



## CATCH-UP CORNER

To say that the current academic year has presented challenging times would be an understatement. Many of our ECE partner high schools are facing difficult budgetary decisions, as is the University of Connecticut. With that said, it is important in these tough economic times that touch all of us, that we remember the amazing work we do as part of UConn Early College Experience. It is also worth highlighting that we not only provide our high school students with “college knowledge” but we do so at \$25 per credit. UConn ECE has not increased program fees in over three years. We hope to continue to be a true economic benefit to Connecticut high schools and students. Let’s continue to make a difference...

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Instructor Spotlights:** 2  
**Shaffer & Corrao**

**Podcasting in French Courses** 3

**ECE Class Acts:** 3  
**Spanish at RHAM**

**The Morgan School Experiences a Legend** 4

**New ECE Website** 5

**ECE to Host 2011 NACEP Conference** 5

**Calendar of Events** 6

## Site Representative Conference Draws Record Numbers

UConn ECE staff welcomed over 125 high school representatives to the Student Union Ballroom on the UConn Storrs campus for the 2009 annual site representative conference on February 26. Now in its fourth year, the site representative conference has served as the platform to distribute important program information and student registration materials for the upcoming academic year. By meeting with all partner high school administrators at once, UConn ECE has the opportunity to make sure that each school knows how to register its students, certify its instructors and administer successful UConn Early College Experience courses.

This year’s agenda embraced the

goals of conferences’ past and highlighted important changes to the 2009-2010 registration process. For the first time, all site representatives will be entered into the University’s student administration system (SAS) and will be provided with a user ID to access ECE class rosters electronically. Class rosters will no longer be distributed by mail to high schools. Site representatives were given a detailed SAS tutorial and will be receiving their user IDs and roster directions at the end of August.

A welcome change to the student add/drop process was the implementation of set dates for the add/drop period, now from September 1 – 15<sup>th</sup>. The add/drop

period will no longer change based on the University’s academic calendar as it has in the past.

“The turnout is always reassuring to our office,” said Jill Thorne, UConn ECE Director. “It shows us that this program matters to our high schools and that they are willing to do what it takes to make it a success.”



## OEP + ECE = OECP

### The Office of Early College Programs is Born

*“Hello, you have reached the Office of Educational Partnerships. We are unable to take your call at the moment. . . .” What? I thought I was calling the UConn Early College Experience office? Maybe I got the wrong number.*

Until recently, this was the voice-mail message you heard when calling the UConn ECE office, and it could have confused first-time callers. But our recent

name change makes much more sense as the home office of UConn ECE. Now you should hear: *“Hello, you have reached the Office of Early College Programs.”*

Our new acronym for the Office of Early College Programs is OECP. This summer we hope that our OECP website will go live at [www.oecp.uconn.edu](http://www.oecp.uconn.edu). The site will specifically address all early college credit options avail-

able through the University of Connecticut, and more generally will be directed to related sites of interest.

It is not uncommon to find similar websites through other universities. The options that are usually included are dual enrollment (high school students coming on campus to take selected courses) and online courses,

*(continued on page 5)*

## UConn ECE Instructor Spotlights:

### Shaffer Awarded First-Ever High School Exemplary Educator



David Shaffer with wife, Debbie, and award-winning dog, Emma.

*"I still consider this job fun. I get up in the morning and look forward to coming to work," said Shaffer.*

As a New Milford High School Math teacher for nearly 25 years, David Shaffer has extensive experience in motivating and inspiring students. He has won multiple awards for his successful teaching style, including the AP Recognition Award and New Milford Teacher of the Year Award in 2000. He recently received the first ever Connecticut Association of Schools High School Exemplary Educator Award and the Ronald McDonald Local Heroes Award for his dedication and successes both in and out of the classroom. His goal is not merely to educate, but to make algebra, trigonometry, calculus, and geometry rewarding. Despite his long tenure, he remains challenged each day, and loves it.

Committed to his students, Mr. Shaffer maintains an open-door policy, often staying late and coming early to give

students extra help. His enthusiasm extends beyond merely passing his students; he continues to maintain close links to his students throughout college, with former graduates frequently contacting him for help in their university coursework. NMHS graduate Ryan Fitzsimmons wrote, "Mr. Shaffer always took the time after school to make sure that I understood the material. This carried on through college, when I came home for break and sought some help on a few topics in calculus. He is truly a gifted teacher." Mr. Shaffer constantly impresses upon his students the importance of staying focused and asking for help. His advice to students is simple: "Just do not get behind. In any kind of math course, especially Calculus, make sure you do not leave the building until you understand everything."

