

1077-01-1390      **Rebecca Miller\*** (rmiller34@uco.edu), Department of Mathematics & Statistics, 100 N University Drive, Edmond, OK 73034. *To Be Woman or Not To Be: The Struggles of Women Mathematicians and How They Have Impacted Mathematics*. Preliminary report.

Women. Our society/civilization would not exist without them. So why does society make the doors of math so heavy for women to open, let alone cross the threshold? What struggles have different women faced throughout history to enter these great doors? What impact have their struggles had on the mathematical community? Often we do not realize others' adversities until we run into the conflict ourselves or are made aware of the conflict. In this talk, I will present research that will not only bring awareness and knowledge of these struggles and their causes to current and future mathematicians, but also show the importance of closing this gender gap by uncovering the impact this gap has had on the mathematical community throughout history. In the words of Sofia Kovalezkaia, the greatest female mathematician of the 18th century,"... is it really possible not to stretch out one's hand, is it possible to refuse to help someone who is seeking knowledge and cannot help herself reach its source?... I consider it is my duty to destroy whatever obstacles I can in the paths of others." (Received September 19, 2011)