Editorial: Not just in the eye of the beholder

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This January, we are pleased to present to you an issue guest edited by Manya Raman-Sundström, Lars-Daniel Öhman, and Nathalie Sinclair. They have put together a fantastic collection of articles exploring the nature and experience of mathematical beauty.

Mathematical beauty is a theme that the *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics* authors have explored repeatedly. We began our first issue with Nathalie Sinclair's piece on *Aesthetic Considerations in Mathematics* [2]. In our fourth issue Viktor Blåsjö proposed cognizability as a descriptor for mathematical beauty [1]. This special issue offers a range of authors reflecting upon surprise, explanatoriness, simplicity, symmetry, and sequence as aesthetic components of the mathematical experience. Raman-Sundström, Öhman, and Sinclair invite you to these superb explorations in their guest editorial.

To complement their selections we have added a number of choice contributions to this issue, in our *World of Mathematics* and *Poetry* sections. This issue also offers a *Perspective* entry, a *Recreation* piece, a book review, and a work of fiction.

V. Rani Satyam leads off the World of Mathematics section of this winter issue with a look at the relationship between surprise and mathematical beauty. Emily Clader follows with her notes on running a workshop where sixth-graders examined the interplay between mathematics and poetry; along the way she reflects upon the relationship of mathematics to literary works.

Next Paul Grawe follows with an examination of teaching mathematics through humor; mathematicians will find much to ponder here. Günhan Caglayan then adds a little drama to the issue, using performance art to liven up mathematics teaching. Adam Glesser and Martin Bonsangue wrap up this section doing some Jaywalking to better teach group theory to students.

In her Perspective essay, Rebecca Vinsonhaler makes an impassioned case for using infinitesimals rather than limits to rigorously teach first year Calculus. Given the relevance of calculus to the ongoing conversations about mathematics education, this essay offers some good food for thought to all of us.

With the Poetry Folder of this issue, Marion Cohen leads off our poetry offerings; we hope you will enjoy the selections from her books *Sizes Only Slightly Distinct* and *Truth and Beauty*. E. Laura Golberg, Sarah Glaz, Christopher Norris, Jordie Albiston, and Caleb Emmons then make up the rest of our poetry section with their poetic contributions.

Susan Sechrist spins a tale of a woman trying to make sense of her world through her own perfect ratio. Vincent Matsko then makes a delightful mathematical salad for us in our Recreation section.

We close this winter issue with our announcement seeking mathematical journalists. It could be you!

References

[1] Viktor Blåsjö, "A definition of mathematical beauty and its history," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume **2** Number 2 (July 2012), pages 93–108. Available at http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol2/iss2/8, accessed on January 28, 2016.

[2] Nathalie Sinclair, "Aesthetic considerations in mathematics," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume **1** Number 1 (January 2011), pages 2–32. Available at http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol1/iss1/3, accessed on January 28, 2016.