

**Meeting:** 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP U1, MAA Session on Mathematical Experiences for Students Outside the Classroom

1003-U1-370      **Sharon K. Robbert\*** ([sharon.robbertrnty.edu](mailto:sharon.robbertrnty.edu)), Trinity Christian College, 6601 W. College Drive, Palos Heights, IL 60463, and **David B. Klanderma**n ([dave.klandermantrnty.edu](mailto:dave.klandermantrnty.edu)), Trinity Christian College, 6601 W. College Drive, Palos Heights, IL 60463. *Whetting Young Mathematical Appetities: The Trinity Triathlon*. Preliminary report.

The Trinity Triathlon is an annual mathematics competition for middle school students sponsored by the mathematics department of Trinity Christian College. Students from constituent schools compete in three different events and receive prizes for participation and excellence. Events at the competition vary from individual and small group activities to large group activities and also range from serene to raucous levels of participation. The competition was designed to meet concerns about diminishing enrollment in mathematics programs and exploit the opportunity to influence which mathematical content is taught and the types of learning processes students experience in the classroom prior to entering college. As the competition has matured, a successful expansion to involve preservice mathematics teachers and mathematics majors at Trinity has occurred. Reaction from participating schools has been overwhelmingly positive. Materials from past events are available at <http://www.trnty.edu/mathtriathlon/>. Detailed instructions on how others could adapt our competition for their situation will be provided. (Received October 05, 2004)