

Who is Elan and what is his role in all this?

Hey, my name is Elan Wischkin and I am a second year Community Organization student interning at the SSW Student Services Department. You've probably seen me in the Student Org Office (Rm 224) in front of the computer. I am very excited to be working with Milagros this year on this project as it provides me the opportunity put some of my ideas to practice. One of my interests is researching ways in which the arts can be used in building community. I am also doing an independent study this year called "The Impact of Creative Arts on Contemporary Social Movements." Through my interactions with students thus far, I have been encouraged to see the passion we have for an endeavor such as this. I think we can do a lot of great things at this School and I really look forward to accomplishing much in my last year here. My hope is that whatever we start now can continue in the years to come.



Why are we doing this?

This community development campaign is an idea that has been brewing for many years. In her efforts as the Director of Student Services at the UConn School of Social Work for the past 5 years, Milagros Marrero-Johnson has personally witnessed the challenges students face with trying to become a part of the larger SSW community in a graduate level program. Milagros firmly believes that it is beneficial for each student to feel connected to their school and other students and therefore has made it her mission to create this change. Every student has the chance to reach their full potential by participating in this movement that will help ensure a better and stronger SSW community for all. While change will not happen overnight, it is up us to create a strong foundation for future students to build upon.

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UConn

Drive to Community



Students working to enrich their personal experiences at the School of Social Work



Brought to you by Student Services Department



UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Community Building in Progress

What is this all about?

The UConn School of Social Work is, as we all know, a “commuter campus.” As such, it is hard for students to create a strong connection to the school as many of us spend very little time here during the week. For the most part, a majority of our time spent at the School is strictly for classes. Therefore, students are limited to building relationships and broadening their educational experiences inside the classroom, which can prove to be a tough task. Though we all make a huge commitment to our academic work, it is important to acknowledge that the breadth of experiences to be shared and the depth of relationships to be built here are a once in a lifetime opportunity. This can be accomplished through strengthening community, which means having a sense of belonging, a place where you feel comfortable, a place “where everybody knows your name.” Your commitment to this movement is integral, as community development requires widespread participation. This commitment is not a personal sacrifice however, but rather a path to an enriched educational experience. In your Social Work career you will be asked over and over again to help others; take this time now to finally help yourself.



Upcoming Projects

• Community Assessment Surveys

Starting October 27th, matriculated students will receive a series of 4 surveys to their HuskyMail account. You will be given two weeks to complete each survey once they are sent. While they are not required, your feedback will assist us in improving the student experience at the School. As an incentive, every participant will receive a free t-shirt once we reach a 90% completion rate of all four surveys. The subjects of the surveys are as follows:

1. Demographics and General Information
2. Communication and Information Gathering
3. Activities and Clubs
4. Community Assessment

• Action Teams

From the surveys, we hope to get a better understanding of the general sense of community at the School of Social Work and identify your needs as students. After the surveys are completed and data is compiled, the action teams will be holding meetings with interested students. From these meetings, we hope to take what we learned from the surveys and start developing strategies and tactics that will create a greater sense of community at the UConn School of Social Work.

Building Opportunities

Some ideas already thought of by students...

- Pot-luck Dinners
- Creative Arts Clubs
- Peer-to-Peer Support
- Recreational Activities
- Documentaries and Student Publishings



What other thoughts and ideas do you have? What do you want?

Let us know!

Student Ramblings

- Our emails are cluttered with too much that doesn't have to do with the SSW.
- There is not much going on at the School.
- It is hard to meet people.
 - No cafeteria!

