



# University of Connecticut

*Neag School of Education & College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

*Center for Research in Mathematics Education*

## **Fall 2009 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 the inaugural presentation in the Speaker Series in Mathematics Education.

### **Keynote Speaker: Liping Ma**

#### **The learning of fractions: How can it be built on the learning of whole numbers?**

There may be two approaches to teaching fractions: Teaching fractions "in parallel" with whole numbers or first teaching students about whole numbers, then building their understanding of fractions. The first is a well-known and widely used approach in U.S. elementary schools. This talk will describe the second approach: How students' understanding of the concept of fraction as well as their skill in computing with fractions may be built on their learning of whole numbers and how students' learning of whole numbers may be carefully designed so that it serves as a sound foundation for learning fractions.



Dr. Liping Ma is the author of the book *Knowing and Teaching Elementary Mathematics*. Her book is quoted on all sides of discussions about how to teach mathematics in elementary schools in the United States. She holds a master's degree in education from East China Normal University and a Ph.D. in curriculum and teacher education from Stanford University.

**October 8, 2009 at 4:30 pm**

Konover Auditorium at the Dodd Center  
UConn, Storrs

**All are welcome!**