The Blog on Math Blogs

By Anna Haensch

Haensch in a recording booth at NPR during her time as a Fellow.

I write for the AMS *Blog on Math Blogs*. For each post I find some interesting mathematical curio, explain a few things about it in, er, mostly plain English, and then share what the Internet's been saying about it. My co-blogger Evelyn Lamb and I take on a broad range of topics: research and recreational math, pedagogy, current events in math, and the broader sweeping politics of being a mathematician.

Our most popular post of all time, written by my co-blogger, was called "Math and the Genius Myth". The post discusses a noteworthy article published in *Science* suggesting that women are less likely to be drawn to fields that are perceived to require innate talent. For women in math, she points out, this is troubling news. And she

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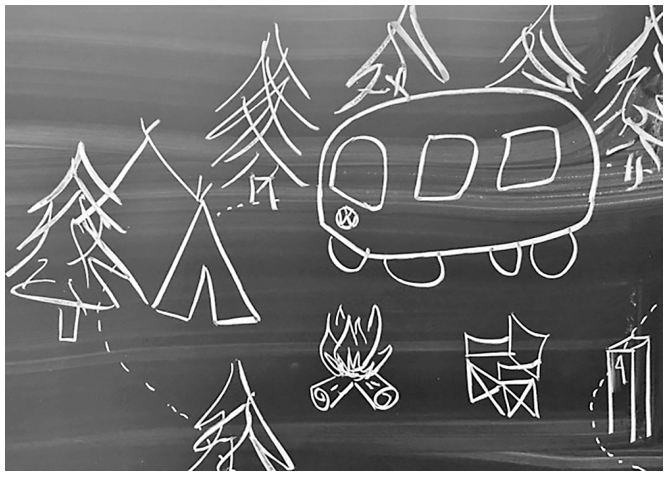

Figure 1. This math "pictionary" from the blog suggests the name of a famous theorem. (The answer appears in the footnote at end of this article.)

discusses the range of reactions that bloggers across the Internet have had to the article.

Posts discussing some of the more social and political aspects of math tend to be the really popular ones. In another highly shared post, "Math in Pictures" I give a review of Ben Orlin's brilliantly witty math blog *Math with Bad Drawings*, and I try my hand at some math "pictionary" as in Figure 1.

This year, several exciting breakthroughs in math also made fun material for posts. Some of our popular posts of late have discussed breaking research like the graph isomorphism problem in "Meanwhile over in Computer Science," new pentagonal tilings in "There's Something about Pentagons," the Erdős Discrepancy Problem in "That Time Terence Tao Won $500 from Paul Erdős," and most recently the discovery of a new Mersenne prime in "There's a New Prime! And It Looks Like…Wait…What?"

The *Blog on Math Blogs* has been going strong for almost three years now, and the mathematical blogosphere doesn't seem to be running out of material anytime soon. You can check at `blogs.ams.org/blogonmathblogs` for new posts from Evelyn and me every Monday.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Assistant professor Anna Haensch's research is in number theory. In 2013 she was the AMS-AAAS Mass Media Fellow at NPR. In addition to her *Blog on Math Blogs* writing, Haensch also hosts a podcast about math called *The Other Half*.

Anna Haensch

Answer to Figure 1 "pictionary": *Seifert-van Kampen Theorem (site 4 van camping).*