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The Mathematics of Tombstones

Carl Friedrich Gauss, David Hilbert, Carl Ludwig Siegel, Emmy Noether and William Threlfall: What do all these mathematicians have in common? If you had attended one of our classes, you would have known: At one time or another my husband and I visited their gravesites during travels through Europe and this country. We have been spicing our lectures over the years with stories about these mathematicians and many others, some of whom we met in person. These people who have their names on tombstones and attached to theorems come alive and help our students better understand the mathematical context. It works! Why otherwise would our students remember so well the Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality or Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization? My talk will feature some of these stories.

Steven Tedford
SUNY at Binghamton

HELPING STUDENTS BECOME EFFECTIVE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

A lot of large schools use students, either graduate or undergraduate, as teaching assistants for their large lecture classes. In this talk we will discuss the techniques and tricks that we use at SUNY Binghamton to make the transition for the students as easy and painfree as possible.