



ECE News to Know

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE
UCONN ECE COMMUNITY

HIGHLIGHTS — SUMMER
2008

CATCH-UP CORNER

Here in the UConn ECE Program Office, we are all enjoying the last two weeks of a quiet campus. Wait, did we just say two weeks left? Another summer has managed to get away from us. There have even been sightings of red-leaved trees throughout Horsebarn Hill at UConn, Storrs.

We have all kept ourselves extremely busy over the past few months as we continue to register students, certify instructors and plan our big events for the upcoming year. We look forward to another exciting year for UConn ECE and hope that you have all been able to enjoy some well-deserved R&R.

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UConn Early College Experience Sponsors Annual College Transition Conference

On December 7, 1982, Jay Mathews read a story in a local Los Angeles newspaper that changed the path of his career. The story reported that fourteen students at Garfield High School in East L.A., CA took and passed the Advanced Placement calculus exam. When Mathews finished reading the story, he had two questions. How was it possible that under the worst learning conditions, fourteen students successfully passed AP calculus? Furthermore, how could this teacher cause this to happen?

With that, approximately 150 educators gathered in Rome Ballroom on June 5, 2008, to embark on keynote speaker, Jay Mathews', journey that led him to be an author,

education reporter, and online columnist at *The Washington Post*. "If you hear anything that half way makes sense to you today



Keynote speaker Jay Mathews addressed educators and administrators in a full Rome Ballroom.

it's not coming from me, it's coming from the hundreds of educators, particularly high

school teachers who have had the patience over the last twenty-five years to sit me down and explain to me how things actually work inside high schools and what succeeds and what doesn't," stated Mathews.

Bringing Mathews to the University of Connecticut for the Annual College Transition Conference was the brain child of UConn Early College Experience's Executive Director, Gillian Thorne. "Our past conferences focused more on what actually happens in college. With this conference we wanted to emphasize and focus on what can happen in high schools to prepare students and promote college access. Although AP and (continued on page 2)

Examining Globalization's Affect at First Annual Globalization Conference

Globalization has become more than just a "buzz" word. On March 26, 2008, 150 UConn ECE students fully embraced themselves in that word when they attended the first annual UConn Early College Experience Globalization Conference titled "Globalization: A Double-Sided Coin or a Double-Edged Sword." The conference was held at

UConn's Stamford Campus and was created based on a conversation that took place between UConn ECE Associate Director, Brian Boecherer, and UConn Stamford Campus Director, Michael Ego. "The role of regional campuses to encourage local high schools to participate in the ECE program can be (continued on page 3)



Kathleen Dechant, professor -in-residence of Management leads a morning discussion group.

UConn Early College Experience Sponsors Annual College Transition Conference



Panelists from left to right: Art Aprin representing International Baccalaureate, Jeanne Purcell representing Advanced Placement, Dianne Siegfried representing Concurrent Enrollment, and Paul Susen representing College Career Pathways.

(continued from page 2) concurrent enrollment have some pedagogical differences, we have the same goals for students. I knew that Jay would provide a challenging perspective to everyone committed to improving college readiness,” says Thorne.

This year’s conference was an exploration of programs that exist in Connecticut high schools that offer students the opportunity to earn college credit. An academic partnerships panel discussion brought together representatives from International Baccalaureate, Concurrent

Enrollment and College Career Pathways. Panelists were able to explain their programs in detail and audience members had the opportunity to ask specific questions of the panelists.

Dianne Siegfried, President of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP), discussed the collaborative approach to early college credit programs that exists in Utah, Siegfried’s home state, during the lunch presentation. Deputy Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Steve Floyd, also addressed state legislation

targeting early college credit programs in one of the afternoon breakout sessions. Afternoon sessions focused on institutions in partnerships, partnerships in action, and the admissions dilemma.

While he physically could not attend this year’s Transition to College Conference due to a travel conflict, University of Connecticut President, Mike Hogan, was able to speak to participants via video welcome, his first since joining the University.

UConn ECE Instructor Spotlight:

Turner Recognized with Excellence in Teaching Awards

“Our society is very unequal and I don’t like that. I can’t change foreign policy but I can treat my students as well as possible,” replied Turner.

