

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Weekly Digest for the Week of September 3, 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. 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.Quimette@uconn.edu

HuskyCT Training

Do you feel you need a quick refresher for HuskyCT? Contact [Lesa von Munkwitz-Smith](mailto:lesa.von.munkwitz-smith@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 step-by-step instructions in *HuskyCT Tips and Handouts*, on the **First Year Instructors** HuskyCT site! Of course, if you need some assistance in doing this task, ask your mentor or contact [Lesa von Munkwitz-Smith](mailto:lesa.von.munkwitz-smith@uconn.edu), 6-1735.

The Roster Tool and Calendar Events—Clarifications

- The Roster in HuskyCT is different from that in PeopleSoft. The HuskyCT Roster provides only the student's first name and photo. Students must upload their own picture into HuskyCT, this cannot be done by the instructor or mentor. The PeopleSoft Roster provides information (such as email address, class standing, etc.) about the students who are currently enrolled in your class section.
- Adding new calendar events on HuskyCT can only be done by the instructor, not the mentor or students. If you want your mentor to be able to add events you must enable **non-section instructors** to add public entries to the calendar. Do this by going to the Teach tab → Manage Course → Settings → Calendar → then select all **true** values for the settings:

Calendar Tools	
Title	Value
Enable Calendar tool *	<input checked="" type="radio"/> true / <input type="radio"/> false
Display institution-level public entries in the section Calendar *	<input checked="" type="radio"/> true / <input type="radio"/> false
Allow non-Section Instructors to add public entries to the section Calendar *	<input checked="" type="radio"/> true / <input type="radio"/> false

*Required fields

Be sure to **save** when you are finished.

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. This year it will be held **Wednesday, September 3rd from 2:00pm to 8:00pm in the Student Union**. 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, so encourage your students to attend!
- **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.suhrsytsma@gmail.com.
- **Fraternity and Sorority Life** -- Many fraternities and sororities are going through their regular recruitment process in the first couple of weeks of the semester. There are many ways to find out more about what UConn fraternities and sororities have to offer. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life would love for any interested or questioning student to stop by any of these events or visit our website: www.greeklife.uconn.edu. Greek students will be present at the Involvement Fair to meet interested students as well.

Panhellenic Sorority Recruitment Orientation: Wednesday, September 3rd, 8pm in the SU Theater. Women interested in Panhellenic sororities will learn more about the recruitment process that begins September 4th and ends September 7th.

All of these events as well as specific information about how to join a fraternity or sorority can be found at the website listed above!

For more information, contact Lindsay Sell at lindsay.sell@uconn.edu or 860.486.8957.

Special Events

Encourage your students to attend these events as part of the *Writing Assignment*.

Human Rights Film Series

4:00PM Dodd Center

The Human Rights Initiative is sponsoring a series of films presented at the Dodd Center. These films compose a “cinematic exploration through the Universal Declarations of Human Rights.” The first films are as follows:

- **September 10 4:00PM: Article 1: Freedom & Dignity**

The Kite Runner (2007): Chronicles the lives of two boys, Amir & Hassan, in a divided Afghanistan on the verge of war.

- **October 1 4:00PM: Article 6: Recognition Under the Law**

Children in No Man's Land (2007): Uncovers the current plight of 100,000 unaccompanied minors entering the U.S. each year.

The 2008 Myles Martel Lecture

Margot Morrel, author of *Shackleton's Way*

Thursday, October 2nd 4:00pm- 5:00pm

Student Union Theater

Come hear Margot Morrel, author of the international bestseller, *Shackleton's Way*, the story of the great explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, who saved the lives of the 27 men stranded with him in the Antarctic for almost two years.

Constitution Day 2008: Amendment XIII

September 17, 3:00-5:00pm

Konover Auditorium

Guest Speaker: Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., Harvard School of Law <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/people/cogletree>. The Co-op will also host a book signing with Dr. Ogletree. Meet the Captain of the AMISTAD, Eliza N. Garfield, Ed.D. in a panel discussion, *The Amistad Freedom Voyage*, with Professor Mary Sarah Bilder, Boston College, and Erica Whyte, UConn student who served onboard as one of the crew! A special showing of the movie, *Amistad*, will be at the Student Union Theater September 14 & 17, free admission.

UConn Suicide Prevention Week

September 7th-13th

Suicide Prevention Week at UConn is September 7th through September 13th. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among college students. UConn and the community have not been immune from this terrible tragedy. With efforts like Suicide Prevention Week, UConn can make a positive impact to prevent the irreplaceable loss that is suicide. Suicide Prevention Week offers a variety of activities to raise awareness, give you the opportunity to express yourself, and develop the confidence and skills to respond preventively. We want to make you aware of these opportunities so you can assist in spreading the word about Suicide Prevention Week. All information about *The Week* can be found at <http://www.suicideprevention.uconn.edu>

Suicide Prevention Keynote speaker: Ross Szabo

Tuesday, September 9th, 7p.m.

Jorgensen

Ross Szabo is the Director of Youth Outreach for the National Mental Health Awareness Campaign and co-author of *Behind Happy Face, Taking Charge of Your Mental Health*. His candid conversation frames mental health in real language leaving participants with understanding of the life of a person living with a mental disorder. Szabo covers warning signs seen in friends or family and resources when someone needs help. His program is valuable for the millions that face some type of change, loss, and transition due to mental illness and suicide.

