



The Currents

A Newsletter for Student Organizations

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In this issue of The Currents:

- Student Involvement Fair Fall 2008!
- SOLID Requirements
- Festival On The Green 2008
- America Supports You! Freedom Walk
- Coins For A Cause
- Tip of the Week!
- Want to feature your organization or advisor?
- Deadline for the next issue of The Currents

"Nothing contributes so much to tranquilize the mind as a steady purpose—a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye."
Mary Shelley

University of Connecticut

Department of Student Activities

Involvement Office

Student Union Room 302

www.getINVOLVED.uconn.edu

Phone: (860) 486-3423

Check out this week's announcements !!!

Fall 2008 Student Involvement Fair!

Welcome back to UConn! The Student Involvement Fair is already upon us. There are going to be some important and beneficial changes this year to the Involvement Fair that should make everything run more smoothly:

- **SOLID** training needs to be completed for Tier Two organizations before the organization is assigned a table. (see right).
- EVERY student organization will be listed on the flyer, even if they are unable to have a table present so that all students will have an opportunity to see the groups that interest them! **Tier One groups are not guaranteed a table** at the fair, due to the lack of availability after the Tier Two groups are assigned but they will be in the flyer.
- The Fair hours have been extended! This year, to increase student attendance, the Fair is being held from **2pm to 8pm**, here in the Student Union. Please don't forget that this will require your organization to have people or information at your table for a longer period of time.
- Tables will be placed on the **4th floor** in the Cultural Centers for the first time! Community Outreach programs will all be located on that location to allow for more involvement opportunities for the students.
- Performances will only be **after 5pm**. They will run every fifteen minutes until 8pm.

Table locations and other information are being sent, along with more confirmations once SOLID workshops are complete! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Andrea at student0785@ad.uconn.edu.

America Supports You!

This is a program from the Department of Defense recognizing citizens' support for our military and their families. Their signature event is the **America Supports You Freedom Walk**. This is a national tradition that was started by Pentagon employees in 2005 to remember and honor the lives lost on September 11 and our veterans past and present. The first walk was held only in D.C. but by 2006 there was at least one walk in every state and last year there were 255 walks across the nation and 10 walks hosted overseas. Each year the number of walks continues to grow as more people are moved to participate. It would be great to involve the University of Connecticut community in holding a Freedom Walk locally. If your student organization is interested in starting a local walk, please contact **Brielle Day** at bdav@susandavis.com. For more information on ASY and the Freedom Walks, please visit: www.americasupportsyou.mil

Showcase Your Organization or Advisor!

The Currents will be highlighting student organizations and advisors. If you would like to feature your organization in *The Currents* please send information, such as mission statement, goals, upcoming events, and any pictures to student0785@ad.uconn.edu. If you would like to feature your advisor, e-mail your advisors name to student0785@ad.uconn.edu.

Deadline for the next issue of *The Currents*

The second issue of the Fall 2008 semester will be released on September 5, 2008. Please have all inclusions for the next issue sent to Andrea at student0785@ad.uconn.edu.

SOLID Training—Involvement Fair and Event Planning:

Student Organizations need to complete their SOLID Training for the Involvement Fair and hosting programs. Here is the breakdown of what you need to do:



Tier Two:

Tier 2s need to complete a SOLID workshop for the COO, the CFO, and the Secretary. Each **MUST** be attended by the person in that position. Students have until Monday, September 1st to complete workshops to get into the Fair. SOLID training must be complete before the organization can request meeting rooms.

Event Planning:

If a Tier Two wants to hold an event or a program, they need to attend the Event Planning SOLID workshop.

Tier One:

Tier 1s need to complete their own SOLID workshop for Tier One organizations. It is **NOT** the same as the COO workshop, and is **NOT** transferrable.

Students need to register for an organization. A schedule and a registration form as well as materials can be found at <http://www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/solid.html>. Any questions about SOLID can be directed to student0690@ad.uconn.edu.

Volunteer at Festival on the Green!

Is your organization looking for a fun way to connect with the local community? Have you been searching for an opportunity to fulfill community service hours? Why not consider the Fifth Annual *Festival on the Green*? The Mansfield Downtown Partnership is looking for volunteers to help with the *Festival on the Green*. This event will be Sunday, September 14, 2008, from noon to 5 p.m. in the parking lots of the Storrs Center commercial plazas (behind Starbucks). There are a variety of ways that your organization can help out, from the children's bike parade to the pie-eating contest to clean-up. If you would like to volunteer at the *Festival on the Green* or if you would like additional information about this great community event, please contact Kathleen Paterson at the Mansfield Downtown Partnership at (860) 429-2740 or patersonkm@mansfieldct.org.



Coins for a Cause!

The Coins for a Cause campaign is a collaboration between Community Outreach, Dining Services, and interested UConn student groups. The campaign looks to fundraise for nonprofit groups by collecting change at donation boxes located in all of the UC café's throughout the campus. These are sent to the designated nonprofits at the end of the campaign. Community Outreach is currently looking for student organizations to partner with for the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters. This is a quick and easy way to donate a substantial amount of money to a charity of your choice. Please contact Olafemi Hunter at student0840@ad.uconn.edu in order to get more information on eligibility requirements and applying to sponsor a charity for the month.

Tip of the Week: 5 ways to create a strong team:

- 1) **Build a group of trust and respect:** In order for a team to develop positively, it needs a nurturing environment. Gaining the respect and trust of one another is paramount.
- 2) **Create an inclusive environment:** Having people feel that they are accepted for who they are and that they have a place in the group is so important!
- 3) **Don't limit your focus:** Build relationship in group settings and on a one-on-one time to open up and get comfortable before doing so in a group.
- 4) **Involve all members in creating a team:** Empower everyone to take ownership of the team. Elicit options and ask folks to take on different roles within the group (recognizing birthdays, spreading accolades).
- 5) **Don't play favorites:** You may be tempted to spend more time with some members than others. Challenge yourself to branch out. Commit to spending time with as many members as you can each month. Group members will notice where and with whom you spend your time.

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