The Missing Course: Everything They Never Taught You About College Teaching

By David Gooblar

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS: 2019. 272PP. £23.95

A science in itself, pedagogy has been evolving and growing as we better understand how the human brain works and how students learn best. David Gooblar takes on the task of compiling an up-to-date guide on how to bring often archaic teaching practices into the twenty-first century. Active learning is at the centre of his proposal and the book deals with individual elements of the college experience (course teaching, tests, assignments, assessments, and so on). The author examines how these elements can be updated to improve student engagement, productivity and ultimately learning in college.

Zwicky: The Outcast Genius Who Unmasked the Universe

By John Johnson Jr

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS: 2019. 368PP. £28.95

Fritz Zwicky is the focus of this new biography by John Johnson Jr. Zwicky contributed to multiple areas of astronomy and astrophysics but also to rocketry and materials science. In astronomy, his supernovae work was perhaps most notable but he also dealt with dark matter, clusters of galaxies and quasars. At the same time, however, Zwicky was a difficult character, aggressive and stubborn to a fault, and these traits eventually led to him being sidelined in the later years of his life. The book provides a candid retelling of Zwicky's life and character, with often more attention paid to the person than the scientist (if such a separation is even possible).

Conversations with Galileo

By William R. Shea

WATKINS PUBLISHING: 2019. 128PP. £9.99

Galileo Galilei is one of the most famous astronomers in history, having used the telescope to prove the validity of the heliocentric system, resulting in him coming into conflict with the Catholic Church. How would a conversation with him go? William Shea imagines such a sit-down with this historical figure, asking questions about everything, from astronomy to the plague. The book is complemented by a very short biography of Galileo that gives the reader an overview of his life before jumping into the conversation.

Saturn

By William Sheehan

REAKTION BOOKS: 2019. 224PP. £25.00

Saturn is probably the most iconic planet after Earth, its rings being its trademark and a source of fascination going back to the first observations performed by Galileo and Huygens. More recently, Cassini provided a trove of photographic data that helped us understand this giant gas planet. In his book, William Sheehan travels through history, from the mythological origins of its name to our current understanding of this distant world. The formation of Saturn, its interior, its atmosphere and its rings are all discussed, supported by rich illustrations and up-to-date references.

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