

962-T1-73

Donna L Beers* (donna.beers@simmons.edu), Department of Mathematics, Simmons College,
300 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115. *Outside Academia: A Sabbatical in Industry.*

This presentation will report on a semester-long sabbatical experience as a software author and developer at MathSoft, Inc. Headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts, MathSoft provides innovative tools for technical calculation, math and science education, and data analysis. It is well known to the mathematics community for the software Mathcad. This talk will address the questions: What are the benefits of a sabbatical spent working in industry? How did I go about finding a position? How did I use mathematics in the job? What was it like to work outside the academy? This report will describe the working environment, identify the necessary skill set, and provide examples of specific accomplishments. The presentation will conclude with lessons learned and offer an assessment of success in reaching the sabbatical goals of pursuing new opportunities for professional growth that would benefit both my students and my teaching. (Received July 22, 2000)