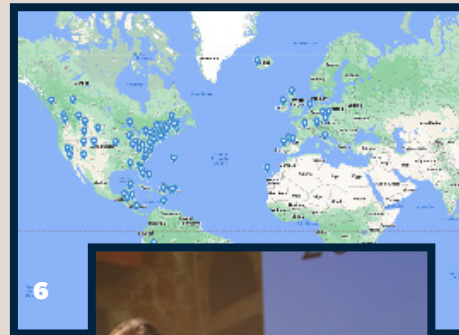
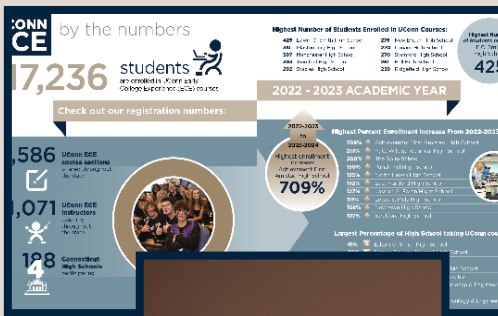


# UConn Early College Experience

# MAGAZINE

A PUBLICATION FOR THE UCONN ECE COMMUNITY





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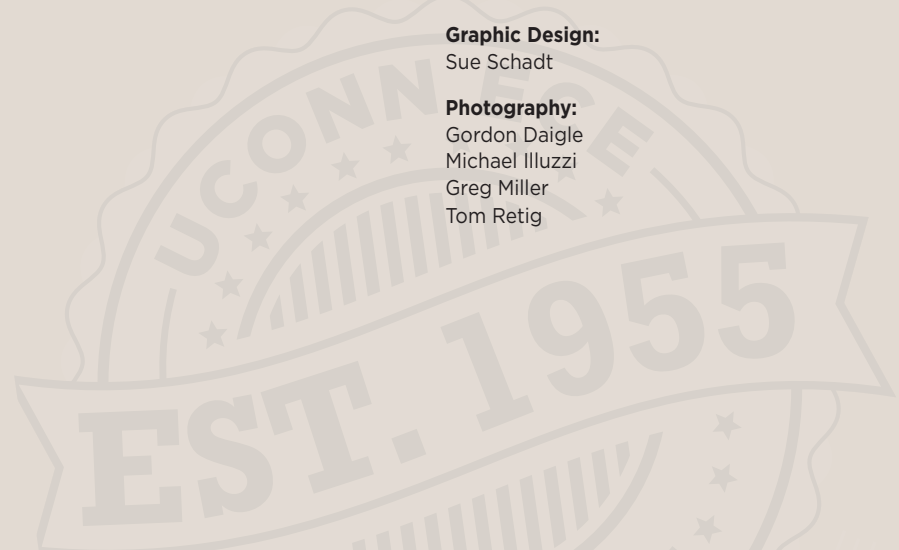
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# The Director's Thoughts

On behalf of the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) team, welcome to the winter edition of the UConn ECE Magazine. This season's theme, *Passport to Success*, harkens to the long-standing belief that future success, both individual and societal, is inherently linked with education. However, we often lose sight of the idea that education, in and of itself, is not limited to the four walls of a classroom, but instead encompasses the multitude of experiences, interactions, and pursuits that we undertake. While a trendy phrase today, the idea of the "lifelong learner" is not new, nor unique. In 1897, John Dewey published "My Pedagogic Creed" in vol. 54 of *School Journal*. In this brief, but poignant essay, Dewey wrote "I believe that education is a process of living and not a preparation for future living."



As students and educators, the UConn ECE Community truly embodies John Dewey's belief that education happens best within social interactions. Whether those interactions are the real-world connections conducted daily in classrooms across the state, or the social experiences and interactions we pursue, UConn ECE is truly a community of learners. Highlighted throughout this edition of the magazine, you will find incredible examples of a commitment to the tenants of a lifelong learner among students and educators alike. From reflections on the continued growth of the UConn Pre-College Summer program, to our ECE cardboard boat race and this fall's highly competitive ECE French and Italian Immersion Quiz Bowls, the articles highlight a community which support the intersectionality of content and social interaction.

With over 17,000 students enrolled in UConn coursework, much of this magazine edition is dedicated to the stories of their ECE instructors and program alumni who undertook amazing opportunities to advance their own education. Whether it was an opportunity to engage in new learning, re-connect with family, or simply try something new, we hope these stories will provide an opportunity for you to pause, reflect upon your own accomplishments, and hopefully inspire you to renew your passport and pursue your next adventure.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris - Todd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Christopher M. Todd  
*Executive Director*

by the numbers

# 17,236

## students



are enrolled in UConn Early  
College Experience (ECE) courses

Check out our registration numbers:

# 1,586

**UConn ECE  
course sections**  
offered throughout  
the state



# 1,071

**UConn ECE  
Instructors**  
teaching  
throughout  
the state



# 188

**Connecticut  
High Schools**  
participating



**Welcome!**

Bristol Technical Education Center, Capital Prep Harbor Upper School, The Ethel Walker School

**Welcome Back!**

Wilby High School

## Highest Number of Students Enrolled in UConn Courses:

<b>425</b> Edwin O. Smith High School	<b>276</b> New Britain High School
<b>381</b> Glastonbury High School	<b>270</b> Conard High School
<b>307</b> Manchester High School	<b>270</b> Stamford High School
<b>303</b> Trumbull High School	<b>261</b> Hall High School
<b>292</b> Staples High School	<b>259</b> Ridgefield High School

Highest Number  
of Students enrolled:  
E.O. Smith  
High School

**425**

## 2023 - 2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

2022-2023

to

2023-2024

Highest enrollment  
increase:  
Achievement First  
Amistad High School











**709%**

## Highest Percent Enrollment Increase From 2022-2023:

<b>709%</b> ↑	Achievement First Amistad High School
<b>213%</b> ↑	H. C. Wilcox Technical High School
<b>200%</b> ↑	The Spire School
<b>150%</b> ↑	Parish Hill High School
<b>135%</b> ↑	North Haven High School
<b>132%</b> ↑	East Hartford High School
<b>127%</b> ↑	Joseph A. Foran High School
<b>115%</b> ↑	Lewis S. Mills High School
<b>108%</b> ↑	Newtown High School
<b>107%</b> ↑	Stratford High School



## Largest Percentage of High School taking UConn courses:

<b>41%</b>		Edwin O. Smith High School
<b>40%</b>		Marine Science Magnet High School
<b>34%</b>		Xavier High School
<b>32%</b>		Achievement First Amistad High School
<b>31%</b>		Academy of Science and Innovation
<b>31%</b>		University High School of Science & Engineering
<b>31%</b>		Old Saybrook High School
<b>29%</b>		Academy of Information Technology & Engineering
<b>29%</b>		Lyme-Old Lyme High School
<b>27%</b>		Berlin High School





**Gina Gallo Reinhard,**  
*Bristol Central High School, Italy*



**Aleatha Pelloni,**  
*Norwich Technical High School, Ohio*



**Julie Barker,**  
*Cheshire High School High School, Syracuse*



**Kacey Howard**  
*Glastonbury High School, Peru*

*We asked our Instructors how they spent their summer. From road trips to family reunions and museum lectures to specialized training, UConn ECE Instructors did it all.*

