

# **FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE**

## *Weekly Digest for the Week of September 18, 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](mailto:kevin.sullivan@uconn.edu) or [David.Ouimette@uconn.edu](mailto:David.Ouimette@uconn.edu)

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

Exam time is here! For everyone except Monday folks, our fourth class is next week and that means many classes are giving their first round of exams. As a way to initiate class, I draw a continuum from low to high on the board and then have my students check off the amount of stress they are feeling for the week. Last week the marks started to move to the high end. Most students talked about the “enormous” amount of reading and they expressed frustration about how to tackle it.

Our good friend and founder of FYE courses at UConn, Dr. John Bennett, Associate Dean and long-time faculty member in Mechanical Engineering, recently sent me his notes on *Felder's Rule of Three*. Felder's “Rule of Three” says that the first time you see something, it's all new. The second time you see it, you may remember you saw it before, but that's about it. Only after the third time you see it, will you begin to be able to work with the material and apply it. The key take-away for first-students is the more times you interact with material, the more you will retain in long-term memory. [John's handout](#) outlines what an effective approach might entail and how it differs from a poor approach.

I plan on sharing John's handout with my students this week to show them the importance of making multiple connections with not only the reading, but the lectures and exams. Because I am in a high-tech room, I will also share a number of the Ask Ali videos and resources found on our HuskyCT site and located on our website <https://secure.uconn.edu/uconnconnects/AskAli/index.htm> (you need your NetID to access). If you have not had the chance to view the Ask Ali series of videos, please do and encourage your students to view them. My students have remarked that they have been helpful.

Finally, I want you to know that after the sixth week, we will be sending you the names of students that appear on the early warning list so that you can have a conversation with them about their course work and any interventions that may be needed. In preparation for the early warning process, I would like to invite you to a special workshop this coming Tuesday, September 22, at 12 noon. Kevin Sullivan will discuss strategies on how to approach a student who is on the early warning list and how to assist students who are having difficulty early in the semester.

To sign-up for the workshop, go to [http://web.uconn.edu/fye/workshop\\_signup.htm](http://web.uconn.edu/fye/workshop_signup.htm). I hope to see you there.

Have a great week!

## Instructor Information

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

## Upcoming Workshops

[Link to sign up for workshops on-line.](#)

First Year Programs is offering some “Just in Time” brown-bag workshops for instructors. These workshops are designed to address questions instructors may have about the writing and resume assignments and how to communicate with students who are reported to be earning less than C- in a class at mid-term.

Workshop Title	Presenter	Date	Time	Location
Just in Time: Mid-Term Grade Reports and Strategies for Helping Students Who Are Getting Poor Grades	Kevin Sullivan	Sept 22 Tuesday	Noon to 1:00 pm	CUE 134
Just in Time: Incorporating the Résumé Assignment into Your Class	Career Services Staff, Nancy Bilmes	Oct 1 Thursday	Noon to 1:00 pm	CUE 134
Leading Faculty Seminars (INTD 1820) and Learning Community (INTD 1810) FYE Classes	Steve Zinn, Professor of Animal Science	Oct 21 Wednesday	Noon to 1:00pm	CUE 318

### **Just in Time: Mid-Term Grade Reports and Strategies for Students Getting Poor Grades**

Around early October, First Year Programs notifies FYE instructors of their students who are getting below a C- in other classes. Kevin Sullivan will lead a conversation in how to approach a student who is receiving poor grades and how to direct them to campus services that promote student academic success. Many times, taking an interest in a student’s academic standing in other, larger classes helps them develop a strategy to do things differently for the rest of the semester.

### **Just in Time: Incorporating the Résumé Assignment into Your Class**

Staff from Career Services will introduce the Résumé Assignment that First Year Programs is encouraging instructors to assign to their students. Discussion will cover grading, how to present the assignment to the class, and the peer mentoring process. (NOTE: This Assignment is detailed in the HuskyCT site for your class → Home Page > Instructor Resources > CORE Topics and Assignments > Assignments > (Instr) Résumé Assignment.)

