



# ECE NEWS TO KNOW

HIGHLIGHTS

June 2006

## A Successful 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Site Representative Conference

Over 75 ECE high school representatives gathered at UConn Storrs on February 28th 2006 for the first, of what will become an annual, Site Representative Conference. This was the first time site representatives from the high schools were brought together for a day-long conference to discuss program changes and benefits. The conference included a talk led by Kevin Sullivan of the First Year Experience Program on how FYE courses might aid in the transition from high school to college, an online grading training led by Lisa Pane of the Registrar's Office, and a discussion on the benefits of WebCT and E-Portfolios by Kim Chambers of the Institute for Teaching and Learning. The ECE Administrative Office spoke throughout the day on the move to Spring registration and were available to answer any questions from the high school.

## ECE Upcoming Events

**JUNE 9, 2006:**

*Biology Workshop, Storrs Campus*

**JUNE 19, 2006:**

*NetIDs and Web Training - Torrington*

**JUNE 20, 2006:**

*NetIDs and Web Training - Torrington*

**JUNE 21, 2006:**

*NetIDs and Web Training - Stamford*

**JUNE 23, 2006:**

*NetIDs and Web Training - Waterbury*

**JUNE 26, 2006:**

*NetIDs and Web Training - Avery Point*

**JUNE 27, 2006:**

*NetIDs and Web Training - Stamford*

**JUNE 28, 2006:**

*NetIDs and Web Training - Waterbury*

**JUNE 29, 2006:**

*NetIDs and Web Training - Avery Point*

**JUNE 30, 2006:**

*Student Registration Deadline*

**JULY 12, 2006:**

*UConn FYE/ECE Conference  
(see inside for more details)*

**SEPTEMBER 1 – 30, 2006:**

*Student Add/Drop Period*

**For details on all ECE Events, please visit our website at [www.ece.uconn.edu](http://www.ece.uconn.edu).**

## Institute for Teaching and Learning Awards

On April 24, 2006, UConn Early College Experience was represented for the second time at the annual Instructional Excellence Recognition Dinner held at the Storrs campus, sponsored by the Institute for Teaching and Learning. Last year, the honorees were John Duffy, UConn ECE instructor at Torrington High School, Cecile Hurley, Faculty Coordinator for Chemistry and Jim Hurley, Faculty Coordinator for Math. This year, the number of nominations increased, resulting in three ECE instructors and one faculty coordinator being honored. The UConn Early College Experience Instructor Award for Excellence in College Teaching was presented to Robert Lamperelli (Montville High School), Matthew Magda (Wilby High School), and Stephen Sekula (Daniel Hand High School). In addition, Edward Benson, UConn ECE Faculty Coordinator for French, was recognized with the award for Excellence in Curriculum and Adjunct Faculty Development. (see pg. 3 for Ed Benson's UConn ECE accomplishments).



*Dr. Gillian Thorne congratulates Matthew Magda of Wilby High School who received the Award for Excellence in College Teaching for his work as an ECE History Instructor*

Bob Lamperelli teaches UConn ECE History and American Studies (a pilot course) at Montville High School. Bob has helped hundreds of students succeed in college level work, including many who otherwise would not have had the confidence to do so. At last summer's "transition to college" conference, co-sponsored by ECE and FYE, Bob was among five panelists from Connecticut high schools who provided valuable insights into the high quality of education that dedicated teachers and administrators throughout the State are providing for our high school students.

Matt Magda, a UConn ECE History Instructor and Site Representative at Wilby High School is a model instructor for the ECE program. He encourages his colleagues to expand the program for the benefit of all Wilby students.



*Robert Lamperelli of Montville High School received the Award for Excellence in College Teaching for his work as an ECE History and American Studies Instructor*

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## Institute for Teaching and Learning Awards *(continued from front page)*



*Stephen Sekula of Daniel Hand High School received the Award of Excellence in College Teaching for his work as an ECE Chemistry Instructor*

He is a showcase of optimism and determination in the secondary schools. Matt is an example of someone who carries the UConn ECE program single-handedly at his high school. Thanks to his advocacy, there is great potential for a stronger partnership to develop between UConn and Wilby High School.

