

What's New @ the U!

University of Connecticut – Student Union



March Volume 1, Issue 5

UConn World Fest 2007

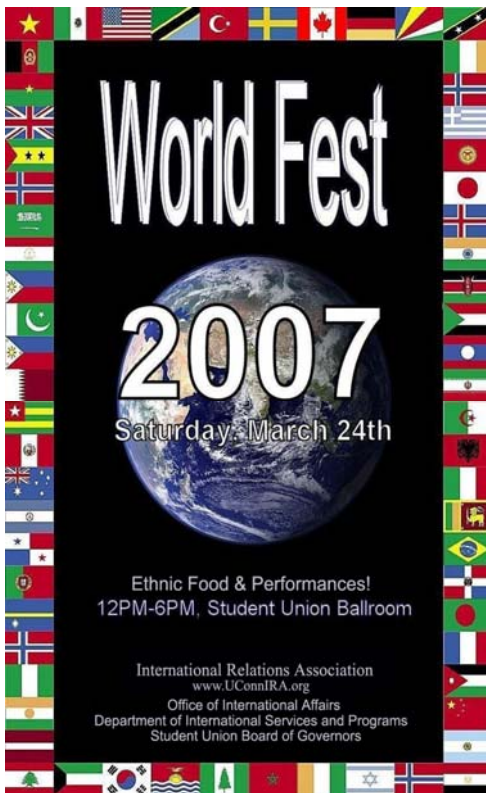
By Laurie Tompkins

UConn Worldfest 2007 will be held on Saturday March 24 in the Student Union Ballroom. The Department of International Services and Programs, the International Relations Association, the Student Union Board of Governors and the Office of International Affairs are sponsoring this event. Worldfest 2007 will begin at noon and end at 6:00pm.

Highlights of the festival include performances from the UConn Taiko club, B.A.I.L.E, Echo Uganda, Husky Bhangra, UConn Surya, Albanian Student Association, Lebanese Student Association, African Student Association, Portuguese Student Association, and Chinese Student Association, just to name a few of the groups that will surprise and delight you. In addition, international cuisines and beverages from around

the world will be available that will tempt and satisfy your taste. African, Latin American, Mediterranean, Caribbean, Asian, Middle East, and American aromas will permeate the air, thus creating a truly international atmosphere. UConn's international student organizations will sing, dance, perform and exhibit their cultural artifacts.

We hope you can join us this year to celebrate our rich cultural diversity and to show your support to our international community. Please contact 486-3855 if you have any further questions. This is an educational experience for all ages. Everyone is welcome. Admission is free of charge. Dining Services student meal swipes and/or a small fee will be charged for food and beverages.



Something for Everyone: Husky Howl

By Andy Toczydlowski

Starting in the fall of 2006, UConn Late Night became Husky Howl. With events every Friday and Saturday night in the Student Union, Husky Howl has become the weekend hang out for many students. Kyle Testerman, a second semester pre-kinesiology major, is a regular at the events, "I love coming here to see what's going on at the U. Husky Howl is always a good time, especially when the balloon artist is here." The events going on from 9 PM-1 AM range from giant, inflatable twister to the favorite of most students, stuff-a-bear. Some activities coming up during the remainder of the spring semester include acoustic open mics nights,

chocolate photos, "bling" out a pair of designer sunglasses, make your own flip flops, and more. For a full list of events or to give feedback about current events or what you would like to see in the future, please visit huskyhowl.uconn.edu.



Students competing in some giant, inflatable fun!

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*Spring is
finally in
bloom at
the U!*



Message from the Director

By Monica Rudzik

Welcome back from Spring Break! I hope you had a relaxing week and enjoyed time away from the stress of class work. I want to acknowledge the numbers of students who used this time in service to others. I am so impressed that students participated in alternative spring break activities that helped so many in need. Thank you for living the UConn Creed by demonstrating your concern for others. We are so proud of you.

We hope that you are enjoying the music in the Food Court. If you don't like what you are hearing, you have the opportunity to request what you do want us to play. Please email your suggestions to michael.bolduk@uconn.edu. Whether its reggae or rap, Sinatra or Beethoven, we can load your requests on the U's IPOD. Songs are played randomly so hopefully your favorite will pop up when you pop over!

There are a few important dates to remember for the Student Union. If you are a registered student

organization, you can submit your requests for meeting space next year beginning Monday, March 26. Requests for space received on that Monday will be assigned a number to be used for a lottery system which will determine the order of reservations. What is new this year is that this request will be for the entire academic year. Each organization may also request space for one program each semester.

On Monday April 9, the Student Union and Student Activities will host a spring egg hunt. Over 300 eggs will be hidden on the first floor of the U. If you find an egg, bring it to the Information Center and claim your prize. There is a limit of one egg per student and your UConn ID is required. You just never know what prize might be waiting for you – chocolate rabbit or DVD player. Join the hunt and see what treasure awaits you.

Midnight Breakfast is also on the horizon. Join us on April 29 for fantastic food and fabulous entertainment.

Immediately following breakfast, the Student Union will again remain open for 24 hours a day until Saturday morning, May 5 at 2:00 am. The ever-popular snack cart will make the rounds during the wee hours of the morning to provide you that boost of energy you need to succeed.

If you are looking for a job, check out the U. We have great summer jobs or you can secure a position for next year. Stop by the Information Center and complete an application. We offer great positions, opportunities for advancement, competitive pay and flexible hours. Why would you want to work anywhere else on campus?

