

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Weekly Digest for the Week of November 20, 2009

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 Friday 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. This summer we will send you a bi-weekly edition to update you prior to the semester. 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.Ouimette@uconn.edu

Evaluations

Evaluations have arrived from the Office of Institutional Research and are being distributed to the primary instructors for INTD class sections. Please review the directions and make sure you appoint a monitor to pass out the forms and provide instructions to students (mentors can be used for this role as well as a responsible student in your class). You should leave the room while the forms are being completed, so allow 15-20 minutes for the task. Be sure to give the monitor the orange sheet; there are directions that need to be read to the class. If you have any questions, feel free to call Lesa von Munkwitz-Smith, 6-1735, or the First Year Programs Office, 6-3378.

Thoughts from the Director, David Ouimette

Happy Thanksgiving!!

After the break we only have 2 class sessions left. Some instructors have asked for suggestions on how to finish off the semester. I know that many instructors have found creative ways to wrap up the semester through group presentations. Other instructors, for example, ask their students to write a letter to next year's incoming students detailing lessons learned. I have asked my mentors to create a PowerPoint presentation that we do on the last day that reviews the material we have covered as well as some fun facts about UConn. If you are interested, we have a Jeopardy Game Board in PowerPoint ready for you to plug in the information on your HuskyCT course site > Home Page > Instructor Resources > Other Topics > UConn Jeopardy (there is an example there as well).

We all like to impart our wisdom at the end of the semester. I have found Joe Cuseo's "[Getting the Most Out of College](#)" document (also available to students at Home Page > Important Links and Resources > Getting the Most out of College) very beneficial. It has a nice checklist to initiate a conversation about ways to plan ahead. I have found and students have commented that they feel like they this provides a jumpstart on creating a four-year plan to make the most of their time at UConn. On way to do this is to think about becoming an FYE mentor – see below.

Another way to help the process along is to recommend students take a faculty student seminar next semester. Please send them the link to find out the seminars that are available and direct them to click on the description of the topic to see a flyer for the class. Go to <http://web.uconn.edu/fye/INTD1820.htm>.

Thanks again for all your good work in FYE and enjoy next week.

LOOKING for FYE Mentors – Fall 2010 (Great opportunity to promote)

If you have any students who exemplify leadership, diversity, and/or mentoring abilities, then encourage them to become FYE mentors for Fall 2010! We have posted a short interest form on the FYE website for those students who are interested in mentoring and will be notified when the mentor recruitment process begins in January 2010. Please don't hesitate passing this link to your current FYE students, http://web.uconn.edu/fye/become_mentor.htm

Instructor Spotlight: Carl Dean Jr.

Carl Dean Jr, a counselor in the Student Support Services Department, is also the instructor for the FYE 1820 *Performance Poetry* class. He has taught the 1-credit course for five years and his inspiration for the subject matter comes from his own part-time occupation as a poet. He is a published author with a recent book, *Life... Through the Words & Between Lines*. His course attracts many types of students: poets, journalists, songwriters, rappers and more. In class, students share their own personal poetry, read the poetry of others, and listen to the poetry of guest poets and former students of the course. Carl has found that often the students in his Performance Poetry course have written their poetry down, but have not expressed it out loud and it is his mission to bring them outside of their comfort zone in order to promote their personal growth. He finds this student development the most exciting and rewarding part of teaching the FYE course.



Instructor Information

(This section will include schedules for HuskyCT training sessions and instructor workshops as well as information for planning classes)

All You Want to Know About H1N1, But Haven't Had a Chance to Ask

Dr. Mary Manton, one of the physicians at Student Health Services who is very involved with the H1N1 plans at UCONN, is interested in coming to FYE classes to discuss and answer any questions on H1N1 and its prevention, treatment, etc. Contact her by email mary.manton@uconn.edu to arrange for a presentation to your FYE class.

Benton Museum of Art and First Year Experience

FYE Educators! Museum Tours Alert!

Many people know that the Benton Museum's budget was cut this past spring, which resulted in closing our doors to the public on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. But, did you know that you can still schedule a tour for a Tuesday or Wednesday? We're not going to let budget cuts prevent us from what we do best, introducing students to art! Tour hours are still 10:00 – 3:30, Tuesday through Friday and 1:00 -4:00 on weekends. If you would like a tour for your group, please see information below.