Steve Sekula teaches UConn ECE Chemistry at Daniel Hand High School. Steve is described by one of his students as “the best teacher I have ever been lucky enough to study with, one who genuinely cared about the success of his students and sacrificed his time in order to provide a better learning experience... Mr. Sekula loves what he does, and his devotion to chemistry and his students shines through in every day of class. I am so grateful to have had Mr. Sekula. I know he prepared me extremely well for college.” UConn ECE is incredibly lucky to have an instructor like Steve.

*Congratulations to Bob, Matt, and Steve! Thank you for all you do to make UConn ECE a worthwhile opportunity for your students.*

## Greater Access to UConn is Here! A Welcome to NetIDs and Web Training

At the time of printing this newsletter, over 260 NetIDs have been created and mailed to ECE Faculty! NetIDs allow you as UConn affiliates to use the UConn Libraries (e-journals, databases, and book privileges) and also gives you access to the new “UConn ECE Web Connector” through WebCT Vista. The UConn ECE Web Connector is a secure website where you can interact with your colleagues throughout ECE and allow the easy transfer of documents and ideas – all within a password protected environment. If you are unsure of whether you have a NetID, please contact the Assistant Director, Brian Boecherer for more information (Brian.Boecherer@uconn.edu).

The UConn ECE Web Connector will be ready by the end of June, three months sooner than planned, which allows us to offer summer training for those of you who are interested. During the last two weeks of June, we will host two training sessions (one morning, one afternoon) at each of the five regional campuses (Avery Point, Hartford, Stamford, Torrington, and Waterbury) and the Storrs Campus. Training sessions will instruct ECE Instructors on: how to retrieve their NetID and how to access the UConn ECE Web Connector and use its applications. In addition to using the Web Connector, participants will get a tour of Homer, the virtual UConn Library, followed by a tour of the campus library.

*You are encouraged to sign-up for a session as soon as possible as seating is quite limited (approximately 20-25 registrations per session). CEUs will be given for this training.*

**AVERY POINT** – Monday June 26th from 10 to 12:30; and Thursday June 29th from 1 to 3:30

**STAMFORD** – Wednesday June 21st from 1 to 3:30; and Tuesday June 27th from 10 to 12:30

**TORRINGTON** – Monday June 19th from 10 to 12:30; and Tuesday June 20th from 1 to 3:00

**WATERBURY** – Friday June 23rd from 1 to 3:30; and Wednesday June 28th from 10 to 12:30

The agenda items include:

- NetID Access (WebCT Vista, EPortfolios)
- Library Proxy Accounts, Navigating Online Library
- Library Tour and Campus Tour

You must RSVP to attend a session. To RSVP, email Brian Boecherer at [Brian.Boecherer@uconn.edu](mailto:Brian.Boecherer@uconn.edu) and put “WebCT Training” and the corresponding campus in the message bar. Brian will confirm your registration with an email. You are not registered without a confirmation email. This will be a great opportunity to learn about your access to the University.

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## It's Hard to Say Goodbye! Ed Benson, Cecile Hurley & Jim Hurley Announce Their Retirement

It is with gratitude and appreciation that UConn ECE bids farewell to Faculty Coordinators Ed Benson, Cecile Hurley and James Hurley, effective June 2006.

Ed Benson became the Faculty Coordinator of French in 1998 and the program has been soaring ever since. Ed created the first advisory board for a discipline and often provides workshop time to insure that his instructors and the university have the same grading practices and policies. Ed has also offered an interactive event for ECE students to attend on campus annually, known as the French Quiz Bowl. He involves the students with graduate students in the French Department, focusing on academics, with the culminating and enjoyable activity being a competitive College-Bowl-style event. Florence Marsal has been appointed the new Faculty Coordinator of French, and will be taking over where Ed has left off, with some big shoes to fill! Florence can be reached at [fmarsal@earthlink.net](mailto:fmarsal@earthlink.net).

