The AMS Graduate Student Blog, by and for math graduate students, includes crossword puzzles, and a variety of interesting columns and excerpts. This month’s blog section offers the following excerpts from blogs.ams.org/mathgradblog.

One excerpt from the November 2015 AMS Graduate Student Blog.

Prelims and Master’s Exams Tips
by Shelby Heinecke, the University of Illinois, Chicago

1) Make a study plan at least several weeks prior to your exam date. Include topics you need to review on which days. Check off the days as you complete the study assignments as this will help to motivate you and build a sense of accomplishment.

2) Prioritize prelim/master’s exam courses as you take them. Don’t take shortcuts in these courses as your success on the prelims and master’s exams depends on a deep understanding of these topics. Stay organized in these courses and make an effort to take excellent notes so you can study from them when preparing for your exam.

3) Schedule full-length, timed practice exams.

4) Find a study group to meet with regularly at least several weeks prior to the exam.

5) Complete all learning of exam topics at least a couple of weeks before the exam.

Shelby Heinecke is a math PhD student at University of Illinois-Chicago exploring mathematical computer science.

My Professor

Artwork by Sam White.