



UConn ECE Upcoming Events

In an effort to keep UConn ECE instructors well informed of upcoming events for UConn Early College Experience, please find events for the spring semester listed 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!

MARCH 19, 2008

*ECE Physics Workshop, 12:30 – 4:00pm,
CUE Building, Room 320*

MARCH 20, 2008

*ECE Spanish Workshop, 9:30 – 2:30pm, Coventry
Room, Nathan Hale Inn, UConn Storrs Campus*

MARCH 26, 2008

*UConn ECE Globalization Conference
"Globalization: A Double-Sided Coin or
Double Edged Sword", UConn Stamford Campus*

MARCH 28, 2008

*Medieval Conference, 10:00 – 3:00pm,
CUE Building, Room 134*

APRIL 2, 2008

*HDFS Conference for UConn ECE Students
8:30 – 1:30pm, Rome Ballroom*

APRIL 4, 2008

*ECE English Mini-Conference,
9:00 – 1:00pm, CLAS Building, Stern Lounge*

MAY 5, 2008

*UConn ECE French Workshop,
CUE Building, Room 320*

MAY 14, 2008

*UConn ECE Math Workshop, 9:00 –
12:30pm, CUE Building, Room 320*

MAY 14, 2008

*UConn ECE Statistics Workshop,
1:00 – 4:00pm, CUE Building, Room 320*

MARCH 15, 2008

*ECE Chemistry Workshop, 9:00 – 1:30pm,
Chemistry Building, Room A304*

MAY 22, 2008

*UConn ECE New Instructor Orientation,
8:30 – 2:30 pm, Rome Ballroom*

JUNE 5, 2008

*UConn ECE Annual Transition to College Conference,
8:30 – 3:00pm, Rome Ballroom (see article on front
page of this newsletter for conference details!)*

JUNE 6, 2008

*UConn ECE Biology Workshop, 10:00 – 3:00pm,
TLS room 154*



UConn Early College Experience Welcomes Jay Mathews at Annual College Transition Conference

UConn Early College Experience will host its Annual College Transition Conference on Thursday, June 5, 2008 in Rome Ballroom, UConn Storrs campus. This year's conference titled "Academic Partnerships to Promote College Readiness," will be a collaborative forum to address college rigor in secondary/post-secondary partnerships designed to encourage college access.

UConn ECE will welcome Jay Mathews as this year's conference keynote speaker. Jay Mathews is an author, education reporter and online columnist with the *Washington Post*. Mathews won the 1999 Benjamin Fine Award for Outstanding Education Reporting for both features and column writing. His column *Class Struggles* appears weekly on the online version of the *Washington Post*.

Mathews' rating system for high schools, the *Challenge Index*, is used by the *Washington Post* and *Newsweek* magazine annually to rank U.S. high schools.

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ECE to Recognize Outstanding Instructors, Site Representatives and Faculty Coordinators

UConn Early College Experience is currently accepting nominations for five awards recognizing professional achievements: The UConn Early College Experience Faculty Coordinator Award for Excellence in Curriculum and Adjunct Faculty Development (one award), The UConn Early College Experience Site Representative Award for Excellence in Program Administration (one award), the UConn Early College Experience Instructor Award for Excellence in Course Instruction (two awards) and the UConn Early College Experience "Rookie of the Year" Award for Excellence in First-Year Course Instruction (one award).

Recipients will be acknowledged at a cocktail reception on May 1, 2008, at the Nathan Hale Inn, UConn Storrs campus,

and will have the opportunity to invite family, colleagues and friends to take part in the event. Instructors who have served UConn ECE for twenty-five years or more will also be presented with "Lifetime Achievement Awards" for their dedication and excellence in instruction.

Instructors, site representatives, principals, faculty coordinators and UConn ECE students may download the nomination form right from the UConn ECE website at www.ece.uconn.edu. The form is located on the home page under "program news and events." All nominations must be received by March 15, 2008. We look forward to welcoming all of our award recipients to campus on May 1st!

Meet the UConn ECE Program Office Staff: Same Staff, New Roles

The UConn ECE Program Office has been hard at work this semester, undergoing its first staff reorganization since the program changed its name in 2005.*

This reorganization got the staff thinking.... "I wonder if the UConn ECE community knows who we are and what we do?" We thought we would answer that question for you and would like to feature a staff member in each addition of ECE News to Know.

