



Updates from the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

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Questions About the Division?

Please email questions about the Division to kellie.kirby@uconn.edu. We will do our best to answer your query via email or in the next edition of *Updates*.

Board of Trustees Updates by John Saddlemire

The Board of Trustees held their first meeting of 2006 in Rome Ballroom on January 31st. Of particular note to the Division of Student Affairs was the decision to reorganize the College of Continuing Studies into a division. One important implication of this change is that Student Affairs is being asked by the University to provide the leadership to create a one-stop approach to conference services. Sam Miller is leading the effort to understand present modes of operation and bring forth an approach to consolidate our institutional efforts. This will be an opportunity for the Division to support the academic mission of the University and provide excellent service for our colleagues as well as outside groups interested in holding events on our campus. More details will follow as they become available.

Correction Regarding Employee Appreciation Luncheon by Cynthia F. Jones

In the last e-newsletter a number of UNITE Dining Staff were listed as slated to receive awards based on employment of five years duration. Due to our need to mirror the practices of University of Connecticut Human Resources Department, the awards list has been revised so that only employees who have worked at UConn for 10, 15, 20 or 25+ years will be awarded recognition at the Employee Luncheon. Please accept our apologies for any misunderstanding, but the bottom line is that the University issues the awards and sends them to the respective divisions for distribution. The Vice President's office is able to present only those awards that are provided by Human Resources.

Division of Student Affairs Guiding Principles

Collaboration

Our strength and impact on this campus as a coordinated team can and will be extraordinary.

Credibility & Confidence through Competence

Students, staff, and faculty gravitate to organizations and individuals who are knowledgeable and thoughtful in affairs.

Initiative

We create opportunities that encourage and reward new ideas.

Integrity

Play by the Rules

Individually and collectively, we meet the expectations and guidelines of our colleagues and the University.

Transparency

Our staff and constituents must know and understand the "what" and "why" of what we do. We are inclusive of those we serve in our planning and our operations.

Stewardship

Appropriately maintain and manage our resources.

Reliability

There is no greater compliment than being that person or team others can count on in both good and challenging times.

Excellent Services

Offer what we do in the best way possible, while thoughtfully balancing educational needs and customer service.

Student Union Will be Ready to WOW WOW!

by M. Kevin Fahey, Interim Director of Student Activities & Student Union

Yes, the new Student Union will be open and ready to WOW everyone during Husky WOW 2006. "Construction continues to proceed on schedule and we hope to have our 'CO' by June 2nd," said Chuck Morrell, Associate Director for Student Union Operations. The long anticipated completion of the Student Union is, indeed, just around the corner. What you will see over the next few months and what to expect next August:

- The construction fence around the Student Union will be pulled back over Spring Break, grass will be planted, and the area around the Union will be cleaned up.
- Konover Construction could vacate the Student Union Mall by early March.
- Construction is due to be completed by June 2.
- Asian American Cultural Center, Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center and the Women's Center will relocate into the Union this summer.
- Dining Services will complete outfitting their portion of the Food Court over the summer.
- The current Union Café will remain open until Dining Services is ready to open their portion of the Food Court.
- Wendy's, Blimpies, and Panda Express will continue to construct their operations and should be up and running in early August.
- The new portion of the building will have nine meeting rooms and a 5,500 square foot ballroom with a dividing wall to create two multipurpose spaces. Reservations for this space will begin being taken in April for fall 2006.
- A convenience store run by Dining Services will be located on the 2nd floor overlooking the Food Court.
- There may be up to three additional outside retail vendors on the second floor – the selection process is currently underway.
- Finally, a game room combining new technology and old fashioned board games will move into the Union Café space and be open in August.

The vision of the Student Union back in 1998 was that it be *"the unifying force of our diverse campus community."* We are on our way to realizing this vision.

Programming-wise, the Union will kick off with a Husky WOW Late Night for our new students on Friday, August 25, 2006. Late Nights will take place every weekend next year. The new ballroom is sure to be a popular program venue and the cultural centers will continue their programming with most of it now taking place in the Union.

A New "U" is coming to UCONN. Watch for it!

Upcoming Conferences

ACPA - www.myacpa.org

National Conference –
Indianapolis, Indiana

March 18 – 22, 2006

NASPA - www.naspa.org

National Conference –
Washington DC

March 11-15, 2006

ASJA - <http://asja.tamu.edu>

National Conference –
Clearwater, Florida

February 8-12, 2006

NACA - www.naca.org

National Conference – Boston,
Massachusetts

February 18-22, 2006

ACUHO-I - www.acuho-i.org

International Conference –
Atlanta, Georgia

June 25-27, 2006

NACE - www.nacweb.org

National Meeting – Anaheim,
California

May 30-June 2, 2006

Student Affairs Web Redesign by Evelyn Viglione

In alignment with our goal to provide service excellence, the Division of Student Affairs has identified a need to improve its current system of websites. A comprehensive redesign is underway to address this need for all departments within the division, with a focus on service-oriented communications and a wide range of accessibility.