Dr. Frederick Turner, UConn Emeritus Professor turned Bulkeley High School teacher, was the recipient of both the “Bulkeley High School Educator of the Year Award” and the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies’ “Excellence in Social Studies Education Teaching Award” for the 2007 – 2008 academic year.

Turner worked as a University of Connecticut professor for 32 years before deciding to retire in 1997. He continued his work as an educator in Argentina after retirement until returning to the states and taking a position at Bulkeley High School, in Hartford, CT, where Turner has been teaching for the past six years. Turner credits The Neighbor-

hood House, a settlement house in Cambridge, MA, where he volunteered during his time at Harvard University, as his reason for wanting to give back to his community. Turner rowed on the Harvard Crew as an undergraduate, and he found that the boys at the settlement house where he worked also cared passionately about Harvard sports.

When asked about why he was awarded two teaching awards this year, Turner said “I don’t use a lecture approach in my classes. I teach through group work, debates, role playing and the analysis of historical documents, images, film and music. The varied approach gets my students talking.” But it is not just in the classroom setting where Turner excels. Visits to the United Nations in New York, participation in the model U.N. at University of Hartford and lectures through the World

Affairs Council of Connecticut allow his students extraordinary opportunities to learn outside the classroom. “Our society is very unequal and I don’t like that. I can’t change foreign policy but I can treat my students as well as possible,” replied Turner.

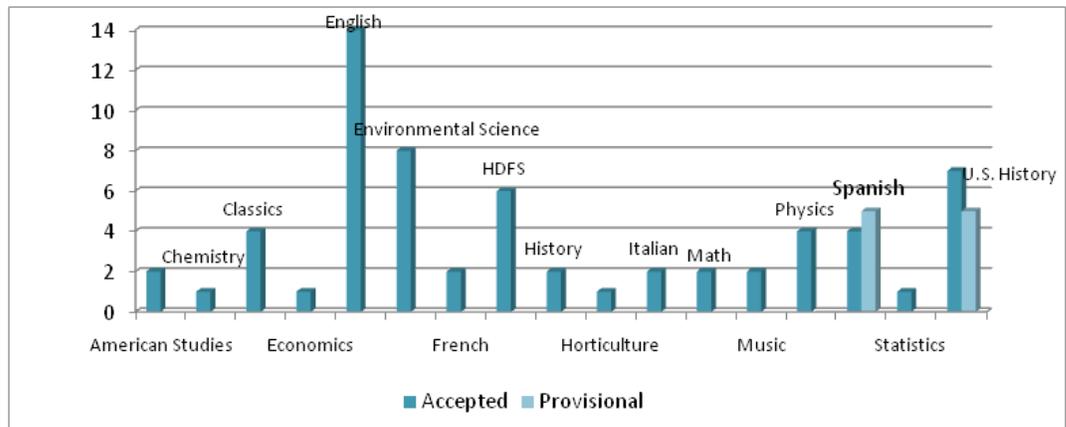
Dr. Turner taught Political Science 132: Introduction to International Relations every year from 1965 to 1997 at the University of Connecticut. He now teaches the same course to Bulkeley High School students through UConn Early College Experience and says that his course at Bulkeley is significantly better than the one he offered at the University. “I used to teach eighty or ninety students in one classroom,” says Turner. “This year I had thirteen students in my ECE course. I can sit around a table with my students and discuss the issues in depth.”



Frederick Turner was awarded the “Bulkeley High School Educator of the Year Award” and the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies’ “Excellence in Social Studies Education Teaching Award.”

A Glance at the Instructor Certification Process

Ever wonder how the UConn ECE instructor certification process breaks down each year? The chart on the right shows the number of new instructors who became certified per discipline for the 2008—2009 academic year.



Five New High Schools to Join ECE in 2008

UConn ECE welcomes new partners Granby High School, Rockville High School, Wamogo High School, West Haven High School and Wilton High School for the 2008 – 09 academic year.

Granby High School has been chosen as one of eight schools to pilot U.S. History for UConn ECE.

Cooney Awarded Course Funding

UConn ECE understands that it is difficult for certified instructors to request multiple professional development days per academic year to attend ECE-related events. That’s why this year, a \$1000 incentive was given to instructors who registered and attended the 2008 Annual College Transition Conference.

