

How to Wear More Than One Hat Well

Mark Huber

Claremont McKenna College

Gizem Karaali

Pomona College

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How to Wear More Than One Hat Well

Mark Huber

Department of Mathematical Sciences, Claremont McKenna College, California, USA
mhuber@cmc.edu

Gizem Karaali

Department of Mathematics, Pomona College, California, USA
gizem.karaali@pomona.edu

One of us is a mathematician who is a mother; the other has a mother who is a mathematician. So we were very excited when Pamela Harris, Becky Hall, Carrie Diaz Eaton, and Emille Davie Lawrence proposed guest editing a special issue on Mathematics and Motherhood for JHM. When we saw the sheer number of submissions, we realized that this was a theme that struck a chord with many of our readers, and that there were a multitude of stories and experiences waiting to be shared.

The articles and poetry in this special issue run the gamut, from autobiographical tales of pursuing mathematical dreams while also dealing with the expectations of being a mother, to research questions and pedagogical approaches inspired by motherhood. Each contributor shares something unique about being a mathematician and a mother, and expectedly so; the experience of trying to do mathematics professionally and be a mother will inevitably be different for everyone. By sharing these stories we hope that those who find themselves trying to do math and mother at the same time realize that they are not alone, and find the strength to move through the challenges they face, or simply find new inspiration from the two hats they wear.

After the many articles and poetry on mathematics and motherhood, we offer in this summer issue a story and an allegory on two logical puzzles. We then close with an announcement for a completely different type of journal. This journal is intended to get kids interested in science by publishing articles aimed at their level. They are opening a section on mathematics, and provide a way for mathematicians to connect with a wider community.