



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Student Union News

A Publication for Student Union and Student Leader Alumni

FALL 2006

Have News?

Send us news on yourself so we can share it in our next newsletter. Email or mail your news to:

Jackie Calkins
Student Union
2110 Hillside Road
Storrs, CT 06269

jacqueline.calkins@uconn.edu

Inside This Issue:

Celebration	2
Rededication Pictures	2
Message from The Director	3
Reunion Attendance	3
New Website	4

Celebration:

UConn Student Union Celebrates its Past, its New U and Our Future

By: M. Kevin Fahey, Senior Associate Director of Student Activities

The highlight of Homecoming 2006 was the Rededication and celebration of the UConn Student Union.

The University Rededicated the Student Union which first opened in fall of 1952. A \$70 million dollar face lift makes our Student Union a state of the art facility and one of the best Student Union's in the country.

Megan Vesce, Senior Psychology and Sociology major from East Hampton, CT, emceed the afternoon festivities held outside the Student Union on a breezy fall day. Steel Band music, kettle corn and a traditional New England fall setting greeted the more than 400 attendees. Following remarks by President Philip Austin, Vice President for Student

Affairs, John Saddlemire, Vice President for Multicultural Affairs, Ronald Taylor and USG President, Andrew Marone spoke to the gathering of students, Alumni and University officials.

Following their remarks, Student Union Director, Monica Rudzik joined President Austin and students from our Cultural Centers, the USG and SUBOG Presidents for the official ribbon cutting.

Tours of the new Student Union and a reception in the new Student Union Food Court followed the Ribbon Cutting.

That evening, 160 Student Union Alumni, former staff and their guests gathered for a Student Union/Student Leader Alumni Reunion. The program, hosted by M. Kevin

Fahey, Senior Associate Director of Student Activities, focused on three important aspects of our Student Union – students, leadership and recognition.

Student Union Board of Governors President opened the evening with remarks that would make every former SUBOG member proud of the quality of students that continue to be involved with SUBOG. Megan was sincere, engaging and stimulating. She shared student views of the Student Union and the role that students continue to play in the Union.

As Kevin Fahey introduced the topic of leadership, he reflected on the Union commitment to leadership on campus, regionally and nationally. He talked about former Director's Max

Continued on Page 2



Photograph by Peter Morenus, University of Connecticut

Celebration *continued*

Andrews, Tom Ahern and Don McCullough and their impact on the Student Union and Student Activities field regionally and nationally. Kevin recognized the recipients of UConn's Donald L. McCullough Award and the Thomas E. and Alice K. Ahern Award. He then introduced Dean of Students, Dr. Lee Williams who acknowledged the Union's role on campus and shared her vision for the Union of the future.

Finally, Kevin spoke of recognition and recognized all those who contributed to the Student Union's first Fund Raising Campaign. He announced that 110 individuals contributed to the campaign and the effort raised over \$50,000. Kevin recognized Ron Loomis '59 and Sherry Colombaro Lawrence '95 for their leadership and commitment

to the campaign.

Kevin went on to recognize and honor the 24 individuals who made a leadership gift of \$1,000 or more to the campaign. A plaque was unveiled listing all the individuals and thanking them for their support. The plaque will be permanently placed in the Student Union. In concluding the program, Kevin acknowledged a \$100,000 contribution to the Student Union by Doug Bernstein '85 and his wife Melissa. The Bernstein gift is the largest single gift to date to the UConn Division of Student Affairs. In recognition of his gift, the Student Union Game Room was named for Doug and his gift will fund an Annual Student Leadership Program as part of the Union's New Leader Legacy Program. Doug addressed the gathering by reflecting back on the impact

the Student Union and his involvement with SUBOG has had on his life and professional career. "Doug was Doug," Kevin said. "To be honest, he hasn't changed a bit and all in attendance would agree. He was energetic, sincere, and for me personally, a validation of what all of us as Advisors strive to do with our students."

The event concluded with a slide/video tribute to the UConn Student Union and the Student Union Board of Governors.

It was a great day and certainly a celebration. To see pictures from the activities of the day, you can go to www.studentunion.uconn.edu or www.subog.uconn.edu.

If you missed this, know that we missed you. When we do it again, do try to attend. All that attended will agree you'll have a great time.



