

# **FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE**

## ***Weekly Digest for the Week of October 15, 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](mailto:kevin.sullivan@uconn.edu) or [David.Ouimette@uconn.edu](mailto:David.Ouimette@uconn.edu)

### **Thoughts from the Director, David Ouimette**

#### **Midnight Madness and Homecoming Fun and then Week 8**

I am often amazed at how many first-year students do not take part in two fall events that attract large crowds in Gampel and generate big excitement on campus! The first one, known affectionately as *Midnight Madness*, even though it starts at 7 PM, marks the beginning of the basketball season and unfolds this Friday, October 17.

The other event, which I think has a wonderful reputation, is the 2008 Homecoming *Annual Lip Sync Competition*, 8 PM on Friday, October 24. This is another high-energy event, highlighting students entertaining over 6000 fellow students! As we look for ways to assist our new students to build a relationship with the UConn community, both of these events contribute to a sense of pride in UConn traditions.

Week 8 is a time to have discussion on the looming *drop deadline* and what it means. As most of you know, October 27 is the last day to drop a class, and some of your students may want to consider this option. This week, I pulled up the [GPA calculator](#) in class and we went over some hypothetical situations. I suggested that they look at best and worst case scenarios so they have a realistic view on how they are doing in their classes. I mentioned the 1.8 term GPA as the cut off for academic probation and provided a general idea of what they need to do to achieve the [Dean's list](#). I also mentioned that if they were in a situation in which they are not doing well, divine intervention usually does not occur in the last four weeks of the semester. I also recommended that they discuss this with their academic advisor. Some students already have questions about what a "W" means and if it will taint them in the future. I find that the thought process leading to dropping a class can be the first major decision a student makes. Often it will be a decision they have to make on their own and sometimes at odds with family members. If you have students in this predicament, please encourage them to talk with you and their advisor so they can make the best decision for their future.

As always, thanks for your good work and do not hesitate to call me!

### **Writing Assignment Instructor Support**

On Monday, October 20, from noon-1:00 PM in CUE 213, FYE and the Writing Center will host a workshop focused on grading student writing. We will discuss strategies for effective, efficient grading; we will address ways to grade for revision; and we will practice grading actual student essays. This workshop is targeted at instructors using the FYE Writing Assignment Templates but will have relevance for any instructors who assign (and grade) writing. Lunch will be provided. Sign up for this workshop by clicking on this link: [Writing Assignment Workshop](#).

## Instructor Information

### Some important information for 1800/1820 Instructors

**ConnPIRG.** Contact ConnPIRG President Alex Nguyen at [alexander.nguyen@uconn.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Kathleen.Holgerson@uconn.edu) or 860-486-4738.

**Writing Assignment.** The University Writing Center liaison to the INTD 1800 instructors is Mandy Suhr-Sytsma. She is happy to answer your questions/concerns, as well as offer suggestions for the Writing Assignment. Her office is in CUE 125. Her office hours are Monday from 1-3pm and Tuesday from 1:30-3:15pm. Her office phone number is 860.486.2419 and email is [mandy.suhrsytmsa@gmail.com](mailto:mandy.suhrsytmsa@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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](mailto:amy.pumerantz@uconn.edu).

## Focus on Students

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

- **Discovery Leadership Program Series.** Recommend your students get involved with the Discovery Leadership Program Series. Have students visit [www.leadership.uconn.edu](http://www.leadership.uconn.edu) and click on Discovery for more information.
- **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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:AmandaWLR08@gmail.com).

- **Extra Help in Chemistry.** Chemistry professor, Dr. Brenda Shaw will be having office hours on the second floor of the CHEM building (A201, A202, and T201) on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. Students can choose to come as a group or individually. There are tables available for study groups and she will be there to answer questions. She will be having these same evening office hours for a few more weeks, in case any students in CHEM 1124 or CHEM 1127 would like to study alone or in groups at that time.

## Special Events: Expand your Students' Horizons!

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

### 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](http://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

### November 1

**Closing Address Given by Nitasha Sharma**  
Saturday, November 1, 4:00pm, Student Union Ballroom  
Please direct any questions to Cathy Schlund-Vials (e-mail: [cathy.schlund-vials@uconn.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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 [Lesla von Munkwitz-Smith](#), 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](http://www.irc.uconn.edu/IRC_workshops.htm).

Workshop Date	Workshop Title
Oct. 21, 3:00 to 4:00	HuskyCT Group Manager and Selective Release
Oct. 24, 10:30 to noon	HuskyCT Quiz and Survey Basics