*They*



**Alina Britchi,**  
*Daniel Hand High School,  
Switzerland*



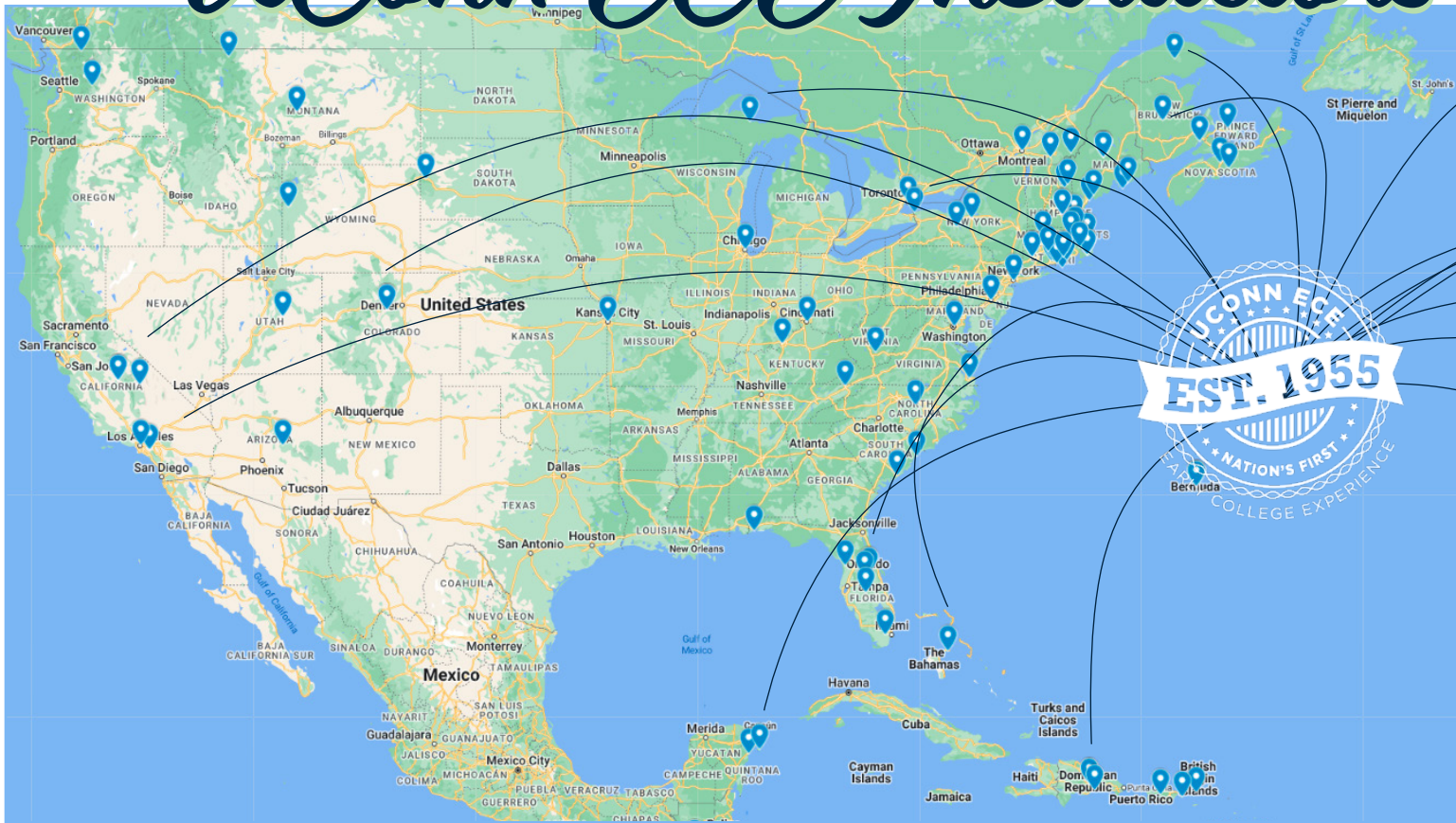
**Sarabeth Markham,**  
*Glastonbury  
High School, Japan*



**Phillip Youker,**  
*Trumbull High School, Spain*

*are a  
true inspiration!*

# UConn ECE Instructors



From the U.S. in **Ohio** to **Alaska** to **Maine** to **Puerto Rico**

## Domestic Travel

**Aleatha Pelloni**, Norwich Technical High School, *Cincinnati, OH*  
Emergency Chemical Response Certification and the Emergency Chemical Response Train the Trainer Course. It was an intensive and enlightening experience that has enhanced my knowledge and skills in emergency preparedness. I am committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, and this certification will further enable me to respond effectively in any unforeseen circumstances.

**Alyssa MacLean**, Robert E Fitch High School, *Diamond Cove Island, ME*  
Exploring and having fun.

**Amber Hammond**, E C Goodwin Technical HS, *St John USVI*  
Spent time on St. John's beautiful beaches

**Amy McLeod**, Bridgeport Reg Aqua Sci Tech, *Acadia National Park*  
Explored the beautiful national park

**Amy Bigelow**, Franklin Academy, *Exeter, NH*  
Phillips Exeter Academy for the week-long Anja S. Greer Conference on Mathematics and Technology. I immersed myself in the high school student experience by taking 2 classes (complete with hours of nightly homework after a full day) -- Problem Solving in Geometry & Math of Gerrymandering. When not in class or doing homework, I attended a wealth of talks and small group discussions ranging from mastery-based grading to playing with bubbles to building the classroom community.



**Amy Bigelow**  
Franklin Academy,  
Exeter, New Hampshire

**Andrea Kremzar**, Trumbull High School, *New River Gorge, WV*  
I explored the trails and all that nature has to offer!

**Angela Gulielmetti**, Cheshire High School, *ME*  
I spent time at the beach and prepared a new course on Fin-de-siecle Vienna that I am now teaching at CCSU.

**Beth McCormick**, Portland High School, *Alaska*  
1st ever cruise to Alaska from Seattle with 2 of my siblings

**Bonnie Johnston**, Marine Science Magnet HS, *North Cascades, WA*

I traveled to multiple National Parks in the Southwest where I learned more about the processes that shaped the land over millions of years. I also visited multiple dams and learned about Hydroelectric power, and its impact upon human communities and the surrounding ecosystems.

**Brendan Wilkosz**, Berlin High School, *UT*  
Utah for grading AP Exams professionally and Maine to hike Mount Katahdin

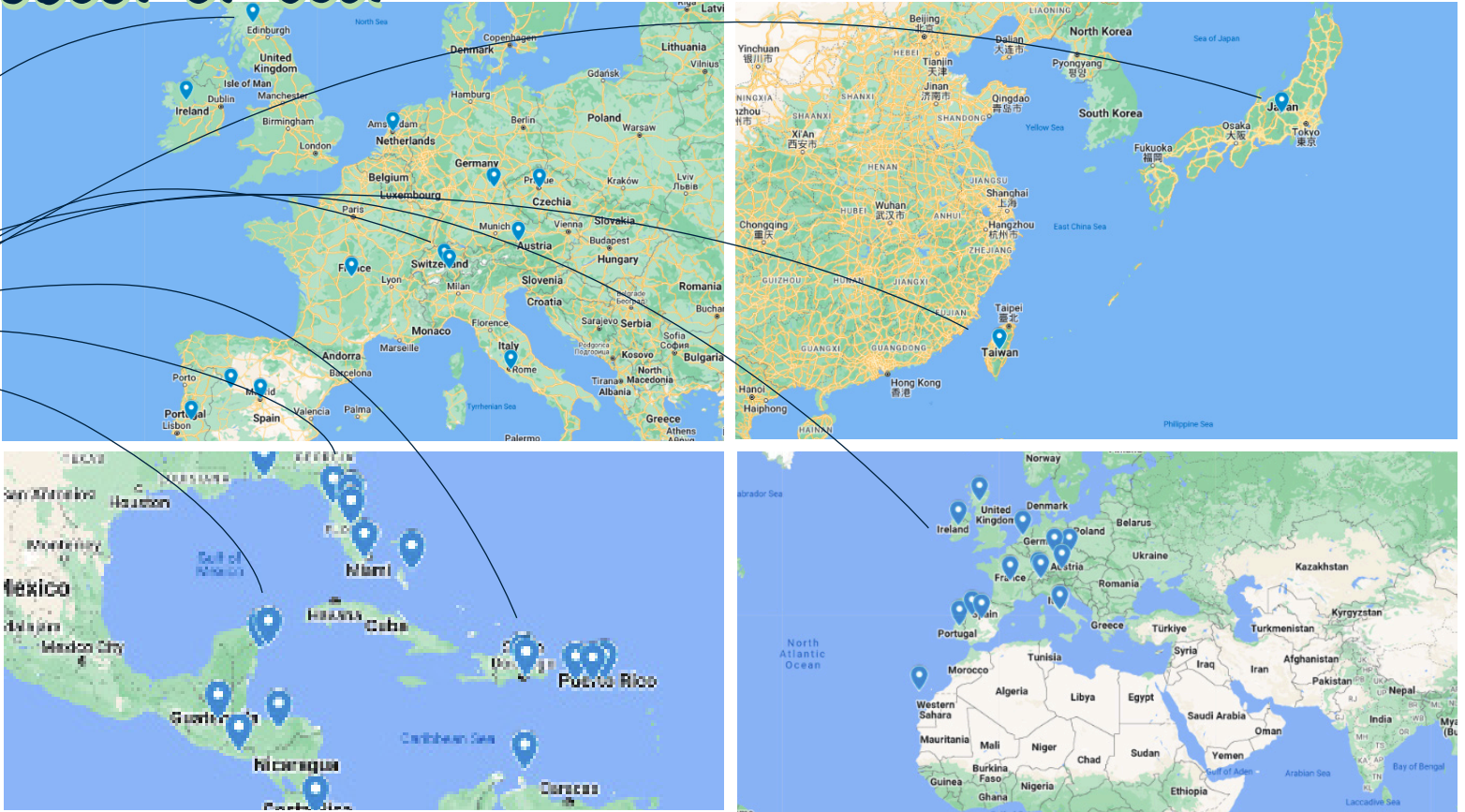
**Brett Flowers**, Christian Heritage School, *Acadia National Park, ME*  
Hiked the mountains of Acadia - the Bee Hive, the Bubbles. Also biked the carriage roads through the park!



