

1077-VB-1381 **Peter T. Olszewski*** (pto2@psu.edu), 4205 College Drive, Erie, PA 16563. *Money, That's What I Want!* Preliminary report.

Recently, the mathematics department at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, has discontinued a mathematics class for liberal arts majors called *Insights into Mathematics* and has replaced it with *The Mathematics of Money*. This course has proven to be a wonderful addition to our mathematics department. Ever since I started teaching the class, I have noticed that students who say they “can’t do mathematics” or “aren’t good at mathematics” do much better when problems have dollar signs attached to the numbers. This is more evident from the older adult learner’s point of view. I believe a large part of students’ difficulty with mathematics is failing to make the connection between abstract concepts and the practical. The algebra used in this class is minimal. Students are not running around trying to hunt down the value of x without motivation, as they would be in a traditional College Algebra class. In this talk, I will present how I teach the course using various clever techniques and technologies such as the Texas Instruments Graphing Calculator, Microsoft PowerPoint presentations, and Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. (Received September 19, 2011)