Tracy Lawlor, Education Coordinator
phone **486-1711**
e-mail tracy.lawlor@uconn.edu.

Tour requests may also be made by going to our website www.thebenton.org and click on *Education*.

Continuing the Tradition: UConn Dairy Bar:

A favorite among students, instructors can take their class on a field trip to the dairy bar for ice cream and/or a tour of the facility. When planning to visit the Dairy Bar, please use the following guidelines (also found on the HuskyCT instructor site):

- Ask your students which flavor from the list on HuskyCT they would like (orders are now either a 4 oz. or 8 oz cup)
- Telephone your order to Jackie Patry or the Student Manager (6-2634 or 6-1021) with a one-week lead time. Identify yourself as an FYE instructor and give Jackie your class number and section (i.e., 1800.001)
- She will need to know your arrival date and time
- If you want a tour, you may also schedule at this time
- There is no need to stop by FYE for a voucher, it is all done electronically

Learning Community Updates

submitted by Melissa Foreman, Learning Community Coordinator, First Year Programs

LC Web Presence. The new UConn website highlights Learning Communities on the Academics and Index pages, and there is also a link to the Learning Communities Blog on the Connect page (www.uconn.edu, click "Connect" under "Quick Find"). The website and blog are a great way for students considering living in a Learning Community to learn more about their options.

We need more blog submissions from LC students and instructors highlighting activities in your community!

Global Citizenship. UConn's Academic Plan for 2009-2014 emphasizes the need "... to prepare our students for work and personal success as participants in an internationalized economy and an increasingly diverse society. " Dr. Margaret Lamb, through her work on the Global Citizenship Curriculum Committee, oversaw the creation of a new Global Citizenship website (<http://globalcitizenship.uconn.edu>) which includes a "Global Learning Outcomes" document that can guide the incorporation of these concepts into your courses and service learning activities. There is also a Global Course database students can be encouraged to use for identifying classes across disciplines to round out their exposure to global issues while on campus. Be sure to check this new resource out!

Special Events

(This section will include events in that students can attend for the Writing Assignment or personal enrichment.)

November 20-December 4

- **[Futurescape: Making of the Super City, Art Exhibit](#)**
With the invention of the camera, the need for artists to copy nature blindly and to hold on to the traditional techniques of painting perspective became redundant. Artists were freed to fracture objects into geometric forms and present subjects from several angles and different moments in time. What unites the paintings in Futurescape is the artists' ability to blur the lines between figuration and abstraction, and collapse art history with references ranging from early Modernism to Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art. They employ surprising overlapping, multiple layering, and unexpected vanishing points. The exhibition reveals that artists are again interested in the dynamism and conditions found in today's urban environments and that they are exploring and finding new ways to compress and expand time and space. This is the focus of Futurescape. Artists include: Thomas Eggerer, Jules de Balincourt, Francesca DiMattio, Yoon Lee, Benjamin Edwards, Nicola López. Jacob Feige and Tomory Dodge.
Art Building, Contemporary Art Gallery, M-F, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Free

Nov 23-29: Thanksgiving Break

December 1

- **Kangho Lee, cello and Minyoung Lee, piano – Classical Music**
Formed at Yale University, the Lee duo performed extensively in North America and Europe. Cellist Kangho Lee has been a sought-after soloist and chamber musician worldwide since his orchestral debut with the Seoul Philharmonic at the age of 12. Acclaimed for her “extraordinary sensitivity” and “mesmerizing” playing by the San Francisco Classical Voice, pianist Minyoung Lee has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia.
Jorgensen Center Main Stage, 7:30 P.M., UConn Student Hot Seats \$7 with valid student ID.

December 1-4

- **[World AIDS Week](#)**
The UCONN campus has come together to host a collaborative effort by various university groups and student organizations that have joined for a week of activities and events. Students, staff, and faculty are invited to participate in an entire week’s worth of on-campus activities. Click on title for full schedule.

December 1: Kick-Off Event

Wear Red! Donate Books! Shoot Hoops! Raise Money!

Gampel Pavillion, 3-10 pm.