**Bonnie Johnston**  
Marine Science  
Magnet School, WA



# did it all



## from Mexico to Italy to France to Spain to Japan and beyond!

### International Travel

**Alina Britchi**, Daniel Hand High School, *Taiwan*  
I participated in the International Teacher Week Program (ITW2023) organized by CERN, European Center for Nuclear Research. I was one of the four American teachers and one of the 33 teachers from 24 different countries. We attended lectures given by experts in the field, collaborated in lab and group activities and visited numerous sites, many not open to the general public.

**Dawn Demeo**, Cheshire High School, *Uruguay*  
I did a Fulbright for Global Teaching Exchange program.

**Danielle Melino**, Housatonic Valley Regional HS  
I traveled to Ireland and Scotland in July. While there we toured Kildare National Stud Farm, Dublin, Edinburgh, Ruthven Farm, Blarney castle, Belfast, Loch Ness, and Culloden Battlefields. This was a custom Agriculture trip that I designed for students and staff.

**Gina Gallo Reinhard**, Bristol Central High School, *Italy*  
I am researching street art in Italy

**Thomas Leisten**  
Glastonbury High School,  
*Costa Rica*



**Kristen Sparks?**  
Coventry High School, *Bermuda*

**Jessica Chapman**, Norwich Free Academy, *El Salvador*

I took a year leave to teach at an American international school in San Salvador, El Salvador.

**Jeremy Taylor**, Old Saybrook High School, *Alberta Province, CA*

Visited friends at University of Alberta, and toured national parks at Banff

**John LaMendola**, Brookfield High School, *Italy, France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland*  
Traveled with American Music Abroad Honor Bands, Choirs and Orchestras and performed in various locations throughout Europe

**Joseph Deldebbio**, John F Kennedy High School, *Tulum, Quintana Roo, Mexico*

Toured the Mayan ruins with my family. What a beautiful and captivating ancient city, such well-preserved temples & stunning coastal views.

**Kacey Howard**, Glastonbury High School, *Peru*

My husband and I hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. We embarked on a 5 day homage to Machu Picchu. The trail is around 25 miles and has an elevation gain of 7,972 feet!



**Mary-Ann Sangellam**  
**John F. Kennedy High School, Italy**



*continued on page 11*

# From the U.S. in **Florida** to **Montana** to **California** to

## Domestic Travel (continued from page 8)



**Chelsea Dodds,**  
North Branford  
High School, CA

**Catherine Kotula,** East Windsor High School, *Pensacola, FL*  
Visited the naval museum in Pensacola and saw the Blue Angels fly which included the first female demonstration pilot in the Blue Angels: Amanda Lee.

**Chase Martin,** Greenwich High School, *Glacier National Park, MT*  
I completed a four day, 50 mile backpacking trip in the North Fork area of Glacier National Park. I'm passionate about hiking and backcountry camping. This was a personal, non-academic trip.

**Chelsea Dodds,** North Branford High School, *CA*  
Fund for Teachers grant to study John Steinbeck. Studied Steinbeck's life and

works and the setting for *Of Mice and Men*. I had the opportunity to visit the archives at the National Steinbeck Center and meet with leading scholars on Steinbeck.

**Christopher Lacilla,** Holy Cross High School, *Cape Cod, MA*

My family went to Cape Cod this summer for a week in July. In all honesty, Cape Cod is where I find so much peace and solace. My dream is to live there one day.

**Christopher Tait,** Ridgefield High School, *Charleston, SC*

We went to South Carolina to tour Charleston, go to the beach, and enjoy some family time!

**Christopher Darby,** Middletown High School, *Kingsport, TN*  
This summer my wife and I traveled to Tennessee and South Carolina to visit family. We also attended a family reunion in Sand Diego and visited Joshua Tree National Park.

**Deb Field,** South Windsor High School, *NC*

A week hiking in the mountains, a week in OBX

**Diane Szymanski-Herr,** Waterford High School, *ME*

Jackson labs PD for BIO 1107. I had a refresher on biotechnology technique and learned about bioinformatics resources and labs. I also learned how to order their free kits for my classroom.

**Eileen Marquez,** New Britain High School, *Orlando, FL*

Educators Rising National Competitions are performance-based competitive events in which aspiring educators demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and leadership in education. With a blend of individual and team events, competitions are authentic, engaging opportunities for rising educators to stretch their creativity, commitment, and professionalism.

**Elizabeth Criscuolo,** The Morgan School, *Salem, MA*

Visit family and introduce my new baby boy to his cousins, aunts & uncles, grandparents, and great-grandparents! The picture shows my grandparents (my son's great grandparents), my son (in the red overalls), and my son's first cousins (the three on the right) and second cousin (baby on the left)

**Ethan Brown,** Bristol Central High School, *Puerto Rico*

We stayed in the jungle, raced through the mountains, explored caves, swam under waterfalls, went to the beach, and visited the forts in San Juan.

**Friso Hermans,** Shepaug Valley School, *CO*

I took the train from New York to California and Colorado. I took my bike with me, and went mountain biking in Truckee, Point Reyes, Boulder and Cody.

**Gregg Basbagill,** Trumbull High School, *Mount Whitney, CA*

I wanted to summit the highest point in California (the highest point in the US

outside of Alaska). This year, because of the historic snowfall in the Sierras, this was mostly a snowfield trek, requiring an ice axe and microspikes. It was a great adventure!

**Holly Turner,** Bridgeport Reg Aqua Sci Tech, *Stellwagen Bank, Cape Cod, MA*

**James Vicario,** Cheshire High School, *Cape Cod, MA*

We went on a family vacation- lots of swimming, sea shell collecting and bird watching

**James Royce,** Xavier High School, *Plymouth, MA*

I visited the "living museum" of the Plimouth Village, Pautuxet Village, and recreation of the Mayflower (Mayflower II) with my family.

**Jennifer Wood,** Mark T Sheehan High School, *Disney, FL*

We went to Disney for a Dance the World event. My stepdaughter danced in Disney Springs and Epcot and my son loved seeing the characters and eating ice cream.

**Jennifer Stefanowicz,** Stonington High School, *Vieques, Puerto Rico*

My family and I night-kayaked through the bioluminescent bay in Vieques, hiked through el Yunque, splashed in the waterfalls, explored las Cavernas del Río Camuy, and savored the delicious food.

**John Girard,** Plainville High School, *Brunswick, ME*

I attended a week-long professional development sponsored by The Jackson Laboratory learning more about genomics and bioinformatics.

**Josephina Ferreiro-Morodo,** Fairchild Wheeler Sci Magnet, *FL*

I spent time reading, relaxing and reviewing curriculum. Read "Ornament of the World" by Maria Rosa Menocal and "Soldados de Salamina" (reread) by Javier Cercas.

**Julie Barker,** Cheshire High School, *Syracuse, NY*

Syracuse International Horse Show. My American Saddlebred "Heir Raid NKF" participated in his first horse show!

**Karen Cook,** Norwich Free Academy, *Yorba Linda, CA*

Nixon Presidential Library for Gilder Lehrman Seminar on U.S. Foreign Policy

**Karima El-Hamraoui,** Lyman Hall High School, *CO*

First time going to Midwest and doing road trip for 2 weeks. I visited with my youngest daughter all the State park and first time doing sand boarding

**Karon McGovern,** New Fairfield High School, *New England Appalachian Trail*  
Trying to complete Appalachian Trail miles from NJ to VT

**Kathleen Mack,** Stratford High School, *Block Island, RI*

My family (husband, teenager, and cat) sailed to Block Island on my Hunter 340 sailboat and spent a wonderful week on a mooring in the Great Salt Pond. We hiked the Clay Head Trail and enjoyed the great weather.



**James Royce,**  
Xavier High School  
*Plymouth, MA*



**Eileen Marquez,**  
New Britain  
High School



**Karen Cook,**  
Norwich Free  
Academy,  
*Nixon Presidential  
Library, CA*

# South Carolina to New Hampshire and beyond!

**Kristen Noble Ligouri**, Capital Prep Harbor School, *CT*  
I turned my car into a camper and camped all over CT and NY states. I built a platform in my car and camped off the Appalachian Trail. In the Shenandoah Valley, I saw a full rainbow.

**Laura Laflamme**, Suffield High School, *USA*  
13 states to camp and kayak. Drove over 5,000 miles throughout the eastern United States. Besides camping and kayaking, I was able to upload 100's of photos of plants for my coursework.

**Lauren Korman**, Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, *CO, WY, SD*  
Visiting American landmarks such as Mount Rushmore, sites on the Overland Trails, old mining towns of the west, visiting the Badlands, Devils Tower, Yellowstone, Hiking in the Rockies and Grand Tetons.

