

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Weekly Digest for the Week of October 22, 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

Have you had the experience of going to Regional or National Conferences and realize certain workshops demand that you must arrive early or you have no chance of getting in? Well, at the National Conference on the First Year Experience, Dr. Joe Cuseo, Professor of Psychology at Marymount University, is just such a presenter. Kevin and I never miss a workshop by Joe!

Attached you will find one of his handouts entitled, *Teaching the First Year Seminar: Theory and Practice*. In this handout, he outlines the key research-based principles of student success such as "personal validation", "self-efficacy," "personal meaning," "active involvement," "social integration," "personal reflection," and "self-awareness." As you will read in the attachment, numerous theories support each principle. Our challenge as instructors is to take something like this theory and transform it into practice over the course of the semester.

Although the practice is the difficult part, I know that we all do our best to make a connection with each of our students each week. Simple things, such as knowing the names of students, developing small group activities, and decision-making exercises, drive home these principles. At the recent FYE Roundtables, I discerned how much FYE instructors and mentors care about their classes, about helping their students enjoy success at UConn - even if they drive us crazy at times!

I hope you enjoy the next five weeks; they can be the most important for our students' success!

Focus on Instructors

(This section will highlight FYE instructors that are making a significant contribution to the University.)

Police Officers Tom Ryba and Chris Casa teach their own section of FYE, as well as make presentations in other classes. This year, they have made well over 50 presentations on campus safety. Check out this video about campus safety precautions. A portion of it was filmed during a presentation in Maryann Morris's FYE class.

<http://www.wfsb.com/video/17597059/?taf=hart>

Instructor Information

Some important information for 1800/1820 Instructors

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. 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.suhrsyttsma@gmail.com.

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)

- **Study Skills and Stress Management Workshops.** Encourage students to attend one of three workshops that will help them with important skills. The dates of the workshops are: **Study Skills**, 10/27/2008 and 11/05/2008 from 5:00-6:00PM in CUE 134 and **Stress Management**, 10/28/2008 from 5:00-6:00PM in CUE 134. Questions? Email kevin.sullivan@uconn.edu. Instructors are welcome to attend as well, especially for Stress Management!
- **Urban Semester Program.** The Urban Semester Program is currently accepting applications for the spring 2009 Semester. The program offers students a unique and exciting opportunity to live in Hartford and perform public service internships. Students spend 3-1/2 days a week in an internship in a local organization and attend two weekly seminars. Internships are available for a variety of majors. Students receive a full 15 credits for the classes and internship. For applications and further information, please stop by or contact the Urban Semester Office in room 323 of the Center for Undergraduate Education, telephone 860-486-5997.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 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) 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.von.munkwitz-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. 24, 10:30 to noon	HuskyCT Quiz and Survey Basics