### **Leading Faculty Seminars (INTD 1820) and Learning Community (INTD 1810) FYE Classes**

Professor Steve Zinn, a long-time supporter of First Year Experience and an award-winning instructor, conducts an informal discussion about developing and managing both Faculty Seminar and Learning Community FYE classes. He will focus on the insights he has gained over the past ten years of teaching these classes for First Year Experience.

## Community Outreach Class Presentations:

As you plan for fall semester and finalize FYE course plans, please consider building a presentation by Community Outreach into your syllabi. Community Outreach student leaders and public relations specialists will present to your incoming class highlighting our programs and services. By inviting Community Outreach to your class, your students will gain valuable information about:

- Various community service opportunities
- Transportation to and from site
- Developing a service program
- Resources for further information

Community Outreach seeks to work with you to enable our first year students with the information and tools necessary to become engaged citizens at the University of Connecticut and beyond. Our opportunities allow students to gain an experiential education to bridge material learned in the classroom with real life experience.

Please contact us at [communityoutreach@uconn.edu](mailto:communityoutreach@uconn.edu) to request further information or to schedule a presentation for the fall 2009 term. When scheduling a presentation, please include:

- Your name
- Contact information
- Date & time of presentation
- Location of class
- Number of class members

## Active Minds Class Presentations:

Active Minds is a national organization concerning suicide prevention/mental health whose mission is not only to help those in need and provide resources, but to lower the negative stigma we all know exists surrounding mental health. The motto of Active Minds is "**Changing the conversation about mental health**"; this is precisely what we are attempting to do with the First Year Experience classes.

The F.Y.E. classes would be a perfect place to have open discussions about topics such as mental health illnesses and behavioral disorders. There are so many resources on-campus that students are extremely unfamiliar with due to the lack of discussion surrounding the subject. Many people are scared to begin discussions about this topic due to the negative stigma.

Prior to beginning classroom sessions, the peer educators from Active Minds at UConn will sit with Barry Schreier, Director of Counseling and Mental Health Services, to learn how to facilitate such discussions. Also, emergency procedures will be discussed if a student admits to suicidal thoughts. The main goal of this section of the lesson is to teach students that everyone shares similar stories and no one should be ashamed of sharing their own.

Contact Jeremy Bersin at [jmb1836@comcast.net](mailto:jmb1836@comcast.net) to set up a presentation.

## Career Services Resume Writing Assignment for FYE classes:

(Contact Larry Druckenbrod at 486-3013 or [larry.druckenbrod@uconn.edu](mailto:larry.druckenbrod@uconn.edu) for questions or to schedule a presentation)

You may be wondering why we are having your students write a résumé when they have just arrived on campus. Career Services has partnered with First Year Programs to help them develop this very important document that they may need sooner than they think. The writing of a résumé is typically associated with upper-class students; however, Career Services strongly believes first year students will benefit from creating this document early in their academic career. [Please see attached for information about this assignment.](#) Results from last year's pre and post- surveys indicated that students gained a significant amount of information from this assignment:

## 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

## 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.)

- **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

e-mail [tracy.lawlor@uconn.edu](mailto: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 22**

- **Human Rights Lecture**

*Charles H. Malik and Human Rights: Notes on a Biography*

Presented by Glenn Mitoma, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Foundations of Humanitarianism at UConn.

Malik, who helped draft the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, is a Lebanese philosopher and diplomat.

Dodd Research Center 162, 12:30-2:30 P.M.

### **September 23**

- **Book Discussion: Beautiful Ballerina by Marilyn Nelson**

Marilyn Nelson will be introducing her new book on Ballerinas and the grace and enchantment that they showcase in their talent and hard work. In her new book readers will be able to take pleasure in the joy of movement and the beauty of dance in the minimalist of photos with a brief poetic narration.

African American Cultural Arts Center, Student Union 407, 5:30-6:30 P.M.

### **September 24**

- **Benton Museum of Art: Gallery Talk**

Mark Zurolo, Associate Professor of Communication Design, discusses his work in the 44<sup>th</sup> *Annual Art Department Faculty Exhibition*.

Benton Museum Lobby, 12:15-12:45 P.M.

No Admission Fee

- **CHIP Lecture Series**

*AIDS Orphans and Vulnerable Children in South Africa: Intergenerational Health Risks*

Don Operario, Brown University

Ryan Refectory 204, 12:30-1:30 P.M.