ECE instructors who took part in the conference were placed in a lottery and the winner was (drum role please)... Nancy Cooney of The Morgan School! Nancy Cooney has been a certified UConn ECE Mathematics instructor since 2004 and also serves as The Morgan School’s ECE Site Representative. The \$1000 award is to be designated for course materials to be used in her ECE Mathematics course.

Examining Globalization’s Affect at First Annual

Globalization Conference

(continued from page 1) enhanced by hosting events such as the Globalization Conference at the Stamford Campus, where high students can interact with UConn professors and see first-hand the correlation between the ECE experience and the UConn academic experience," said Ego.

Participating high schools included the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering, Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School, Fairfield Warde High School, RHAM High School, and Shelton High School. Schools were asked to make a formal presentation on globalization’s impact on a specific country or organization. Topics ranged from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to examining countries such as Turkey and

Cuba.

Morning discussion sessions gave UConn ECE students the opportunity to meet and discuss globalization topics with local business leaders and UConn professors. The afternoon was dedicated to the student presentation competition that allowed students to present on their topic and answer questions from the audience. “I was thoroughly impressed and pleased at how well our students prepared for the event. Not only was it refreshing to see the dedication that was put into each presentation, it was also amazing to hear some of the questions that were asked from fellow students in the audience. The questions reflected the students’ knowledge of the topic and it showed that they had been paying attention,” commented conference organizer Brian Boecherer.

Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School’s UConn ECE Environmental Science course took home first place for their presentation on South Korea. The topic was of specific interest to BRVAS team members that were planning a school trip to South Korea this May.



Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture students proudly display their first prize trophy.

“We wanted our instructors to be able to invite their colleagues and families to participate in the evening. We also wanted to be able to take our time to acknowledge each instructor and have the flexibility to add new awards in the future.”

Jill Thorne, UConn ECE Director

UConn ECE Recognizes Outstanding Instruction & Administration at Awards Banquet

Oh, what a night it was! On May 1, 2008, UConn ECE hosted its first annual awards reception to honor and celebrate outstanding program instructors and administrators. While UConn ECE has been recognizing instructors for the past three years during the Institute for Teaching and Learning's awards banquet, this was its first year hosting its own awards reception. “While we loved being part of the ITL Awards banquet, the truth was, we just got too big,” said UConn ECE Director Jill Thorne. “We wanted our instructors to be able to invite their colleagues and families to participate in the evening. We also wanted to be able to take our time to acknowledge each instructor and have the flexibility to add new awards in the future.”

Members from the UConn ECE Advisory Board, faculty coordinators, colleagues and students joined in the festivities, making this year a



Instructor of the Year Jan Pikul with wife Melissa.

memorable experience for all.

The 2008 awards reception marked UConn ECE's first Site Representative Award for Excellence in Program Administration and a “Rookie of the Year” Award for Excellence in First-Year Course Instruction. “It was important for us to finally be able to recognize our Site Representative,”

said Thorne. “They work so hard for this program and without them we would not be able to administer the program that we do.”

The awards are based on nominations received by colleagues, students and administrators. Nominees are reviewed by a committee of UConn ECE Advisory Board members to determine the awards.

UConn Early College Experience is pleased to recognize the following award recipients and retirees:

The UConn Early College Experience Instructor Award for Excellence in Course Instruction
Paul Cappello
 Notre Dame High School
Jan Pikul
 Bridgeport Aquaculture School



Instructor of the year Paul Cappello with three of his students from Notre Dame High School.



Brian Boecherer presents Sandra Davis with the “Rookie of the Year” Award for Outstanding course instruction.

The UConn Early College Experience Faculty Coordinator Award for Excellence in Curriculum & Adjunct Faculty Development
Florence Marsal, French

The UConn Early College Experience “Rookie of the Year” Award for Excellence in First-Year Course Instruction
Sandra Davis, Stratford High School

The UConn Early College Experience Site Representative Award for Excellence in Program Administration
Sandra Cone, Lyman Hall

Honored Retirees:
Robert DiCicco, Berlin
Judith Aucar & Christa Hary Brien McMahon High School
Joanne Marriott, Ellington
David Matte, Bethel



Jennifer Griffin presents Sandy Cone with the Site Representative Award for Outstanding program administration.

