

# **FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE**

## ***Weekly Digest for the Week of July 2, 2009(Special Summer Edition II)***

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](mailto:kevin.sullivan@uconn.edu) or [David.Ouimette@uconn.edu](mailto:David.Ouimette@uconn.edu)

**Save the Date: August 27, Noon to 1:30PM→Instructor/Mentor Luncheon**  
**Follow this [LINK](#) for more information and to access the sign-up form.**

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

Over 3000 new transfer and first-year students have been to campus as the 2-day sessions of Orientation end today. We have 92 sections of 1800 filled to capacity and just one section with seats available. There is still room in our INTD Faculty-Student seminars (<http://web.uconn.edu/fye/INTD1820.htm>) and they will be opened to sophomores on July 9. The Learning Communities (both Residential and Non-Residential) have strong enrollments too!

It is hard to believe that the Spring semester ended 2 months ago, and I know with Orientation ending, vacations are about to begin. This is a big training time for us in the office and we want to address your needs in teaching your class. Lesa has been conducting a number of HuskyCT sessions and I would encourage you to take part as we would like for you to see this year's template ([http://web.uconn.edu/fye/workshops\\_info.htm](http://web.uconn.edu/fye/workshops_info.htm)). Lesa is also willing to do individual sessions with you as your schedule permits.

Well enough of the details... summer is for reading so I attach an article from Cathy Love entitled "[How do we inspire them?](#)" by James Lang. This is a response to Thomas Benton's article "Hell's Classroom." Lang's approach to inspiring students I believe strikes at the core of what we try to accomplish in FYE. Toward the end of the article he writes:

*No doubt a small percentage of our students have been blessed with supreme self-confidence. But I believe they are the exception. Most students, like most human beings, need help in learning to believe in themselves. Teachers can provide that help. We do it in the ways in which we talk to students; in the praise we give them even when they have failed. We do it by helping them understand that success — in some shape or form — is possible.*

In the writing assignments, resume critiques, and classroom presentations, we are finding ways to provide honest feedback that as Lang says does two things – tells students how to succeed at the college level and reinforces the concept that they can do it.

Hope you enjoy the article and if you run across readings that we can pass along – send them our way. Have a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

### **Instructor Information**

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

### **FYE Summer Workshops and HuskyCT Training**

We are offering ongoing training to prepare instructors for the Fall Classes. For more information and to access the sign-up form for workshops, [click here](#).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Workshop Title</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
July 9	HuskyCT: Basics for 1800 Instructors	1:00-3:00 PM	CUE 214
July 15	INTD 1800 Returning Instructors Workshop	1:00-3:00 PM	HBL Class of '47 Room
July 16	INTD 1800 Returning Instructors Workshop	10:00 AM-noon	CUE 134
July 20	HuskyCT: Grade Book Features	1:00-3:00 PM	CUE 214
July 21	HuskyCT: Creating the Instructor Webpage	1:00-3:00 PM	CUE 214
July 22	HuskyCT: Grade Book Features	1:00-3:00 PM	CUE 214
July 23	HuskyCT: Refresher for 1800 Instructors	1:00-3:00 PM	CUE 214
Arranged	HuskyCT: One-on-One Training	Arranged	Arranged

Sign up on the web: [FYE Workshop and Training Sign Up Form](#)

### **INTD 1800 Instructor Workshops**

First Year Programs is doing training a bit differently this year. Rather than grouping all instructors together, we're focusing on first-time instructors and returning instructors as well as having separate workshops for INTD 1800, 1810 (Learning Communities), and 1820 classes. NOTE: A workshop for first-time instructors is planned for a yet undetermined date in August. The next FYE Weekly Digest will have information about that workshop.

### **HuskyCT: Basics for INTD 1800 Instructors**

For INTD 1800 instructors ONLY. Review of the Home Page icons. Focus on new organization of Instructor Resources. Demonstration of "Ask Ali" videos. Step-by-step review of uploading syllabus to the Home Page and adding your photo to the Roster. Focus on how to manage the "My Weekly 1800" section, which will involve step-by-step review of the following: 1) setting up an "Overview" page, 2) adding a link to a Student page from a Learning Module, 3) adding a link to an article of interest to the students that was previously uploaded and 4) creating links to pertinent websites.