We have many other exciting changes in store for U at the U. Keep your eyes and ears open and you just might see or hear something new. And if you have an idea, feel free to share it with us. You can fill out our on-line survey, complete a suggestion box card, or just send me an email at monica.rudzik@uconn.edu. I'd love to hear from U.



Byron Hurt: Beyond Beats and Rhymes

By Colleen Ruppert

On Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. students, staff and other members of the university community and beyond gathered in the Student Union Theater to watch a screening of Byron Hurt's, *Hip Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*. The Violence Against Women Prevention Program, The African American Cultural Center, The Institute for African American Studies, the Department of Student Activities and the Women's Studies co-sponsored the screening and post-discussion. The film examined the gender roles represented in hip hop music from Hurt's point of view as a black male who was a former

college quarterback with a strong connection to hip hop music. In the film there were many well-known hip hop artists who shared their perspectives on the extent to which the music demeans women. Overall the film demonstrated ways that men fulfill a socially constructed masculine role and how they react to perpetuate the inequality of women in mainstream hip hop culture.

According to his website, "the mission of Byron Hurt is to educate and inspire men to help reduce the high levels of

men's violence against women throughout the United States and in the world." (<http://www.bhurt.com/about.php>). After the screening, Hurt answered questions of students in the audience. There was much speculation about the responsibility of men if women dress and act the way they do, but Hurt was adamant about the role men play. The themes this film addressed are not only present within hip hop music but also throughout our society, and therefore it is important to support the continued awareness and activism for women's issues.



www.bhurt.com/beyondBeatsAndRhymes

Hurt's mission is to, "educate and inspire men to help reduce the high levels of men's violence against women through the United States and in the world."

A New Tradition: Mardi Gras at the U

By Colleen Ruppert

With a new building and a new director comes a new tradition: Mardi Gras in the Student Union. On Tuesday, February 20, there was no short supply of purple, gold, or green. Students and staff enjoyed a variety of Cajun-inspired entries from Union Street Market and Chuck & Auggies. Music reminiscent of the funky jazz that is signature to the New Orleans region livened up the food court. And free beads and King Cake were given out by Dining Services.

Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" and is the day before Ash Wednesday. The date can fall anywhere between February 3rd and March 9th depending on the Lunar calendar used by the Catholic Church to determine the date of Easter. Mardi Gras is always 47 days before Easter Sunday. The Mardi Gras season begins on January 6, the twelfth day after Christmas which is known as the "Epiphany", "Twelfth Night", or "Kings Day." It is the day the gift-

bearing Magi visited the baby Jesus, and is celebrated with its own unique rituals. The official colors for Mardi Gras are purple, green, and gold. These colors were chosen in 1872 by the King of Carnival, Rex. He decided that purple would represent justice, green would stand for faith, and gold would stand for power. Reference: <http://www.holidays.net/mardigras/story.htm>



Dining Services served free King Cake to students and staff in honor of the Mardi Gras celebration.

Nutmeg Yearbook: A Year of Updates

By Janella Mildrexler



The 2006-07 Nutmeg Yearbook staff has had a very busy year full of changes and new events that we hope to continue in years to come! In August, the Assistant Editor-in-Chief, Alex Zurita, attended the Involvement Office's Student Leader Retreat. At the retreat, Alex met with the executive officers representing other student organizations all over campus.

On October 14, Editor-in-Chief, Tara Sawhney, and three other editors were able to attend the day-long DaVor Photography Yearbook Roundtable in Boston. This workshop is hosted by the professional photography company with whom the yearbook contracts for senior portraits. There, the students learned more about the publishing software used to create the yearbook, including Adobe InDesign. The students met with and gained inspiration from award winning staff and books from other area universities and then brainstormed theme and layout ideas.

Once again this year, the Nutmeg Yearbook participated in the "Countdown to

Commencement," the educational event for graduating students developed by the Senior Year Experience. All graduating seniors receive a yearbook and the portrait is the best way to be assured the students will be featured in their book. At the event, the yearbook provided information about the free senior portrait settings and the distribution of the yearbooks to seniors after graduation. Last fall, 859 students had their portraits taken for the yearbook. The yearbook hopes to see the same turnout as the portrait sessions wrap up this spring.

In November, Tara and Alex traveled to the home of the yearbook's publisher, Jostens, in State College, PA. There, they met with designer Rick Brooks as well as the people at the plant who print and bind the book. They learned more about the publishing experience, including how the cover of the book is developed. Alex was also able to attend the College Media Advisers conference this March in New York City. This conference offers an opportunity for college students from all over the United States and

Canada to learn from each other, from other advisers and from respected media professionals.

This year, the Nutmeg Yearbook Publications Board also begun its inaugural run by meeting to update and rewrite the organization's constitution as well as editor job responsibilities and contracts. The students on the board have worked many hours on all the projects and will complete the final details by the end of the semester. This semester, the yearbook has applied to the Student Activity and Service Fee Committee to be a separate line item on the student fee bill. In the fall, the referendum was put to a student vote and passed 719 to 171.

As the yearbook staff prepares for their final deadlines, they are excited to complete a long but fruitful year. They have accomplished quite a lot in a short amount of time and look forward to continuing to improve the Nutmeg Yearbook in the years to come. Just as the theme for the 2006-07 book says, it's a time of celebration!

Do you want to be highlighted in the Student Union Newsletter?

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See you at the U!