New and Noteworthy Titles on our Bookshelf
September 2020

Crocheting Adventures with Hyperbolic Planes
Tactile Mathematics, Art and Craft for all to Explore (Second Edition)
by Daina Taimina

Despite the title, Crocheting Adventures is not strictly about crocheting. Instead, it is a lavishly illustrated tour of geometry from its historical beginnings through the classification of 2-manifolds, hyperbolic geometry, minimal surfaces, and much more. In particular, a wide range of geometric thought and ideas from many different cultures is discussed. The mathematical level is suitable for students and professors alike.

This is the much-anticipated second edition of the Euler Book Prize-winning 2009 original. New to the second edition are personal recollections of the author and feedback from her readers, along with an extended discussion of how hyperbolic geometry appears in a diverse array of fields such as medicine, architecture, fashion, and biology.

Although pictures of the author’s crochet creations grace many of its pages, the crochet models are not ends in themselves, but are used to illustrate important ideas or themes. For example, Taimina illustrates many of the properties of parallel lines in hyperbolic geometry through crochet models. The book itself contains well over 350 color illustrations and it is a sight to behold. Crocheting Adventures is a perfect mathematical coffee table book or conversation starter. One can easily imagine visitors to the department lounge eagerly flipping through its pages or marveling at its many images.

Will This Be on the Test?
What Your Professors Really Want You to Know about Succeeding in College
by Dana T. Johnson
(with Jennifer E. Price)

Every incoming college or university student should read this compact guidebook to success in higher education. In particular, Will This Be on the Test? contains a wealth of “common sense” information that, unfortunately, not every student knows. First-generation college students may find this book a valuable resource to learn the unwritten rules and norms of college-level academics. Professors will smile at the frequent comic-style illustrations that depict common frustrating situations. For example, one image shows a professor with her face buried in her palms after reading a student’s email: “My average in your course is only 54%. What can I do for extra credit?” In another, a student asks, “When’s the first assignment due?” while an inset of the course syllabus clearly indicates the precise due date.

Will This Be on the Test? is divided into five parts, each of which is subdivided into several chapters. The first part, “Getting the Big Picture,” focuses on some of the key differences between high school and college. For example, it discusses faculty research and explains the distinction between the various professorial ranks. The next part, “Inside Your College Classroom,” explains the significance of course syllabi and examines acceptable classroom behaviors. The third part, “Communicating with Your Professor,” covers the importance of office hours, email etiquette, and how to obtain letters of recommendation. “More Advice for College Success” concerns time management, writing tips, and ethical considerations. The fifth and final part, “Final Words of Wisdom,” is aimed at parents and focuses on preparing and supporting children who are going off to college.

The Bookshelf is prepared monthly by Notices Associate Editor Stephan Ramon Garcia.

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