



International Center Celebrates the Season!

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday and winter break!



By Colleen Ruppert

The months of November and December are busy times for the International Center. During the traditional American holiday breaks the international student experience is much different compared to students from the US, who head home to spend time with their family and friends. Some International students don't have the luxury to travel back to their native country. The International Center offers different programs to provide the students a place to spend the holidays.

On the Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving, the Center sponsored a Traditional Thanksgiving Town Meeting which included a tradition Thanksgiving dinner. The intentions of the Center were to expose students and scholars to the traditions

of Thanksgiving as well as the meaning of a traditional town meeting. In addition to the Thanksgiving event, the International Center sponsored a New York City bus trip on December 2nd, a Holiday Coffee Hour on December 6th, and will host a New Years Eve party to help celebrate the start of 2007.

Not only has the Center provided programs for students during the breaks, they also celebrated International Week from November 13th-17th. Governor Jodi Rell played a large part in making International Week a reality for the first time this year. To celebrate, the Center hosted a Game Night, which featured international games from around the world, a Spanish Coffee hour that included traditional

Spanish food, and an International Movie Night. The staff looks forward to expanding the activities during this week to also include World Fest, which they hope to make a part of International Week next year.

By offering a variety of programs for International students, the staff strives to provide a fuller experience here at UConn. It is the hope of the Center to establish stronger partnerships with the other cultural centers in the Student Union and to continue to expand the programming to meet the needs of their students. For more information on the programs sponsored by the International Center please visit their website at www.disp.uconn.edu.

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Staff and students enjoy the Traditional Thanksgiving Town Meeting.

Message from the Director

By Monica Rudzik

Relax



Play



Laugh

It's time to celebrate! Whether this was your first semester or your last at UConn, you made it through the tests, presentations, papers and projects. That is a significant accomplishment that often times goes without notice. So give yourself a pat on the back and enjoy the well-deserved break heading your way soon. Don't forget to stop by for your free Midnight Breakfast on Sunday, December 10. We will be open 24 hours a day during finals week so if you need a place to study, let us be your destination. We have big spaces for study groups and quiet spots for folks who really need to concentrate.

We are sharing the same end of semester feelings as you in the New U. It was our first semester too, and I want to thank everyone who took the time to complete our online "report card" survey. We love feedback so

please let us hear from you. Over the past few months, I've received some great suggestions from a number of students and I want to ask you to keep 'em coming. We are always looking for ways to make the U the best it can be and appreciate your help in accomplishing that task.

For those who celebrate traditional December holidays, I hope this will be a time of wonderful memories and special family gatherings. There really is something magical about this time of year. Last year I was a foster mom for two little girls, and I really tried to make it a special holiday for them. But I was reminded that all the Dora's and Barbie's in the world would be gladly traded for five minutes of time with a real mom in a familiar home. If you have a few moments, please take the time to do something special for someone who

may not have the same opportunities and advantages you enjoy. There are so many ways for you to make a difference this season and maybe it will encourage all of us to continue that sense of service throughout the entire year.

Whatever plans you have for the break, I hope you will enjoy this time and return to us safely in January. Be careful traveling when you go over the river and through the woods.

To our December graduates – hats off to you. May the rest of your life be the best of your life! We wish you much success in all your future endeavors and we know your education will take you wonderful places.

Happy New Year and all the best to you in 2007!

Midnight Breakfast in the New U!

By Colleen Ruppert

UConn's faculty and staff are helping students kick off finals with a much deserved "midnight breakfast" to be served here in the Student Union! Midnight Breakfast will be Sunday, December 10th from 10:30pm – 12:30am.

This there will be traditional breakfast foods as well as sample slices of cheese and pepperoni pizza, Caesar

salad, macaroni & cheese, chips & salsa and mini apple crisp from the Union Street Market. There will also be entertainment by musicians and balloon artists and UConn ACappella groups.

