thoughtlessness. I guess you have been chair so long that I thought you had, indeed, been appointed chair for life. I realize that that is a sentence no individual should bear, but it has been difficult for me to envision anyone else handling the leadership responsibilities within your department.

Now that I have set the stage, I am honored that you would once again have agreed to serve as chairperson of computer science for a term of three years. This appointment officially begins retroactively to July 1, 1990 and extends through June 30th of 1993. I look forward very much to working with you during these next three years. I have learned much from you in these past two years and I know I can learn even more during the next three. I can honestly say that my interactions with you have made my job a joy.

Sincerely yours,

James M. Gentile, Ph.D.
Dean for the Natural Sciences and
The Kenneth G. Herrick Professor of Biology

JMG:b

cc: Provost Nyenhuis



HOPE COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

August 9, 1990

Professor Herbert L. Dershem
Chairperson
Department of Computer Science
HOPE COLLEGE

Dear Herb:

I was very pleased to receive a copy of Jim Gentile's letter of August 6, in which he confirms your reappointment as chairperson of the Computer Science Department for another three-year term.

You have provided excellent leadership to the department, as well as within the larger college community. I therefore am happy to be able to continue to work with you as we seek to provide academic leadership within the College.

Thank you very much for all that you have contributed to strengthening your department during the last three years. Best wishes as you carry on in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Jacob E. Nyenhuis
Provost

JEN:kk

cc: Dean James M. Gentile



HOPE COLLEGE

DEAN FOR NATURAL SCIENCES

July 6, 1993

Dr. Herbert Dershem, Chairperson
Computer Science Department
Hope College
Holland, MI 49423

Dear Herb:

On June 30, 1993, you completed another term as Chairperson of the Computer Science Department. As I told you at lunch last week, I think that too often we take your outstanding work for granted. I would like to repeat that we truly appreciate all you do for the Computer Science Department. Bev told me that you are one of her favorite chairpersons. You are thorough and get things done in a timely manner.

Your leadership was also very evident when we went through the review of your department. After that review the Deans' Council met to discuss the results and their main suggestion for me when I write the report was to tell you to keep up the good work. (I will be writing a more complete report this summer.) I know that your entire department worked together on your review. But I also know that the reason they worked so well together was because of your leadership.

Personally I have been impressed with the way in which your curriculum has been continually changing to keep up with new developments in your field. Also your newsletters to your alumni have been informative. They seem to always report significant accomplishments of you and your colleagues.

I hope that your year at the Air Force Academy is a rewarding experience for you. As you know, Gord Stegink will assume the duties of the chairperson during the year that you are on leave.

I am pleased that you are again willing to serve as Chairperson of the Computer Science Department when you return from your leave. It is an honor for me to appoint you for a three year term, beginning on July 1, 1994, and continuing until June 30, 1997. You have the enthusiastic support of your colleagues.

Sincerely yours,

Elliot A. Tanis
Interim Dean for the Natural Sciences

cc: J. Nyenhuis



HOPE COLLEGE

JAMES M. GENTILE, Ph.D.
The Kenneth G. Henick
Professor of Biology

December 1, 1994

Dr. Herb Dershem
Computer Science Department
Hope College

Dear Herb:

I find that I have been remiss in officially appointing you as Chair of the Computer Science Department upon your return to campus. I apologize for the oversight.

I would very much enjoy the opportunity to work with you over the next three-years and have you serve as Chair of the Computer Science Department beginning retroactively with the 1994-95 academic year and extending through the completion of the 1996-97 academic year. Your leadership to the department and the division is very important to me, Provost Nyenhuis, and the entire institution. We have exciting times ahead of us and I look forward to working with you to address the challenges and opportunities that we will face in the next three years.

Sincerely,

James M. Gentile, Dean
Natural Science Division

cc: Provost Nyenhuis