Cecile Hurley joined ECE in 1990 as the Faculty Coordinator of Chemistry. Organized and efficient, Cecile knows exactly how her instructors are teaching chemistry at their high schools. Cecile assures that Chemistry 127Q and 128Q taken at the high school are the same courses students take at UConn, exceeding the standards set by NACEP. Cecile provides the ECE Chemistry instructors with IDs so that they may utilize the WebCT sites specifically created for Chemistry. Because of Cecile's vigilance, ECE Chemistry students know they are well-prepared!

Jim Hurley is truly a veteran Faculty Coordinator, having started with the program in 1988. He often jokes that he is not "computer-savvy", yet it was Jim who put together his own website, specifically for ECE instructors, and relies on what UConn calls List Servs (a discipline-specific, distribution list for email) to remain in constant communication with his instructors. Jim has dedicated himself to ECE for the past 18 years. While Jim can never be replaced, we are fortunate to welcome Dr. David Gross as the new Faculty Coordinator in Math. David can be reached at [david.gross@uconn.edu](mailto:david.gross@uconn.edu).

Ed, Cecile and Jim, we extend to you our thanks and gratitude for a job well done. We will miss you!

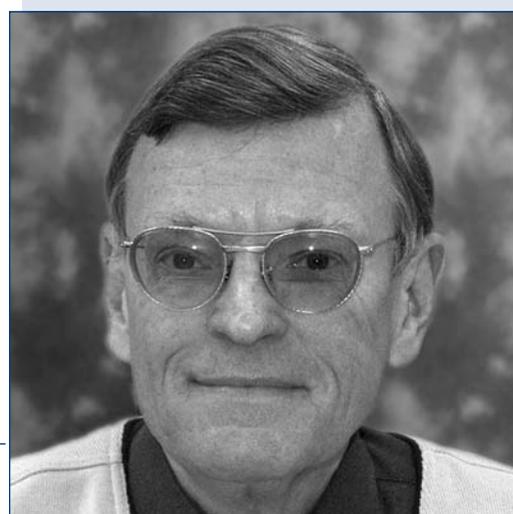
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*Ed Benson starts off his infamous French Quiz Bowl*



*Cecile Hurley, right, speaks with a student after class*



*Dr. James Hurley*

## Save the Date for the 6th Annual UConn FYE/ECE Conference!

The 6th Annual UConn FYE/ECE Conference, co-sponsored by First Year Programs and UConn Early College Experience will be held on Wednesday, July 12th 2006 from 9:00am – 3:00pm in the Rome Ballroom at UConn, Storrs Campus. All UConn ECE instructors, site representatives and principals are welcome to attend.

This year's conference, *Expectations for Student Success in College: Examining High School and University Perspectives* will include keynote speaker, George Kuh, Ph.D. (Chancellor's Professor, Indiana University), nationally recognized author of the recent book *Student Success in College: Creating Conditions That Matter*. Dr. Kuh will set the tone of the day by addressing issues of student preparation and engagement. Discussion will focus on the two critical years of student transition – senior year of high school and the first year at a university.

Many of today's high school students feel confident that they are prepared for university life... but are they? Recent studies reported in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* suggest that university professors differ with high school instructors regarding the level of student preparedness. The First Year Experience and Early College Experience programs invite you to attend a colloquium that will bring secondary and university educators together to discuss best practices for student success and link university expectations with high school student preparation.

**For more information and to register online, please visit:** [www.fyp.uconn.edu/conference/register.htm](http://www.fyp.uconn.edu/conference/register.htm)

~ CEUs will be provided for attendance ~

## We Want Your News to Know!

Is your UConn ECE course doing something news-worthy? If so, we want to hear about it! UConn ECE News to Know is looking for articles from ECE instructors and students regarding exciting course happenings. Maybe it's an upcoming field trip, or a new approach to a Biology lab... we want to know! Instructors can feel free to recruit students to write articles so that a student perspective can be shared amongst the ECE community. Photos are always welcome too! If you are interested in sending an article to ECE News to Know, please email Jennifer Griffin at [jennifer.griffin@uconn.edu](mailto:jennifer.griffin@uconn.edu).

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