Trevor Evans Award

Sanaz Aliari Kardehdeh, Bruce Golden, and Eric Oden

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This article brings readers along on a mathematical journey in which computational experimentation precedes and guides the construction of rigorous proofs. The authors' explorations embolden them to generalize a technique for counting spanning trees to a new class of graphs. The clear and engaging writing presents mathematical research as an accessible endeavor, in a way that could inspire readers.

Response

We are honored to receive this award from the MAA for our work on experimental graph theory. What began as a short conversation during one class ended up taking us on a pleasant mathematical exploration which we were happy to describe in our article. We are hopeful that our paper will encourage other students and their instructors to use computational experimentation to help them answer mathematical questions of their own. We thank Dave Richeson, Editor of *Math Horizons*, for his valuable comments and help throughout the publication process.

Biographical Sketch

Sanaz Aliari Kardehdeh is currently a PhD student in transportation engineering at the University of Maryland. Her research interests include operations research, optimization techniques, and machine learning. Her research enables her to apply her learnings to everyday life problems, such as the routing and scheduling of ride-sharing systems, which is the focus of her PhD research. The current work was conducted in the summer of 2018 when she was studying network optimization under the supervision of Dr. Bruce Golden.

Bruce Golden has been involved in the applied math program at the University of Maryland for decades. This is his third paper on counting spanning trees. His first paper appeared in *The American Mathematical Monthly* in 1975.

Eric Oden is a PhD student studying applied mathematics at the University of Maryland in College Park, where he thoroughly enjoys his work as a TA. He received his B.S. in Mathematics and Physics at Southwestern University (Georgetown, Texas).