World AIDS Day, Meet the Author, Seth Kalichman

The Director of the Southeast HIV/AIDS Research & Evaluation Project in Atlanta, Georgia and Cape Town, South Africa, and a Clinical Community Psychologist and Professor of Sociology, Seth Kalichman has devoted his life to preventing HIV infections and reducing the emotional and physical harms caused by the scourge of AIDS. In his book *Denying AIDS: Conspiracy Theories, Pseudoscience, and Human Tragedy*, he tackles homophobia, racism, and junk science.
UConn Co-op, 4-6 pm. Free

December 1

- **Piano Concert, Arijit Chakraborty**
Student recital
Von der Mehden Recital Hall, 8-10 pm. Free.

December 1

- **Lecture: *The Power of the LGBT Market***
The Rainbow Center's Out to Lunch Lecture Series continues the semester with a presentation by Dena Castricone. *The Power of the LGBT Market: Influencing Social Policy Through Economic Impact* will probe the reason why the LGBT market has proven to be one of the most economically powerful niche markets. With over \$700 billion in buying power, the LGBT market is changing the way companies to do business. LGBT consumers are using the all mighty dollar to demand equal benefits and community support and corporate America is responding. Both internal corporate policies and external community support has seen many positive changes.
Student Union, Rainbow Center, 403, 12-1:30 pm. Free.

December 3-12

- **Connecticut Repertory Theatre: Galileo**
By Bertolt Brecht, Directed by Gary M. English
Galileo hears of a new invention, a telescope, and builds one for himself. With it, he confirms that the earth rotates around the sun. For this, he is summoned before a tribunal of the Inquisition where he is threatened with torture if he does not recant his findings. Bertolt Brecht puts the dilemma of one of history's greatest thinkers center stage.
See CRT website for ticket and performance schedule: <http://www.crt.uconn.edu/index.html>
Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts, Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre

December 3

- **Benton Museum Gallery Talk**
A guided talk with a Benton Museum educator about the exhibit, *Women's Work, Women's Dreams*.
Benton Museum of Art, Lobby, 12:15-12:45 pm. Free
- **CHIP Lecture Series, *HIV Among Drug Users in Kazakhstan: Driving Forces and Implications for HIV Prevention and Treatment***
By Nabilla El-Bassel, Columbia University.
Ryan Refectory 204, 12:30-1:30 pm. Free

December 4

- **Panel, Institute for African American Studies 20th Anniversary**
9:30 - 10:00 am, Refreshments
10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Welcome by Provost Nicholls; introduced by Olu Oguibe
Panel: "From Black Studies to African American Studies: A History of the Institute and Black Studies/African American Studies at UConn"
Ronald Taylor, Professor and Vice Provost Emeritus of Office of Multicultural and International Affairs, UConn; Robert Stephens Professor of Music, UConn; Daryl Harris Chair and Professor of Department of Political Science, Howard University; Jeffrey Ogbar Assoc. Professor of History and Assoc. Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UConn; Olu Oguibe Interim Director, Institute for African American Studies and Professor of Art & Art History, UConn.
2:00 - 2:45 pm Keynote Address by Donald Spivey Professor of History and Cooper Fellow, University of Miami and Founding Director, IAAS, UConn.
2:45 - 4:30 pm, Panel: "The Future of African American Studies at UConn"
Amii Omara-Otunnu Professor of History and UNESCO Chair and Director, ANC, UConn; Michelle Williams Assoc. Professor and Director of Clinical Training, Psychology, UConn; Olu Oguibe Interim Director, Institute for African American Studies and Professor of Art & Art History, UConn; Stephen Balkaran Philosophy Visiting Faculty, Central Connecticut State University.
Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium, 9:30am - 4:30pm. Free
- **Jingle Jam – A Cappella Holiday Show**
Boston's premiere a cappella group, Five O'Clock Shadow, joins select UConn *a cappella* groups for a Holiday Jingle Jam like no other!
Jorgensen Center Main Stage, 7:30 P.M., UConn Student \$3 with valid student ID.

December 5

- **Boston Pops Winter Gala, Popular Music**
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, Keith Lockhart, Conductor
Since its beginning in 1885, the Boston Pops has evolved into a beloved American institution. Celebrate the magic of the holiday season as Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in their annual Holiday Concert of traditional carols and festive modern classics.
Jorgensen Center Main Stage, 7:30 P.M., no student discount: \$60, \$50, \$30
- **Opera á la Carte, UConn Opera Lab**
A potpourri of classical opera scenes by Mozart, Cimarosa, and many more, brought to life by the UConn Opera Studio.
Music Building 109, 3 pm