

UConn ECE Math Communicator

Newsletter of UConn's Early College Experience Program in Mathematics

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New Name, New Staff

The attentive reader will notice that this publication is sporting a new name: *Co-op* in the masthead has given way to *ECE*. That reflects the change in the name of the University of Connecticut High-School Cooperative Program to the UConn Early College Experience Program. The new name was announced on the ListServ on July 27. *If you did not receive that announcement and an advance copy of this newsletter in PDF format, please contact* the new ECE Program Office Manager, Jennifer Griffin at 486-1045 or via e-mail to jennifer.griffin@uconn.edu *at once!* It is *essential* to be on the ListServ in order to receive the Core Final-Exam Questions, ECE Math grading guidelines and procedural instructions for both Math 115Q and 116Q this academic year.

For the benefit of those not at the August workshop (see next story), Ms. Griffin joined the ECE staff on July 11, replacing Interim Manager Parul Patel with whom you may have dealt last academic year. A graduate of UConn, Ms. Griffin returned to her alma mater after four years as a program coordinator at the Harvard Business School and a year at a Connecticut high school. Her cordiality and enthusiasm for contributing to the growth and success of the program have already garnered many favorable comments. You can count on her to get you onto the ListServ if you are not already receiving postings.

Former Interim Program Manager Brian Boecherer has returned after earning a Master's Degree at the University of Toronto. After serving as Transition Coordinator over the summer, he now is Assistant Director of the Program, and leads the program's active outreach to high schools across the state. Watch for a visit from him to your school soon! His telephone number is 486-8828, e-mail address: brian.boecherer@uconn.edu.

August Workshop

The Annual Math ECE Re-certification workshop was held August 22. As usual, there were three one-hour sessions, led by ECE Math Coordinator Jim Hurley, his colleague Chuck Vinsonhaler and Steve Lecky, ECE Certified Instructor at Middletown High School. Highlights:

- Jim introduced ECE Director Dr. Gillian Thorne, who in turn introduced Jennifer Griffin and Brian Boecherer to the assembly. Posted on the ECE Math Web site, in the Certified-Teacher Resources area (e-mail hurley@math.uconn.edu for access information if you have mislaid it) is a summary of his session, including suggestions from Assistant Registrar Lisa Pane to assist in grade submission. The biggest difficulties last year were in the mechanics of that process, which have been simplified this year by transferring everything after initial entry of the grades to the Math Coordinator. Accompanying this newsletter is a sheet of slightly edited PeopleSoft Help information on that. The posted session notes include how to access the animated online demo for grade entry that Ms. Pane showed to the group. She has kindly agreed to a return appearance at next May's workshop, when grade submission will be more pressing! As was emphasized at the workshop, all ECE sections of Math 115Q and 116Q this year will incorporate UConn Core Questions into their final exams. See the document *Grading Procedures for ECE Calculus Courses* in the ECE Math Certified-Teacher Resources area for full details.

- Chuck's session featured several examples of a personal student-response system, including one especially thought-provoking challenge of conceptual understanding of integration. As usual, words fail to adequately capture the magic of Chuck's moments illustrating this fascinating new tool, as those fortunate enough to have participated will confirm.

- Steve presented two activities to combat post-

AP exam and pre-prom/graduation senior malaise. One builds on Prof. Roland Minton's very well received presentation on parametric equations last year. A printable PDF file of his session is posted on the Math ECE Web site, and he has graciously agreed to make himself available for consultation about the activities with those of you who are interested in using them.

Update on New Calculus Text

As reported in the June issue, the new text for Math 115Q–116Q is the 4th edition of Deborah Hughes Hallett, Andrew Gleason, William McCallum et al., *Calculus: Single Variable* published by John Wiley & Son Publishers (ISBN 0-471-48481-4), 2005.

The former text, *Calculus, 2nd Ed.*, by R. Smith & R. Minton (McGraw-Hill, 2002) remains on the list of approved texts, which has been updated in the Web site's *Getting Started* document. Be sure to check the document *Impact of Hughes Hallett Text* in the site's Certified-Teacher Resources area for the most important differences in course content resulting from the new change. Perhaps the biggest is the replacement of vector algebra and geometry by a unit introducing differential equations. Both you and your students are welcome to take advantage of the current Math 115Q class home page, located at URL:

<http://www.math.uconn.edu/~tollefs/math115f05/>.

The first mid-term exam is posted there, as well as in the Certified-Teacher Resources area of the Math ECE site.

The publisher suggests contacting its high-school marketing affiliate, Peoples Publishing Group, at (800) 822-1080 to request a desk copy. One teacher reports that worked, although an e-mail sent to sales@peoplespublishing.com went unanswered.

A major new course feature is the incorporation of an online gateway exam each semester. For Math 115, it covers differentiation formulas, and for Math 116 integration techniques. Each is given during a short time frame of about three weeks in

the middle of the semester (6th-through-8th week at UConn). While grades on the gateway exams do not factor into the course grades directly, failure to pass it will automatically produce a reduction of full letter in the course grade. We hope to incorporate the electronic gateway exams into at least Math 115Q next year. Watch for a possible ListServ announcement of availability on a preview basis this semester.

Your coordinator is not encouraging a switch to the new text as yet, since its use is still experimental. Some spirited debate about the book is going on at present. We will keep you informed of all new developments as they occur.

NACEP Accreditation

The ECE Program has applied for accreditation by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships, and anticipates a response by next April. NACEP accreditation should greatly expand the universe of institutions of higher learning that accept UConn ECE credit. The authentication requirements that NACEP imposes account for the new procedures in testing and grading for *UConn ECE credit*. As was emphasized at the workshop, it is more than possible for students to receive a higher or lower high-school course grade than their ECE course grade, which is assigned to match grading practices at the University. We do wish to express our thanks for your strong support of our efforts to meet NACEP's requirements. Your cooperation has made a difficult transition work better than we could have ever expected, except of course that we *know* how high our high-school partners' standards are and so in fact we had unreasonably high expectations! (Even so, the many cases of high-school course grades lower than UConn grades were quite striking.)

Another outgrowth of NACEP's stringent procedures is advancement of deadlines. This year enrollment closed September 23, and next year it will end *June 30*. Deadline for applying for certification for 2006–2007: March 31. Please contact Ms. Griffin with questions or concerns about either student enrollment or new instructor certification.