

# **FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE**

*Weekly Digest for the Week of July 30, 2008*

*Special Summer Edition*

Welcome to the FYE community of faculty, staff, and students dedicated to supporting our new first-year and transfer students create a more successful transition to the University of Connecticut. The Weekly Digest will publish every Wednesday during the Fall semester and contain details about workshops, upcoming events, tips/techniques, and other information geared to help you have the best semester possible with your FYE class. This summer we will send you a bi-weekly edition to update you prior to the semester. Information will be sent to both INTD 1800/1820 and Learning Community instructors. Comments, suggestions and constructive critique are welcomed. E-mail [kevin.sullivan@uconn.edu](mailto:kevin.sullivan@uconn.edu) or [David.Quimette@uconn.edu](mailto:David.Quimette@uconn.edu)

## **FYE Summer Workshops and HuskyCT Training:**

We are offering ongoing training to prepare instructors for the Fall Classes. For more information, and to access the sign-up form for workshops, [click here](#).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
August 7	HuskyCT	9:30-11:30 AM	CUE 214
August 14	Course Development for INTD 1820	9:00-11:00 AM	CUE 130
August 14	Course Development for INTD 1800	1:00-3:00 PM	CUE 130
August 15	Course Development for INTD 1800/1820	1:00-3:00 PM	CUE 130
Arranged	HuskyCT One-on-One Training	Arranged	CUE 235

### **FYE Instructor Training - Course Development for INTD 1800 & 1820 Sections**

New and veteran instructors will have a chance to discuss how they will run their course in the Fall semester. Topics that typically come up in these type of sessions: 1) syllabus development, 2) grading, 3) assignments, 4) how to present effectively the writing and resume assignments, 5) use of the mentor, 6) sharing of activities to meet the learning objectives, 7) sharing of resources, and 8) relationship building between instructors, FYP staff, and students.

### **FYE Instructor Training - HuskyCT**

Orientation and training for new and returning FYE instructors will be conducted for the Fall 2008 classes. New instructors will be oriented to the mission, goals, and processes of the INTD 1800/1820 courses, while all instructors will be given access to and instruction in their section's HuskyCT sites, powered by the newest version of HuskyCT that all courses will use for the first time next semester. The training is critical for new instructors, and can ease the way into HuskyCT for returning instructors. Please sign-up above, as seating is limited.

### **HuskyCT One-on-One Training**

Do you feel you need some individualized help with utilizing the FYE template in HuskyCT? Contact Lesa von Munkwitz-Smith to arrange a session – your office or the FYP office in 235 CUE.

### **Focus on Students**

*(This section will include helpful activities/assignments for your INTD 1800 and INTD 1820 classes)*

- **AOD Education (Alcohol and Other Drug):** This is a critical curricular component to our INTD 1800! Please remember to sign-up for the AOD education session by e-mailing [nisha.hardnett@uconn.edu](mailto:nisha.hardnett@uconn.edu).
- **ALCOHOL Research Study Year Two:** Some of you may recall that we (FYE Instructors) participated in a federally supported study conducted by Carolyn Lin, Professor of Communication Sciences on campus last year. Her research is measuring

the impact of AOD interventions on the reduction of binge drinking at UConn. I would ask that you help us collect the data for this important study by asking your students to complete a pre-test survey one week in advance of the planned AOD session for your class and then complete a post-test 2 weeks after the AOD session.

The pre-test link is available currently by going to:  
[http://web.uconn.edu/alcohol/consent\\_form.php](http://web.uconn.edu/alcohol/consent_form.php)

I would suggest that you place the link in your INTD 1800 weekly on HuskyCT and direct your students to complete the survey the week prior to AOD's presentation for homework. In a future *Digest* we will provide the link for the post-test that you can ask students to complete approximately 2 weeks after AOD attends the class. Please feel free to call or email me ([David](#)) if you have any questions or concerns about the study!

- **Ask Ali**

Utilizing video clips and student-to-student advice, the 'Ask Ali' module is one of the new additions to the HuskyCT site for FYE courses. In a personal note to students, Ali writes:

*"I'm Ali, and I'm a seventh semester student here at UConn. I have worked hard to develop strategies and techniques that help me to create effective learning, as well as to produce consistent grades that reflect the time and effort I put into my education. It makes sense to me that students can help students to be successful. The video clips in this module are intended as an introduction to some of the approaches that work for successful students at UConn. Check them out, try them in your courses, and if you have any questions about studying, time management, memory techniques, or stress management, e-mail me at [askali@uconn.edu](mailto:askali@uconn.edu), or post to one of the discussion topics. Remember: if you are having a problem with a course, many others are also having similar problems, so don't be afraid to ask questions. Think of UConn as a complex game and make a choice to learn how to play it. It is worth it. I hope you have a great UConn experience!"*

Consider encouraging your students to "ask Ali" and check out these great videos.

## **Special Events**

First Year Programs is hosting a luncheon on August 20 from noon to 2:00 pm for Instructors and Mentors. If you haven't [signed up](#), please do so whether or not you are able to attend. Thanks!

First Year Programs and Residential Life are co-hosting a Kick-Off for Living and Learning Community Instructors, Hall Directors, and Community Assistants on August 12, from noon to 1:30 pm. Dr. Veronica Makowsky will be addressing the group. We will contact participants via e-mail later this week.

**Please note that all Weekly Digest issues for the semester are archived on our FYE ([www.fye.uconn.edu](http://www.fye.uconn.edu)) and HuskyCT Instructor Site.**

**HAVE FUN PLANNING YOUR CLASSES!**