### **September 27**

- **Reception for New Exhibit: Women's Work, Women's Dreams**

Benton Museum, 1-3 P.M.

No Admission Fee

### **September 29**

- **Lecture in Honor of 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life and establishment of Doris and Simon Konover Chair in Judaic Studies**

*"Building a Moral Society"* by Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel

Von der Mehden Recital Hall, 4-5:30 P.M.

No Admission Fee, RSVP at 860-486-1038 or [rsvp@uconn.edu](mailto:rsvp@uconn.edu)

## September 30

- **Career Fair 2009**  
Gampel Pavillion, 11 A.M. – 3 P.M.
- **Out-to-Lunch Lecture Series: Transgender Activist History from WW II to Present**  
This presentation by Diana L. covers the people and events that shaped the transgender community, looking at events such as the Dewey's Lunch Counter Protest (1965), the Compton Lunch Counter Protest (1966), the Stonewall Uprising (1969) and the HRC protest (2005). In addition, the current state of gender inclusive legislation will be discussed.  
Rainbow Center, Student Union 403, 12 NOON – 1 P.M.
- **Talk on Collaboration in Kenya**  
This August journalists Bethe Dufresne and Marcel Dufresne, an associate professor of journalism at UConn, chronicled American Friends of Kenya's 2009 journey in a week-long series of reports from Nairobi for the Hartford Courant (<http://www.courant.com/news/kenya/>). They will discuss their work and provide an inside view of an all-volunteer organization's expanding cross-cultural partnership.  
Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium, 4 pm

## October 1

- **CHIP Lecture Series**  
*How Care Provided to Intervention and Control Groups Impacts Adherence Behavior and Clinical Outcomes in HIV: A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials*  
Marijn de Bruin, Wageningen University, Netherlands  
Ryan Refectory 204, 12:30-1:30 P.M.

## October 2-4

- **Family Weekend**  
Held Friday, October 2 through Sunday, October 4 at the Storrs campus, Family Weekend is a fun way to experience a variety of events that showcase UConn student life.

## October 6

- **Opening of the Asian American Heritage Month**  
Special speaker Socheata Poeuv, 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.

Tony Porter, a co-founder of A Call To Men: The National Association of Men and Women Committed to Ending Violence Against Women, will be speaking on October 8th at 7PM in Jorgensen Auditorium as part of Metanoia. Please encourage your students to attend.

## October 8-10, 13-18

- **Play, Connecticut Repertory Theatre**  
*The Exonerated*, by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen  
Wrongly convicted, these six people were condemned to death row for years. Their nightmarish stories are told here through interwoven scenes and monologues derived from actual court transcripts, interviews, and letters. Although eventually freed by DNA and other evidence, these gripping stories depict the personal devastation that occurs when our justice system misfires. The stories of these six individuals are extraordinary, and provide a promise of hope and redemption.  
Nafe Katter Theatre. [See CRT Website for days and times.](#)

#### October 8

- **Benton Museum of Art: Gallery Talk**  
Janet Pritchard, Associate Professor of Photography  
Benton Museum Lobby, 12:15-12:45 P.M.  
No Admission Fee
- **Benton Museum of Art: Lecture**  
*Women's Work, Women's Dreams: A Century of Swedish Women's Arts*  
Speakers: Ann Charters and Samuel Charters, guest curators.  
Benton Museum, 4 P.M.

#### October 13

- **Human Rights Film Series: *Human Rights in the USA***  
*The Least of These (2009)*  
Dodd Research Center, Konover Auditorium, 4 P.M.  
An exploration of the detention of immigrant families in prison-like conditions while awaiting asylum hearings and other legal procedures.

#### October 30

- **Lecture by Rajmohan Gandhi, "The Emergence, Context, and Content of Gandhi's Nonviolence"**  
Dodd Research Center, Konover Auditorium, 4 P.M.  
Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, is currently Research Professor, South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Illinois.

#### November 10

- **Human Rights Film Series: *Human Rights in the USA***  
*Ask Not (2008)*  
Dodd Research Center, Konover Auditorium, 4 P.M.  
Examines the military policy "Don't Ask Don't Tell," which has resulted in the discharge of thousands of gay and lesbian member of the US armed forces.