

## ELA GANDHI SPEAKS TO UCONN

Submitted by Sheila Kucko

On Thursday, October 4, 2007 at 4:30 pm in the Student Union Theatre, Ela Gandhi, peace activist and former Member of Parliament in South Africa spoke to UConn. Her keynote address was titled "The Crises of the 21st Century - Some Gandhian Solutions".

In a world ostensibly governed by violence both large and small scale, begetting still more violence, it might be easy to forget that principled restraint, nonviolence and compassionate action still matter. Indeed, they may show the way forward from this cycle.

Ela Gandhi has carried her family's legacy and put those beliefs into practice for six decades. In 2002, she was awarded the Community of

Christ International Peace Award. Prior to entering political life, she had been a social worker. During apartheid, she was banned from political activism and subjected to house arrest for nine years. In Parliament from 1994 to 2004, Ms. Gandhi aligned herself with the African National Congress party and represented the area of her birth in the KwaZulu Natal province near Durban. Granddaughter of the Mahatma Gandhi, she founded the Gandhi Development Trust, developed a 24-hour program against domestic violence, and currently serves as Chancellor of Durban University of Technology.

The Asian American Studies Institute, Asian American



Photo by Nic Paget-Clarke  
<http://www.inmotionmagazine.com/global/eg1.html>

Cultural Center, Jain Center of Greater Hartford, Women's Studies Program, Women's Center, UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights, India Studies Program, and Department of History sponsored this free event that was open to the public.

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## NEW DIRECTOR JOINS RAINBOW CENTER



As the new director, Fleurette King manages the center's operation and staff

to fulfill the mission of the Rainbow Center. King's involvement in social justice education and valuing

diversity efforts, inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, expands over a 14-year career in higher education.

King obtained a BA in Sociology with a minor in Ethnic Studies from Bowling Green State University and a MA in Sociology from DePaul University. King's participation in regional and national networks reflects a

deep passion and commitment to social justice.

Within the last couple of years, King and spouse participated in a commitment ceremony and celebration, and recently became legally united through a Civil Union. Fleurette looks forward to working with familiar and new faces of the Rainbow Center.

## THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT: A GROWING STORY

Submitted by Lindsay Blair

It's about making a difference at UConn. The Women's Center is helping to break the silence on our campus and speaking out to end the violence against women. How are they doing this? During the week of October 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, the Clothesline Project was on display on Fairfield Way drawing the attention of students, staff, and faculty.

**What is the Clothesline Project?**  
The Clothesline Project is a traveling visual display of t-shirts that bears witness to the epidemic of sexual and domestic violence against women that our communities face. Each shirt hung on the clothesline represents someone who has survived or been affected by domestic or sexual violence.

The Clothesline is a dynamic display that keeps growing because it encourages people to come "hang their

story" at every new showing. Specifically at UConn, people were encouraged to share their support by leaving messages on a support board or by making a t-shirt reflecting either personal



The Clothesline Project and supportive message board outside the Student Union.



supported this effort at UConn by providing t-shirts from around the state, and UConn has been collecting the t-shirts each year to create its own clothesline. In past years, there have been up to 50 t-shirts made by UConn students in one week and this year many more have shared their stories as well. In addition to showing their support, the project had over 20 student volunteers working with the Violence Against Women Prevention Program in the Women Center who helped make the program happen.

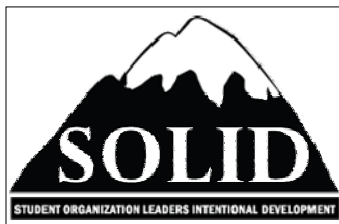
This is UConn's chance to share their support and break the silence in our state. For more information, please contact the Women's Center at (860) 486-4738.

survivor experiences, secondary survivor reflections, or their beliefs for supporting the cause that can be added to the line. The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence has

## SOLID: A BRAND NEW STUDENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Submitted by Mark Oliver

Fifty-three workshops offered, 876 students trained, and knowledge of leadership spreads throughout the campus ... all within the first four weeks of the semester. The Student Organization Leaders Intentional Development (S.O.L.I.D.) program is a new initiative from the Department of Student Activities that aims to support the needs of student organizations. Officers of student organizations may attend a variety of



development programs that intend to equip students with leadership, communication and organizational skills. Along with the refinement of these skills, the SOLID workshops also highlight campus resources that are available to help student organizations achieve their goals.

Employees from the Student Activities Business Office, Programs Office, and Involvement Office collaborated to develop five workshops this summer. Additional

workshops will be created during the upcoming months, and student leaders may opt to attend these to develop specific knowledge of important issues. The current workshops will continue to be offered throughout the semester to cater for the newly formed organizations, and also to accommodate the busy schedules that students have. For more detailed information about the S.O.L.I.D. program, please visit the website at

<http://www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/solid.html>.