Student Union/Student Leader Reunion

October 21, 2006

Listed below are former SUBOG members and staff that attended Rededication events:

Jeanne Ahern Mogayzel	Richard Arnold
Beverly Aveni	Steve Basche
Valerie Bashura	Danielle Beil
Doug Bernstein	Eric Bernstein
Kathy Blankenship Poirier	Daniel Blume
Jeannette Brazeau	Martha Butler Curran
Jackie Calkins	Kathy Caplan
Alden Carlson	Mary Casey
Victor Catalano	Jim Champagne
Kieran Chapel	Russell Clarkson
Sherry Colombaro Lawrence	Angelo Colon
Mildred Colucci Lorenti	Jennifer Corraele Sweeney
Pat Cropper	Jack Dansereau
Glenn DeLuca	Kevin Fahey
Natalie Fusco	Lauren Gerber
Joan Gerdson	Patty Gilligan
Joyce Goddard	Janice Gudinkas
Elaine Hamilton	Thomas Hanlin
Mary Harris	Paul Hennan
Deb Holcomb	Gena Homola
Dave Howlett	Corey Humpage
Robert Johnson	Mary Kay Karp Knox
Carl Kerwick	Rachel Killeen
John & Patty Knapp	Steve Knox
John Korduner	Missy Korduner
Peter Langer	Tracey Leavens
Kevin Lenhart	Karen Leonard Francis
Katie Levesque	Don Littlefield
Ron Loomis	Valencia Louis
Edmond Lugo	Robert Lynch
Mitch Marcinauskis	Monica Merlis
Chuck Morrell	Erin Morrell
Vic Milione	Verna McCullough
Kelly O'Connor	Caryl O'Keefe
Jennifer Osowiecki	Leslie Palmieri Ashford
Lou Pellegrino	Paul Perregeaux
Kristina Poly	Barbara Poremba
Peter Powers	Judy Preston
Joan Rogers	Tom Rogers
Monica Rudzik	Fran Schanne
Kim Schwarz	Sheena Scott
Mary Shaw	Laura Shea
Linda Smith	Dianne Spatafore
Germaine Staples	Sylvie Sullivan
Cindy Tinney Kozil	Kristen Trombley
Juliette Vasconcellos	Megan Vesce
Rosanne Vlandis Leake	Jim Waite
Christine Wilson	Amy Woodward Favreau
Larry Yakaitis	Janet Zeiger
Steve Zielinski	And Their Guests

Message from the Director

What a glorious day! The Rededication and Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Student Union was held on October 21, a perfectly gorgeous autumn day. I want to thank everyone who participated in the program and readied the building for this historical event. I think everyone will agree that it was indeed a special day, from the opening of the Doug Bernstein Game Room to the SUBOG Alumni Dinner.



Monica Rudzik, Director of the Student Union

I was reminded many times throughout the day just how special the Student Union has been and will be to the UConn community. There were so many highlights during this extraordinary day but I really do want to focus on just two.

I was very fortunate to be seated with some true veterans of SUBOG and the Student Union during dinner. About half way through my salad, I had the idea to run to my office and retrieve some pamphlets out of the archives, dating back to the late 1950's. Sure enough, several of my dinner companions found themselves pictured in those historical student union brochures. It was so heart-warming to hear as they began to share their stories from almost fifty years ago – special events, traditions, appropriate attire for the day, etc. I was completely struck by how meaningful the Student Union was and still is to each one of them. And I was overwhelmed with the sense of responsibility I felt to continue this legacy of community and connection.

My second highlight was also during dinner. Dr. Lee Williams, Dean of Students, delivered a keynote address that was probably one of the best I've ever heard regarding the role of a student union on campus. With her permission, I'd like to share one of my favorite passages with you:

This building will evolve every day, every year. A true union can never be complete, can never be complacent. It has to be a living, breathing thing, a symbol of what is best about us. It is a place that holds echoes of the past, of all those who've walked through its doors already, and it's been given to us at this moment in its history. Our job is to hold it in trust for those who haven't even arrived here yet. And that's the best that a union can be - an idea that connects us, right now, to those who've walked its floors, looked out its windows, been embraced by its energy, and to those who will come after us and reshape it, improve it, care for it, and leave it in trust for those who are on their way.

I don't think anyone has ever said it better. I'm looking forward to working with UConn students, SUBOG and all our building partners to continue this evolution. I hope each of you is creating your own memories of this special place every day.

FRS 312453

University of Connecticut
Student Union
2110 Hillside Road, U-3008
Storrs, CT 06269

Phone: 860-4863423
Fax: 860-486-1689
E-Mail: Kevin.Fahey@uconn.edu

New Alumni Website Launched

<http://www.studentunion.uconn.edu/alumni.html>

**Or visit the *Student Union* or *SUBOG* websites
and click on the link for
*Student Union & Student Leader Alumni***