Gillian Thorne was appointed Director of UConn Early College Experience in April 2005 after having had served a year as Interim Director. Jill looks at her job as an amazing opportunity to blend her career in K-12 education and her previous work at UConn in instructional design and faculty development.

Jill was a teacher in California's San Joaquin Valley for many years. In Connecticut, as an education consultant, she worked with several of the RESCs and with the State as a BEST trainer, BEST assessor, and curriculum consultant, working with a variety of school districts. Jill also worked in private industry as a business redesign consultant and community advisory panel facilitator, before beginning her work as a principal, first in Stonington and then in Franklin.

As Director of UConn ECE, Jill is responsible for assuring that UConn ECE follows University policies and procedures, as well as the standards set by our accrediting body, NACEP. Jill works with University faculty coordinators to help provide appropriate professional development opportunities, and directs program assessment and evaluation initiatives. She represents UConn ECE at the State and Federal levels, and has been active in the promotion of concurrent enrollment regionally and nationally. She is currently the chairperson of NACEP's Research Committee.

** Gillian Thorne will remain Director of UConn Early College Experience and Brian Boecherer has been named Associate Director. Jennifer Griffin is the Marketing & Communications Manager, managing all UConn ECE events and instructor certification and Erin Blanchette is now the Business Manager, managing the student registration and billing process along with many other administrative duties. The UConn ECE program office staff still wears many hats, but our hope is that this new restructure will help clarify staff responsibilities.*

UConn ECE Instructor Spotlight: Gary Schmidlin, Stratford High School

It is hard to use Gary Schmidlin's name and the words "first year instructor" in the same sentence. A veteran teacher at Stratford High School for 31 years and a Master teacher at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies in Russian and East European Studies, Gary is now halfway through his first year as a UConn ECE instructor for Political Science. "ECE has allowed our students to get an understanding of college workloads while gaining credit for their participation. It has been an excellent experience for my students and myself," said Schmidlin.



Gary Schmidlin

Schmidlin is offering Political Science 132: Introduction to International Relations to eleven students at Stratford High School. "We have been offering Honors Foreign Policy at Stratford for fifteen years, and the ability to tie this program in with UConn has been a real plus," said Schmidlin.

A hands-on syllabus has been created for Schmidlin's course and has been approved by UConn and NACEP. Students participate in an online simulation titled "GLOBALED Project in International Negotiations" through UConn and have participated in Model UNs at Yale and North Carolina, all while keeping up the pace of a college course. When asked what some of the key differences were in Schmidlin's POLS 132 course in comparison to the Honors course taught last year, Schmidlin replied, "The most obvious difference is that the connection with UConn changes students' perceptions of the course and what is an acceptable and realistic work load. They see themselves as college students with all of the responsibilities that come with this understanding. The available research tools at UConn are also a home run for my students."

Dr. Fred Turner, UConn emeritus Professor, Bulkeley High School ECE instructor and Faculty Coordinator for Political Science, recently visited Schmidlin's POLS 132 course as part of his annual site visits required by NACEP. Dr. Turner commented openly and warmly about Gary Schmidlin's dedication to his students. "He comes to school about 6:30 each morning, preparing for two hours before classes begin. The preparation for the simulation, for the model UN trips and for the regular classes requires far more time than most high school teachers would be willing or able to put in. Prof. Schmidlin clearly has warm and effective relations with his students, as two of them stayed after class to continue their heated discussion with him on the day of my class visit. His maintenance of contact over many years with alumni of the class also stands out as exceptional."

Thank you Gary, for your hard-work and dedication to UConn Early College Experience and to your students!

If you know of an instructor deserving of the "spot light," please contact Jennifer Griffin at jennifer.griffin@uconn.edu.

UConn ECE STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS

UConn ECE Students at Lyman Hall Build Bridges at Ashlar Village

by Ellie Carlino

Ask a teenager how they like to spend their time and more often than not, visiting the elderly does not exactly fit in to their agenda. The same usually goes for the elderly; who would want to spend their time with the self-absorbed, materialistic teens of today? While some of these characteristics may be applicable, both teens and elderly adults are led by misconceptions of one another. Such misconceptions have worked to develop an increasingly large and formidable generation gap. But this is where the Bridge Builders program steps in.