## HUSKY PRINT HAS ARRIVED

The wait is over. Husky Print, a quick copy service center, is now open in the Student Union. This extension of Document Production will provide basic black and white and color copying and printing. Husky Print is able to accept all department projects as well as individual copying requests.

There will be a grand opening celebration and ribbon-cutting



ceremony on Wednesday, October 11 at 1:00pm. In the meantime, please feel free to spread the good news that this service is now available in the Student Union.

Husky Print is located on the second floor Room 230, next to Anthony's Hair Salon and just around the corner from the Information Center.

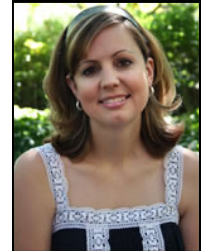
The Husky Print phone number is 486-4596 and the fax is 486-4111. You can also send your projects via email to [huskyprint@uconn.edu](mailto:huskyprint@uconn.edu) or visit them on the web at

<http://web.uconn.edu/print/>

## THE OFFICE OF FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE WELCOMES NEW STAFF

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lindsay Sell serves as the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life. She oversees IFC, Panhellenic Recruitment, programming, and marketing. Lindsay hails from Colorado where she attended Colorado State University to earn a BA in Speech Communication. Lindsay then spent a year traveling as an Educational Leadership Consultant for her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta. She then returned to Colorado State to complete an MS in Student Affairs in Higher Education while advising the Greek Judicial Board and working in the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. During her post graduate work, Lindsay served as the Coordinator of Student Programs at the Colorado State University Alumni Association and joined UConn's OFSL staff in the summer of 2007.



### GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Kendra Darigan serves as a Graduate Assistant for Fraternity and Sorority Life. She oversees Panhellenic and HuskyTHON. Kendra graduated from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 2005 with a major in Professional Studies and minors in Professional Education and Health Science. Following graduation Kendra moved to St. Louis, Missouri where she held the Chapter Services Director position for Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority. Currently she is a graduate student in UConn's Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) masters program.



### GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Kevin Lobdell serves as a Graduate Assistant for Fraternity and Sorority Life. He is in charge of IFC Recruitment, MGC, Order of Omega, and Greek Week. Kevin is currently a student in the UConn Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) masters program. Kevin graduated from Clarkson University in 2006 with a BS in Supply Chain Management. Kevin is a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and continues to do volunteer work for Sigma Chi as facilitator for the Risk Management team at their annual international leadership training workshop.



## THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH WELCOMES NEW STAFF

### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Miguel Colon graduated from Connecticut College in New London, CT in 2001. There he had a double major in Hispanic Studies and Italian. Prior to coming to UConn, Miguel was the Assistant Director for Service Learning and Volunteer Programs at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT for 4 years. In his spare time, Miguel enjoys playing basketball, volleyball and soccer. He is the oldest of three and his parents and sisters live in Puerto Rico.



### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Megan K. Marshall is originally from CT but now considers herself a citizen of the world. She graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 2003 with a BA in Psychology and a double minor in Hunger Studies and Leadership. After graduation Meg lived in places like Belize, Detroit and El Salvador. Most recently, she was with the organization, Catholic Relief Services. As part of the new Volunteer Program there, Meg was sent to live and work with Salvadoran migrants and their families. Aside from traveling, she enjoys a good swim, a relaxing kayak trip or even a walk on the wild side. Meg loves documentary and Indie films, great non-fiction books and a little David Sedaris to boot! In her free time Meg works for social change, sips good tea and relishes in the changing of the seasons. Meg is excited to be at UCONN and be involved with the new challenges of the Jumpstart program in Community Outreach.



## THE INVOLVEMENT OFFICE WELCOMES NEW STAFF

### GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Marisa Sullivan is originally from Long Island, New York. She attended Western New England College in Springfield, MA, receiving her BA in psychology with a minor in Philosophy in May 2007. At her undergraduate institution, Marisa spent time working in the Office of Freshmen and Transfer students and for the athletic department. She played collegiate soccer for the past four years as the goalkeeper for the women's team. In her spare time, Marisa enjoys trying to keep active playing soccer and spending time relaxing and reading. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Higher Education and Student Affairs, and Marisa hopes to one day give back and change a student's life as her life was changed!



### GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Kara Fair attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she received a BS in Education; Health and Physical Education. Prior to coming to UConn to pursue her Masters in School Counseling, Kara worked as the Education Coordinator for Victim Services Inc. In her free time, Kara enjoys playing basketball and spending time with her husband Justin.



### GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Heather Strunk is a recent graduate from the University of Scranton in Scranton, PA where she earned her B.S. in Counseling and Human Services with a minor in Spanish. Throughout her valuable college experience, she recognized the value she holds for educating and serving others. As a result, she is now a first year Graduate Student in the Neag School of Education working toward her master's degree in School Counseling. She looks forward to making a difference in the educational experience of primary and secondary students and working toward closing CT's achievement gap. In her free time she enjoys running, listening to music, athletic events and spending time with friends and family. She currently lives with her family in Hebron, CT.



### GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Elizabeth Santos received her BA in Sociology with a minor in Spanish at Loyola College of Maryland this past May. She is originally from Wethersfield, CT and is glad to be back in New England. Currently, Elizabeth is studying in the Neag School of Education here at UConn and anticipates receiving her master's degree in School Counseling in May of 2010. In her free time Elizabeth enjoys traveling and being spontaneous.



## THE PROGRAMS OFFICE WELCOMES NEW STAFF

### PROGRAM ADVISOR

Originally from Manchester NH, Melissa Arroyo attended college at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI. There she double majored in Elementary Education and Psychology. Melissa spent the last couple of years in New Britain, attending Central Connecticut State University, where she received her Masters in May 2007 in Counseling: Student Development in Higher Education. While there Melissa worked both with Student Activities and Student Center Operations. She likes to spend as much free time in New Hampshire with her family, especially her two nieces and her dog, Shadow.



### SECRETARY

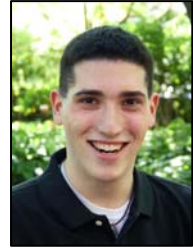
Lyndsay Nalbandian graduated from UConn in 1998 with a BA in English. She met her husband here and has been married for a little over 5 years. Before coming to Student Activities Lyndsay worked in the Graduate School for the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education.



## THE PROGRAMS OFFICE NEW STAFF CONTINUED

### GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Adam Frank is originally from Carmel, NY where his parents still live. He attended Stonehill College where he majored in History with a concentration in American History. Currently Adam is pursuing a master's degree in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program (HESA) here at UConn. He loves the theater and goes to about 25-30 Broadway shows a year and also enjoys other regional theater. Adam is also a "foodie", and you can usually catch him with the Food Network on TV as he is cooking or baking in the kitchen!



### GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Liz Green graduated in May 2007 from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA with a B.A. in History. She is originally from Lowell, Massachusetts but now lives in Manchester, CT across the street from the Buckland Hills Mall. When Liz is not at the mall, she spends her time by the pool, cooking, and exploring Hartford. She is very excited to be a Husky and to begin her career in Student Affairs.



## THE STUDENT UNION & CONFERENCE SERVICES WELCOMES NEW STAFF

### STUDENT UNION EVENING OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

Nicole Starkey will be keeping an eye on the Student Union Tuesday - Saturday evenings, paying particular attention to student organization evening program production needs. Nicole graduated from UConn in 2000 with a degree in Family Studies. Nicole's prior positions include working with St. Agnes Family Center for teenage moms, a Juvenile Justice Case Worker, working with CHAP helping college-aged students with basic life skills, and most recently working part time at Three Rivers Community College as a student organization advisor. Nicole and her husband, Andrew, live in Willimantic with their three children (Nina, Juan and Ben) and of course the family dogs, Prince and Ruby.



### CONFERENCE SERVICES PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Steven J. Rugens joined Conference Services over the summer. He has most recently been an independent meeting and event management consultant and currently teaches at the University of New Haven as an adjunct faculty member for Tourism and Hospitality Studies. Steven's list of conference-related experiences is extensive, as he has worked with groups ranging from 10 to 3,500. He acquired his extensive skills as director of Meeting and Events at Association Resources, West Hartford and prior to that at the State of Connecticut Department of Labor in Wethersfield. Steven is a long-standing member of Meeting Professionals International (MPI) and has held a number of leadership positions in the Connecticut River Valley chapter. In addition, he is a member of the Advisory Board for the Hazell Center for Hospitality Sales & Event Management at the University of New Haven. Steven earned a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Hartford and a bachelor's degree in Geography & Tourism from Central Connecticut State University. In 2001, he was certified by the Convention Industry Council as a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) and re-certified in 2006.



Look for the next issue of *What's New @ the U* on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to include your office, area, or department in the next issue, please contact Colleen Ruppert at [student0547@ad.uconn.edu](mailto:student0547@ad.uconn.edu). The next submission deadline is Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.