There are many more additional events scheduled which can viewed at:

<http://www.suicideprevention.uconn.edu>

India Studies Program

- **September 15: "An Indian Perspective on the 2008 U.S. Election."**
4:00 pm Class of 1947 Room, Homer Babbidge Library

Lecture by Dr. R. Ramesh Babu, Executive Director, Centre for Governance and Development, and Centre for Global Studies, Hyderabad. Dr. Babu taught for 28 years at the University of Bombay, where he was the Sir Pherozezshah Mehta Professor of Politics and

Head of the Department of Civics and Politics. He was the Senior Academic Fellow in International Relations at the American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad during 1994-1997, and he has received two senior Fulbright Fellowships. He has also served as the Research Director at the Foundation for Democratic Reforms in Hyderabad. Dr. Babu is a specialist in International Politics and American Politics. He has published ten monographs and books and over 50 articles in learned journals and periodicals. His books include *Globalization and the South Asian State*, *Thoughts on the American Presidential System and its Relevance to India*.

- **October 26: Landscape and Belief: A View Camera in the Himalayas**
3:00pm Benton Museum
A book signing talk will be held at the Co-op on October 22nd

For two decades, Kenneth Hanson has been taking dramatic black and white photographs of the Himalayas. The mountains provide a unique experience — beauty, joy, terror, awe. For the people of the mountains this encounter is woven into their beliefs. Increasingly the modern world intrudes. Hanson will discuss these interactions and show photographs from his recent book *Himalayan Portfolios; Journeys of the Imagination*.

- **October 30: “Indian Women in the House of Fiction.”**
4:10pm Class of 1947 room, Homer Babbidge Library
Co-sponsor: Center for International Business Education and Research

Annual Radha Devi Joshi Foundation Lecture by Dr. Geetanjali Singh Chanda, Senior Lecturer in the Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program at Yale University. Before Yale, she taught at the Hong Kong University and Gettysburg College. Dr. Chanda will speak on the subject of her recent book by the same title. In this book, she maps Indian English women's literature in India and the Diaspora while situating it in the larger framework of world literatures.

India Film Series

The Fall 2008 India Film Series will be on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 in room 106, Department of Art and Art History. This is sponsored by India Studies and the Department of Art & Art History. A more detailed description of each film will be sent out several days before the screening. For more information, please contact Kathryn Myers, Professor of Art, kathryn.myers@uconn.edu

- September 16: *Kabul Express*, starring John Abraham (2007)
- September 30: *Taare Zameem Par*, written, directed and starring Aamir Khan (2007)
- October 14: *Om Shanti Om*, starring Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone (2007)
- October 28: *Manichitrathazhu*, starring Mohan Lal, Suresh Gopa, Shobana (1993)
- November 11: *Chameli*, starring Raul Bose, Kareena Kapoor (2003)
- December 2: *Veer-Zaara*, starring Shah Rukh Khan, Preity Zinta (2004)

Instructor Info

Some important information for 1800/1820 Instructors

No-Shows

The Registrar's Office is working to identify new freshmen who enrolled, but who have not come to campus. The goal is to get them out of the system prior to the 10th day of classes, Monday, September 8. (If they are enrolled after that date, they become part of the cohort used to determine the University's freshman-to-sophomore retention rate and also our four and six year graduation rates. We don't want to include them in those calculations if they actually are attending Boston College.)

If you have any new freshmen in your INTD class who did not come to the first class, please send an email message to Pam Fischl (pamela.fischl@uconn.edu) with the student's name and PeopleSoft ID.

Dairy Bar Procedures

Instructors are welcome to bring their students to the Dairy Bar on a class trip. If you are interested in doing so, please note the change in procedure. This procedure can be found in *HuskyCT Tips and Handouts*, on the **First Year Instructors** HuskyCT site.

When planning to visit the Dairy Bar, please use the following guidelines:

- Ask your students which flavor they would like from the core flavor list below (orders are either a 4 oz. child size @ \$1 or 8 oz. 1 scoop cup @ \$2: only 1 flavor per scoop)
- Telephone your order to Jackie Patry or ask for the Student Manager on duty (6-2634 or 6-1021) with at least one-week lead time; the more notice, the better. Orders with less than 7 days notice will be charged the regular menu price (\$1.65 and \$2.59 respectively).
- For the order, the Dairy Bar will need to know your arrival date and time, as well as your class number (1800 or 1820) and section number. Specify that payment will be done through an online transfer voucher, billed to Veronica Vernik (6-3378), ISS- First Year Programs.
- If you want a tour of ice cream making, you should schedule it when the order is placed.

Writing Center Lunch Time Seminars

The Writing Center offers free lunch and seminars that may be relevant to FYE Instructors. You are encouraged to RSVP and attend. A description and directions to RSVP can be found at <http://www.writingcenter.uconn.edu/facultyseries.htm>.

One seminar of particular interest is on **Monday, September 22nd**. This presentation is entitled: "Responding to Student Writing: Are There Better Ways to Grade?"

Reminders

A few reminders from previous *Weekly Digests*

- **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](#) with preferred times and dates of the presentations. "We look forward to helping your students get involved!"

- **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.

- **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.