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Mary E Searcy* (searcyme@appstate.edu), Department of Mathematical Sciences, Walker Hall, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608. *Mathematics and Science in the Whedon Universe ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer", "Angel", and "Firefly")*.

The creations of Joss Whedon ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer", "Angel", and "Firefly") have spawned their own multidisciplinary scholarly community, with an academic conference, journal, and related analytical texts. Using pop culture such as this in the classroom is a vital way to engage students and facilitate learning. Further, current trends in mathematics education emphasize integration of other disciplines with mathematics. To date, there has been no apparent investigation of mathematics and science in Whedon's work despite the presence of characters and themes related to these disciplines. With this in mind we have looked at the following elements of these programs and will discuss our findings: (1) the role of mathematics, science, and technology portrayed within contemporary and future settings, (2) the technical, scientific and mathematical backgrounds of the writing staff, (3) the representation of the women scientific and mathematical characters, and (4) the tension between magic and mathematics, science, and technology in the effort to reinvent or extend the traditional vampire mythology. This is joint work with Sarah J. Greenwald and Jill E. Thomley. (Received August 30, 2005)