

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Weekly Digest for the Week of October 1, 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 Roller Coaster Continues

Can you believe it is already time for your FYE students to meet with their advisors to plan the Spring 09 semester?

Maybe the timing is great. Because the first round of exams has ended, first year students may start having doubts about their choice of a major. A disappointing grade on the first Chemistry exam or a major paper can significantly affect a student's confidence. Suddenly, he or she may question becoming a pharmacist or historian. As you well know, changing a major based on a single poor grade does not make sense. However, it does make sense for students to think about their major, and how it fits with their skills, abilities, personalities, and aspirations.

ACES advisors have conversations with students about majors all the time and are happy to meet with students, from any school or college, who are anxious about their future at UConn and beyond. At this time of year, the best way for a non-ACES student to see an advisor is to come in as a "walk-in" (CUE, Room 111) any weekday between 9 am and 4 pm. Sometimes, advisors help students change direction early in their first year, but in most instances they simply reassure students that they have options and encourage them to play to their strengths.

For more resources, I would suggest you check on your **HuskyCT** site under *Instructor Resources* → *Instructor Guides* → *(Instr) Major Decisions/Career Choices*. This focuses on the following equation – **Self + Education + Experience = Career**. Alternatively, check the module entitled *(Instr) Discovering Career Interests and Values*, which provides related class activities.

Finally, the **Major Fair** is on Tuesday, October 14, 4-6 PM in the Student Union Ballroom -- sponsored by ACES and CLAS. This is a great event for students to discover all the possible majors from all the schools and colleges on campus and speak with both faculty and undergraduates about them.

Good luck!

Midterm Warnings

If a student in your INTD 1800/1820 class is earning a D, F, U, or N grade up to this point, you need to enter the grade into PeopleSoft before October 3 (see [instructions](#) for "Record Midterm Grades"). Mid-term warnings will be sent to the student and the advisor to initiate action to improve the student's performance.

First Year Instructors may receive mid-term warnings for students in their section via e-mail. Please meet with them and provide information about the many support services available at UConn.

Last semester, instructors submitted 3,665 midterm warnings. Fifty-eight percent of students who received warnings were able to improve their performance in those classes.

Instructor Roundtable Lunch

Meet with other FYE instructors to share experiences, both exhilarating and not so... Two sessions, both noon to 1:00 PM, one on October 21 (Tuesday) and the other on October 22 (Wednesday). Box lunch will be provided, so please register via [Roundtable Signup](#). Thanks!

Teaching Tip! Anyone? Anyone?

"When an open question has been asked of a group, it is imperative that the teacher sit still, be quiet, and pay attention. There is a great temptation to respond ourselves to the question just posed. This can mean our stealing the learning opportunity from the learners. The quiet that occurs before dialogue around a meaningful open question is sacred and essential to their learning." --Jane Vella

Instructor Information

Some important information for 1800/1820 Instructors

ConnPIRG. Contact ConnPIRG President Alex Nguyen at alexander.nguyen@uconn.edu to schedule a presentation of any length from 15-50 minutes.

AOD Education (Alcohol and Other Drug). Sign-up for the AOD education session by e-mail: nisha.hardnett@uconn.edu. Make sure students fill out this pre-test survey the week before the scheduled AOD presentation. The survey can be found at http://web.uconn.edu/alcohol/consent_form.php.

If you are **not** having AOD present in your class, please consider having your students take a short pre- and post-test that will create a control group for Dr. Lyn's study.

Contact jeffrey.carlson@huskymail.uconn.edu for details.

Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) Peer Educators. 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. For more information, visit: <http://www.writingcenter.uconn.edu/facultyseries.htm>.

Résumé Assignment. The résumé template has been added to *HuskyCT* → *First Year Programs - First Year Instructors* → *Recommended Assignments*. The file will open in Microsoft Word.

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/information for your INTD 1800 and INTD 1820 students)

- **Major Fair.** Encourage your students to attend the Major Fair, **Tuesday, October 14th** in the Student Union Ballroom from 4:00-6:00pm. Students will have the opportunity to talk with faculty and student representatives from majors in all of UConn's schools and colleges. For more information, call the ACES office at 486-1788.
- **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.
- **Exams and Study Skills.** The first round of exams is in full swing, and it is a good time to direct your students to the time management, stress management, study skills, and Ask Ali resources available to them on HuskyCT. Btw, Ali is happy to answer any of their questions about 'playing the game of UConn' through her ask.ali@uconn.edu e-mail address. This is another powerful way for us to support the relationship with the academic life at UConn that our students are in the process of establishing.
- **Long River Review Literary Magazine.** Students may submit works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry for publication in the Long River Review Literary Magazine. Submissions for the first issue will be accepted until February 12th, 2009. Collection boxes are found in the CLAS building in the main English Department office, in the Freshman English office, and right outside the elevator on the third floor. For more information, email AmandaWLR08@gmail.com.

Special Events: Expand your Students' Horizons!

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

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](#).
- **Symphonic Band, with David Mills, conductor**
8:00pm, von der Mehden Recital Hall
General admission: \$7, Students with ID and children are free

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 21

- **Ninth Annual International Human Rights Conference on Religion: UNESCO Chair & Institute of Comparative Human Rights**
9:00am, Student Union Theatre
To register call 486-0647. Visit www.unescochair.uconn.edu for more information.

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

October 31- November 1

- **2008 East of California Conference: A Movement to Look Back To**
Keynote Address Given by Gary Y. Okihiro
Friday, October 31, 4pm, Student Union Ballroom
Panel Sessions/Roundtables
Saturday, November 1, 10:00am-3:45pm, Student Union Ballroom
Closing Address Given by Nitasha Sharma
Saturday, November 1, 4:00om, Student Union Ballroom
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).

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.vonmunkwitz-smith@uconn.edu), 6-1735, to arrange a session – your office or the FYP office in 235 CUE.

If interested, FYE instructors may attend HuskyCT workshops in room 214 of the CUE, courtesy of the IRC: http://www.irc.uconn.edu/IRC_workshops.htm.

Workshop Date	Workshop Title
Oct. 2, 2:00 to 3:00	HuskyCT Communication Tools
Oct. 7, 2:00 to 3:00	HuskyCT Gradebook
Oct. 8, 11:00 to noon	Safe Assign in HuskyCT
Oct. 14, 11:00 to noon	HuskyCT Assignment Tool
Oct. 21, 3:00 to 4:00	HuskyCT Group Manager and Selective Release
Oct. 24, 10:30 to noon	HuskyCT Quiz and Survey Basics