

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Weekly Digest for the Week of October 30, 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

Keith Barker (KB), Associate Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning, often suggests in his workshops on teaching that it is important to do formative student evaluations at regular intervals. He suggests that every four weeks you ask your students how the class is working. Well four weeks has passed but there is still plenty of time to find out your student's opinions of your class. Some FYE instructors do the "one minute paper" at the end of a class. Others have suggested that students do the "Stop, Start and Continue" as a written exercise where students list what they would like you to stop, suggestions for new activities and things that they would like you to continue. KB suggests that it is important that we not only collect the information but, if possible, we collate it and then distribute it back to the students with a brief discussion on what adjustments you can or cannot make. I have found that students are honest about their feedback (Be prepared!) and that they respect your willingness to ask for feedback.

Attached is a [FYE course evaluation](#) that I plan to use in my class this week. First Year Programs developed it a few years back and it can be found in the INTD 1800/1810/1810 HuskyCT templates (if you wish to modify it, [this link leads to the Word version of the survey](#)). I ask my students to fill out the evaluations anonymously. I then collect them and do a class aggregate score for each item. I am always interested in my student's answers. Do they, for example, think that my class "helps them learn how to learn at the University level"? Does my class "help them to understand themselves and their relationship to others"? I then hand it back to them and discuss the results from the perspective of my goals for the class and them. For example, often my students will not agree with item 5, "My FYE class helped improve my level of comfort when interacting with people different from me." I leap on the opportunity to lead the conversation to why I make them participate in activities, such as doing the group scavenger hunt, going to the Writing Center in random pairs, and seeking out different points of view in discussions. I hope the light goes off and they see that behind all these random activities is my hope that they will answer "I strongly agree" to item 5.

Give some sort of evaluation a try this week. I think you will find it useful as you move into the final weeks of class.

Instructor Information

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

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.

Learning Community Updates

Spring '10 LC Classes

Students have been pre-enrolled in INTD 3984 sections. We will also pre-enroll students in all INTD 1810 and INTD 1998 (except for Public Health 1998s) sections soon. Please announce that students need to work their schedules around these classes, and they should not drop them! They may need to explain the classes are required for their LC to their Advisors – some Advisors may not realize this.

LC Recruitment

Current Student LC Recruitment has started for those on campus who will return as sophomores, juniors and seniors for 2010-11. Students can apply for LCs from 12/4/09 to 01/25/10. They first submit their Housing Application, and then they submit a LC application (<http://www.LC.uconn.edu>, click "Apply"). Please make announcements in your classes, and encourage students you know to consider the Learning Community experience!

What will be new in 2010-11?

- Leadership will become multi-year
- Social Justice will turn into a non-residential Learning Community
- Two new LCs will open for newly admitted students only:
Business Connections (for 1st-year admitted business majors) and
Exploratory Majors (an ACES & Career Services partnership for 1st-year exploratory majors)

Focus on Students

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

Husky Outreach for Leadership Development, Understanding, and Pride (HOLDUP!)

(FYE Instructors note that this organization is looking for interested students to join its program.)

Husky Outreach for Leadership Development, Understanding and Pride, HOLDUP!, provides UConn students with the opportunity to work directly with area high school students to enhance their leadership skills and self-awareness. HOLDUP! members gain valuable experience working together to develop and present workshop material and mentor high school students while preparing them for a life of leadership beyond high school. Applications are due by November 3th at 5 P.M.!

HOLDUP! is currently seeking new members. For more information, go to:

http://www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/leadership_holdup.html or contact UConnHOLDUP@gmail.com

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.

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.)

November 3-December 4

- **[Futurescape: Making of the Super City, Art Exhibit](#)**

With the invention of the camera, the need for artists to copy nature blindly and to hold on to the traditional techniques of painting perspective became redundant. Artists were freed to fracture objects into geometric forms and present subjects from several angles and different moments in time. What unites the paintings in Futurescape is the artists' ability to blur the lines between figuration and abstraction, and collapse art history with references ranging from early Modernism to Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art. They employ surprising overlapping, multiple layering, and unexpected vanishing points. The exhibition reveals that artists are again interested in the dynamism and conditions found in today's urban environments and that they are exploring and finding new ways to compress and expand time and space. This is the focus of Futurescape.

Artists include: Thomas Eggerer, Jules de Balincourt, Francesca DiMattio, Yoon Lee, Benjamin Edwards, Nicola López. Jacob Feige and Tomory Dodge.

Art Building, Contemporary Art Gallery, M-F, 10 am to 4 pm. Free

November 4

- **Between Barack and a Hard Place: Challenging Racism, Privilege and Denial in the Age of Obama**

Tim Wise is among the most prominent anti-racist writers and activists in the U.S. He has trained teachers as well as corporate, government, media, entertainment, military and law enforcement officials on methods for dismantling racism in their institutions, and has served as a consultant for plaintiff's attorneys in federal discrimination cases in New York and Washington State. Wise's most recent book is *Between Barack and a Hard Place: Challenging Racism, Privilege and Denial in the Age of Obama* (City Lights), which explores the issues of race within the context of the Obama presidency.

