

Mathematics Teaching Seminar

Speaker: Annette Pilkington

Title: Understanding The Student Perspective

Date: Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Time: 4:45 – 5:35 pm

Room: 231 Hayes - Healy Hall

Abstract: In addition to generation gaps and cultural differences, the variety of human experience, interests and values all lead to difficulties in understanding the point of view of our students. Many of our students do not share our interest in and enthusiasm for mathematics. However in order to teach effectively, it would help to know their weaknesses and strengths and we can benefit greatly by knowing their needs and preferences. We may welcome feedback from our students; however, often it is not forthcoming and the direct information we do receive is often biased.

We will discuss the problem of gathering useful information about our students. In particular we will address the following questions:

Can we simulate the learning process of our students?

What can we learn about our students during office hours?

What can we learn from class projects?

What can we learn from student evaluations?

How do we deal with information on student preferences, abilities and individual needs?