Wristbands will be required to take part in Midnight Breakfast. Residents will be able to pick their wristbands up

the day of (December 10) in the dining halls and Commuters will be able to pick their wristbands up at the Student Union the day of (December 10) and throughout the event. UConn ID is required.

We hope many will come out and take part in this delicious UConn tradition!

Good Luck on Finals!



A Bitter-Sweet Goodbye

By Colleen Ruppert

Just before Thanksgiving I had the chance to sit and chat with Stephanie Marnin, Director of the Rainbow Center. After 5 years at UConn, Stephanie has successfully completed her Law degree and passed her Bar Exams. She will be saying goodbye on January 19, 2007 and joining Outten & Golden, LLP, a plaintiff's side employment discrimination firm.

Stephanie came to this campus at a time when UConn was ranked within the 20 most homophobic schools in the US. When asked what her biggest challenge has been as Director, Stephanie replied that "homophobia, in general," was something that she was always working against. Because homophobia is not just an issue at UConn but a national issue that reaches all the way up

through the ranks of our government, it is a huge battle to fight. But since joining the Rainbow Center not long ago, Stephanie has helped to bring a lot of progress to this campus. This fall UConn was recognized for being one of the top 100 schools for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students. This is a great accomplishment for Stephanie, the Rainbow Center, and UConn in such a short amount of time.

Stephanie is proud to note that the Rainbow Center has brought some of the best, most well known speakers throughout the country and the world to UConn's campus, including Howard Zinn and Kenji Yoshino to name a few. Along with great speakers the Center provides weekly movie

nights, discussion groups, and coffee houses. The Peer Mentor program, the Speaker's Bureau, goes out into the campus community to speak to classes and organizations about LGBT issues.

It is Stephanie's hope that the momentum of the Center continues after her departure. She is optimistic for the future of the Rainbow Center. As she said, the "Center is much more than me, it is much larger than that." She is optimistic for the possibilities that lie ahead. The students and staff that remain will surely continue the legacy that Stephanie has helped create.

Stephanie has truly made an impact on UConn's campus. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her all the best!



Stephanie Marnin, Director of the Rainbow Center

Up All Night: Union Open 24 Hours for Finals

By Colleen Ruppert

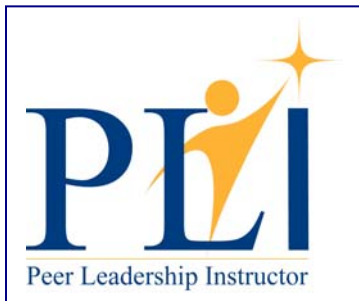
With a new building comes a new opportunity! For the first time, starting on Sunday, December 10, the Student Union will be open 24 hours during finals week through Friday, December 15 at 2am. We hope that students will take advantage of using the Student Union for all their final exam

preparation needs. They can study, take a nap, take a break, or get a snack. There will be a free refreshment cart offering snacks to students throughout the night as a way to help support them through finals. If Up All Night is successful this year, it is our intention to try to make this a tradition for finals week.



Peer Leadership Instructor Program

By Julie Silverstein



The Peer Leadership Instructor (PLI) program is a multi-tiered approach to peer education and leadership development. This successful program invites experienced student leaders (juniors and seniors) to work with graduate students in the Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) program while they facilitate a leadership seminar designed for first-year students. PLI's assist with the development and delivery of material and share their leadership experiences with their peers - all while improving their own leadership and facilitation skills. As part of this experience, PLI's take a 3-credit course that focuses on the relevant theories and principles of leadership, as well as techniques for effective instruction. The HESA students in the program

have the opportunity to work closely with student leaders while enhancing their knowledge and familiarity in course development, instruction, and administration. The program started in Fall 2005 and, so far we have had 32 PLI's, 11 HESA students, and hundreds of first-year students involved with this program. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and the quality of our PLI applicants continues to improve.

The highlight of this semester was the Leadership Expo, which was a combined display of projects from all 7 sections of the leadership seminars. Students were given the assignment to create group projects demonstrating "The Face of Leadership" and then all projects were put on display in the Student Union Ballroom.

