

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Weekly Digest for the Week of July 20, 2009(Summer Edition III)

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

Save the Date: August 27, Noon to 1:30PM→Instructor/Mentor Luncheon
Follow this [LINK](#) for more information and to access the sign-up form.

Thoughts from the Director, David Ouimette

Summer has finally arrived! I hope you are finding some time to enjoy this beautiful sunny weather. As we move closer to the opening of school, I just wanted to bring your attention to our ongoing training (it is not too late to sign-up) and some other new and continuing initiatives for FYE.

HuskyCT training continues this week with 2 new workshops specifically designed for FYE instructors. The first workshop is to introduce the grade book feature in HuskyCT, and how it can be used for FYE. I used it for the first time last semester and I really liked the way it organizes my grades as well as provides instant feedback to my students. I grade on a point system so that class participation, the writing assignments, resume project and the group projects can be recorded as they come due. If a student is missing classes and/or assignments, I have a clear record and can check-in with them regularly. Kim Chambers is presenting the workshops this week as Lesa is away.

The other workshop is entitled "Creating the Instructor Page" which allows you to create a page all about you! Much like the mentor page, the instructor page is meant to help your students get to know you a bit better. I often put up pictures of me and my family, along with some of my interests (including, of course, the Yankees). One of the goals of the class is for your students to get to know *you* better, along with their classmates. The instructor page is one way to begin the process.

To sign –up go to: http://web.uconn.edu/fye/workshops_info.htm. We will be offering more workshops later in August and Lesa is always willing to do individual or small group trainings.

Nancy Bilmes has written a short piece about the Resume Writing Assignment. Last Fall, over 500 students went through the process of drafting their resume and having it critiqued by a trained career resource assistant. Nancy explains why it is important for a first semester student to go through this process. I had all 3 of my classes do this assignment last Fall and found that students (although they whined a bit) really found it a useful process. I had a number of students say that soon after creating the resume they found they needed it to apply for scholarships, jobs, internships and to provide to recommenders. While there is a practical application, I have also found that students start to realize a need to begin planning in order to accomplish their goals. A number of students talked about leadership experiences, study abroad and other opportunities that they wanted to fit in. A bonus is that you find out some interesting things about your students. See below for more information or call Nancy or Larry at 486-3013.

And on a final note, I wanted to express my best to Dolan Evanovich as he departs next month on his new position at Ohio State. Dolan has taught a section of FYE every Fall semester for the past 10+ years. Dolan has been a champion for the first year experience classes and saw the benefits of the small class size and personal attention to student success. Behind the scenes, Dolan has always helped with recruiting not only his staff (even his family) but other senior level administrators to teach in the FYE program. Good luck Dolan!

Instructor Information

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

FYE Summer Workshops and HuskyCT Training

We are offering ongoing training to prepare instructors for the Fall Classes. For more information and to access the sign-up form for workshops, [click here](#).

Date	Workshop Title	Time	Location
July 21	HuskyCT: Creating the Instructor Webpage	1:00-3:00 PM	CUE 214
July 22	HuskyCT: Grade Book Features	1:00-3:00 PM	CUE 214
July 23	HuskyCT: Refresher for 1800 Instructors	1:00-3:00 PM	CUE 214
Arranged	HuskyCT: One-on-One Training	Arranged	Arranged

Read descriptions and sign up on the web: [FYE Workshop and Training Sign Up Form](#)

Career Services Resume Writing Assignment for FYE classes:

(Contact Larry Druckenbrod at 486-3013 or 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:

Question: I know what I need to do to develop my resume over the next four years (on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being very knowledgeable)

Pre-test – 34% rated themselves 4 or 5

Post-test – 83% rated themselves 4 or 5

Question: I am confident I know how to write an effective resume (on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being very confident)

Pre-test – 21% rated themselves 4 or 5

Post-test – 65 % rated themselves 4 or 5

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.)

- **Suicide Prevention Week** September 14th – September 19th

Keynote Speaker

Alison Malmon is the founder of Active Minds. Ms. Malmon started Active Minds following the suicide of her older brother, Brian, who was experiencing depression and psychosis for three years and had concealed his symptoms. On March 24, 2000, as Alison was wrapping up her freshman year at Penn, Brian ended his life. Recognizing that few were talking about mental health though many were affected, Alison wanted to change campus culture. She wanted to combat the stigma of mental illness, encourage students to seek help early, and prevent future tragedies like the one that took her brother. After searching unsuccessfully for existing groups to bring to campus, Alison created her own. Active Minds expanded onto other campuses leading to the establishment of a National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. In five years, Active Minds has grown into a recognized entity in the field, respected as the voice of student mental health advocacy. Featured on CNN, in The New York Times, Chronicle of Higher Education and much more, Active Minds has become the voice of young adult mental health advocacy nationwide. With over 150 campus chapters, hundreds of thousands of young adults are benefiting from the Active Minds model.

Tuesday, September 15th 7:00p.m. -8:30p.m., Jorgensen Theatre

<http://www.suicideprevention.uconn.edu>

- **Involvement Fair.** The Fall 2009 Campus-Wide Involvement Fair takes place on **Wednesday, September 9, from 3:00-8:00PM** in the Student Union. The Involvement Fair is an easy way to explore many of the exciting things to do and get involved with on campus. It also is an excellent opportunity for students to find something enjoyable to join, discover a new interest, and even meet new people. More than 200 student organizations will be represented! Go to http://www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/inv_fair.html for more information.

- **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**

email 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.)

September 8

- **Human Rights Film Series: *Human Rights in the USA*.**
Kickoff film will include a showing of *Living Broke in Boom Times (2008)* and a reception with the filmmaker Peter Kinoy and one of the community activists interviewed in the film, Willie Baptist. Konover Auditorium, 4:00 PM.

September 15

- **Suicide Prevention Week Keynote Speaker**
Alison Malmon, founder of *Active Minds*
Jorgensen Theatre, 7:00-8:30PM.

September 17

- **Constitution Day 2009: *The Constitution and Civil Liberties in War Time*.**
Keynote speaker will be John E. Finn, Professor of Government, Wesleyan University. Konover Auditorium, 5:00-6:00PM.
- **Benton Museum of Art Talks: *Faculty Exhibition***
Will likely include discussion and the artists' thoughts about his or her work.
Benton Museum, 12:15PM.

September 24

- **Benton Museum of Art Talks: *Women's Work, Women's Dreams: A Century of Swedish Women's Arts***
Will include a staff-lead tour of the exhibit.
Benton Museum, 12:15PM.

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.

October 13

- **Human Rights Film Series: *Human Rights in the USA***
Hurricane Katrina and its Aftermath: *Trouble the Water (2008)*

November 10

- **Human Rights Film Series: *Human Rights in the USA***
The Military and LGBT issues: *Ask Not (2008)*