Co-sponsored by SUBOG, the Women's Center, Rainbow Center, the African American Cultural Center, Asian American Cultural Center, Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center, and Community Outreach.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, Tuesday, 7 P.M. Free.

November 5

- [Office of Leadership Programs Lecture](#)
The Power of Arrogance and the Arrogance of Power
John Rowland, former US Congressman and three-term governor of Connecticut will discuss “the other side of success” and share the lessons he learning from serving as a prominent political leader and the dramatic downfall of his administration.
Dodd Research Center, Konover Auditorium, 4 P.M.

November 6

- [Education and Action for a Sustainable Future](#)
By Dr. Debra Rowe, a well-respected national leader in environmental education and sustainability movements.
BPS 130, reception to follow, 7 P.M.

November 7

- **Bruckner Orchestra of Linz, Classical Music**
The Bruckner Orchestra, conducted by Dennis Russell Davies, has become one of Central Europe’s leading orchestras. Fluent in both classical and contemporary genres, the orchestra will present a full evening of music by the quintessential 20th-century urban American composer, Leonard Bernstein.
Jorgensen Center Main Stage, 8 P.M., UConn Student Hot Seats \$7 with valid student ID.

November 10

- **Human Rights Film Series: *Human Rights in the USA***
Ask Not (2008)
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.
Dodd Research Center, Konover Auditorium, 4 P.M.
- **India Studies Lecture**
“Squaring the Circle: Exploring Indian and Jewish Concepts of Sacred Space.”
Robert Kirschbaum, Professor of Art, Trinity College.
Sponsored by India studies, the Department of Art and Art History and Judaic Studies.
Art Building 107, 3:30 P.M.

November 13 and 14

- **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Swing and Big Band Music**
Get ready to dance the night away as America’s favorite contemporary little big band recreates the sound of swing from the 1940s and ’50s.
Jorgensen Center Main Stage, 8 P.M., UConn Students \$10 with valid student ID.

November 16

- **India Studies Lecture**
“India: The New Rising Power”
By Dr. Ravi Ramamurti, CBA Distinguished Professor of International Business and Director, Center for Emerging Markets, Northeastern University. He is currently researching the internationalization strategies of multinationals from Emerging Market.
Co-sponsored by Center for International Business Education and Research.
Homer Babbidge Library, Class of 1947 Room, 4 P.M..

November 17

- **Pacifica Quartet, Classical Music**
Raymond and Beverly Sackler Artist-in-Residence Program for the Advancement of the Arts

Named 2009 Ensemble of the Year by Musical America, the Pacifica Quartet is recognized for its virtuosity, exuberant performance style, and often daring repertory choices. Its players are adept at split-second timing without sacrificing intricate interpretation, tonal balance, or unity of artistic purpose. The Pacifica Quartet will be joined by violinist Theodore Arm and cellist Kangho Lee. Jorgensen Center Main Stage, 7:30 P.M., UConn Student Hot Seats \$7 with valid student ID.

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.

Nov 23-29: Thanksgiving Break

December 1

- **Kangho Lee, cello and Minyoung Lee, piano – Classical Music**
Formed at Yale University, the Lee duo performed extensively in North America and Europe. Cellist Kangho Lee has been a sought-after soloist and chamber musician worldwide since his orchestral debut with the Seoul Philharmonic at the age of 12. Acclaimed for her "extraordinary sensitivity" and "mesmerizing" playing by the San Francisco Classical Voice, pianist Minyoung Lee has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Jorgensen Center Main Stage, 7:30 P.M., UConn Student Hot Seats \$7 with valid student ID.

December 3-12

- **Connecticut Repertory Theatre: Galileo**
By Bertolt Brecht, Directed by Gary M. English
Galileo hears of a new invention, a telescope, and builds one for himself. With it, he confirms that the earth rotates around the sun. For this, he is summoned before a tribunal of the Inquisition where he is threatened with torture if he does not recant his findings. Bertolt Brecht puts the dilemma of one of history's greatest thinkers center stage; is it more important to cling to one's principles or save oneself to enable further contributions to knowledge?
See CRT website for ticket and performance schedule: <http://www.crt.uconn.edu/index.html>
Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts, Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre

December 4

- **Jingle Jam – A Cappella Holiday Show**
Boston's premiere group a cappella group, Five O'Clock Shadow, joins select UConn a cappella groups for a Holiday Jingle Jam like no other!
Jorgensen Center Main Stage, 7:30 P.M., UConn Student \$3 with valid student ID.

December 5

- **Boston Pops Winter Gala, Popular Music**
Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, Keith Lockhart, Conductor
Since its beginning in 1885, the Boston Pops has evolved into a beloved American institution. Celebrate the magic of the holiday season as Keith Lockhart leads the Pops in their annual Holiday Concert of traditional carols and festive modern classics.
Jorgensen Center Main Stage, 7:30 P.M., no student discount: \$60, \$50, \$30