



# The Currents

A Newsletter for Student Organizations

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OCTOBER 16, 2009

## Check out this week's announcements !!!

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*"Synergy - the bonus that is achieved when things work together harmoniously."*

Mark Twain

### University of Connecticut

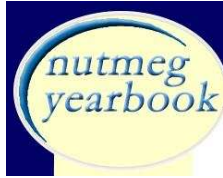
Department of Student Activities

Involvement Office

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[www.getINVOLVED.uconn.edu](http://www.getINVOLVED.uconn.edu)

Phone: (860) 486-6588



### Attention Seniors: Yearbook Photos Next Week!

All seniors are asked to schedule a yearbook photo shoot for the Nutmeg Yearbook this month from **10 a.m.—4:30 p.m.** in the Alumni Center Lounge. If you haven't scheduled an appointment yet, go to [www.ouryear.com](http://www.ouryear.com), enter school code: 269 and follow the steps accordingly. For more information, E-mail the Nutmeg Yearbook at [nutmegyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:nutmegyearbook@gmail.com) or call (860) 486-5244.

### Celebrate "Green Week" with EcoHusky!

On **Monday, October 19, 2009**, EcoHusky's "Green Week" will commence, a week-long celebration of sustainability and environmental outreach, all culminating to a synchronized worldwide event on Saturday called "350". The focus is on reducing the CO2 in the atmosphere to 350 ppm, parts per million, a number that conservative science has stated will enable us to preserve our planet in its current state of climate. Unfortunately, the world is actually approaching 390 ppm. EcoHusky is planning a walk to raise awareness about all climate issues, but this one in particular. This is where they need your help. Volunteers are asked to sign up and walk for this mission. The first 350 people to show up will receive free t-shirts commemorating this event. Since the minimum is 350 people, they are asking that you can *guarantee* certain amounts of people to attend. The event takes place **Saturday, October 24, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.** We will begin the walk at Fairfield Way. Check in will be at noon. Please inform us by Friday, October 23, as to whether you and other group members will attend. If so, include the names, emails, and phone numbers of the volunteers.



### Students Needed for 2010 Summer Orientation Staff!

Orientation Services is looking to hire new 2010 Summer Orientation Leaders. Orientation leaders perform a critical service for the University and work closely with a variety of faculty, staff, and administrators. As an orientation leader you will work harder than you ever did before with the goal of helping new UConn students and parents. There will be ten information sessions for the distribution of orientation leader applications. *All prospective applicants must attend one information session to obtain an application.* **October** is the only time of the year that they recruit applicants for the orientation leader positions. Other criteria necessary to apply for this position include being at least a second semester undergraduate by spring 2010 with a minimum GPA of 2.2.



### Featured Advisor of the Week: Gina DeVivo Brassaw

Gina is the Senior Program Coordinator for Community Outreach and the advisor for two groups on campus: Month of Kindness, and newly Tom's Shoes. She believes getting involved in activities is a key way to get to know others, do some life-altering work on community issues, build friendships and have fun! She says, "at my undergraduate institution I was involved in groups including our student government. It was through the groups that I had a chance to build some skills around working with others and I got a chance to meet different people on campus. It also helped me decide on the type of work I would do in the future." Gina enjoys helping students realize their potential in leadership with managing a group. Gina says she sees herself more as an encourager and a facilitator. The most rewarding part of being an advisor for Gina is meeting individually with the students and walking through program ideas. There are so many exciting things happening on campus and she says, "it is great to be a part of that." To those who are considering becoming an advisor, Gina says, "the more we work together on key issues, the wider impact we can have on issues that concern all of us. Even if we are just doing social groups it is a great opportunity to support unity and building of community. Being an advisor is a great way to support students interested in getting involved."

### Showcase Your Advisor!

*The Currents* is looking to highlight exceptional advisors. If you would like to feature your advisor in *The Currents* please send your advisors name to [student0884@ad.uconn.edu](mailto:student0884@ad.uconn.edu).

