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Starting Our Decennial

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This issue begins our tenth year of publishing the Journal of Humanistic Mathematics! Over those years our scope and size have seen enormous growth. Our most recent issues are three or four times the size of our original, and we have added many new categories such as Book Reviews, Art, Fiction, and Perspectives. None of this would have been possible without our talented authors, who continue to amaze us with their eclectic and inspirational work.

On a sadder note, Reuben Hersh, one of our ardent supporters, passed away this January at the age of 92. He was truly a wonderful advocate for humanistic mathematics. Perhaps best known for his book *The Mathematical Experience* (with co-author Philip J. Davis), he was a prolific author and teacher who introduced many to the idea that mathematics is a living, breathing field shaped by a multitude of people. He will be missed.

In this issue we explore many themes. At the top of the list is the interaction between mathematics and the arts. We begin with a piece by Robert Haas exploring the work of fiction writer John Cheever, especially his story *The Geometry of Love.*

Jennifer Ruef then begins our second theme: how is mathematics viewed by others? She explores how students' identities affect how they learn and view mathematics.

Michael Spivey then returns to the arts and considers Zeno's Paradoxes and how they appear in interactive fiction. (For the Zork fans: > *download article* > *read article.*)

Katrina Piatek-Jimenez, Marianda Nouhan, and Michaela Williams then look at what college students' images of mathematicians look like, and what they think of mathematical careers.

The next piece by Graziano Gentili, Luisa Simonutti, and Daniele Struppa intertwines our themes, considering the mathematics and history behind the astrolabe. An accurate astrolabe is essential to astronomy while at the same time being an item of cultural value inspiring both scientists and artists.

Word problems always reflect the surround culture. A class of undergraduate students worked with Jemma Lorenat to build a history of word problems in algebra texts from 1901 to the present. Similarly, Salvatore Petrilli had his honors seminar study their own perceptions of what mathematics is and how it works. Their respective articles show us that large collaborative research projects involving students are both feasible and exciting.

Some of us wear our art. In the next article, Loe Feijs looks at the mathematics underlying the pied-de-poule (houndstooth) pattern in garments.

Robert Thomas then gives us a report on the history of artificially limiting ourselves with various rules when doing mathematics.

Our World of Mathematics section begins with Arka Chattopadyay, who considers how mathematics can be used within the Modernist approach to literature. Marcel Danesi then considers how a lens of the arts can inform how mathematical cognition occurs.

Stephan Ramon Garcia gives us useful tips to maintain a productive mindset when supervising undergraduate researchers, while Marion Cohen shares her mindset for teaching mathematics and how it is connected to her parenting mindset.

Veronica Sine considers a more serious issue, how having mathematical tools for thinking can assist when dealing with a trauma. Nathalie Luna describes her own history as a mathematician, including many situations where how she was viewed by a teacher or supervisor was incorporated into her identity (for good or ill).

Francis Dean reflects on the asceticism that many mathematicians practice, and Andres Sanchez shows how his understanding of sets has influenced his writing.

Michael Lewis then connects his use of mathematics and logic to social debates that are such a part of modern society.

Richard Delaware then describes his last talk on Fermat's Last Theorem right before the incredible breakthrough of Wiles.

If someone does mathematics and no one hears about it, did it happen? Don Larson, Kristen Mazur, David White, and Carolyn Yarnall reflect on the history and future of the User's Guide Project, an attempt by algebraic topologists to make their work more accessible to a broader audience.

We then present an interview of Len Vacher by our own Gizem Karaali, touching on wide-ranging topics from quantitative literacy to computational geology.

We have three Perspectives pieces this issue. Michael Aristidou reflects on the academic benefits of project based learning. Sarah Voss breaks down simple arithmetic into the butter, cream, and wine of the subject. Mikhail Katz delivers an opinion piece on an approach to the history of mathematics.

Paolo Mancosu provides a review of the graphic novel *Prime Suspects* by Andrew Granville and Jennifer Granville. The novel fictionalizes a mathematical search for hidden connections.

Several poets grace this issue. Lawrence Lesser delivers a folder of statistical poetry. Joseph Chaney, Jessica Huey, Robert Dawson, Terry Trowbridge, and Ernesto Estrada have contributed individual poems.

Timons Esaias presents a short fiction piece on the revolution, and Tom Ward considers the effect of notation on mathematics.

Finally, we present an announcement from Mark Dixon and Guillford College; they are currently looking to hire a chair in their mathematics department to spread some math love!

We hope you will enjoy this eclectic issue and share it with friends, colleagues, and students.