STUDENT WORK SECTION

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The first paper in this section describes work that was undertaken by three students from Saint Catherine's School in Richmond, Virginia, in a class offered in the school's minimester. The name of the course was The Return of Hard Problems – The Sequel.

The second paper was written by Wendy Griffin who is a teacher and Chair of the Department of Mathematics at Liberty Middle School in Hanover County, Virginia. This paper was written while she was on a leave at Virginia Commonwealth University as a National Science Foundation GK-12 Fellow.

MATHEMATICS FROM CHINA TO VIRGINIA BY WAY OF SINGAPORE

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Abstract
Our article follows from an interesting concurrence of mathematical and educational lines. At least the concurrence seems so to us and we hope that those who read on will agree. The lines or streams are a joint minimester program at St. Catherine's and St. Christopher's Schools, an interest in problem solving, and a Singapore connection. We shall describe the lines first and then describe the mathematics that we found at their intersection.

Minimester at St. Catherine's and St. Christopher's Upper Schools

The academic session at our two schools is divided into three trimesters and a two-week minimester. The minimester takes place during the two weeks in late February and early March between the end of the second trimester and the start of spring break. All girls in the St. Catherine's Upper School and all seniors, as well as some juniors from St. Christopher's, participate in the minimester program. Regular academic courses (with the exception of certain Advanced Placement courses) for minimester students are suspended. Participants may choose

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