

1056-J1-1974 **Deborah L. Gochenaur*** (dlgochenaur@ship.edu), 38 Blair Mountain Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019-9317. *Reaching the Unreachable: Pulling Students Kicking and Screaming into a Mathematical Vortex Where They Transform to Develop Mathematical Eyes through Innovative Approaches and Activities.*

Math courses geared towards non-majors require that we become creative in finding ways to empower students to connect topics to their own life experiences - appealing to their creative selves, while also allowing them to interact with the mathematics. In our desire to draw students into the material, we need to make each student feel valued for the gifts s/he does bring to the classroom learning environment, acknowledging that those gifts lie outside of our own chosen field. This session will share several specific activities and the student feedback that was collected through classroom surveys throughout a Liberal Arts math course. Striving to get students to see math through a new lens, learning to communicate mathematically through small group work and critiquing each others' problem solving in think-pair-share mode, classroom activities were included in most class meetings. Students discuss particular assignments as well as a general atmosphere of acceptance in the way assignments were given and the course was changed to better fit their personal needs, based on survey results, as the semester progressed. A combination of personal interaction, innovative assignments, and class discussions opened students' eyes to view math in a way they had never experienced before. (Received September 22, 2009)