### **HuskyCT: Refresher for INTD Instructors**

For ALL INTD instructors. Review of the Home Page icons. Focus on new organization of Instructor Resources. Demonstration of "Ask Ali" videos. Review of uploading files, adding your picture to the Roster, creating HTML pages using HuskyCT, and creating links to articles, websites, and Learning Modules.

### **HuskyCT: Grade Book Features**

The Grade Book has several features to track grades. This class will focus on these features in Discussion Groups, creating rubrics for projects, and matching total points to grades.

### **HuskyCT: Creating the Instructor Webpage**

Connect with your students by creating a webpage in HuskyCT (similar to Mentor webpage). Step-by-step instructions on 1) uploading files to be used on your webpage, 2) using the Learning Module structure to provide contact information, fun photos, and "my favorite things" list.

### **HuskyCT: One-on-One Training**

Feel you need some individualized help with HuskyCT? Lesa von Munkwitz-Smith is offering personal sessions at the First Year Programs office, or she will come to your office. Contact Lesa at 6-1735 or e-mail her at [lvon@uconn.edu](mailto:lvon@uconn.edu) to schedule a session

## **Academic Achievement Center—AAC**

For the fall '09 semester, the Academic Achievement Center will operate Sundays through Wednesdays from 4pm to 8pm, and will be located on the first floor of the CUE. Students wanting help in study skills, memory techniques, time management, note-taking, test preparation, and goal setting can access this free, walk-in service by coming to the Information Desk in the CUE to be matched up with a peer coach who has been trained to help develop effective, efficient process skills.

### **Fall 2009 Raffle**

All students who visit the AAC for a Study Skills Assessment before October 14 will be entered into a drawing for a UConn Co-op gift card. For more information about the AAC, please visit <http://aac.uconn.edu>, e-mail [aac@uconn.edu](mailto:aac@uconn.edu), or, during the semester, call 860-486-6972.

## Coaches Blog

Consider following our newly created blog [<http://uconnaac.blogspot.com>] and get your FYE students to sign on as well! The student coaches at the Academic Achievement Center will be publishing a blog throughout the fall semester. The blog is designed to encourage students, coaches, and faculty to engage in discussions about academic success. The blog is an easily accessible resource that provides students with another means for tapping into the many and varied resources available through the office of First Year Programs. Student coaches will post about specific tools and strategies that have worked well for them or that they have noticed helping a student whom they coach. Anyone viewing the blog will be able to post comments and responses to the blog posts and can even post anonymous replies. The blog also features a schedule of Coaches so that students may plan ahead and visit the coach of their choice. Anyone can follow the blog online and participate in discussion about specific posts; please consider following the blog and sharing posts that you like with your students.

## 'Ask Ali' 2.0

We are pleased to announce a powerful new resource for instructors and students. The popular Ask Ali videos introduced last fall, have become the centerpiece of a web-based feature available on HuskyCT in our INTD 1800, 1810 and 1820 course templates, the First Year Interactive site, the UConn Interactive site, and on the first Year Programs-Academic Support page, <http://web.uconn.edu/uconnconnects/default.htm>.

Ali, a successful UConn student, speaks about the process skills that helped her achieve academic excellence. The feature now offers eight strategies on memory, note-taking, reading, time management, mind maps, stress management, motivation, and the attitudes and behaviors necessary for consistent success as a UConn student. Included this fall are topic-specific resources, conveniently wrapped around the videos for easy access. For example, the time management video has lesson plans, exercises, instructions, forms and handouts appropriate for the instructor and the student. We hope that you check out the Ask Ali feature in your HuskyCT course, and consider using the video to introduce these important topics to your class.

