

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Weekly Digest for the Week of September 10, 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

Thoughts from the Director, David Quimette

This week, I began class by drawing a continuum on the white board. I asked my students to think about how their stress levels related to the previous week and then asked each student to mark where they fell on the continuum this week. Another instructor took 5-10 minutes going around the room and asked about a high point and low point of the week. In both activities, the range of the student's feelings surprised us. As we all know, the first semester is such a roller coaster of sensations and challenges for first year students, and I encourage you to find ways to build the connections and relationships to assist our students with the emotional impact of this experience. As I said to my class, "I would like to help you minimize the number of low points, or at least help you deal with them, and build on the high points."

Good luck -- your work as FYE instructors is so important to students. Thanks for the great work you do!

Instructor Info

Some important information for 1800/1820 Instructors

Writing Assignment. Check *HuskyCT* → *First Year Instructors* → *Recommended Assignments* for more information or contact Mandy Suhr-Sytsma by email at mandy.suhrsytsma@gmail.com or 486-4387.

Writing Center Lunchtime Seminars. Each semester the University Writing Center hosts a series of lunchtime mini-seminars on topics related to writing and the teaching of writing.

- **September 22, Monday, noon:** *Responding to Student Writing: Are There Better Ways To Grade?*

For more information, visit: <http://www.writingcenter.uconn.edu/facultyseries.htm>.

AOD Education (Alcohol and Other Drug). Sign-up for the AOD education session by e-mail: nisha.hardnett@uconn.edu.

Looking for a class on Student Involvement? Contact [Andrea Lama](#) with preferred times and dates for the presentations. "We look forward to helping your students get involved!"

Nutrition and Wellness Services. 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.

Dairy Bar. Instructors are welcome to bring their students to the Dairy Bar on a class trip, but please note the change in procedures. Check *HuskyCT* → *First Year Instructors* → *HuskyCT Tips and Handouts*.

Focus on Students

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

- **Study Skills Time.** As we enter the fourth week of classes, the first round of exams begins, and your students will report various levels of success. We have found this is an excellent time to discuss study skills,

specifically preparation for mid-term exams. Remember, a number of learning modules in HuskyCT address study skills and include ideas and activities for your class. This year, Husky CT class sections provide study skills videos. They feature Ali, a highly successful UConn student who talks about different study strategies. Encourage your students to check out the videos. Set aside time for the students to share how they plan to get good grades. What strategies will they use to study? Please feel free to call or email [Kevin](#) or [David](#). We are always happy to assist you.

- **EPSY Mentors.** The EPSY mentors have been analyzing their study habits over the last couple of weeks. Since the beginning of the semester, our theme has been self-awareness, and that one needs to be aware of one's own process for getting grades and negotiating the University before being able to help others. The mentors not only have impressive academic backgrounds, but also have a good grasp on the process, making them an extremely beneficial resource for the students in FYE.
- **Discovery Leadership Program Series.** Recommend your students get involved with the Discovery Leadership Program Series. Have students visit www.leadership.uconn.edu and click on *Discovery* for more information

Special Events: Expand your Students' Horizons!

Encourage your students to attend these events as part of the *Writing Assignment* or for personal enrichment.

September 14

- **Movie: Amistad**
2:00 pm, Student Union Theatre, Free Admission

September 17

- **Constitution Day 2008, Amendment XIII: Abolition of Slavery**
3:00-4:00 pm. Panel Discussion: "The Amistad Freedom Voyage"
4:00-5:00 pm. Charles J. Ogletree, Jr. Lecture
Konover Auditorium, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
[Constitution Day Events](#)
Please RSVP to the lecture and/or panel discussion by calling 486-1038 or by emailing rsvp@uconn.edu.
- **Movie: Amistad**
7:00pm, Student Union Theatre, Free Admission

October 1

- **Health Fair, UConn Student Health Services**
10:30-2:30 pm, Dow Field
- **Human Rights Film Series: *Children in No Man's Land* (2007)**
4:00 pm, Konover Auditorium, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
[More information about Film Series](#)

October 2

- **The 2008 Myles Martel Lecture: Margot Morrel, author of *Shackleton's Way***
4:00-5:00 pm, Student Union Theater
[About Margot Morrel](#). [About the Myles Martel Lecture Endowment](#).

HuskyCT Training

Do you feel you need a quick refresher for HuskyCT? Contact [Lesa von Munkwitz-Smith](#), 6-1735, to arrange a session – your office or the FYP office in 235 CUE.