Oh What a Night! The Celebration Continues . . .



Sandy Cone with husband and colleagues



ECE Faculty Coordinators David Gross and Nalini Ravishanker with Robert DiCicco and his wife. Robert was a certified ECE instructor in both Statistics & Mathematics at Berlin High School. His daughter Julie will take his place at Berlin as a certified ECE Statistics instructor.



Sandra Cone (center) with colleagues Janice Scott and Brian Nelson of Stratford High School



Vice-Provost Veronica Makowsky, ECE Associate Director Brian Boecherer, Associate Vice Provost Keith Barker and ECE Business Manager Erin Blanchette



ECE Director Jill Thorne with Associate Dean of the Neag School of Education Yuhang Rong



Faculty Coordinator Award recipient Florence Marsal with colleagues from the UConn Modern & Classical Languages Department



Paul Capello with ECE Math Faculty Coordinator David Gross



Team UConn ECE (from left to right) Erin Blanchette, Brian Boecherer, Jennifer Griffin and Jill Thorne



Associate Director for Admissions Brian Usher and Assistant Vice Provost Eric Soulsby

Locally Grown History - It's in Your Backyard

"Northwest Connecticut is a treasure trove of historical gems. We want to help to make the public aware of them, and to guide educators in how to teach with them," says Professor Forbes.

Torrington, CT, July 25, 2008 – Led by American History ECE faculty coordinator Robert P. Forbes, a group of educators, directors, curators, & volunteers from many historic & cultural organizations in the Litchfield County area are collaborating on an event called "Locally Grown History – It's In Your Backyard." The project is designed to give the public a new, enticing view of our region's historical treasures, and to help educators and public historians use historic sites effectively to give students a direct experience with history.

This fall event will feature our area's historical asset (historical societies, museums, sites, and traditional artisans) and agricultural resources (vineyards, orchards, farms, farmers markets and farm stands). Locally Grown History will launch on Labor Day and feature a passport program. It will culminate the weekend of October 18th & 19th, 2008.

On that Saturday, participating

sites will offer special exhibits and programming to highlight their unique connections to our communities. Locally Grown History will end with a forum on Northwest Connecticut history, encompassing a series of workshops and panel discussions at the UCONN Torrington campus on October 19th. The programs held on Sunday will be free to ECE instructors and other educators, and will serve as this year's professional development workshop for American History ECE faculty members. It will be designed to interest public history professionals and history enthusiasts, as well as educators.

"Northwest Connecticut is a treasure trove of historical gems. We want to help to make the public aware of them, and to guide educators in how to teach with them," says Professor Forbes. "Locally Grown History is a unique opportunity to bring educators and public historians together to explore the most effective and interesting ways to reach students with these irreplaceable sites and artifacts.

We're delighted that UCONN can help to make that happen."

The Sunday forum will include an address by UCONN's Walter Woodward, the Connecticut State Historian; workshops on the use of historic letters and the impact of geography, religion, and immigration on the state; and a roundtable discussion on "Teaching With Local Treasures: The World in Your Backyard." Speakers will include notable historians from UCONN and other institutions.

Locally Grown History is a project organized by historical societies and museums throughout Northwest Connecticut, along with UCONN Torrington, the NW CT Arts Council, and the NW CT Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For more information about Locally Grown History, please visit www.locallygrownhistory.org or contact Melissa Flaherty at 860-626-6802.



Italian Workshop participants stop for a quick photo before observing an Italian course in session at UConn, Storrs Campus. From left to right: Jennifer Griffin, ECE Marketing & Communications Manager, Katherine Cannamela, Norwich Free Academy, Franco Masciandaro, ECE Faculty Coordinator for Italian, Norma Bouchard, Modern & Classical Languages Department Head, Erin Blanchette, ECE Business Manager, Justin Ehrenberg, Torrington High School, and Dominic and Tina Corrado, Notre Dame High School

Beichner to Speak at next

UConn ECE Physics Workshop

UConn Early College Experience in conjunction with the UConn Physics Department will welcome Dr. Robert Beichner as guest speaker at the next UConn ECE Physics Workshop, scheduled for March 27, 2009 at UConn's Storrs campus.

