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**Mary Ellen Davis\*** (mdavis@gpc.peachnet.edu), Department of Mathematics, 555 North Indian Creek Drive, Clarkston, GA 30021. *A Modeling Alternative to College Algebra: A New Look at Familiar Topics.*

As an alternative to the traditional College Algebra course—though at the same academic level—Introduction to Mathematical Modeling is intended primarily for those students whose program of studies does not include calculus, but who still need a solid quantitative foundation both for subsequent studies and for life as educated citizens and workers. Solidly based on functions and graphs, the course exploits technology and real-world applications as motivation to combine necessary skill development with the ability to reason and communicate mathematically. The use of data and modeling unifies the course topics, providing a theme that draws the varied applications together. The presenter will compare approaches and materials from a traditional College Algebra course with those from an Introduction to Mathematical Modeling course. The presentation is appropriate for those who wish to introduce data and modeling into a traditional course, as well as those looking for an alternative to College Algebra. (Received September 15, 2000)