

1023-F1-754 **Eric Gaze*** (gazee@alfred.edu), Alfred University, Mathematics Department, Alfred, NY 14802.
An Excel-lent Approach to College Algebra.

This talk will focus on the development of a Mathematics for Liberal Arts course that incorporates traditional College Algebra topics through the use of spreadsheet technology. The author has taught this course for over ten years and will discuss the evolution of it based on student learning difficulties with both the mathematics and the technology. The format is discovery based learning, with students typically spending a portion of each class working on problems using the spreadsheet, Excel. The emphasis is on real world problems and applications, not plug and chug exercises so common in College Algebra. The author will make the argument that the power and functionality of Excel allow for an in-depth understanding of traditional College Algebra topics, rather than simply being a "black-box" hiding the computation. In regard to this the author will also relate experience from the Spreadsheets Across the Curriculum workshop, which is the focus of Minicourse #3: A Tool to Implement Quantitative Literacy. (Received September 21, 2006)