Spring 2010 Speaker Series in Mathematics Education
The Center for Research in Mathematics Education, the Department of Mathematics, and Teachers for a New Era at the University of Connecticut proudly announce

Kenneth I. Gross

April 22, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.
Biology/Physics Bldg (BPB), Room 130
UConn Storrs campus

Elementary teachers as mathematicians: Turning challenges into opportunities

As the mathematics learned in the elementary grades forms the foundation for the mathematics taught at the middle and secondary levels and in college, the role of the elementary teacher is of crucial importance in laying the foundation for students’ success in later mathematics courses and ultimately for pursuing scientific and technological careers. If we are to raise student achievement at all educational levels and for all students, we must provide elementary teachers with a more broad and deep understanding of mathematics and the capability to translate that knowledge into the elementary school classroom. In this presentation we will discuss

- mathematics content needs of elementary teachers
- why primary teachers need to know “higher mathematics”
- the Vermont Mathematics Initiative (VMI), a successful statewide, content-based professional development program for K-8 teachers
- understanding arithmetic and algebra through English language grammar

and time permitting,

- enduring mathematical motifs that stretch from the kindergarten classroom to the research frontier.

Kenneth I. Gross is Professor of Mathematics and Education at the University of Vermont and Director of the Vermont Mathematics Initiative, a highly successful professional development program for elementary and middle school teachers. His A.B. and M.A. degrees are from Brandeis University and his Ph.D. is from Washington University. Ken’s career embodies excellence in research (representation theory of Lie groups and harmonic analysis), teaching at all levels, and academic administration. He has held faculty positions at Tulane, Dartmouth, North Carolina, Wyoming, and Vermont, has served as Program Director at NSF in both research and education, and has been visiting professor at a number of institutions at home and abroad. He has received the Lester R. Ford Award, Chauvenet Prize, and Haimo Distinguished Teaching Award from the Mathematics Association of America, as well as the highest awards for research and teaching at the University of Vermont.

All are welcome to this FREE event!