

# HOPE COLLEGE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN 49423



*Excellent Person*

November 26, 1976

Ron Winters, Director  
GLCA Oak Ridge Science Semester  
Denison University  
Granville, Ohio 43023

Dear Ron:

This letter represents my formal application for a GLCA/ORNL Science Semester Faculty Research Position. I would like to participate during both semesters of the 1977-78 academic year with support for the second semester from Hope College in the form of a sabbatical leave. I would also be open to considering spending a summer at Oak Ridge, with preference for the summer of 1978.

My areas of research interest include data base management systems, statistical and mathematical software, Monte Carlo simulation, and programming methodology. I would be happy to work on any projects involving these areas and I would also be willing to work on any project involving numerical analysis or programming.

*Course*

I would be able to teach courses on the following topics: Scientific computer programming techniques, data analysis for scientists, numerical analysis, differential equations, linear algebra, advanced calculus, and partial differential equations. In all of the latter four courses, I would approach the subject from a computational point of view with heavy emphasis on computer techniques. The first three courses listed would of course also be heavily computer-oriented.

I am asking Dr. Elliot Tanis, Chairman of the Mathematics Department, and Dean Sheldon Wettack, Dean of the Natural Sciences at Hope College to send letters of reference in support of this application. I would be happy to visit Oak Ridge to investigate research possibilities at any time that is convenient and appropriate.

Sincerely,

*Hold for interview*

*Herbert L. Dershem*  
Herbert L. Dershem



## HOPE COLLEGE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN 49423



December 13, 1976

Professor Ron Winters, Director  
GLCA Oak Ridge Science Center  
Dennison University  
Grandville, Ohio 43023

Dear Professor Winters:

Herb Dershem, Chairman of our Computer Science Department, has asked that I write a letter in support of his application for a faculty position in the GLCA Oak Ridge Science Semester in 1977-78. I am most pleased to do so as I hope the following paragraphs will indicate.

I have known Herb for the past 7 1/2 years. During the last 2 1/2 years he has been Chairman of the Computer Science Department while I have held my divisional dean position. During that period of time I've come to know Herb extremely well and feel very confident in generating this letter.

We regard Herb as one of our most able faculty members. In fact we went to quite some extreme two years ago to keep him on the faculty in face of an offer from another institution. We have not regreted at all the efforts that we expended at that time to keep him at Hope. He has been the prime mover in developing our computer science program and is considered to be extremely competent in both the computer science field and in the classroom.

From a teaching point of view Herb is superb. His student ratings are always extremely high and he seems to have a clear notion of what constitutes a viable undergraduate program in computer science. We are extremely fortunate to have him lead us in that area. Although he was trained in a formal computer science program specializing in numerical analysis, he has broadened his interests significantly since arriving at Hope and is quite comfortable teaching courses which are oriented toward business or social science students in addition to those oriented toward science and math students. He spent last summer at Goddard Space Flight Center studying and making recommendations on one of their large administrative computer systems and he has helped develop and taught in a computer-oriented statistics sequence for social science students. At the present time he is engaged in developing a modular approach to our introductory computer science course which will better provide for students ranging from the sciences to the humanities. There is just absolutely no question that Herb Dershem is extremely capable as a teacher and I would imagine that his role as an instructor on one of the seminar courses at Oak Ridge would be a very positive one.



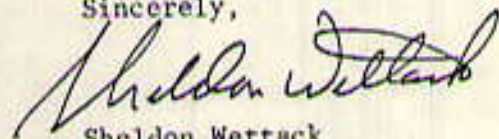
From a research point of view, Herb's present interests revolve primarily around the utilization of the computer in educational situations and in data base management systems. He is also actively pursuing the areas of programming languages and programming methodology. He is active on a national level in computer science educational circles. Herb has provided excellent direction for students on various independent study projects and in our internship program which places students in various industrial computer situations around the community. Thus he is quite versatile and is able to provide research and independent study leadership in situations ranging from those that are highly theoretical to those that are extremely practical.

From a personal point of view, Herb is a self-starter, very considerate of others, reasonably quiet. He is perhaps one of the easiest persons on campus with whom to work and yet he has his own ideas and is not afraid to follow through with them. He played a very effective role in the Mathematics Department prior to the formation of our Computer Science Department, and he has given effective leadership to the latter since that time.

There is absolutely no question in my mind that Herb Dershem has the attitude and capacity to develop professionally in most any manner he seeks. Furthermore, I believe that he would be a tremendous asset to the Oak Ridge program, particularly to students in the social sciences who get involved in computerized types of studies. I know that I would be extremely pleased to have Hope students at Oak Ridge working under Herb's leadership.

I hope the above information is helpful to you as you evaluate his application. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can highlight this letter any further.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Wettack  
Dean for the Natural Sciences

SW/kb



## HOPE COLLEGE

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN 49423

December 23, 1976



Mr. Ron Winters, Director  
GLCA Oak Ridge Science Semester  
Denison University  
Granville, Ohio 43023

Dear Mr. Winters:

This letter is being written in support of the application of Dr. Herbert L. Dershem for a GLCA Oak Ridge Science Semester Faculty Research position for the 1977-78 academic year.

Dr. Dershem joined our staff in 1969. Since that time he has developed our computer science program. He is chairman of our Computer Science Department and concurrently holds an appointment in the Mathematics Department.

He took the major role in writing a \$46,000 proposal which was funded by NSF. This grant was used for integrating the computer into the statistics curriculum.

Although his Ph.D. is in computer science, Dr. Dershem's training in mathematics is extensive. He is continuously updating his knowledge in both areas.

Dr. Dershem's research interests revolve to a large extent around student projects. He has directed several significant projects during the past several years.

Herb is an excellent team member, a good listener who makes worthwhile suggestions when appropriate. He has a positive attitude towards gaining new knowledge. He definitely has the capacity for additional growth.

Dr. Dershem was granted tenure two years ago, the eighth in a nine man department. My concern was not whether he would be granted tenure but whether he would remain at Hope College rather than accept another offer. Fortunately, for us, he rejected a very fine offer to remain at Hope College.

Mr. Ron Winters  
December 23, 1976  
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During this past summer Herb received a summer research appointment in a program co-sponsored by the University of Maryland and Goddard Research Center. Because there was keen competition for this appointment, this speaks very well for Herb.

I highly recommend Herb to you for this appointment. I am sure that he will be a credit to this program.

Sincerely,

*Elliot A. Tanis*

Elliot A. Tanis  
Chairman

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