

1077-C1-2592      **Daniel R. Shifflet\*** (dshifflet@clarion.edu). *Online Discussion Boards in Seminar:  
Discovering Exciting Tidbits Missed Inside the Classroom Walls on the Outside.*

With only a 1 credit hour dedication, Clarion University's Capstone Seminar leaves little time for students to work on anything besides the typically required research report and accompanying presentation. So where do our majors pick up all the little exciting pieces of math left out of their required courses? Do we let them graduate without hearing about The Millennium Prizes, Chaos Theory, The 4-Color Theorem, or The Birthday Problem? Where do they learn about the real life catastrophes that can occur from not checking your work (see Mars Climate Orbiter) or our database of corny math jokes? When else do they get exposed to LaTeX, a necessary tool of graduate school? Having little in-class time to spare for these topics I turned to our course online discussion board to save me. By asking questions, posting links, and starting philosophical conversations, our math majors were able to share in their discovery of these interesting topics online and become a little more excited about their chosen field of study. (Received September 22, 2011)