

1086-VP-1584      **Kayla Bradley Dwelle\*** (dwellek@obu.edu), 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3739, Arkadelphia, AR 71923. *What is Mathematics and Why Do We Care?*

It is well known that students begin a liberal arts math course with dread, trepidation and no small amount of skepticism about the benefits. This talk will focus on avenues to draw the students' attention and interest through well-chosen projects that facilitate mathematical communication and understanding. The presenter has found additional benefits to these projects in the discovery that students connect emotionally and intellectually with the mathematicians and the mathematics they are studying. Overall, the students leave the course with vastly increased appreciation for mathematics and its applications. (Received September 23, 2012)