ECE Teacher Travels to South Africa

By Karen Cordero, UCONN ECE ENVIRO instructor, Bolton High School

A few years ago my principal at Bolton High School came to me and asked, “Karen, how would you like to teach a UConn ECE Environmental course?” After 22 years of teaching the same ole same ole, I said “Absolutely”!

The UConn ECE workshop and preparations for the course challenged me to find more meaningful, real-life experiences to include in the curriculum. Dr. Morty Ortega, the faculty coordinator of the ECE Natural Resources and the Environment program, hosted several professional development sessions and has observed me several times in the classroom. I admire his passion for the environment and desire to allow his students to experience the many different biomes that he has traveled to. When he mentioned that he was looking for a high school teacher to accompany his group of UConn students in his African Ecology course to South Africa, I never thought twice. I said “Yes, without a doubt”! Even when I had a chance to think about leaving Bolton, my family and my summer vacation time, I did not hesitate! I attended Morty’s Wednesday evening African Ecology classes from January to March, and met the eighteen UConn students who were traveling to the Entabeni Reserve in August. Morty and I discussed the possibility of bringing high school students to the reserve if the program deemed fit for juniors and seniors. My plan was to participate in all of the Entabeni Guide Training programs just as the students did, then decide whether the program was adequate for high school students.

The trip was amazing! We camped in the middle of the Savannah, truly roughing it. We went on over forty game drives in twenty-one days. We learned how to track wildlife, identify habitats, hold snakes (even cobras), and locate and identify scorpions. We got certified in CPR, first aid and Bushveld first aid and went spelunking through three amazing caves. We studied bats, birds and Bushveld vegetation. And after twenty-one absolutely awe inspiring days we decided that this is definitely an experience that is worthy of high school juniors and seniors. I presented my trip to my students and the Bolton Community with the hopes that I can recruit up to eighteen students for a fourteen day trip of my own to South Africa in the summer of 2014.

The UConn ECE office is thrilled to have this opportunity to work with the Entabeni Reserve and hopes the partnership can become a permanent part of the program.
UConn ECE Wins 2012 NACEP Research Grant

The UConn ECE and Office of Early College Programs is proud to announce funding for a new project that will advance interest in improving the transferability of concurrent enrollment credits. As winners of the 2012 NACEP Small Grant Competition, Magdalena Narozniak and Brian A. Boecherer, will investigate the credit transfer frequency of UConn ECE credits to higher education institutions all over Northern America. The successful transfer of credits is a common concern among students, parents, program administrators, and policymakers. Data will be collected on the type of credit earned and rejected, transfer policy, student experience during the transfer process, demographics of participating higher education institutions, and the perception of concurrent enrollment among higher education administrators. The researchers hope that an evidence based understanding of concurrent enrollment credit transfer could inform policymakers and program administrators toward data-driven action. If you have any questions about this project, please contact the ECE office by emailing ece@uconn.edu.
ECE Office Grows and Welcomes New Staff Members

The UConn ECE office would like to introduce, and welcome our newest staff members: Mrs. Wendi Richardson, Ms. Magdalena Narozniak, and Ms. Jessica Parker. We are very excited to welcome Wendi, Magda, and Jessica into brand new positions with the Office of Early College Programs. While expanding the program to reach more high school students, we are also expanding our office staff with these extremely talented individuals.

Wendi Richardson joins the ECE office as the Director of Enrollment Operations and as Assistant Director for the Office of Early College Programs. Wendi is responsible for managing student registration and other administrative activities such as fund raising and event coordination. Wendi has many years business management experience and has earned her Bachelor’s degree as a returning adult through the University of Connecticut’s Bachelor of General Studies program.

Magdalena Narozniak is the Program Assistant for Research and Development and assists in the planning, development, and evaluation of program objectives and activities. Besides conducting studies and preparing analytical reports, Magda serves as a resource for staff and others regarding program information and research on concurrent enrollment partnerships. She is also a primary contact person for developing programs at the high school level. Magda earned her Bachelor’s Degree from Fordham University in Political Science and International/Intercultural Studies and her Master’s Degree from Jacobs University (Bremen, Germany) in International Relations, with a focus on qualitative and quantitative statistical analysis.

Jessica Parker is the Program Assistant for the Office of Early College Programs and the Registration Specialist for UConn ECE. Jessica is responsible for managing the student registration process, and providing program and administrative support to ECE students and affiliates. Jessica attended the University of Connecticut where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and Human Development and Family Studies.

It is with great excitement that we welcome our newest three staff members to the UConn ECE family!

Regional Concurrent Enrollment Conference to be held at UConn

UConn ECE and NACEP will co-sponsor a regional conference on May 29, 2013 in the Student Union Ballroom on the Storrs Campus. This conference will showcase successful partnerships and state initiatives that provide pathways for students to navigate the transition from high school to college. Highlights of the conference include a welcome from UConn past president, Philip Austin, keynote speaker, Nicholas Donohue, President & CEO, Nellie Mae Education Foundation, and a panel discussion featuring members of the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE). All members of UConn community are welcome to attend. For more information about the conference, please contact Wendi Richardson at (860)486-0702.

UConn ECE Undergoes NACEP Reaccreditation in 2013

UConn ECE program will be undergoing reaccreditation with NACEP (National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships) during 2013. All of our materials will be submitted by July 31, 2013, but the earliest that reaccreditation would be awarded is April 2014.

NACEP reaccreditation is a self study based on NACEP standards (see www.nacep.org), which UConn ECE instructors and partner high schools are familiar with to a great extent. Our application will follow a well-defined protocol of evidence for each Associate Director Brian A. Boecher-standard, and will undergo a peer review by a NACEP-appointed review accreditation teams for other programs. Our ECE faculty coordinators grams, which is helpful now that we will assist in providing essential evidence are going through the process of evidence for many of the standards, but ourselves.

Our administrative team also keeps documentation annually in compliance with the standards. It is possible that some of our instructors in the high schools will be asked to provide specific evidence in support of our application, but this will done on a timely basis.

We are proud of our affiliation with NACEP. The reaccreditation process is quite valuable in developing, shaping, and refining credible and accountable academically rigorous concurrent enrollment programs.
In an effort to keep the UConn ECE community informed of upcoming events, we have provided a list of scheduled professional development opportunities and important deadlines. All events will take place on the UConn Storrs campus unless otherwise noted.

Formal invitations and agendas 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!

February 12, 2013
Advisory Board Meeting
Nathan Hale Coventry Room

February 26, 2013
Site Representative Conference
Student Union Ballroom

March 7, 2013
Italian Workshop

March 8, 2013
Spanish Workshop
Horticulture Workshop
Northeast Floral Expo
http://www.northeastfloralexpo.com/handouts.htm

March 22, 2013
Physics Workshop

March 29, 2013
Medieval Workshop
North Reading Room, Wilbur Cross

March 31, 2013
Instructor Certification Application Deadline

April 3, 2013
Biotech Workshop
New Haven at StemConn Conference
http://www.stemconn.org/

April 4, 2013
Biology Workshop

April 25, 2013
French Workshop

May 13, 2013
Statistics Workshop

May 16, 2013
Chemistry Workshop

May 29, 2013
NACEP Regional Conference
Student Union Ballroom

June 5, 2013
New Instructor Orientation

June 15, 2013
Student Registration Deadline

Please contact the Early College Experience Office for more information on upcoming events.