## Wellness and Prevention Services

The Department of Wellness and Prevention Services is new to campus this year. Affiliated with Student Health Services, this Department brings together longstanding existing units that focused on health education (Joleen Nevers's area), alcohol and other drug prevention (Liz Prince's area) and nutrition (Amy Pumerantz's area) to create a holistic approach addressing impediments to health with the aim of promoting a state of wellbeing, and not simply the absence of illness or disease, or the reduction of risky behavior. The approach used will focus on community collaboration and the implementation of evidence informed practice that respects the unique culture of the UConn community.

Joleen, Liz, and Amy have long participated in FYE and INTD courses and students have greatly benefitted from all that they have shared. In order to facilitate this process in a more streamlined manner, you may now contact the Wellness and Prevention Services Department Administrative Assistant, Nisha Hardnett, at 486-9436 to begin scheduling FYE or INTD presentations

For more information on this new Department you may also call the Director, Beth DeRicco at 486-9430.

## Focus on Students

**(This section will include helpful assignments/activities/information for your INTD 1800/1810/1820 students.)**

- **Involvement Fair.** The Fall 2009 Campus-Wide Involvement Fair takes place on **Wednesday, September 9, from 3:00-8:00PM** in the Student Union. The Involvement Fair is an easy way to explore many of the exciting things to do and get involved with on campus. It also is an excellent opportunity for students to find something enjoyable to join, discover a new interest, and even meet new people. More than 200 student organizations will be represented! Go to [http://www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/inv\\_fair.html](http://www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/inv_fair.html) for more information.

- **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.

***Students Steer the Way***

Did you know UCONN students can make impressive docents? This past year we began training interested students to give tours of our exhibitions for their peers. Our docents are not only art history majors, but also include science, engineering and political science majors. The field of study is not as important as a desire to learn about art, working with people and dependability. If you or someone you know is interested in our Student Docent Program, please contact us at the address below. Keep in mind, we still maintain our veteran Docent Program with volunteers from the campus and community. New docent training starts in September.

***Walkers of the World Unite!***

We are pleased to introduce to our program schedule, Walk, Talk *Art!* This art tour begins at The Benton and takes the experience of looking at art, *outside* museum walls. This campus-wide tour may be scheduled April 15 through October 15 for groups of 4 or more. Our walking pace will vary, depending on the participants. If you would like to schedule Walk, Talk *Art!* for your group, contact us for more information.

**Tracy Lawlor, Education Coordinator**

phone **486-1711**

email **tracy.lawlor@uconn.edu**.

Tour requests may also be made by going to our website [www.thebenton.org](http://www.thebenton.org) and click on Education.

## **Special Events**

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

### **September 8**

- **Human Rights Film Series: *Human Rights in the USA*.**

Kickoff film will include a showing of *Living Broke in Boom Times (2008)* and a reception with the filmmaker Peter Kinoy and one of the community activists interviewed in the film, Willie Baptist. Konover Auditorium, 4:00 PM.

### **September 17**

- **Constitution Day 2009: *The Constitution and Civil Liberties in War Time*.**

Keynote speaker will be John E. Finn, Professor of Government, Wesleyan University. Konover Auditorium, 5:00-6:00PM.

- **Benton Museum of Art Talks: *Faculty Exhibition***

Will likely include discussion and the artists' thoughts about his or her work.  
Benton Museum, 12:15PM.

### **September 24**

- **Benton Museum of Art Talks: *Women's Work, Women's Dreams: A Century of Swedish Women's Arts***

Will include a staff-lead tour of the exhibit.  
Benton Museum, 12:15PM.

**October 6**

- **Opening of the Asian American Heritage Month**

Special speaker Socheata Poouv, director and producer of *New Year Baby*, a film about human rights conditions in Cambodia.

**October 7-8**

- **Metanoia: *Preventing Violence Against Women***

Look for more information on specific programs as the planning progresses.

**October 13**

- **Human Rights Film Series: *Human Rights in the USA***

Hurricane Katrina and its Aftermath: *Trouble the Water (2008)*

**November 10**

- **Human Rights Film Series: *Human Rights in the USA***

The Military and LGBT issues: *Ask Not (2008)*