An integral step toward attaining a cohesive system of departmental web sites is the creation of a new home page for the Division. This homepage will serve as a platform for connecting our websites while highlighting the many services offered by each department. The homepage will feature Division news, events, and activities while functioning as a roadmap for locating services and information across all departments.

Each department will have the opportunity to redesign their site with the guidance of the Student Affairs IT web professionals. Consistent page layout and design using the UConn web templates will produce a better user experience across all department websites making content visually appealing and easy to find. Careful thought and consideration will be given to each department in order to identify and implement strategies that will increase web communications and services.

Look for newly redesigned websites within the Division of Student Affairs to start appearing this spring semester and throughout the summer and fall of 2006!

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Evelyn Viglione at 486-4559.

Housing Lottery Implemented by Pamela Dice Schipani

Each year in late October, staff in Housing Services reminds students about the possibility of a housing lottery. This year lottery numbers between 1 and 3500 were emailed to eligible students on October 31st.

The decision about whether or not to implement a housing lottery is based on the number of on-time housing applications submitted by continuing residents. This year the number of students who applied for housing on time was 9804. 8,445 of these students were continuing residents who met eligibility requirements to participate in the housing selection process that begins in late March.

On January 30, 2006 Housing Services informed 200 students that they would be placed on a waiting list for housing due to the implementation of a lottery. Students of course were disappointed but they were aware that the lottery was a possibility. Overall the response to the lottery announcement was exactly what was expected and planned for. It's hard to tell students

Dates to Remember

March 2006

March 2nd-3rd

HESA Interview Days

March 5th-11th

Spring Recess

Attention Date Change

March 9th – Noon

Employee Appreciation

Luncheon

they are on a waiting list for housing, but most that got the news weren't shocked.

As the spring semester gets underway, each department in the Division will begin (or continue implementation of) the process of gathering data from students via student satisfaction surveys. Although some departments have conducted feedback surveys in the past, the new and updated satisfaction surveys will contain some common questions across the Division to elicit student feedback on quality, efficiency, and other areas identified as key to good client or customer service. If you would like to see the instrument being used, please see your department representative (contact your department head for this information) responsible for this project.

Plans for Student Mail Delivery Respond to Changing Needs

An article in the January 30, 2006 UConn Advance highlighted changes to the Student Union mailboxes. Please follow this link for the complete article <http://www.advance.uconn.edu/2006/060130/06013006.htm>.

Brick of the Week Awards by Kellie Kirby

Nominations

Brick of the Week nominations are continuing to trickle in. In order to make this an easier and more streamlined process, the Brick Committee would like to ask that nominations include the following:

1. Name, department, and campus address of the person nominated. This will ensure that their brick is delivered in an accurate and timely fashion.
2. Include *what* Guiding Principle(s) they demonstrated and *how* they demonstrated it in just a few sentences. These comments will be included in their award letter that accompanies their brick.

All nominators will remain anonymous unless they choose to inform the recipient. The Division's Guiding Principles can be found on the second page of this newsletter and on the Strategic Planning Task Force website at <http://www.committees.sa.uconn.edu/saplan/>. Please email Kellie Kirby at kellie.kirby@uconn.edu if you have any questions or concerns.

Brick Recipients

The following individuals have been recognized as making contributions to both the Division and UConn by their peers.

Residential Life

Rebecca Painter

Student Activities & Student Union

Gina DeVivo Brassaw (2)

Kim Schwarz

Joyce Goddard

Joe Briody

Stacy Smulka

Kevin Fahey

Sylvie Sullivan

Betty Conklin

Information/Contact Us

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

University of Connecticut

Office of the Vice President for
Student Affairs

Unit 4121

860.486.2265

860.486.1194 fax

Dining Services

Rebecca Gorin

Student Affairs Information Technology

Lisa Smith

Professional Accomplishments Within the Division

Department: Residential Life, Housing Services

Conference: Northeast Association of College and University Housing Officers (NEACUHO) – Feb. 17th, New Haven, CT.

Accomplishment: Conference Proposal Accepted - *Technology Supporting Service: Implementing an Online Housing Selection Process*

Award Recipients: Maureen Armstrong, Dan Doerr

Please send all information regarding professional accomplishments to kellie.kirby@uconn.edu. Include name, title, department, accomplishment, and any other relevant details in your email.

Employment Opportunities Within the Division

Opportunities for employment within the Division of Student Affairs are posted on the Division's website at www.dsa.uconn.edu. New positions will be added to the website within the coming weeks, so make sure to check for the most up to date information.

Division-Wide Events & Announcements

One Card Redesign

The One Card Office is running a competition for a new design of the UConn ID. The winner will receive \$250 in Husky Bucks. The competition is open to all UConn staff, faculty and students. See www.onecard.uconn.edu for more details.

Employee Appreciation Luncheon

The Division of Student Affairs Employee Appreciation Luncheon will be held on **Thursday, March 9th**. More information will follow to those who are being honored.