

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Weekly Digest for the Week of September 17, 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. Comments, suggestions and constructive critique are welcomed. E-mail kevin.sullivan@uconn.edu or David.Ouimette@uconn.edu

Thoughts from the Director, David Ouimette

The fun and games are over! The first Chemistry exam is this Friday at 4PM... and I can tell this reality is creating stress for some students and denial for others. Tuesday, I asked my students to respond anonymously on an index card to the following question, ***“What are you are most concerned about as you study for upcoming exams?”*** Overwhelmingly, students responded they are concerned with the enormous amount of information they need to know and they are worried that they are not studying the "right" thing! One student wrote, "I am worried that I won't focus on the right topics or learn enough details; the exams cover so much material!"

After this, I asked the class ***“What steps do you take to be sure you are prepared for exams?”*** The answers were very general, such as "I study," or "I go over my notes," or "I check what I highlighted in the textbook," or "I review the PowerPoint slide handouts".... I then asked, ***“What would you be doing if I watched you study? How would you go over your notes? How would you read the text? How would you review the PowerPoint slide handouts?”*** The students began to respond by referring to a specific strategy, such as using index cards. My mentor and I then tried to convey the need to incorporate ACTIVE LEARNING strategies in their studying. I then showed them a clip from ***AskAli*** on our HuskyCT site -- the Cornell note-taking method. I then asked how they approached taking notes in class. It was fascinating to hear the various ways students handled note taking, but I also got the feeling that they have *no strategy*. As the class ended, I asked them to check out the videos and the associated resources on HuskyCT, so when they get their exam results back and realize they may need to make changes, they have alternative approaches. They also asked me about tutoring and I gave them this website <http://www.tutors.uconn.edu>, which has a comprehensive list of tutoring on campus.

Good luck and let us know what you are hearing from your students.

Research Symposium

On September 26th, the Division of Undergraduate Education and Instruction will hold a Research Symposium on First Year College Students in the **Dodd Center's Konover Auditorium** from **9-11AM**. The symposium will highlight recent research focused on UConn first year students. Presentations will include what we know about their academic, social and personal development during the critical first year. Following the presentations, the audience will have ample time for conversation and reaction to the presentations.

Please join us at 8:30 for coffee prior to the presentations.

Presenters include: Dr. Eric Soulsby: *National Student Survey of Student Engagement*
Dr. Sandy Bell, Dr. Sue Saunders and Dr. Jennifer Lease Butts: *First-Year Students' Views of Support from Parents, Peers, and Campus Personnel*
Dr. Crystal Park: *The First College Year: A Study of Students' Adjustment to College*

Instructor Information

Some important information for 1800/1820 Instructors

Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) Peer Educators. 45-50 minute workshops, usually involving brief film clips, interactive exercises, and discussion.

Workshop Offerings Include:

1. **Power and Relationships:** We invite students to examine the role of power in relationships and provide them with tools for assessing the health of their own connections.
2. **Living in the Dreamworld:** This workshop invites students to critically examine what media sources are telling us about our own sexuality and the ways in which we view men and women.
3. **The War Zone:** This workshop engages students in an exploration of everyday behaviors that may constitute sexual harassment.
4. **Tough Guise:** What does it mean to be a man? This film explores the cultural ideals of masculinity and its connection with various forms of men's violence. Discussion will focus on the ways that men and women can work together to prevent interpersonal violence.

To request a workshop, please send an email to VAWPP@yahoo.com. The email should include: Professor's Name, Course Title, Number of Students enrolled, Location, Date and time, and Workshop preference

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Kathleen Holgerson at Kathleen.Holgerson@uconn.edu or 860-486-4738.

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.

Focus on Students

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

- **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 18

- **Fast-A-Thon: Ramadan Awareness Dinner**
6:00pm, Rome Ballroom
R.S.V.P. via email to uconnfastathon@gmail.com or khayriyyah.munir@uconn.edu. Please include your name, email address, and a contact number.

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](#).

October 6- October 10

- **Clothesline Project: Art Display**
11:00-2:00pm Monday-Friday, Fairfield Way

October 15

- **Never Perfect—In recognition of the 11th Annual Love Your Body Day**
12:00pm, Women's Center Program Room (SU 421G)
For more information visit <http://womenscenter.uconn.edu/events.php>

October 17

- **Guerilla Girls**
7:00pm, Jorgensen Center for the Arts
Visit: <http://womenscenter.uconn.edu/events.php>

October 26

- **Landscape and Belief: A View Camera in the Himalayas: Kenneth Hanson**
3:00pm, Benton Museum

October 30

- **Radha Devi Joshi Foundation Lecture: "Indian Women in the House of Fiction": Dr. Geetanjali Singh Chanda**
4:10pm, Babbidge Library Class of '47 Room

November 3

- **Dr. Maya Angelou**
7:00pm, Jorgensen Center for the Arts
Visit: <http://womenscenter.uconn.edu/events.php>

November 11

- **"Globalization: India Present at the Creation": Nayan Chanda**
3:30pm, Babbidge Library Class of '47 Room

November 13

- **Dean Robert Gray Memorial Lecture: Maestro Keith Lockhart, conductor of the Boston Pops**
2:00pm, Von der Mehden Recital Hall
Contact Kirk Matson, Theatre Production Manager, von der Mehden Recital Hall, UConn
Kirk.Matson@uconn.edu 860.486.2969
- **"Waking from Dreams of India" : Neil Chowdhury**
4:00pm, Room 101 Dept. of Art and Art History

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.