ASIA MATTHEWS,

Combining Numeracy and Rhetoric in an Interdisciplinary Modelling Course

I have always been interested in the similarities and differences between numeracy/quantitative reasoning and mathematics: I initiated a "numeracy week" at an Ontario elementary school six years ago, I continue to provide mathematics enrichment to school kids and teachers, and during my time at Quest I supported the challenge of distinguishing our QR program from the mathematics curriculum. At Quest, QR and Rhetoric were the foundational streams for our Arts and Sciences BA degree, threading throughout the interdisciplinary curriculum. But they weren't everywhere. And our students weren't challenged to strengthen both skills consistently. The mathematician in me thought to pose myself a wee problem: what would a *really good* course focused on numeracy and rhetoric skills rhetoric look like? Completely unrelated, I was inspired by Yvan's description of a modelling course at the 2019 FYMSiC meeting and thought to design such a course for Quest. Only later did I realize that the way I designed this modelling course answered the problem. In this talk I'll explain the design and implementation of an interdisciplinary modelling course which effectively draws out numeracy and rhetoric skills in concert.