

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

1003-H1-486 **Walter Meyer*** (meyer@adelphi.edu), 100 Brook Street, Garden City, NY 11530. *What Can We Learn From the History of Enrollments.*

In recent years, bachelor's degrees in core mathematics have been trending downward. Leaving aside a significant increase starting in the 1950's and lasting about 15 years, decline has been the story of enrollments in most of the half-century from 1950 to 2000. The trends are markedly different from those in the overall science and mathematics and engineering category. For practical and intellectual reasons it would be good to know what drives enrollment trends. This talk will examine possible causes of past enrollment changes in undergraduate mathematics and suggest tentative conclusions. Unsolved historical problems abound in this area. (Received September 16, 2004)