

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Weekly Digest for the Week of August 22, 2008

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 or David.Ouimette@uconn.edu

HuskyCT Training

Do you feel you need a quick refresher for HuskyCT? Contact Lesavon@uconn.edu, 6-1735, to arrange a session – your office or the FYP office in 235 CUE.

HuskyCT Tips and Handouts

If you have questions about uploading your picture into your HuskyCT profile so it can be displayed in the Class Roster, refer to the new item, *HuskyCT Tips and Handouts*, in on the **First Year Instructors** HuskyCT site! Kim Chambers provided step-by-step directions on how to upload your roster picture to HuskyCT. Of course, if you need some assistance is doing this task, ask your mentor or contact Lesavon@uconn.edu, 6-1735.

Focus on Students

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

- **Involvement Fair:** The Involvement Fair is an easy way to explore many of the exciting things to do and get involved with on campus. Scheduled within the first 3 weeks of each semester, this event is an easy way for students to find something enjoyable to be a part of, discover a new interest, and even meet new people. More than 200 student organizations will be represented!
- **Nutrition and Wellness Services:** During the transition to college and even throughout students' time in college, making healthy decisions around food and exercise can be difficult. Registered Dietitians and Exercise Specialists are available to speak to your class on the topics of nutrition, exercise, and body image. Healthy eating and physical activity enriches students' well-being; mind and body.

To request a program or for more information, please contact Amy Pumerantz, Nutrition Coordinator of Student Health Services: 486-0771 or amy.pumerantz@uconn.edu.

- **The Office of Student Involvement** is offering to conduct short presentations to FYE classes about the importance and benefits of being involved on campus. The presentations will focus on the variety of involvement opportunities, including Community Outreach, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Club Sports, as well as other student-led groups with a variety of purposes and interests. Also discussed will be the resources available to students such as various websites, the Office of Student Involvement, and others, and how campus engagement enriches the UConn experience. Students will gain knowledge about the different groups as well as be given tools to overcome the anxiety and apprehension often associated with getting involved.

Any special requests for workshops can be sent to Andrea.Lama@uconn.edu with preferred times and dates of the presentations.

"We look forward to helping your students get involved!"

- **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.

Special Events

2008 East of California Conference: A Movement to Look Back To
October 31, 2008 - November 1, 2008
The University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

In 1993, the recently formed Asian American Studies Institute at the University of Connecticut hosted *the East of California Conference* (EOC). Fifteen years later, the EOC conference returns to UConn. As the Asian American Studies Institute celebrates its fifteenth anniversary, the field of Asian American Studies also celebrates a significant moment in 2008. The title for this year's conference signals the fortieth anniversary of the San Francisco State student strike that facilitated the emergence of Ethnic Studies within higher education. This history largely frames the 2008 conference, which brings together undergraduate activists, graduate students, archivists, and faculty to contemplate the past, present, and future of Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies.

Mindful that Ethnic Studies and Asian American Studies were born out of social justice agendas, conference presentations will directly examine the ongoing impact and legacy of the Civil Rights Movement in contemporary scholarship and activism. Additionally, papers will highlight interdisciplinary and intra-ethnic approaches within Asian American Studies. The conference opens with a keynote address by historian Gary Y. Okihiro, whose work continues to have a profound impact on Ethnic Studies scholarship. Roundtables and presentations will take place in the Student Union on November 1, and the conference will close with an address by Nitasha Sharma, who examines the place of hip-hop in Asian American and African American communal identity formation.

Please direct any questions to Cathy Schlund-Vials (e-mail: cathy.schlund-vials@uconn.edu) or to the Asian American Studies Institute (860-486-4751). These events are open and free to all UConn faculty, staff, and students. If you plan to attend, please fill out the on-line registration form, which can be found at www.regonline.com/EOC2008. The password for UConn faculty, staff, and students is "uconn." Light refreshments and lunch will be provided for conference attendees.

Friday, October 31, 2008

4 p.m.

Student Union Ballroom

Keynote Address Given by Gary Y. Okihiro

Gary Y. Okihiro is a professor of international and public affairs at Columbia University, where he was the founding director of the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. His research interests are Asian American studies and southern Africa. He is the author of nine books in U.S. and African history, six of which have won prizes, most recently of *The Columbia Guide to Asian American History* (Columbia University Press, 2001) and *Common Ground: Reimagining American History* (Princeton University Press, 2001). Others include *A Social History of the Bakwena and Peoples of the Kalahari of Southern Africa, 19th Century* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2000), *Storied Lives: Japanese American Students and World War II* (University of Washington Press, 1999), *Whispered Silences: Japanese Americans and World War II* (University of Washington Press, 1996), and *Margins and Mainstreams: Asians in American History and Culture* (University of Washington Press, 1994). He is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Studies Association and is a past President of the Association for Asian American Studies.

Saturday, November 1, 2008
Panel Sessions/Roundtables
8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Saturday, November 1, 2008
4:30 p.m.
Student Union Ballroom
Closing Address Given by Nitasha Sharma / Reception to Follow

Nitasha Sharma is an assistant professor in African American Studies and Asian American Studies at Northwestern University. In *Claiming Space, Making Race: Second Generation South Asian American Hip Hop Artists* (Duke UP, forthcoming), Dr. Sharma's ethnographic study of South Asian American hip hop artists analyzes their use of black popular culture to create and express alliances. She examines Black and South Asian race relations in order to document how immigrants insert themselves into existing racial hierarchies and, in the process, develop new discourses of "race." Dr. Sharma received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2004.

Reminders

A few reminders from previous Weekly Digests

Writing Assignment – Integrate writing into your FYE class. This is year two of our comprehensive writing assignment collaboration with the Writing Center on campus. The project combines attendance at Human Rights, Cultural Center, and Fine and Performing Arts events with a writing assignment and tutorial help in the Writing Center on campus. Based on feedback we received last year, we have created a one-page assignment that includes a short description of the assignment, straightforward instructions on how to complete the assignment and a grading rubric (see the *First Year Instructors* Assignments site in HuskyCT for the original files). We hope to send over 1500 first semester students through the Writing Center this September and October. The Writing Center has graciously assigned Mandy Suhr-Sytsma who has been a great help in developing the assignment and also willing to provide training to instructors. Mandy can be reached at 486-4387 or by email at mandy.suhrsytmsa@gmail.com.

Resume Assignment - Career Services, in collaboration with First Year Programs is offering a resume writing assignment for FYE classes this fall. Though typically associated with upper-class students, Career Services strongly believes first year students will benefit from creating this document early in their college career. There are excellent developmental and practical reasons why we believe that it is very important for first year students to learn this valuable, lifelong skill. Please see attachment and contact Larry Druckenbrod at 486-3013 or by email Larry.Druckenbrod@uconn.edu