Norah C Esty* (ncesty@gmail.com), Mathematics Department, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755. Conditions for the Contractibility of the Hyperspace CL(M).

In this talk I will explain the concept of a hyperspace, and give some motivation for the study of hyperspaces. In particular, I will discuss their relevance to the field of Time Scales. I will then outline a set of sufficient conditions on M for the contractibility of the hyperspace $\mathbf{CL}(M)$, the space of all nonempty and closed subsets of the metric space M. I will give the conceptual picture behind the proof, and time permitting, a sketch of the proof. (Received January 19, 2007)