**Lisa Abel**, Simsbury High School, *Uncasville, CT*  
I participated in the CT Teacher of the Year Council events as a state finalist including the Empowered to Lead Symposium at Mohegan Sun and the Mystic Seaport Workshop. I served on a panel for educators about teacher experiences, learned about educational programming available to teachers in CT, and formed meaningful connections with teachers in many districts.



**Laura Laflamme**,  
Suffield High School  
*Traveled the US*

**Lori Bennett**, Wamogo Reg High School, *Everglades, FL*  
South Florida for an Eco trip with students - Everglades, toured 10,000 Islands, Snorkeled & kayaked in the Keys, toured a Turtle Hospital & Dolphin Research Facility.

**Maria Miraballes**, Westhill High School, *WA*  
Personally I did a 12 day road trip through the Pacific Northwest through



**Kathleen Mack**,  
Stratford High School  
*Block Island, RI*



**Susan Palmberg**,  
E.O. Smith High School,  
*Cambridge, MA*

Washington and Oregon. It was amazing. Professionally I'm a master teacher for the Gilder Learner Institute and co-taught a course with Professor Margaret O'Mara from the University of Washington.

**Nicole Wilcox**, Southington High School, *Alaska*  
Observe Alaska's approach to preserving natural resources (including wildlife rehabilitation/care, agri-tourism, gold mining, marine/aquatics and outdoor recreation) to create related hands on learning opportunities for agriculture students.

**Shelley Osowiecki**, RHAM High School, *MO*  
I drove to Montana with my family, including my dog, and my sister's family to visit our extended family. We explored Badlands National Park in South Dakota and Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. The Gran Prismatic and the Little Falls are my favorite sections.

**Susan Palmberg**, Edwin O Smith High School, *Cambridge, MA*  
MIT for the Lemelson-MIT invention education Professional Development and to UConn for the DaVinci Program specifically the Virtual Reality session. UConn DaVinci program I learned how Virtual Reality can be used in the classroom. The takeaways I received will be used in the ECE Multivariable course. For the Lemelson-MIT workshop, I learned how students can be inventors and how I as a teacher can facilitate.



**Nicole Wilcox**,  
Southington High School,  
*Alaska*

**Tim Sweigard**, Orville H Platt High School, *Jackson Hole, Wyoming/Yellowstone and Teton National Parks*

**Trina Bowman**, Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, *Plymouth, MA*  
We took in the sites - historic Leyden Street, 1749 Courthouse, Burial Hill, Brewster Gardens, Plymouth Rock, Plimoth-Patuxet Museum, Mayflower II

**Xinyu Li**, Glastonbury High School, *RI*  
Block Island, Philadelphia, and Mount Washington I traveled with my family during summer time and enjoyed a lot of good food, scenery, and stories we heard along the way. ■

## From the U.S. to Canada to Brazil to Bermuda to Scotland and beyond!

### International Travel (continued from page 9)

**Karen Oliver**, Glastonbury High School, *Magog and Quebec City (province of Quebec)*

Walking, bookstores, restaurants, vineyard, reading

**Kristen Sparks**, Coventry High School, *Bermuda*

**Maria Sanhueza**, Wethersfield High School, *Peru*  
Visited family and went to celebration of the town of Cabana.

**Marianna Wikarska**, Nathan Hale-Ray High School, *Gaspesie*

**Mario Ramos**, Glastonbury High School, *Salamanca, España*  
Chaperoned 13 students from Glastonbury High School

**Mary-Ann Sagnella**, John F Kennedy High School, *Italy*  
I interviewed multi-ethnic Italian students who live biculturalism within Italian society with a Fund for Teachers Grant. I traveled to: Rome, Florence, Milan, Naples, Caserta, Terracina and Fondi.

**Miao Hwang**, Miss Porters School, *Taiwan*  
Take care of my 90 year old mother and meet with teachers who teach in US.

**Nora Mocarski**, Canton High School, *Hopewell Rocks, Canada*  
Travelled to experience the extreme tidal change - 36 foot tide.

**Phillip Youker**, Trumbull High School, *The Canary Islands, Spain*  
Through a Fund for Teachers Grant I was able to visit the Canary Islands. While there I toured two world-leading observatory installations on the islands of Tenerife and La Palma.

**Rita Jackson**, Warren Harding High School, *Brazil, Dominican Republic*  
I participate with a Missions Team who provides clothes, books and other supplies to needy families in the poor areas in Brazil and D.R. We also do fun things with the children of the towns with songs, dances and games. We typically leave them with school supplies and other necessities.

**Sarabeth Markham**, Glastonbury High School, *Japan*  
Utilizing the amazing Shinkansen (bullet train) system, I introduced my four children to the beauty, culture, and cuisine of Kyoto, Osaka, and Tokyo.

**Stacey Scapeccia**, Stratford High School, *Guatemala*  
Health ambassador with Squads Abroad ■



# REGISTRATION IS OPEN

NEW ENGLAND ALLIANCE OF CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PARTNERSHIPS

## 2024 New England Conference



NACEP

UConn

EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

### *Spotlighting the Stakeholder Experience*

Friday, May 17, 2024 | 9:00AM-2:00PM | University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Featuring a plenary session offering insights into the landscape of dual & concurrent enrollment programs, highlighting key aspects such as program structure, partnerships, goals, achievements, & advancements and breakout sessions.

[neacep@nacep.org](mailto:neacep@nacep.org) | [nacep.org/neacep](http://nacep.org/neacep) | [linkedin.com/company/neacep](https://www.linkedin.com/company/neacep)



# Wallace Stevens Poetry Contest

2023-2024

UConn ECE Students are invited to submit a 5-page packet of poems to be judged in contest. Include a cover sheet listing:

- Your name
- Titles of poems
- Home address
- Home telephone number
- UConn NetID (ex. abc12345), your NetID should appear on every page, but your name should ONLY appear on the cover sheet.
- Preferred e-mail address

The Wallace Stevens Poetry Program awards a cash prize and invites the top three winners to the annual program at the Storrs campus where the first place winner is invited to read their masterpiece. Deadline for submissions is January 29 and the in person event is March 27.

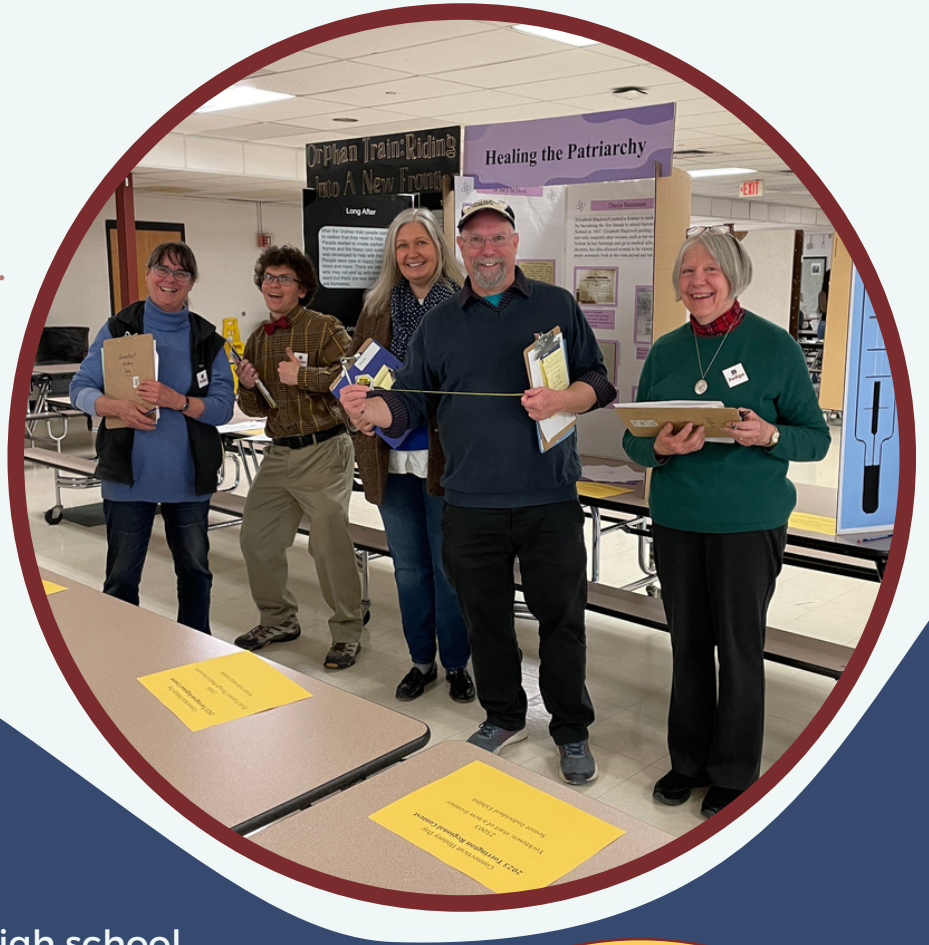
- Prizes:**
- 1st place \$500
  - 2nd place \$300
  - 3rd place \$200

**Winners have been selected and recognized! They will be featured in the Spring Magazine.**



# Help CT Students: Judge at a CT History Day Contest

Judges review student projects, provide constructive feedback, and meet with students at in-person contests. Volunteers receive training prior to contest. Newer judges are paired with experienced judges.



