

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Weekly Digest for the Week of October 2, 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

Thoughts from the Director, David Ouimette

The Big Picture! Why are first year experience and other transition programs so important and prevalent on college campuses here and abroad? Joe Cuseo, Professor Emeritus at Marymount College, recently sent out an article that I thought you would all enjoy as we approach the mid-semester with our FYE students. In this article, he writes about five essential features of first year experience programs that contribute to their success. As we guide our students on a day-to-day basis, it is also important to think of the big picture and how you and your students fit into it. [Click here for the article.](#)

This year, the University Senate is conducting a standard review of INTD programs. As part of the review, we would like to have information on file about our courses. Therefore, in the next few weeks, Lesa von Munkwitz-Smith will be contacting you by e-mail, asking you to submit your class syllabus. Any questions regarding this can be directed to [me](#) or [Lesla](#).

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 |
|---|---|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 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 |

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.

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 FYE 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 to set up a presentation.

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 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

Career Services Resume Writing Assignment for FYE classes:

Career Services reports that the maximum number of presentations for “Preparing Résumés” has been reached. However, the 30-minute, “Overview of Career Services” presentation is still available.

Contact Larry Druckenbrod at 486-3013 or larry.druckenbrod@uconn.edu for questions or to schedule the 30-minute presentation.

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.

Tour requests may also be made by going to our website 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.)

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 3

- **Non-Violence Seminar Keynote Address**

Non-Violence as a Way of Transformation, Jose Reissig

Jose Reissig joined the University of Long Island in 1967. Fifteen years later, he traveled to India and discovered meditation. Since 1990, he has taught meditation throughout the world, and presently is an Associate Dharma Teacher at the Insight Meditation Society.

Presented by the Asian American Studies Institute.

Dodd Research Center, Konover Auditorium, 10:30 AM.

October 4

- **Metanoia Kick-Off Event Panelists**

An expert team of panelists including Attorney General Richard Blumenthal begin the week of reflection and discussion

Dodd Center, Konover Auditorium, 4:00pm, free

Note: first come, first seated

October 5

- **“What Will You Do?” Rally**

Speakers, a capella performances, and a candle-light vigil to raise awareness about sexual assault and how it can be prevented.

Student Union Green, 6:00-7:30pm

- **Represent & Resist! A Metanoia Event by Long River Live!**

Long River Live! presents an open mic, an evening of literary, visual, and performing arts that celebrate women while challenging oppression.

Student Union Lobby, 8:00-10:00pm

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

- **Metanoia: Keynote Speaker, Tonya Lovelace**

Tonya Lovelace, Project Manager for the Women of Color Network (WOCN) and long-time activist, will speak on this year's theme of preventing violence against women.

- Student Union Theatre, 12:00pm
- **Metanoia Film: The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo**
A film by Lisa Jackson documenting rape survivors in the Congo.
Student Union 407, 5:30-7:00pm
- **Metanoia: USG Safety Walk**
Safety walk to access the safety of the campus grounds. Meet and greet at 6PM in the Student Union Ballroom, short presentation at 6:30PM, and walk begins by 7PM.

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

- **Metanoia: Keynote Speaker, Tony Porter**
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 8 at 7PM in Jorgensen Auditorium as part of Metanoia. Please encourage your students to attend.
- **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 20

- **10th Annual UNESCO Chair & Institute of Comparative Human Rights International Conference: *Health and Human Rights***
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Henri Atlan
Student Union, 9:00 A.M.- 3:30 P.M.
www.unescochair.uconn.edu

October 22

- **Teale Lecture Series, Nature and the Environment**
"Literature and Sustainability," by John Elder, Professor of English and Environmental Studies, Middlebury College
Dodd Research Center, Konover Auditorium, 4 P.M.

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.

November 19

- **Teale Lecture Series, Nature and the Environment**
"Coming Down to Earth: Valuing Nature to Improve Decision-Making," Dr. Stephen Polasky, Fesler-Lampert Professor of Ecological/Environmental Economics, University of Minnesota.
Dodd Research Center, Konover Auditorium, 4 P.M.