

1077-VH-2415 **Emma Previato***, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Boston University, Boston, MA
02215-2411. *Boston University Students' Interdisciplinary Activities.*

The BU MAA Chapter was founded by the speaker in the late 1980s. Attracting students to professional mathematics activities was a challenge: what worked was an interdisciplinary approach. Students discovered geometry through origami and tessellations, modular arithmetic and number theory through music, projective geometry through Renaissance painting and satellite imaging; they researched relations between literature and logic (through the concept of paradox), religion and geometry (through the concept of infinity), juggling and graph theory; they researched the cultural significance of positional number systems through “finger counting” and the Quipu; they designed Geodesic Domes based on other regular polygons than used by R. Buckminster Fuller. This talk will focus on the social activities that showcased such projects: the Math Masterclasses and the annual symposium Without Number: Mathematics and Culture, as well as the application process which secured funding, both internal and external to Boston University. At the end, open questions about interdisciplinary undergraduate research and institutional funding policies will be posed. (Received September 22, 2011)