Dr. Beichner is the Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor in the Department of Physics at North Carolina State University. Among Dr. Beichner's many accomplishments, he developed the "VideoGraph" method for teaching motion and co-authored the best-selling 5th edition of *Physics for Scientists and Engineers* with Robert Serway.

Beichner's current project, titled SCALE-UP (Student-Centered Activities for Large Enrollment



Undergraduate Programs) has a primary goal "to establish a highly collaborative, hands-on, computer-rich, interactive

Dr. Robert Beichner learning environment for large-enrollment courses," according to NC State University.

Doug Pease, UConn ECE Physics Faculty Coordinator and UConn Physics Professor is responsible for Beichner coming to UConn. "Dr. Beichner is at the cutting edge not only in the theory of scientific education, but its practice as well. His presentation should be of particular interest to both ECE instructors and UConn physics faculty," said Pease.

Abbott Joins UConn ECE as New

Biology Coordinator

Dr. Thomas Abbott, Assistant Professor-in-Residence at the University of Connecticut, has been named the new UConn ECE faculty coordinator for Biology. Dr. Abbott's extensive work with high schools comes from his twenty-nine years of teaching experience at neighboring Coventry High School.

When asked about why he was looking forward to taking on the role of ECE Faculty Coordinator for Biology, Abbott replied, "I like the ECE program because it is a lot like the planting of seeds. Sometimes, the earlier the seed is planted, the sooner it can begin to grow." A workshop and orientation is currently being planned for all UConn ECE Biology instructors for fall 2008.

Thomas Abbott can be reached by email at thomas.abbott@uconn.edu.

"I like the ECE program because it is a lot like the planting of seeds. Sometimes the earlier the seed is planted, the sooner it can begin to grow," says Abbott.

Contributing to UConn ECE

Since 1955, UConn Early College Experience has provided an opportunity for students to begin their college careers while still in high school.

UConn ECE provides both an academic advantage and an economic advantage for students by offering college courses for \$25 per credit.

Please consider making a gift to UConn

Early College Experience so that we may continue to provide a concurrent enrollment program of the highest quality at a low student cost.

To make a contribution, please visit the UConn Foundation's "Give Now" website at https://secure.ga4.org/01/uconn_foundation_giving.

When giving to UConn ECE, please

indicate "UConn Early College Experience" under "other purpose" on the giving form. Monies received will go directly toward program enhancement.

Should you have any questions regarding planned giving please contact Jennifer Griffin at Jennifer.griffin@uconn.edu.



Louise Larson Joins UConn ECE Staff

UConn Early College Experience is pleased to welcome its newest staff member! Louise Larson has been hired as UConn ECE's first full-time Technology Coordinator, helping to provide much needed technical support to the program and its instructors and students.

After working at Norwich Free Academy since July 2001 as an

Educational Technology Support Specialist, Louise is looking forward to this new opportunity. "I enjoyed my work at NFA and having the chance to get to know one high school very well. Being part of UConn ECE allows me to put my high school background to work and gives me the opportunity to now work with 130 high schools. I'm up

for the challenge," says Larson.

An alumnus of the University of Connecticut, Larson is currently planning to pursue her second undergraduate degree in Computer Science and Engineering.

Louise can be reached by email at louise.larson@uconn.edu.



UConn ECE Calendar of Events

In an effort to keep UConn ECE instructors well informed of upcoming events, please find a list of scheduled professional development opportunities and important dates for the 2008 – 2009 academic year below. All events will take place on the UConn Storrs campus unless otherwise noted. Formal invitations will be sent to instructors approximately two months before the event date. The UConn ECE program Office staff looks forward to welcoming you to campus!

August 25, 2008

UConn ECE student
Add/Drop period begins

September 4, 2008

Fall New Instructor Orientation

September 5, 2008

UConn ECE student Add/Drop
period ends

October 19, 2008

American History Workshop, Torrington
campus (see article on page 6).

November 3, 2008

English Workshop

November 6, 2008

French Quiz Bowl

February 26, 2009

Site Representative Conference

March 26, 2009

Spanish Workshop

March 27, 2009

Physics Workshop

April 23, 2009

Art Workshop

May 14, 2009

Statistics Workshop

June 4, 2009

UConn ECE Annual Transition to
College Conference

August 24, 2009

Math Workshop

#29063



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