

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Weekly Digest for the Week of October 9, 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

This week was an incredible week to be a UConn student! Last Sunday, **Metanoia** began with a week-long series of events that was topped off last night with a wonderful presentation by Tony Porter, who challenged a large crowd of men to stop the violence against women. Last Monday, the **Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights** was awarded to the Committee to Protect Journalists by Senator Dodd during a ceremony on the plaza outside the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center. The award ceremony was followed by a discussion of global censorship by a panel of journalists, including Mariane Pearl, author and wife of slain journalist Daniel Pearl. Tuesday, the Asian American Cultural Center opened the 2009-10 Asian American Heritage Observance with a presentation by Director/Producer Socheata Poev and her feature documentary *New Year Baby*. Yesterday, folk icon Arlo Guthrie spent an hour with students in the **Connecting with the Arts Learning Community** talking about his life, his music, and the cultural impact of Woodstock and will be appearing in concert at the Jorgensen tonight and Saturday. In the midst of my students attending events as part of the Writing Assignment and making appointments at the Writing Center to have their papers reviewed, we also discussed the importance of being **engaged** students. And I am sure your students, like mine, struggle with procrastination, time management, focus, and motivation. In spite of their complaints, I try to exhort them to plan their weeks and months purposefully so that they can take advantage of all that UConn has to offer.

Early Warning Notices. The University Registrar, Jeff von Munkwitz-Smith, informed me the initial mid-term warning notices will go out to students and advisors on Friday, October 9. Updates, for warnings entered after the initial run, will be sent on October 16 and 23. Under the revised University Senate bylaw, by the end of the sixth week of the semester, instructors shall submit mid-term grades for students in 1000 and 2000-level courses who have earned a D, F, U, or N grade. At the end of next week, Lesa will be sending you a list of students in your class with mid-term warnings and after the subsequent runs. We ask that you take a few moments to check in with students who are struggling to offer assistance.

Tufts University Rule. This week, I read [this article from The Hartford Courant](#), reporting about a new rule at Tufts University that regulates sex in their residence hall rooms while the roommate is present. I posted the article in HuskyCT and created a quick discussion question asking if students were in favor of such a rule. The responses started flowing in with experiences they have already had at UConn, and judging from them, it is a big issue for many of our students. We followed up with a quick discussion about options and what you should do if it is interfering with academics. Here is a sampling of my students' responses:

Though this does not apply to me, I had a friend who goes to a different college basically have to give up all rights to their room because of a situation like that. Her roommates boyfriend 'stayed over' so often that she slept on the floor of a friend's room just about as much as she stayed in her own room.

I don't think there needs to be a rule because this should be common courtesy. Roommates should be open with each other ahead of time to establish what is going to be done in this

situation. I understand the motivation behind the rule because what if the other roommate has nowhere else to sleep or has an exam the next da? Clearly it is not fair for them but if they set up some sort of established ground rules, this should not be a problem. The article described a situation where this was going on every night. That is just rude and should be dealt with by talking to the roommate. I do not think the school needs to get involved unless there is a real problem.

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
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.

Announcements in HuskyCT

Sometimes First Year Programs will receive information about a workshop or event that is happening before the next issue. In these cases, we add an “Announcement” to each INTD section with the hope that it will be noticed by instructors and students. We make an effort to expire the announcement after the event is completed, but it may remain under the Announcements Tool for the remaining duration of the semester. If you see an announcement whose date is past and you didn’t create, and would like it removed, contact [Lesya von Munkwitz-Smith](#), 860-486-1735.

Major Fair

Wednesday, October 14th, 4-6:00pm, Student Ballroom (3rd Floor)

Exploring Majors?

Considering a double major?

Don't miss this great opportunity to learn about the wide variety of majors offered at UCONN! Students will be able to talk with faculty and student representatives about their academic interests.

The annual Major Fair is co-sponsored by the Academic Center for Exploratory Students (ACES) and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Here is the link to the Major Fair event page: <http://aces.uconn.edu/majorfair/>

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 11

- **Producing Food, Producing Ourselves**

The ways people produce their material needs, such as food, influences and determines how they structure their social arrangements and individual roles within a society, according to Karl Marx. Dr. Godfrey's talk will investigate this theory by exploring the social history of food production and examine the reasons food production systems can be destructive to the planet as well as human health and welfare.

Dr. Phoebe Godfrey, Department of Sociology, UConn
Biology/Physics Building, 130, 3-4 pm, free.

- **Hispanic Heritage Month**

Angie Logrono Godoy, violinist

A multimedia recital celebrating Sueños de Chambi, inspired by the work of Martin Chambi the first Amerindian photographer to record Peruvian life, architecture, and landscape.

