

1035-Z1-1883      **Sandra E. Boer\*** (profsboer@hotmail.com), Dept. of Mathematics, Room N520, 199 Chambers St., New York, NY 10007. *Batteries Not Included: Using the Abacus to Motivate Liberal Arts Mathematics Students.*

Since its inception from ancient times, the abacus has assumed many curious and practical forms. It has proven to be one of the most enduring and reliable counting machines of all time. The Chinese abacus (suan-pan) is still actively used in Modern Day China as well as many Asian-American communities in the U.S. today. This presentation will touch upon the history of the abacus and demonstrate how to motivate liberal arts students with a hands on approach by performing the basic arithmetic operations with this counting tool. Also, a practical assessment tool will be shown to help effectively grade abacus skill in large classes. (Received September 20, 2007)