## Judge benefits:

- Meet hardworking middle and high school students
- Learn about fascinating local, national, and world history topics.
- Network with professionals in the history and educational fields.
- Great opportunity for pre-service teacher!
- Complimentary breakfast & lunch.

For more information or to sign up, scan the QR code, visit the website below or email us at [info@cthistory.org](mailto:info@cthistory.org)

<https://www.historydayct.org/where-to-begin/judges/>



### Regional Contests

February 24: Fairfield  
March 2: Mansfield  
March 16: Torrington  
March 23: New Haven

**State Contest: May 4, 2024**

# ECE Alumni: What are they saying and what are they doing now?

By Carissa Rutkauskas

See what UConn ECE students from the class of 2019 are up to 4 years later.



## Cassandra DiPierro

**High School:** Fairfield Warde High School

**College:** Dickinson College 2023, BA in Psychology

**Favorite UConn ECE memory:** My favorite UConn ECE memories were the role play debates that I participated in for my US History and Modern European History courses.

**Best UConn ECE benefit:** The most useful benefit of ECE was the college credit I gained, which allowed me to take additional electives in college and further explore my academic interest in public health.

**What are you currently doing:** I am currently pursuing a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology at the University of Toronto in Canada through the support of a Fulbright Graduate Studies Award. With the knowledge I gain from this experience, I hope to work to improve the access and quality of LGBTQ+ healthcare in the United States.



## Amara McNeil

**High School:** Classical Magnet School - Hartford, CT

**College:** Fordham University/Lincoln Center - B.A. in Theater Design and Production, 2023

**Favorite UConn ECE memory:** My favorite memories are the heated debates that we would all get into in Philosophy class. Even our teacher would get passionate! Everyone cared, and those early conversations sparked a love of philosophy that I carry into my artistry.

**Best UConn ECE benefit:** Having an insight into materials, I would be able to study more in-depth in college. There were many moments where I remembered a text or topic that was touched on in my ECE class.

**What are you currently doing:** Now, I am a freelance lighting designer. After wrapping up my post-grad fellowship as the Howell Binkley Fellow, working on shows such as The Wiz and Come From Away tours. I am now prepping my own design here in NYC, as well as getting ready to assist Off-Broadway at Playwrights Horizons!



## Karissa Touma

**High School:** Wolcott High School

**College:** Western New England University B.S. Actuarial Science degree 2022 graduation

**Favorite UConn ECE memory:** In one of the UConn ECE courses I took we had a huge party to celebrate everyone passing the final exam! It was so great to celebrate everyone's hard work in the course and the amazing accomplishment.

**Best UConn ECE benefit:** The best UConn ECE benefit was having enough credits to graduate college an entire year earlier than expected. This saved me money in tuition and allowed me to begin my career sooner.

**What are you currently doing:** I recently got married in October 2023 and work full time for the Cigna Group as a Senior Actuarial Analyst. I am in a reserving role for our Vision and Individual and Family Plans (IFP) blocks of business. I have passed 6 Actuarial exams, all ASA pathway modules, and 3 VEEs.

## ECE Alumni: What are they saying and what are they doing now?

continued from page 14



### Morgan Nace

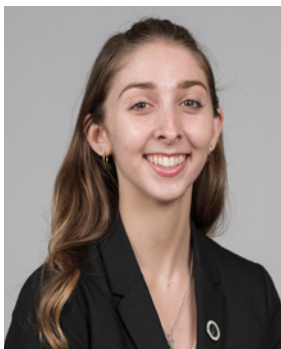
**High School:** Daniel Hand High School

**College:** College of Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, 2023

**Favorite UConn ECE memory:** was getting to do hands on labs in physics.

**Best UConn ECE benefit:** The best benefit of my ECE course in physics was learning how to study for freshman year courses at college. Experiencing UConn level exams helped me feel confident for my future after high school.

**What are you currently doing:** I am currently a Product Engineer at Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense (EBAD) in Simsbury, CT. EBAD makes mission critical hardware for the aerospace and defense industry. At EBAD, I get to be on a team that makes separation stages and flight termination systems for launch vehicles and missiles.



### Keegan Eveland

**High School:** Middletown High School

**College:** B.S. Zoology with a minor in Animal Behavior from the University of New Hampshire

**Favorite UConn ECE memory:** I really enjoyed learning how to customize and design enrichment suitable for the species that you're working with. There is something about seeing an animal's mind at work and how they approach and solve puzzles that is so telling about their perception of the world and gives a glimpse into the inner workings of their cognitive processes.

**Best UConn ECE benefit:** Getting to learn about advanced subject matter that I otherwise wouldn't have been exposed to during high school was highly beneficial. Enrolling in dual-enrollment courses guided me to the line of work that I am passionate about and currently work in today.

**What are you currently doing:** During my undergrad years, I focused on studying population acoustics of Brazilian Free-Tailed bat swarms in New Mexico, as well as the acoustics of various bat species in Brazil. I got to dip my feet into some field work gathering acoustic data for Little Brown bats in a large hibernacula in Vermont. This year I am a post-baccalaureate research fellow at Johns Hopkins investigating the navigation behaviors of Egyptian Fruit bats. When I am not doing that I also assist in neurological surgeries and experiments for Big Brown bats that are looking at how they process sounds in the auditory pathway of the brain.



### Jonas Goemans

**High School:** Edwin O. Smith High School

**College:** Hasselt University, Bachelor in Biology, Class of 2023

**Favorite UConn ECE memory:** I truly loved taking these advanced classes with like-minded classmates, it made our interactions and lessons really interesting. I would say my favorite memory would be the dissection of a fetal pig in Biology.

**Best UConn ECE benefit:** Due to taking these college level courses I was ahead of my cohort when starting my Bachelor in Biology in Belgium.

**What are you currently doing:** I am currently doing an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems (TROPIMUNDO). I also recently completed an internship at Chondrolab in Chile studying juvenile sharks and have been pursuing my passion in rock-climbing, both indoors and outdoors. ■







# ITALIAN IMMERSION DAY & QU?Z BOWL

## COMPETITION 2023

*By Jessica Dunn  
Photos by Greg Miller*

On November 2, 2023, we welcomed about 75 students to the UConn Storrs Campus for the UConn ECE Italian Immersion Day & Quiz Bowl. Tina Chiappetta-Miller, UConn ECE Italian Faculty Coordinator, coordinated the event and was the Master of Ceremonies for the day. Dr. Chiappetta-Miller and UConn ECE Executive Director, Christopher Todd, kicked off the day with a warm welcome to all student participants and Instructors from Bristol Central High School, Plainville High School, North Haven High School, and Newington High School. Students were set up for an exciting day full of immersing themselves in Italian culture, grammar, history, and much more. They were encouraged to take full advantage of this opportunity – to interact with the amazing UConn Italian Teaching Assistants who facilitated the morning Immersion Sessions, collaborate with their peers from neighboring Connecticut high schools, and to bring their best to the head-to-head, jeopardy-style Quiz Bowl competition.

The three-year gap in offering this student event made the anticipation that much stronger. When students broke into groups to attend the morning immersion sessions, and Instructors gathered to finalize Quiz Bowl rules and expectations, it was evident that the energy and enthusiasm was present. As lunch concluded and the rules were finalized the students, Instructors, TAs, and staff reconvened in the theatre for the Quiz Bowl. Throughout the competition each high school took to the stage to compete head-to-head with another high school in hopes to buzz in first and answer enough questions correctly to qualify



for the next round. Students had limited time to answer questions, and they had to provide their answers in Italian only. Dr. Chiappetta-Miller stated, “the Quiz Bowl ended in no less than a twist when it turned out that Newington and Bristol Central had drawn. We had to go to penalties and the Newington team came out on top!” It was a very exciting and close competition, with Newington High School winning first place, followed by Bristol Central High School in second place, and Plainville High School in third place. A bonus MVP round was played at the end of the event, where individual students competed on stage against one another. Alex from Newington High School was named the MVP of the day.

