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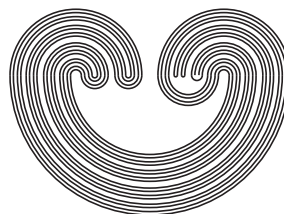
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## FOREWARD

by

PEG DANIELS

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## FOREWARD

PEG DANIELS

I met Gary in Fall '78. I'd just begun graduate school at Auburn University, and I wanted to join his topology class. But I needed his permission: I'd already taken a few undergraduate topology courses elsewhere, and Gary would be teaching his course using the "Texas Method," with each student proving as many theorems and solving as many problems as possible by themselves, no prior knowledge of the material allowed. Before meeting him, I asked the Math Chair, Ben Fitzpatrick, how to pronounce Gary's last name.

I then marched up the stairs to Gary's office, reciting "Groom-Hague" with each step.

But when I entered his office—those smiling eyes, the bright smile, the warm greeting!—well, the "correct" American pronunciation flew right out of my head (hello, high school German classes). I'd never believed in love at first sight, but this was the counterexample to that conjecture. Gary was a bit slow catching on: it took six months, during which I'd "accidentally" run into him at the student cafeteria (the only reason I ate there) and at the racquetball court (I didn't play), before it dawned on him what I was up to. We married in August 1981. Gary admitted that, at first, he was a little worried about this student-teacher hookup, but he guessed it all worked out, given we stayed married for 42 years.

Throughout his life, Gary kept his smiling eyes (which, I swear, saw down into the essence of you), his bright smile, and his warmth, generosity, and friendliness toward his students and colleagues, which I witnessed

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