

UConn Co-op Math Communicator

Newsletter of the University of Connecticut High-School Co-op Program in Mathematics

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Upgraded Math Co-op Web Site

The July issue referred to a major enrichment underway for the High-School Co-op part of the Department of Mathematics Web service. That was completed and put into a limited test mode at the start of the academic year, and became available to every certified teacher via a posting to the Math Co-op ListServ on November 11. (If you didn't receive that posting, which contains the user name and password to link to the new certified-teacher resources, please send an e-mail to Jim Hurley <hurley@math.uconn.edu>. He will get a copy of the posting to you. You should also send an e-mail to Parul.Patel@UConn.edu to request that Co-op Manager Parul Patel add your e-mail address to the ListServ as soon as possible.)

As before, the Math Co-op Web site is reachable by clicking on the High School Co-op link in the left column on the Department's Home page, at URL <http://www.math.uconn.edu>. Alternatively, you can paste the link's URL into your browser: <http://www.math.uconn.edu/CoopProgram>. Besides the prior links and information on that page — including recent issues of this Newsletter and an updated Getting Started/Approved Textbook list — there is a new Certified-Teacher Resources link that requires a password to access, as described in the November 11 posting. (The direct URL to reach it starts with the CoopProgram address, and adds */Restricted*.) Among those resources are the details of including core UConn-supplied material in your Math 115Q final exam, which is now a required part of the Co-op Math 115Q grading process. In addition, the Core Topics list and sample core final questions for both Math 115Q and 116Q are now on this site, as well as mid-term exams from the past three semesters. (The second Math 115 mid-term exam appeared November 30.) Recall that, in addition to practice exams and other valuable review material, last Fall's Math 115Q final is on the Class Home Page, also accessible from the Department's Main Page without log in, so both you and your students can access those resources.

This new area of the Mathematics Web Service completely replaces the former Document Repository on the central Co-op Web site at URL <http://www.hscoop.uconn.edu>. You may thus discard the cumbersome instructions to access that now-defunct site. The Central Co-op Web site, also recently updated, is worth a look as well.

Other New Web Resources

If you've been in the program for some time, you likely recall the True BASIC and Mathematica materials developed during the period of NSF support. This semester, Chuck Vinsonhaler asked your coordinator if he could provide an updated version of the routine that introduced area approximation by Riemann sums. Some searching located a very nice applet freely available to anyone. To get it, visit the St. Louis University Mathematics Department Web site at the URL: <http://www.slu.edu/classes/maymk/Riemann/Riemann.html>. Subsequent correspondence with the developer, Professor Mike May, S. J., resulted in his offering access to all his applets, as well as many others from the Web for which he secured permission to put on his site. The full collection (currently 29 applets in all) is at: <http://www.slu.edu/classes/maymk/MathApplets-SLU.html>. The Riemann-sum applet is easy to run over the Web, but Fr. May has set things up to make it simple to port his materials to a local system if that works better for you.

There is also an opportunity for you to help enhance this new resource. From Professor May's e-mail: "...to make the material more useful, I would like the applets to have sample worksheets showing how they might get used in a class. (Currently only about 4 applets have worksheets.) If any of your teachers would like to help by providing material that shows how they used the applets to teach, it would be appreciated." So feel free to share your ideas for using the applets directly with Prof. May <maymk@slu.edu> and Jim Hurley. It's easy to see potential for a stimulating presentation at next August's re-certifi-

cation workshop coming out of such efforts! (See the last edition for a note that solicited more presentations like John Duffy's for the future.)

Roland Minton's Talk

As reported in the last issue, Professor Minton's PowerPoint presentation garnered rave reviews. Unfortunately, many teachers could not attend due to commitments associated with the AP exam. When he learned about that, Professor Minton graciously offered to provide access not only to that presentation but also to the one he delivered the prior day at UConn's annual Math Awards Day. To view those PowerPoint slide shows, as well as a "bonus" presentation about teaching calculus, visit <http://www.roanoke.edu/staff/minton/uconn.html>. (Football fans may also wish to take a look at Prof. Minton's football rankings, which are at a nearby URL: replace "uconn" by "bynumbers".)

Reminders

Math 105 and 106 will be removed from the Co-op Mathematics program after the 2004–2005 academic year. Math 103Q and 107Q are the suggested replacements. (The Math 107 exams distributed at the workshop were incomplete. For a new set, contact Sharon McDermott: telephone, 486-6452; e-mail sharon@math.uconn.edu.)

Volunteers for pilot testing of the Math 116Q core final-exam component are now welcome. To sign up as a participant, you need only e-mail Jim Hurley. Testing will take place this coming Spring semester.

Keep in mind that Jim Hurley is happy to help identify appropriate class sections to visit at Storrs, and to coordinate arrangements for you. Contact him at any time to explore the possibilities.

Wish List Available

Printed versions of General Chemistry Coordinator

Cecile Hurley's presentation to the August, 2003, re-certification workshop, entitled "A Chemist's Wish List," are available from Sharon McDermott. The presentation illustrates how a number of computational algebra topics important in college chemistry and physics pose daunting barriers to success for increasing numbers of students. (Postscript: this year, the UConn Chemistry Department started a new three-semester general-chemistry sequence, Chem 124–125–125, which covers the topics of Chem 127–128 while incorporating work to develop appropriate study habits as well as necessary mathematical skills.)

Math 115Q Core Final Delivery

Your coordinator will be overseas during the period December 26–January 12. Should your final examination be scheduled earlier than January 18, please contact Jim Hurley by e-mail well before December 23 to make arrangements.

Distribution normally will be by a PDF file e-mailed the night prior to the class day before the final exam for Math 115Q at your school. (The extra day provides time to react should something fail in the e-mail transmission.) In all cases, please notify Prof. Hurley *at least a week* before the PDF file is to be e-mailed to you.

Co-op Commercials

Your coordinator was one of several who recently were interviewed by a UConn television crew. Rumors that the spots would be tested by the UConn Health Center as an insomnia remedy were erroneous☺ Current plans are to incorporate the interviews into future publicity about the High-School Cooperative Program.

Seriously!

Plans are reliably reported as nearly done to replace UConn's course-numbering system with a 4-digit scheme. Stay tuned for news about Math 1115...