Mr. Shaffer has been offering UConn Math courses since 1992

and remains one of its longest-serving educators. For Mr. Shaffer, his students' motivation is the most rewarding aspect of teaching. "It's the kids," he said. "Teaching quadratic equations is the same every year, but it's the interaction and helping kids succeed more than they thought possible. I still consider this job fun. I get up in the morning and look forward to coming to work."

Mr. Shaffer attributes his success to his students, his department, and the support of the UConn Math Department. "I think that the UConn ECE program is an excellent opportunity for students to get a taste of what college is about while still in high school," he said. "The UConn Math department, especially Dave Gross, keeps us posted and no question is too dumb to ask. And Dave definitely wants us to keep the standards there and to succeed."

### Notre Dame's Dominic Corrado Awarded "Local Hero"



From left to right: President Br. James Branigan, Marina Ghaldinian (RMHC), Dominic Corrado and Principal Patrick Clifford.

As a Notre Dame High School Foreign Language teacher for over 20 years and the Foreign Language Department Chair for 15, Dominic Corrado has extensive experience in engaging and motivating students to learn a second language. His innovative teaching style and concern for his students recently won him the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Ronald McDonald House Local Heroes Award. Mr. Corrado became a UConn ECE instructor in 2006, with dual

certification in Spanish and Italian, and is uniquely situated to introduce his ECE students to university rigor. As an adjunct professor at both Quinnipiac University in Hamden and Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, he can give first-hand advice on the necessities surrounding a college course. Further, he brings a global experience to his classroom, frequently taking both groups on educational trips to France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, England, Austria and Germany.

To interest and motivate students, Mr. Corrado employs several different teaching techniques, including games and visual aids. His concern for his students extends beyond the classroom, as he serves as moderator of various student activities such as foreign language clubs, honor societies and the Notre Dame High School yearbook.

The Ronald McDonald Foundation 'Local Heroes' award grants \$500 to the winner's school.

**Congratulations Dominic!**

# Podcasting Hits UConn ECE French Courses

UConn ECE instructors have always been at the forefront of new pedagogical techniques. Our instructors and coordinators have won multiple awards for their innovative teaching styles and their ability to bring college to the high schools. The latest technological innovation, podcasting, is making exciting inroads in the program and appears to have a promising future.

Podcasting refers to audio or visual files which can be recorded and downloaded. Florence Marsal, ECE French Faculty Coordinator, is the first to utilize the new technology. She and other UConn French professors record their UConn lectures; these lectures are then

posted to HuskyCT and are available for ECE French instructors to download and play for their classes.

Podcasting allows ECE high school students to listen to an actual UConn lecture while remaining in their familiar high school classroom. They can not only hear the professor lecture and ask questions, but are also able to hear UConn students' answers. "ECE students will be able to see that what they are learning now is an intricate part of some larger knowledge shared by teachers, students, philosophers, poets and scholars," Dr. Marsal said. "They'll see that there are sometimes more questions than

answers with regards to the texts and authors." Dr. Marsal plans to extend the French podcasting, and hopes that other professors and instructors take advantage of the opportunities for their own disciplines.

Podcasting is one more way that UConn ECE faculty and instructors are bringing college instruction to the high schools and preparing their students for the rigor of university coursework. ECE plans to extend podcasting to other disciplines. Coordinators and instructors interested in podcasting should contact Louise Larson at [louise.larson@uconn.edu](mailto:louise.larson@uconn.edu).

*"ECE students will be able to see that what they are learning now is an intricate part of some larger knowledge shared by teachers, students, philosophers, poets and scholars."*

*Florence Marsal,  
UConn ECE Faculty  
Coordinator for  
French.*

## UConn ECE Class Acts:

### RHAM High School's ECE Spanish Students Know College Work

UConn ECE Spanish instructor Amy Nocton expects a lot from her students at RHAM High School, and they continually exceed every requirement she places on them. Not only do they complete college work, but they also take part in multiple enrichment activities outside the classroom which serve to reinforce Amy's lessons.

In this year alone, Nocton's ECE Spanish students completed 7-10 page research papers on U.S. foreign policy towards Latin American dictatorships during the 1970's through the early 1990's. The students collaborated with experts in the field, including Chilean Professor Jaime Concha at UC San Diego, Natalia Bertoni from Argentina, El Salvadoran Professor Felix Ulloa, and Professor Juan Maldonado Gago from Spain. The papers, written completely in Spanish, are clear examples of the quality of work ECE students accomplish.

Aside from classroom work, Amy's students joined their colleagues in RHAM's Spanish IV to attend a Spanish immersion field trip in Willimantic on December 9 and 10. Jorge Hernandez, from the Spanish American Merchants Association, arranged an amazing day during which students met and conversed with leaders and educators in the Willimantic community. The day was conducted entirely in Spanish and involved talks with representatives from Quinnebaug Community College, Eastern Connecticut State University and members of the town government. Students also ate lunch at local Hispanic-owned establishments. The two day event was a huge success and the students are planning a follow-up visit later in the spring.

