Tina R Hartley* (tina.hartley@usma.edu) and V Frederick Rickey (frederick.rickey@usma.edu). Calculus Books and Curriculum at West Point in the Twentieth Century.

Calculus books are all the same! How often have you heard that claim? But is it true? Has anyone looked?

We intend to look: to look at the book used today and the book used a century ago at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. Then we will look at a few other books published over the intervening years. How are they alike? How do they differ? We will compare their differences and their similarities. We expect similarities, for calculus is calculus. But there are many differences: the level of rigor, the choice of topics, the inclusion of applications. What does this tell us about the intended audience, and the curriculum at the time?

We will also examine how the curriculum has changed over the course of the last century. At the beginning of the 20th century, the West Point entrance exam focused on arithmetic and cadets spent their entire first year studying algebra and geometry before delving into calculus. How has that changed, and why? How have national changes in mathematics education affected the curriculum at West Point? (Received February 07, 2011)