## 1116-E5-2738 **David P Ely\*** (ely.65@osu.edu). A Study in Using Computer Programming to Simulate Classic Probability Problems. Preliminary report.

Teaching traditional probability theory results in most students unable to apply the theory to classic probability problems with any confidence. So was the conclusion of a study conducted in 2015 at a large Pacific Northwest university. After completing a term on introductory probability theory using Minitab, secondary mathematics teachers struggled to solve classic probability problems. Yet, when presented with a second term showing ways to simulate probabilities and verify models using computer programming, the teachers excelled. Simulation packages inside of software such as Minitab, Tinkerplots and calculators are limited; yet, teachers programming their own simulations in C were not. This new "as-needed" pedagogy on blending introductory computer programming with introductory probability theory was found to be highly effective. (Received September 22, 2015)