Inspiring Female Mathematicians

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In the fall of 2020, I had the privilege of teaching an undergraduate course called Mathematics Through the Ages. This senior course is taken almost exclusively by preservice teachers. As COVID-19 restrictions forced us into Google Meet instead of the classroom, the semester could have been very difficult. It was made a lot easier by the lovely group of students I had the pleasure to work with.

My idea for this course was to look at several mathematics topics through a historical lens. Most mathematics classes spend almost zero time on the history of the discipline, and even less on the people involved.

For the final project, I asked my students to investigate any topic in mathematics that interested them, write a paper and then give a 15-minute presentation to the class.

Several students decided to write about female mathematicians. I suggested that they submit their papers to *delta-K*. The resulting articles, which are intended for a general audience, are as follows:

- "A Brief Biography of Sophie Germain," by Jennifer Kraft
- "Eugenia Cheng: An Inspiring Mathematician," by Mackenzie Ha, Ihn-Ah Jung and Joseline Ortiz Cardenas
- "The Greatest of All: Female Mathematician Emmy Noether," by Shenaé Richards
- "Mary Everest Boole: Present-Day Uses of Math from the Past," by Kaitlyn Neal

I hope that the work of these students inspires you to investigate some mathematicians and weave their remarkable stories into your classes.

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