September 2003

Dear Mathematics and Physics Student:

I am conducting a research project to find out if the new course Studio Calculus/Physics is as effective as the courses it replaces (Physics 407/408, Math 425/426). I am writing to invite you to participate in this project. I plan to work with approximately 300 students in this study.

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to

 ✔ Allow us to photocopy some of your course work such as tests and homework,
 ✔ Allow us to have access to your final grade and assignment grades in this course.

If you do not wish to participate, please fill out the back and return it to me by October 31st, 2003. You can return the form to the 407 homework box just outside Demeritt 105. You can also email me (dawn.Meredith@unh.edu), simply stating that you do not wish to participate in the study.

There are no known risks to being involved in this study. The anticipated benefits to you is the knowledge that you are helping us to look carefully at how our classes are working, which will lead to improvement in our course designs.

Participation is strictly voluntary; refusal to participate will involve no prejudice, penalty, or loss of benefits to which you would otherwise be entitled. In particular, your grades will not be affected by your choice to participate. If you agree to participate and then change your mind, you may withdraw at any time during the study without penalty.

To protect your identity, all identifiers will be removed from all written data and written records collected. No names will be used when reporting data, and reported data will be given in summary form. All data will be kept in a locked cabinet in my office.

The investigation will be conducted by myself and physics graduate student Mike Briggs.

If you have any questions about this research project or would like more information before, during, or after the study, you may contact me (Prof. Dawn Meredith, dawn.Meredith@unh.edu, 862-2062, Demeritt 209E). If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact Julie Simpson in the UNH Office of Sponsored Research at 603-862-2003 to discuss them in confidence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Meredith
Associate Professor of Physics
No, I, (please print your name) ______________________________ refuse/ do not agree to participate in this research project.

Please sign your name here: ______________________________

Date_________________________