

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

1003-U1-458            **Edward W. Welsh\*** ([ewelsh@wsc.ma.edu](mailto:ewelsh@wsc.ma.edu)), c/o Department of Mathematics, 577 Western Avenue, Westfield, MA 01085. *Starting a Basic Notions Seminar for Undergraduates.*

Last winter, a colleague and I decided to start a Basic Notions series of talks designed to start mathematical conversations with our undergraduates and colleagues. I'll talk about how we reached the decision to launch this talk series, the needs we perceived, and the strategies we employed to help the talks succeed. I'll share the tricks I used to fill the schedule; I'll also address problems we have encountered (and to a fair degree overcome): how do you get undergraduates to attend, and more critically, how do you get undergraduates to speak? I'll conclude by sharing some of the basic notions our speakers have discussed with us, and a few choice moments that keep us coming back to our new talk series week after week. (Received September 14, 2004)