Von de Mehden Recital Hall, 3-4 pm, free.

- **Homecoming Parade**

The kickoff to a week of Homecoming Events.

<http://www.subog.uconn.edu/homecoming.html>

October 12

- **Norman Hascoe Distinguished Lecture Series**

Dr. Christof Niedermayer, Laboratory for Neutron Scattering, Paul Scherrer Institute

Applications of neutron scattering techniques in condensed matter research

Neutron scattering is a particularly versatile tool because it is able to measure both structure (diffraction) and dynamics (spectroscopy) of materials at an atomic level.

Biology/Physics Building, 130, 4-5 pm.

- **Robert Goldstein, "The Frightful Stage: Political Censorship of the Theatre in 19th-Century Europe"**

"Robert Justin Goldstein and his co-authors have written a masterful study tracing the social history of nineteenth-century European theatre censorship. By describing the class nature of theatre censorship and connecting the regulation of the stage to the larger issues of work discipline and the struggle for political power, the authors have produced an important study that will speak to interdisciplinary audiences interested in the relationship between the popular culture, the state, and society." –Michael Nash, Director of Tamiment Library, New York University
CLAS Building, 301, 5-7 pm, free.

October 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 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 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.

- **Diversity in Business Lecture Series**

Pete Finch is a seasoned TV host and producer, having executive produced his talk show, Live! With Pete Finch, for over 6 years. Having started his vision of a variety show at the University of Connecticut, this UConn Business School graduate brought his behind-the-scenes style TV show to New York, eagerly cultivating and promoting his work to form a DVD compilation, showcasing the most popular icons in pop culture, including Ice Cube and WyClef.

School of Business, 106, 7-8 pm, free.

October 14

- **Lecture: The Hirsute Gentleman**

The Rainbow Center's *Out to Lunch Lecture Series* continues the semester with a presentation by Jim Larson. "The Hirsute Gentleman" will take a look at the formation of the Bear Community within the larger Gay Community, and its evolution... the good and the bad.

Student Union, Rainbow Center, 403, 12 noon -1:30 pm, free.

- **No Negroes in Connecticut: On Being Invisible in the Twenty-First Century**

Sponsored by Institute for African American Studies

Student Union, 304C, 4-4:50 pm, free.

- **Poetry Reading with Bill Berkson**

Berkson--poet, critic, publisher, and sometime curator—reads from new and old works from a literary career spanning nearly 50 years.

Dodd Research Center, John McDonald Reading Rm, 4-5 pm, free.

- **Major Fair**

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Student Ballroom, Student Union Third Floor, 4-6 pm

October 15

- **CHIP Lecture Series**

Hart Blanton, Early Applications of Deviance Regulation Theory to Norms-based Health Communications

Ryan Refectory, 204, 12:30-1:30 pm, free.

October 15

- **UConn Condensed Matter Physics Seminar**
Professor Antonio Bianconi, from the Department of Physics at Sapienza University, will present, "Feshbach Resonance In Multiband Superconductivity And Multiscale Phase Separation In High Tc Superconductors."
Gant Science Complex, P-121, 2-3:30 pm, free.
- **Alexei Volodin, Pianist**
Alexei Volodin began studying piano at the age of nine. His triumph at the 2003 Géza Anda Competition launched his international performance career in cultural capitals from Paris to New York to Tokyo.
Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30-11:30 pm, students:\$7.

October 16

- **Role of Engineers in Poverty Reduction: Challenges and Opportunities**
The lecture will present the challenges and opportunities associated with practicing engineering in the developing world and the education of engineers through organizations such as Engineers Without Borders. The lecture will also address the importance of integrating engineering with non-engineering disciplines when addressing the needs of developing communities.
Student Union Theatre, 11 am-12 noon, free.
- **UConn Basketball First Night**
This Free event is your first look at your 2009-10 Men's & Women's Basketball Teams! There will be lots of excitement and maybe even a few slam dunks.....
Gampel Pavillion, doors open at 6 pm, show starts at 7 pm, free.

October 17

- **Writing the World: Finding Ideas for All Genres of Writing**
It seems obvious to say that ideas for writing are all around us, but it's true. As writers, we need to develop the habits of mind that awaken us to the world and the endless opportunities it holds for us. How? We'll start by examining the work of established writers whose work shows us that ideas for writing come out of our daily lives. Then it's our turn. Through a series of writing exercises, we'll practice awakening our minds and senses so that we know where to look and how to listen for ideas for writing that literally are all around us.
CLAS, Stern Lounge, Rm 217, 9 am-12 noon, \$40.

October 18

- **Songfest, Viva Italia!**
The songs of Italy, Constance Rock, director
Von de Mehden Recital Hall, 3-5 pm, free

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.