Thank you and congratulations to all who participated. We look forward to hosting this event again next year! ■





# FRENCH IMMERSION DAY & QU?Z BOWL

## COMPETITION 2023

By Jessica Dunn  
Photos by Michael Illuzzi

Just one week after the UConn ECE Italian Immersion Day & Quiz Bowl, we held the French Immersion Day & Quiz Bowl on November 9th. Coordinated and hosted by Dr. Florence Marsal, UConn ECE French Faculty Coordinator, the day was set up in a very similar manner to the Italian event. The French Immersion Day & Quiz Bowl is the longest running UConn ECE student language event, dating back to 2001. Since its creation, several hundred students have participated from dozens of our partner high schools across the state. This year UConn ECE Instructors brought about 80 student participants, representing Lewis S Mills High School, Daniel Hand High School, Lyme-Old Lyme High School, Granby Memorial High School, Cheshire High School, Nathan Hale-Ray High School, Tolland High School, and Edwin O. Smith High School.

UConn ECE Students attend this event annually to participate in immersion sessions in the morning facilitated by UConn French Teaching Assistants, and to compete in a head-to-head, jeopardy-style Quiz Bowl in the afternoon. It is evident that the students are passionate about learning French and their Instructors have prepared them well for when they step on stage for the main event. Rules and expectations of the competition have been adjusted throughout the years, but some of the long-standing rules of the Quiz Bowl include:

1. Teams are open to all registered ECE students with up to 4 students per team.
2. The questions are set ahead of time: they have to do with history, literature, culture, grammar.
3. The questions are read in French, and the answers are given in French. Only understandable answers will be accepted.
4. When you press your buzzer first and it lights up after the end of a question, your team has 10 seconds to answer. If no answer is given, the other team has 10 seconds. If no answer is given then, another question is read.
5. The first team who totals 5 good answers moves on to the next round. For the final game, the first team who totals 10 good answers wins the quiz bowl.
6. Audience prompting is not allowed. Cheering yes, prompting no.

This year, Nathan Hale-Ray High School came out on top, bringing home the first-place trophy. Second place was awarded to Daniel Hand High School, and third place went to Edwin O. Smith High School. We commend all students who participated and appreciate the passion and enthusiasm the Instructors and students bring to learning the French language and competing in this event. We are always amazed by the student talent exhibited throughout the event and how the students continuously challenge themselves to reach the next level of language mastery. ■

# UConn ECE Cardboard Boat Race

At the Avery Point Campus | October 6, 2023

By Jessica Dunn | Photos by Gordon Daigle and Michael Illuzi



Amidst a very wet fall season, and a rain delay from our original scheduled date of Friday, September 29th, we were able to host our UConn ECE Cardboard Boat Race at the Avery Point Campus on Friday, October 6th. With over 300 students in attendance, we kicked off the academic year with one of our largest annual student events! This year's theme, School Mascots, in honor of UConn's newest addition Jonathan XV, brought about much collaboration, dedication, teamwork, and school spirit which was quite evident as students prepared for and participated in the event. Students spent countless hours prior to race day planning and building their handcrafted cardboard and duct tape boats, and then arrived at the event eager to listen, engage, and share failures and successes with their peers and presenters. Students spent the morning in academic demonstrations and presentations with esteemed UConn faculty and staff, enjoyed lunch, UConn Dairy Bar ice cream, and of course were eager to test out their cardboard boats at race time. Amongst the thirteen participating high schools, 19 boats entered into the race for a chance to be named the 2023 Champions and to take home the coveted Championship Trophy. Teams were recognized with trophies for placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each of the four heats. The 1st place boat in the Championship



Race, The Morgan School's "M.S.S. Dog Pound", took home the cardboard trophy for the second year in a row! In addition to the awards presented for placing in the races, The Morgan School's "M.S.S. Dog Pound" took home the Best Visual Award, The Sound School's "Usain Boat" won the Best Boat Name Award, East Granby High School's "The Templor Transporter" was awarded the new Interdisciplinary Collaboration Award, and University High School of Science & Engineering's boat, "The Raging Rooster", earned the People's Choice Award.

This event would not be possible without the dedication of the UConn ECE Instructors who participate, the UConn Faculty and Staff who share their wisdom and knowledge throughout the day, and the amazing student participants who inspire us to offer opportunities such as the Cardboard Boat Race where they express their enthusiasm for learning and challenge themselves to reach new heights in their educational journey. ■



### Heat 1 Trophies

1. Waterford High School- Blue & White Skipper
2. BRASTEC- ANG Haddock
3. Ellington High School- The Great Knight Shark

### Heat 3 Trophies

1. Valley Regional High School- USS Pags
2. Waterford High School- S.S. Samuelson
3. The Sound School- Row v. Wave

### Heat 2 Trophies

1. The Morgan School- M.S.S. Dog Pound
2. Waterford High School- Lancer Battle Bus
3. The Sound School- Usain Boat

### Heat 4 Trophies

1. East Granby High School- The Templor Transporter
2. Ellington High School- The Dark Knight
3. Waterford High School- WH-yeS!



## PROFESSIONAL Development Workshops

*By Stefanie Malinoski*

This fall in Early College Experience we've hosted eighteen professional development workshops for groups of Early College Experience Instructors who offer UConn courses in English, Sustainable Plant and Soil Science, American Studies, Environmental Science, Philosophy, Physics, Economics, Human Rights, European History, Sociology, Animal Science, Communications, Music, Chemistry, Chinese, and Math. Our ECE affiliated library media specialists also met for a virtual training with Babbidge Library staff. By the end of the 2023 - 2024 year we will have hosted another twenty-four workshops in addition to those highlighted below. Notes on some of the events which occurred during the fall semester are below:



**Sustainable Plant and Soil Science** Instructors meet in person at Southington High School with Faculty Coordinator, Julia Kuzovkina. The workshop included diverse activities including a field practicum on analyzing soil for specific purposes, a discussion and update on plant diseases, and learning about new trends in the landscape industry. The group also discussed students' preparation for future careers in the Green Industry and took part in a hands-on floral workshop where teachers were introduced to beautiful fall arrangements which can be brought back into their Floral Art classes.



**American Studies** Instructors were provided with a copy of Ann Petry's novel "The Street". Shawn Salvant, Professor of English, and Africana Studies from UConn spoke to the group about the text and what it means to revisit the classic novel in 2023. Instructors led by Faculty Coordinator Laurie Wolfley then designed curriculum focused on "The Street" which was shared with all participants for future uses in their American Studies classroom.



**Chemistry** Instructors participated in a hands-on lab activity with Faculty Coordinator, Dr. Fatma Selampinar after hearing from Dr. Kerry Gilmore from UConn's Chemistry Department. Dr. Gilmore's research surrounds Green Chemistry and its facilitating impact on photochemistry. Dr. Kerry and the Instructors discussed how these chemistries can



*continued on page 23*

be performed in the classroom and opened up the discussion for collaborative work in the area in the development of new processes, screening natural catalysts, and bringing advanced chemical processes to their classrooms.



**Economics Instructors** met for their professional development workshop and heard from fellow ECE Instructor Ian Tiedemann from Greenwich High School, Scott A. Wolla, Economic Education Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and Ariel Solomon, Curriculum Designer, Marginal Revolution

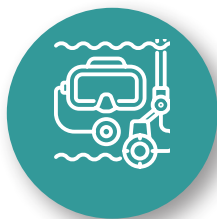
University. Ian Tiedemann highlighted his students' who created a podcast script for the 2023 issue of the Journal of Future Economists. The theme was "Economics of Globalization". Ian's students submitted their podcast script titled "It's a (s)Mall World: Globalization, E-Commerce, and Shopping Malls" which can be reviewed in the Journal of Future Economists. Scott A. Wolla shared a teaching activity "Teaching Market Structures with Gum" and discussed "Monetary Policy has Changed. Has Your Teaching?" Ariel Slonim, Curriculum Designer, Marginal Revolution University presented on: "Supply, Demand, Action! Harnessing interactive tools to teach supply and demand" and "Cracking the Code: Understanding GDP and Inflation through interactive tools." ECE Faculty Coordinator for Economics, Natalia V. Smirnova discussed "Teaching Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Topics in Economics".



**Environmental Science** Instructors met with Faculty Coordinator, Dr. Morty Ortega at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington, CT where they interacted with staff from the Department of Environmental Protection learning

about the private lives of bears and bobcats and habitats.

**Marine Science** Instructors set out aboard the "Mystic Seaport Express" captained by Liz Sistare (UConn '13), Waterfront Operations Supervisor on the Mystic River with Faculty Coordinator,



Dr. Claudia Koerting during their professional development workshop. The group of 13 teachers conducted water testing by taking readings using instruments that measure salinity, oxygen, and temperature. They deployed a water

sampler to retrieve water samples near the bottom of the river and gathered surface water samples as well. Instructors performed two plankton tows and brought samples back for microscopic evaluation. An additional two sample sites were chosen, and all samples returned with the group to the seaport sailing center where they tested for chlorophyll content using a fluorometer and performed a light/dark experiment with water from two sites. At the sailing center the group ran their analysis, looked at the plankton tow and compared oxygen uptake in the light/dark bottle experiment. Conversations were held about how these samples could inform scientists and regulators about policy guiding water use in the river. By the end of the day Instructors learned a new method, a new instrument, and made new connections and shared ideas to implement in their UConn Marine Science courses.



