

New York University A private university in the public service

Prof. Dennis Shasha Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences Department of Computer Science 251 Mercer Street New York, N.Y. 10012-1185, USA Telephone: (212) 998-3086 Electronic mail: shasha@cs.nyu.edu

May 25, 2004

Eric Siegel Director, Planning and Program Development New York Hall of Science 47-01 111th Street Queens, NY 11368 USA

Dear Eric,

Thank you for inviting me to be an advisor on the Connections exhibition program. As you know, I write the Puzzling Adventures column for the Scientific American magazine/website, so I would be very interested in working with the Hall to create tabletop versions of puzzles that introduce topology and other relevant mathematical concepts to visitors. We've already done that with two puzzles and the kids in your focus groups seem to like them.

My research in pattern recognition and biological networks also may be applicable for the Connections exhibition topics and learning goals. It sounds like an interesting and important topic, and I look forward to working with you.

Best Regards,

Dennis Shasha