1046-Z1-399   **Luz M. DeAlba*** (`luz.dealba@DRAKE.EDU`), Mathematics and Computer Science Department, Drake University, 2507 University Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50311. *Teaching Technology to First Year Students.* Preliminary report.

Many of us teach technology in our mathematics courses as it applies to the subject matter. With this paradigm, students learn to use one technology to solve very specific problems. It is typical in upper division courses, that when not introduced as part of the syllabus of a course, technology is either totally ignored by students, or used ineffectively. In both cases, the learning of higher mathematics is hindered.

In this talk, the author discusses the First Year Seminar "Technology for Mathematics" she has taught at Drake University. In this course, students are exposed to a variety of computer technologies (Excel, Geometer's Sketchpad, Mathematica) and mathematical problems (financial computations, growth models, numbers in different bases, graphing functions, basic geometry, linear transformations, probability, algebra). Students are also required to do a substantial amount of writing and to give a final oral presentation.

This First Year Seminar is designed to remove any fear of using technology, to give students the tools and confidence for them to continue to use technology in all their mathematics courses, to teach new mathematics topics to students, and to encourage students write and speak about mathematics. (Received August 31, 2008)

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