**Philosophy** Instructors met with Faculty Coordinator Prof. Mitch Green who led a discussion on "post-truth" epistemology after instructors watched, a Ted Talk by UConn Professor Michael Lynch: "How to See Past Your Own Perspective and Find Truth."

More information and pictures from the many professional development workshops hosted this fall can be reviewed on "ECE PD Blog" on the ECE website. Dates for spring workshops will be posted to the ECE website's "Dates to Remember" section. We look forward to continuing to utilize the spring months with additional virtual workshop opportunities and welcome our community members to campus for more professional development events. ■

2023

Congratulations to the following UConn ECE Instructors who were selected as their district's teacher of the year.

# Recognizing Excellence

## Teacher of the Year

**Dario Sarmiento Loayza**

Coventry School District

**Timothy Sanderson**

Glastonbury School District

**Eileen Marquez**

New Britain School District

**Mikala Wells**

Plainville School District

**Samuel Tucker**

Portland School District

**Tenley Stoltz**

Somers School District

**Melanie Zamorski**

Hartford School District

**Laura LaFlamme**

Suffield School District



The Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and is sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Talent Office and the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council

\* Indicates CT Teacher of the Year Semifinalist

\*\* Indicates CT Teacher of the Year Finalist



# Student Scholarship Applications

**Award winners are being notified. Look for these opportunities again next year.**

UConn Early College Experience recognizes outstanding UConn ECE Students each year with six \$1000 scholarships, which can be used at any institution.

Applications for the 2023-2024 academic year open **January 19, 2023** and close **March 8, 2024**. If you have any questions, please contact **The UConn ECE Program Office** at [ece@uconn.edu](mailto:ece@uconn.edu). For more details *visit [ece.uconn.edu/students-parents/student-scholarships/](http://ece.uconn.edu/students-parents/student-scholarships/)*

## **Excellence in the Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences**

Applicants for this award must be a high school senior and have taken or be currently taking at least one UConn Early College Experience course. Applicants must demonstrate academic achievement and a potential for future academic and professional accomplishments in a field focusing on the Arts, Humanities, and/or Social Sciences. Applications are scored across multiple indicators including evidence of academic performance, future career aspirations, and financial need. Typically, two awards are given annually.

## **Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics**

Applicants for this award must be a high school senior and have taken or be currently taking at least one UConn Early College Experience course. Applicants must demonstrate academic achievement and a potential for future academic and professional accomplishments in the fields of Science,

Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics. Applications are scored across multiple indicators including evidence of academic performance, future career aspirations, and financial need. Typically, two awards are given annually.

## **Excellence in Civic and Community Engagement**

This award is to recognize a current high school senior that is academically successful and is already making a positive difference in their town or neighborhood and is inspiring others to do the same. The student chosen for this award must be a UConn ECE student that demonstrates ambition and self-drive evidenced by outstanding achievement in both school and their community. Applications are scored across multiple indicators including evidence of academic performance, future career aspirations, and financial need. Typically, two awards are given annually. ■

# Professional Recognition Awards

The Office of Early College Programs sponsors eight awards recognizing outstanding professional achievement in the UConn ECE community.

- Thomas E. Recchio Faculty Coordinator Award for Academic Leadership (formerly the Faculty Coordinator Award for Excellence in Curriculum and Adjunct Faculty Development) (one awarded)
- Site Representative Award for Excellence in Program Administration (one awarded)
- Instructor Award for Excellence in Course Instruction (three - five awarded)
- "Rookie of the Year" Award for Excellence in First-Year Course Instruction (two awarded)
- Principal Award for Program Support and Advocacy (one awarded)
- Award for Outstanding Research in the Field of Concurrent Enrollment (one awarded)
- Library Media Specialist Award for Excellence in Enrichment and Collaboration (one awarded)
- Additionally, an eighth award is given out by the discretion of the selection committee to an UConn ECE Instructor who has shown continued excellence over and over again: The Jan Pikul Award for Continued Excellence in Instruction (one awarded).

Nominations for awards may be made by UConn ECE Instructors, Site Representatives, Library Media Specialists, principals, Faculty Coordinators, and UConn ECE Students in February each year. Awards are determined by a selection committee made up of the Office of Early College Program Staff and former award winners. Awards are presented at a reception hosted by UConn Early College Experience in April each year. **Nominations for the 2023-2024 academic year open February 1, 2024 and close March 8, 2024.** For more details visit [ece.uconn.edu/professional-recognition-awards/](http://ece.uconn.edu/professional-recognition-awards/). ■



## NACEP Leadership Academy

UConn OECP Executive Director, Christopher Todd was accepted into the 2023 cohort of

the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) Leadership Academy. Over the course of the next year, Chris will join two dozen emerging leaders from across the nation as they participate in monthly topical seminars, peer-to-peer discussion groups and in-person meetings focused on the research and policies which drive concurrent and dual enrollment programs. As part of the academy, Chris will attend a Washington Policy Summit in April and will be conducting a capstone research project.

## NACEP National Conference

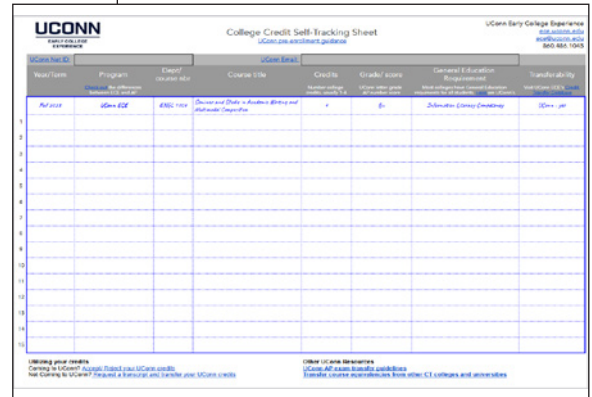
UConn OECP Executive Director Christopher Todd and UConn ECE Program Specialist for Outreach and Evaluation Carissa Rutkauskas attended the 2023 **National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) National Conference** October 22-25 in St. Louis, Missouri. Rutkauskas attended the Outdoor Conversations preconference event and Todd attended the first in-person session of the Leadership Academy, followed by the Welcome Reception at Busch Stadium, the legendary home of the St. Louis Cardinals. They were accompanied by Connecticut colleagues Ansley Diamond, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) System and Program Manager for Library Consortium Operations, Patrick Carr, first time

NACEP attendees who were making connections with concurrent and dual enrollment for the State.

Welcome & Opening Plenary speaker, Shayla Rivera, Aerospace Engineer and former Rocket Scientist with NASA turned corporate trainer, Int'l Speaker, TEDx Speaker, TV & Radio Host, Emcee/Host, Comedian, Actor, Writer, motivated the audience on day one with the importance of people's stories and the impact that verbal and non-verbal exchange has on others. Todd and Rutkauskas spent the next two days making connections with professionals from the CSCU System, New England Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NEACEP) colleagues, and experts from the field across the country. In addition to wearing his Pedro Martinez Red Sox (#45) Jersey into Busch Stadium, Todd's highlights of the NACEP conference were meeting his Leadership Academy Cohort colleagues for the first time and deep diving into several key issues during



the state policy summit. Rutkauskas appreciated the data sharing ideas present by Willamette Promise's Pat Ketcham and Addie Howell as well as learning about IPEDs reporting from Amy Hubbard, Executive Director of Early College, University of Maine System, in the Research Forum.



## College Credit Self-Tracker

The new College Credit Self-Tracker, developed by UConn ECE, is a google doc-based spreadsheet that students can copy and keep track of the UConn courses they take in high school, along with other college-credit bearing courses.



## Concurrent Enrollment Review

Volume 1 of the *Concurrent Enrollment Review CER* was released in Fall of 2023, with a strong connection to UConn ECE. Brian A. Boecherer, former UConn Office of Early College Programs (OECP) Executive Director and current Chief Executive Officer/Consultant, Olive Shade Higher Education Consulting is the publication's Editor-in-Chief and Christopher Todd, OECP's current Executive Director, joins colleagues from Syracuse University, Boise State University, and

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University of Pittsburgh to serve as an Associate Editor. Carissa Rutkauskas, UConn ECE's Outreach and Evaluation Specialist, with former UConn ECE graduate student, high school teacher, and Labor Organizer with the Connecticut Education Association, Kathrine Grant's paper *Formative Threads in the Tapestry of College Credit in High School: An Early History of the Development of Concurrent Enrollment and a Case Study of the Country's Oldest Program* was includ-



ed. Their research explores contributing factors to DE/CE development and provides a historical review of the longest running CE program in the United States, the University of Connecticut's Early College Experience Program, founded in 1955.