The program, started by Lyman Hall High School teacher Karin Pyskaty, allows University of Connecticut Early College Experience students participating in the Individual and Family Development course at Lyman Hall to go Ashlar Village once each week for approximately two months. Ashlar Village is a Continuing Care Retirement Community at the Masonic Healthcare Center and members of the ECE course visit with a handful of residents every week. For each visit, a topic is chosen for discussion and about three to four students sit with a resident for these discussions. This method of interaction between the elderly and teens has proven very successful. A requirement of the students attending the trips is to write a half-page journal entry about each discussion. Almost all of the journal entries have filled

entire pages. There has also been an enormous amount of positive feedback from the students.

Megan Zyskowski, a Lyman Hall senior, said, "I really enjoyed getting to know the seniors and learning from them." She especially found Betty's advice to be very relevant. Betty Goodnough, a resident at Ashlar Village, gave the group a lifetime's worth of advice: "You have to love yourself before you try and love others."

Erin Hines, a Lyman Hall junior, said that she found it fun to interact with the residents and that it was easier to carry on conversations with the elderly than she had expected. "It was a great learning experience."

Karin Pyskaty, instructor of the ECE course and the chairwoman of Lyman Hall's Career and Technology Education Department, sees that the program has been extremely successful. "To have kids excited about what they're doing and to learn these things from another generation has been great for them."

For students and residents alike, this program has proven not only successful but also rather crucial in the attempt to bridge the generation gap between the elderly and the young. It has allowed two groups of people, separated by decades of life, to realize that they still have similarities to one another. By helping to identify these similarities, the Bridge Builders Program has certainly earned its name.

Ellie Carlino is a senior at Lyman Hall High School located in Wallingford, CT. She is a student in Karin Pyskaty's HDFS 190: Individual & Family Development course through UConn Early College Experience.



Jessica Chapman, Tonishia Signore, Tara Monroe and Melinda Bolduc are all smiles as they pose with Bob Knowlton and Iris Agriss.



Rebecca Plover, Arianna Drossopoulos and Lauren Zeoli of Lyman Hall take time to meet with Ashlar Village residents, Betty Goodnough and Gloria Perrin.



Ellery Andrews, Melissa DeSandre, Vanessa Battista and Cassie Verch paired up with Edna Golden and Walter Serbent for their weekly conversation.

Windham High School Visits UConn Storrs

by Ashley Norris

Excitement and anticipation filled the air as the students from Windham High School's ECE program experienced college firsthand, at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Upon visiting the college, students were able to tour the campus and experience college life by sitting in on some of the classes. Part

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Windham High School students went to the library for a tour given by Mr. David Avery and were able to see the vast database that UConn offers. Being on campus gave the WHS students the feel of being a "real college student" for the day. We connected with some Windham High School graduates who are attending UCONN and were enlightened by their experiences. Of course, lunch was a big hit!

UConn Early College Experience Welcomes Jay Mathews at Annual College Transition Conference *(continued from page 1)*

This year, UConn ECE would like to thank its high school partners by offering this full day conference free-of-charge to all UConn ECE instructors, site representatives and principals of partner high schools! And we're even taking it a step further...

UConn ECE instructors, principals and site representatives who attend on June 5, 2008 will have their name placed into a lottery system. ***The first place winner will win a \$1,000 award to be used toward improving his/her UConn ECE course. Second and third place winners will receive a \$500 award to be used toward improving his/her UConn ECE course.*** Awards can be used towards the purchase of new textbooks, lab equipment and other course-related materials.

A formal save the date postcard that includes conference registration information will be sent in the next few weeks. For conference details and further registration information, please visit <https://www.regonline.com/ececonference>. This website will be frequently updated.

We look forward to welcoming you to campus on June 5, 2008 for what will be an extraordinary day!

#290623
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Windham High School Visits UConn Storrs *(continued from page 3)*



of the day consisted of participating in a PSYC 132: General Psychology class and touring the HDFFS Child Labs. The trip, (led by Mr. Jason McGarry and Mrs. Carole Norrish, with the permission of the professors) let students delve further into their UConn ECE classes. According to one student, Kevin Hurley, "the lecture was fast paced," but "connected with the class he was currently taking at the high school." Overall, the students felt that the trip to the university was worthwhile. The lectures and tour opened up the eyes of the students to the ECE experience, and provided them with valuable knowledge that they can apply when they go to college next year.

Ashley Norris is a senior at Windham High School located in Willimantic, CT. She is a student in Carole Norrish's HDFFS 190: Individual & Family Development course thorough UConn Early College Experience.

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