

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP C1, MAA Session on Courses Below Calculus: A New Focus, I

1003-C1-1645 **Mary R. Robinson*** (maryrobn@unm.edu), 280 La Entrada, Los Lunas, NM 87031. *Perceptions of Mathematics: Replacing Fear and Loathing With Appreciation and Understanding.*

At the University of New Mexico, College Algebra is a pre-requisite course to both Business and Engineering Calculus. Recently, UNM's Liberal Arts Mathematics course, A Survey of Mathematics, was added to the UNM Core Curriculum as an alternative to College Algebra for fulfillment of the mathematics requirement. Unlike the other lower division math courses at UNM, this course does not have a standardized content. At UNM-Valencia Campus, the content is designed to help students discover the beauty and power of mathematics in a low stress, learning filled environment. Some students leave this course with a newly developed desire to continue their mathematics education. Most leave it with an appreciation and understanding of mathematics that they never thought they would have. This presentation will highlight some of the excitement students experience in this course while learning to analyze mathematical proofs, deriving pi using geometry and computer algebra systems, and exploring ideas developed throughout the history of mathematics. Examples of student comments and student work will be presented. (Received October 06, 2004)