*Concurrent Enrollment Review (CER)* is the first independent, open access, peer reviewed journal dedicated to research in the field of dual/concurrent enrollment. CER, hosted by Syracuse University Libraries on Berkeley Electronic Press's Digital Commons platform serves a variety of functions for the broad array of constituents and

*institutions that comprise the field of dual/concurrent enrollment. CER aims to build community through active readership, scholarship development, publication and peer review (<https://surface.syr.edu/cer/about.html>).*



## New Courses Offered

ASLN 1102: Elementary American Sign Language II (Dr. Linda Pelletier). Continued development of basic knowledge and understanding of conversational ASL.

CHIN 3210: Chinese Composition & Conversation I (Dr. Chunsheng Yang). Development of high intermediate to advanced speaking and writing competency. Taught in Chinese.

CHIN 3211: Chinese Composition & Conversation II (Dr. Chunsheng Yang). Development of high intermediate to advanced speaking and writing competency. Taught in Chinese.

KINS 1100: Exercise and Wellness for Everyone (Ms. Allison MacKenzie). Overview of the five pillars of health (exercise, nutrition, sleep, stress and relationships); role of exercise in health promotion and disease prevention across the lifespan; impacts of exercise in leisure time, culture, community, careers and the workplace.

MATH 1070Q: Mathematics for Business and Economics (Dr. Anthony Rizzie & Dr. Andrew Jaramillo). Linear equations and inequalities, matrices, systems of linear equations, and linear programming; sets, counting, probability and statistics; mathematics of finance; applications to business and economics. ■

## ECE 2024 Events

CT Science Olympiad  
April 20

UConn ECE Professional Recognition Awards Ceremony  
April 25

UConn ECE Medieval Studies Workshop  
April 26

UConn ECE English Conference  
April 26

UConn ECE Biology Workshop  
April 30

Spring and Full-year course evaluations open  
May 1

UConn ECE Marine Science Symposium  
May 13

NEACEP conference  
May 17

UConn ECE EDLR and EDCI Workshop  
May 17

UConn ECE Statistics Workshop  
May 20

New Instructor Orientation  
May 22

UConn ECE Chemistry Student Lab Day  
May 23

UConn ECE Site Rep Conference  
May 29

UConn ECE Spring grade submissions deadline  
June 1

Computer Science Institute  
June 24-25

UConn Pre-College Summer Sessions  
June 23-July 27



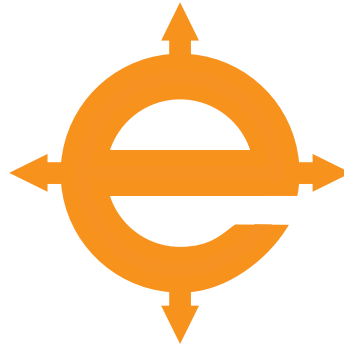
Without partnerships, we would not have been able to provide access to so many students. Thank you to everyone that has taken a role in making this possible. If you are interested in partnering with Pre-College Summer, please reach out to us at [pcs.uconn.edu](https://pcs.uconn.edu).



# Beyond Borders

## A Summer Program for High School Students

By  
Nella Quasnitschka



Director, Pre-College  
Summer Program

Taking the step to be away from home can be a big leap. Deciding to travel out of state or even internationally can be an even harder decision to make. At UConn Pre-College Summer (PCS), we help students with this transition as they take the next step in their academic journey. While about half of UConn PCS participants join us from Connecticut due to its proximity from their homes, we were able to welcome students from all over the world. During Summer 2023, 13 students from 11 different countries and 244 students from 28 different states took the leap across state lines to get a pre-college experience. We aim to create a diverse and inclusive community of learners where they can challenge themselves and discover their passions.

Participants took a range of classes in Animation Studio, Biomedical Engineering, Creative Writing, Leadership, Pharmacy, Pre-Law, Pre-Med, Pre-Vet, VR and Video

Game Design, and more. Our hands-on courses allowed students to perform human dissections, visit a Court House, tour UConn research labs, meet with UConn Health surgeons, network with professors in their chosen field, and more. Getting a firsthand college experience by living on campus and participating in these opportunities so early on in their careers, made their traveling journey, a summer to remember.



Traditionally, we have only been able to offer non-credit courses. However, we were able to cross another bridge to offer another opportunity for students. We started small and for

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# Beyond Borders: A Summer Program for High School Students

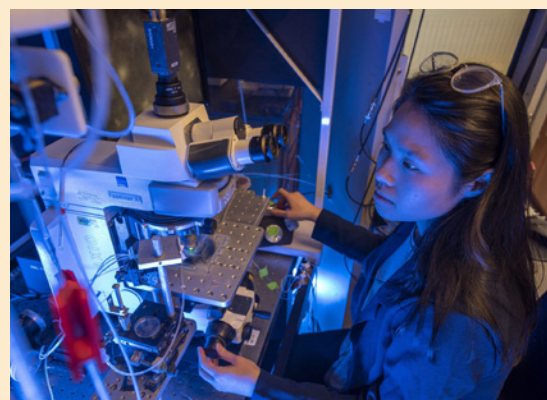
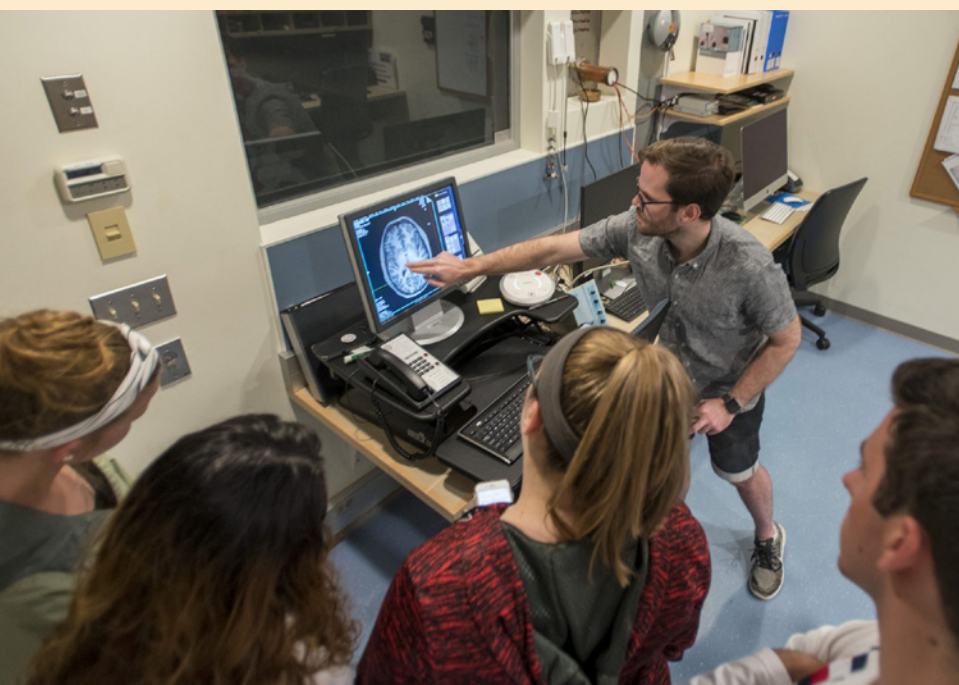
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the first time, UConn PCS was able to grant college credits to 12 students through the AH 2001: Medical Terminology course. Students worked towards earning two credits and now have a UConn transcript to use towards their undergraduate careers. The course was offered by Mary Turano. Mary has been a teacher for 17 years and loves science and

medicine. In addition to being a UConn ECE Allied Health certified instructor, Mary is licensed and practicing EMT and EMS-I (EMT Instructor) so she brings experiences and clinical practices into the classroom to help students learn about the language of medicine. Mary loves teaching through hands-on activities within her class and brought

in models, manikins and other materials to help students get immersed within the human body. The AH 2001: Medical Terminology course was a great success and will continue to be offered to allow students to earn UConn credits.

We welcome you to go beyond where you are to seek your passion this coming summer. Apply now with code UCONNCE to submit your UConn PCS application at no cost. For more information visit: [pcs.uconn.edu](https://pcs.uconn.edu) or scan the QR code. ■





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# Join the Group



To facilitate learning, knowledge, and opportunities by connecting UConn ECE Students with UConn ECE Alumni.



Join the UConn ECE Alumni Group on LinkedIn at [bit.ly/UConnECEAlumni](https://bit.ly/UConnECEAlumni)

# UConn

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## UConn ECE

# 68 YEARS STRONG



UConn Early College Experience was founded in 1955 and is proud to have offered hundreds of thousands of Connecticut high school students the opportunity to take college courses in high school over the past 68 years. UConn ECE is the nation's longest running concurrent enrollment program.

## ECE.UCONN.EDU