Throughout the day on Wednesday, November 29th, all of the first-year students in the classes came by to present their own projects, while viewing all the others. This gave them the unique opportunity to see what other classes have done, and in some cases meet and mingle with students from other sections of the class as well.

Next semester, there will be 5 sections of the Leadership Seminar class, 10 new PLI's, and 3 new HESA students involved with the program. Dr. Joe Briody, Associate Director for Leadership Development, will continue to oversee all components of this program with assistance from his graduate assistant, Julie Silverstein.

Sand Art Brownie Mix in a Jar



Give a gift that's sweet!

Ingredients

5/8 cup all-purpose flour
 3/4 teaspoon salt
 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
 2/3 cup packed brown sugar
 2/3 cup white sugar
 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
 1/2 cup vanilla baking chips
 1/2 cup walnuts

Directions

1. Mix the 5/8 cup of flour with salt. In a clean, 1 quart or 1 liter jar, layer the ingredients in the order given. Starting with the flour and salt mixture, and ending with the walnuts.
2. Attach a decorative tag to the out side of the jar with the following directions: Sand Art Brownies: 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease one 9x9 inch square baking pan. 2. Pour the contents of the jar into a large bowl, and mix well. 3. Stir in 1 teaspoon vanilla, 2/3 cup vegetable oil, and 3 eggs. Beat until just combined. 4. Pour the batter into the prepared pan, and bake in the preheated oven for 25 to 30 minutes.

A Successful Semester for Club Sports

By Ashley Green

The UConn Club Sports Program has made tremendous strides this semester. Many of our teams had very successful fall seasons. Women's Lacrosse went undefeated in fall ball. For the first time our Women's Volleyball team placed 1st in the Fairfield University tournament.

The 9th Annual UConn Ballroom Dance Competition was held on November 4, 2006. Over 400 competitors from 18 different institutions were present. The competition drew in top judges from the area and our Ballroom Dance and DanceSport teams received top honors in American and

International dance styles.

As our program continues to improve, more teams are having the chance to compete in regional and national tournaments. This year the UConn Cycling team placed 24th in the NCAA MTB National Cycling Championship. The Men's Soccer team traveled to Arizona to compete in the 2006 NIRSA National Soccer Championships. And the UConn Skydiving team will be competing in Nationals starting December 27, 2006 in Florida.

As busy as our teams are practicing and competing, our student-

athletes are just as active in the community. The UConn Men's Rugby team had an Informational Rugby Game against Yale while Cheshire High schoolers watched. In addition, our Men's and Women's Club Volleyball teams hosted a free volleyball clinic for over 30 inner city children from Hartford. Many more activities are being planned for Spring 2007. We are looking forward to a very productive, fun and successful 2007!

Please visit our website www.clubsports.uconn.edu to find out more about the 31 club sports that we offer.



Participants show their stuff at the 19th Annual Ballroom Dance Competition.

ACUI: Celebrating Traditions, Welcoming Additions

By Colleen Ruppert

The weekend before Thanksgiving Break as most of the campus sat quiet, the Student Union was full of excitement! The Region 1, American College Unions International (ACUI) conference was proudly hosted by UConn this year. The conference theme was "Celebrating Traditions, Welcoming Additions", which resonated throughout the activities of the weekend. Typically the Regional Conference will see around 120 delegates, but this year, the organization was thrilled

to have over 200 in attendance. One of the most exciting aspects of the conference was the attendance of international delegates, who traveled from Ireland and Great Britain.

Throughout the weekend the delegates were able to share with as well as learn from their peers across the region. Undergraduate student, graduate student, and professional experience programs were offered to target the needs of each specific group. Educational sessions as

well as a mentoring program providing many opportunities for socializing, networking and the fostering of connections across the region. Some of the highlights included an ACUI Late Nigh program, much like UConn's Husky Howl program, an exciting live auction that helped to raise money for student scholarships, and the business meeting where the previous year's executive leaders passed on the torch. When all was said and done, the conference was a huge success.

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See you at the U!