### Deadline for the next issue of The Currents

The next issue of the Fall 2009 semester will be released on Friday, October 23, 2009. Please have all inclusions for the next issue sent to Michelle at [student0884@ad.uconn.edu](mailto:student0884@ad.uconn.edu) by **Thursday, October 22, 2009** at noon.

### Upcoming USG Funding Session: Monday, October 19, 2009

To apply for funding from the USG, your organization **must** be a Registered SOLID Tier II Organization and your COO or CFO must attend a **USG Informational Session** once per academic year.

\*\*Funding packets are always due one week before the session. Monday and Thursday sessions are at 11 a.m. and Tuesday and Wednesday sessions are at 2 p.m. All sessions are in SU 221.\*\*

Feel free to contact the Funding Board Chairperson or the USG Office with any questions at 860-486-3708 or email at [info@usg.uconn.edu](mailto:info@usg.uconn.edu).



### You're Invited to Apply to Become a UCONN Connects Facilitator!

As an undergraduate Connects facilitator, you will need to enroll in our 3 credit mentor class--HDFS 3080, "Helping Students in Higher Education." This course is an internship that offers a combination of fieldwork experience with weekly class meetings. It is an opportunity for you to debrief about your experiences working with your students to other peer facilitators. Your fieldwork consists of mentoring six students who are on academic probation. You arrange to meet with each one on a regular basis throughout the semester (either weekly or bi-weekly). Typical meetings may cover anything from basic study skills help and support, to more in depth mentorship about goal-setting, life choices, and other issues pertaining to their life both at UConn and in general. The key to being a UConn Connects facilitator lies in the ability to connect on a personal level with students. Most of your commitment will be your meetings with students outside of class. In addition to working with a caseload of students, we have recently launched The Academic Achievement Center, a new on-campus resource, which offers, "process coaching" which focuses on the actions an individual student may take in order to improve his/her academic performance. In the AAC you will have the opportunity to help other students with study skills, time management, effective note taking, memory and other important factors in academic performance. As an AAC coach, you will work with students one-on-one to identify strategies for that individual student's success. If you have any questions, or wish to meet with **Rachel Jones, UCONN Connects Coordinator**, to discuss your involvement, please E-mail [uconnconnects@uconn.edu](mailto:uconnconnects@uconn.edu) or call (860) 486-8791.

### Leadership Program Seeking New Members!

Interested in gaining leadership experience? Enjoy working with high school students? Apply to become a member of HOLDUP! HOLDUP! (Husky Outreach for Leadership Development, Understanding and Pride) provides UConn students with the opportunity to work directly with area high school students to enhance their leadership skills and self-awareness. HOLDUP! members gain valuable experience working together to develop and present workshop material and mentor high school students while preparing them for a life of leadership beyond high school. HOLDUP! is currently seeking new members! For more information, go to: [http://www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/leadership\\_holdup.html](http://www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/leadership_holdup.html) or contact [UConnHOLDUP@gmail.com](mailto:UConnHOLDUP@gmail.com). Applications are due by **Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 5 p.m.!**



### Tip of the Week: Team Building!

As student leaders, it is vital to your group's success to work together as a team. An effective officer team does the following things:

- **Create a Welcoming Atmosphere.** The first impression for a new group member can last a lifetime. Make sure that the officer team has created a welcoming atmosphere for anyone who may be new. Go around the room and give introductions, telling a little about each person present.
- **Communicate.** Communication is the key to making any group work together. You see this when you're put into groups for class and when you're putting together an activity for your club. Be sure to respond promptly to questions and with as much detail as possible so as to minimize possible misinterpretation. Be clear and concise!
- **Respect.** Be respectful to other officers and to your members. Make sure that your members feel they are being heard during a meeting. Listen first and talk later. Some of the best ideas come from people who are afraid to speak up, so make sure everyone's included!