A number of the students from her ECE courses also joined students from UCAP (Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program) in Providence,

Rhode Island, for the second consecutive year. RHAM students raised just over \$1,000 to help this inspirational school, and the UCAP kids will be visiting RHAM on May 1.

Amy plans to engage her student further by having them take part in the UConn ECE Globalization Conference, where her students will represent Argentina and Nicaragua.

**Amy Nocton (top left) with her ECE Spanish students at UConn's Homer Babbidge Library.**



# The Morgan School Experiences a Legend



Maya Angelou addresses the UConn community at Jorgenson Auditorium.

*“I had a feeling of what to expect when I arrived at her lecture; however, nothing could have prepared me for the experience I was to have at UConn.”*

**By Carlos Peralta**

On November 3, 2008, one of the most influential writers of this century, Maya Angelou, arrived at the University of Connecticut for a lecture concerning a variety of her published works. Recognized by many as one of the great voices of contemporary literature, Dr. Angelou has traveled the world, sharing the many lessons she’s learned over the span of her remarkable life and career.

In my ECE English course at The Morgan School in Clinton, Connecticut, we read *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou’s first autobiographical novel. I had a feeling of what to expect when I arrived at her lecture; however, nothing could have prepared me for the experience I was to have at UConn. Right away, one could not help but notice Dr. Angelou’s powerful presence, which is in no way a reference to her physical composure. After all, she appeared to be merely a frail aged woman sitting comfortably on stage with nothing more than some books and a microphone.

Yet, Dr. Angelou simply radiated wisdom, wisdom gained through years of struggle and joy. What was the reason for this effect? Was it her deep and soothing voice that enveloped the large audience at Jorgenson? Perhaps. But I came to believe that her influence was most attributed to a long-perfected mastery of words. Those familiar with Dr. Angelou’s work are well aware that she does not take word choice lightly. Each word added to each sentence or verse, has its purpose. “You are in the process of being educated, and I pray that you continue to be in that process all your life.” This statement, crafted for an audience of mainly college students, was perhaps one of her most powerful. Dr. Angelou rightly associates life with a continuing learning process that is never truly over. It is through learning that people are made better and without it, life may as well lose its meaning. Perhaps Dr. Angelou’s most admirable quality is her undying sense of humor. The mere fact that she was more than willing to laugh is a testament to her unwavering personality. Having lived through

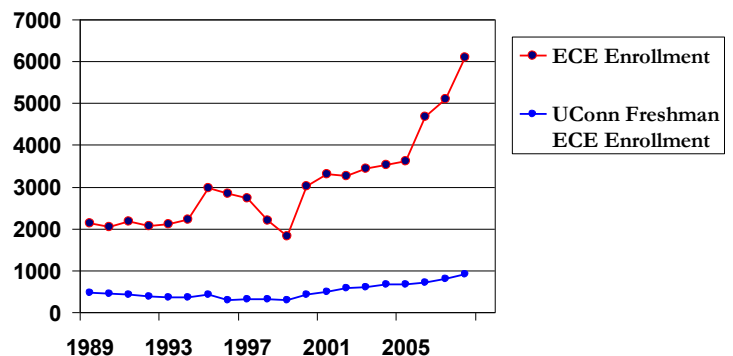
the pains of racism, rape, and adolescence, Angelou’s ability to continue laughing is one that speaks volumes about this inspirational poet. Despite her age, Dr. Angelou demonstrated that she still has a great amount of life left in her. Whether it was an amusing anecdote about a cranky waitress telling her to put out her cigarette, or her views on vegetarians, Dr. Angelou brought warmth and energy to the building.

The truth is I did not expect anything other than a typical lecture. Maya Angelou, however, would definitely not be categorized as providing a “typical” presentation. It’s simply not in her nature. Whether you have read some of her published works or have only heard her name, I urge anyone to attend an Angelou lectures. Undoubtedly, it will be an experience you will not regret.

**Carlos Peralta is a senior at The Morgan School in Clinton, CT. He is a UConn ECE student taking English 1011 with Michele Wickam.**

## ECE Enrollment Trends

Ever wonder how many students take part in UConn ECE each year? The chart on the right shows UConn ECE student enrollment beginning in 1989 to 2008 in red and the number of UConn first year students who enter the University with earned UConn ECE credit.

