

**Meeting:** 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP H1, MAA Session on History of Undergraduate Mathematics in America, 1900–2000

1003-H1-45            **Alejandro R. Garciadiego\*** ([gardan@servidor.unam.mx](mailto:gardan@servidor.unam.mx)), Caravaggio 24, Col. Nonoalco - Mixcoac, Del. Benito Jurez, 03710 Mxico, D. F., Mexico. *A story of a gate. Mathematics and art at the campus of UNAM, Mexico.* Preliminary report.

In the early 1950s, some of the most famous Mexican muralists (e.g., Siqueiros, Rivera and O’Gorman) participated in the construction of the new campus of the Mexican National University. Some of their works are exposed on the external walls of the central library and the Olympic stadium and reflect, among other topics, the differences between the Ptolemaic and the Copernican systems of cosmology and, the creation of a new culture through the mixture of foreign and local civilizations. Another mural is displayed also on the facade of the auditorium of the original Faculty of Sciences and represents the conquest of knowledge over ignorance. In recent times, in the late 1990s, a new iron gate replaced the old one at the Dean’s administrative building. Apparently, to the average member of the community, this is just another new gate. But, this is not the case. Through a long process of frustrations and difficulties, its artistic design eventually emerged from an old mathematical pastime. The goal of this talk is to unveil such an artistic and mathematical journey. (Received July 02, 2004)