

UCONN AGAIN HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL MATH COMPETITION

For the third consecutive January, UConn was host to a mathematics competition of the Capitol Area Mathematics League. On Wednesday January 8, 2003, about 200 students from fifteen high schools (of the league's twenty-three member schools) showed up. They came from as near to Storrs as Glastonbury and Manchester, and as far to the north as Somers and Suffield and to the southwest as Southington.

This year, for the first time, the competition was held in the Mathematical Sciences Building; Physics 36 was central headquarters for the students, and various classrooms in MSB were the sites for the actual competition. Previously, the meet was held on South Campus and in the Student Union.

Also for the first time, the Mathematics Department provided "entertainment" in the form of two brief faculty presentations in PB 36: Stu Sidney discussed the pigeonhole principle, and Joe McKenna showed the famous film of the construction and collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, supplementing it with commentary and some indication of the type of mathematics involved in understanding the disaster.

A fair number of the mathletes expect to matriculate at UConn in the next several years. The teachers who accompanied them seem enthusiastic about sending us some of their best students; one proudly indicated by name several of her former students who are undergraduates here now and are doing well.