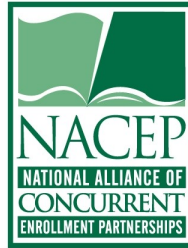


## ECE Bids to Host 2011 NACEP Conference

While most of us are just trying to get through 2009, UConn ECE is looking at the future; specifically October 22-25, 2011, the tentative dates for the 2011 NACEP conference. ECE has placed its bid to host the national conference and is betting on the fact that not many will want to turn down a weekend in Mystic, Connecticut during peak foliage season! While the conference remains an academically focused event with speakers and workshops taking up the majority of each day, ECE looks forward to welcoming over 200 NACEP

members to Connecticut and showcasing some of the state's and University's highlights. A reception is being planned at UConn, Avery Point campus along with a tour of its world famous marine science facility.

The NACEP conference is hosted each year by an accredited member of the organization.



## OEP + ECE = OECP

(continued from page 1) which are becoming increasingly popular for high school students as well as college age students. Director Jill Thorne chaired a committee this winter to help UConn develop policy guidelines for dual enrollment, and is currently serving on the Online Task Force that will be making policy recommendations to the administration.

The website will prominently feature UConn Early College Experience along with other information regarding registration, policy guidelines for additional options, perhaps including orientation tutorials and advising networks. We expect these options to be supplemental to UConn ECE courses, providing access to students interested in unique courses not available through UConn ECE.

## A New Website for UConn ECE

A new website is in the works for UConn Early College Experience! UConn ECE is currently working with UConn's Web Development Lab to create a brand new program website. The goal of the new design is to have a user-friendly interface for everyone affiliated with the program. "I'm really hoping that the new site offers one-stop shopping, so to speak, for not only our partner high schools but for ECE students and parents," said Jennifer Griffin, Marketing &

Communications Manager.

The new website will feature a new events calendar tool for easy access to student and professional development events hosted by UConn ECE. It will also provide downloadable program forms, specific requirements for instructor certification and important parent information. The new website will replace the current one at [www.ece.uconn.edu](http://www.ece.uconn.edu) and is set to launch this summer.

## Transition to College Conference Goes Bi-Annual

The Annual Transition to College Conference sponsored by UConn Early College Experience has moved from an annual event to a bi-annual event. UConn ECE would like to continue to offer dynamic keynote speakers and cutting edge topics, while also keeping the event free of charge for UConn ECE instructors. In order to do so, a decision was made to offer the conference once every two years, starting June 2010. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause for those who had planned to attend this year and hope to see you at next year's conference!

## Coventry Takes French Quiz Bowl

Only one team can be crowned as the 2008 French Quiz Bowl winners and this year that title went to... (drum role please)... Coventry High School! Over 100 students, from six high schools participated in 2008 UConn ECE French Immersion Day and Quiz Bowl on November 6th. High schools attendees included Brien McMahon, Coventry, Enrico Fermi, Glastonbury, Southington and Woodstock Academy.

**Michael Icart and Elise Ouellette, ECE French students and members of Team Coventry, proudly display their first place trophy after arriving back to the high school fresh from their victory.**





University of Connecticut  
Early College Experience

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
STORRS, CT  
PERMIT NO.36

**University of Connecticut**  
**UConn Early College Experience**

368 Fairfield Way U-2171  
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-2171  
Phone: 860-486-1045  
Fax: 860-486-0042  
www.ece.uconn.edu

## UConn ECE Calendar of Events

In an effort to keep UConn ECE instructors well informed of upcoming events, we have provided a list of scheduled professional development opportunities and important events. All events will take place on the UConn Storrs campus unless otherwise noted.

Formal invitations 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!

**March 26, 2009**  
Spanish Workshop  
Arjona Building, Room 339

**March 27, 2009**  
Physics Workshop  
MSB, Room P-121

**March 31, 2009**  
**Instructor Certification  
Application Deadline**

**April 1, 2009**  
Globalization Conference,  
UConn Stamford Campus

Human Development &  
Family Studies Poster  
Contest, Student Union  
Ballroom

**April 3, 2009**  
Medieval Studies  
Seminar, Wilbur Cross  
Building

English Mini-Workshop,  
Stern Lounge, CLAS  
Building

**April 23, 2009**  
Art Workshop

**May 5, 2009**  
American Studies  
Workshop

**May 7, 2009**  
Instructor Awards  
Banquet, Nathan Hale Inn

**May 13, 2009**  
French Workshop

**May 14, 2009**  
Statistics Workshop

**May 15, 2009**  
Chemistry Workshop

**May 21, 2009**  
Biology Workshop

**June 4, 2009**  
New Instructor Orientation  
Rome Ballroom

**June 30, 2009**  
**Student Registration  
Deadline**

**August 24, 2009**  
Math Workshop

**September 1—15, 2009**  
Student Add/Drop Period