

The Dean's Almanac

Special Snow-n-Slush Edition

January 20, 2009

Howdy, Huskies! Welcome back to what we erroneously call “Spring Semester.” If anyone sees a sign of spring somewhere on campus, let me know. From my window there is not a robin or blade of grass or crocus in sight.

I hope you all had a great break and that the 30 or so women who didn't have North Face jackets last semester have rectified that situation. My break was low-key and relaxing, full of good food and friends, often in the same space, movies, books, a wee bit of Wii and a lot of Husky basketball. I am thoroughly enjoying the swagger of Renee, the pinpoint passing of Kaili, the elegance of Kalana, the blinding speed of Lorin, the long reach and little hook of Tina, and of course, the did-she-just-really-do-that?!?! of Maya. I was also enjoying the floor-burn gutsiness of Caroline, but she pulled up lame so will be supporting her teammates from the bench the rest of the season. Hang in there, Caroline. You'll be back next year to defend the title.



Lots of great stuff going on around campus as the semester unfolds. SUBOG has done its usual superb job of offering up [activities to ward off cabin fever](http://www.subog.uconn.edu/index.php) (<http://www.subog.uconn.edu/index.php>), including the famous One-Ton Sundae on February 6. And of course there's always plenty to do in the [Rec Center](http://web.uconn.edu/recreation/) (<http://web.uconn.edu/recreation/>), whether it's flag football or a spin class, both of which will help you get in shape for your Spring Break bathing suit debut. Unless, of course, you want to spend Spring Break [healing the hearts](http://studentactivities.uconn.edu/co_index.html) (http://studentactivities.uconn.edu/co_index.html) and homes of Katrina victims in New Orleans, which I highly recommend.

When last we met, there were a few pending questions that I had a chance to get to over the break. **Justin** asked about parking availability (or lack thereof), and Head Parking Honcho (Honcha?) Ann Denny wants to assure everyone that “We do not issue more permits than we have spaces.” She also recommends building in enough time to get to classes even if you have to park in the hinterlands. I know—the walk is long and the air is cold. But we have a good shuttle system and an escort service (486-4809) that can help you get across campus. And get some good long underwear! I personally prefer LL Bean's Wicked Warm line. It practically makes me want to pursue my dream of leading an Antarctic expedition. Any takers?

Corey inquired about the lack of electrical outlets in the library, a real problem during final exams, and I sent that request along to our Head Library Honcho, Brinley Franklin, and Barry Feldman, our Chief Operating Officer. Brinley reports that an electrician came over and took a

look at what it would cost to add more outlets, and at a recent meeting, funding was indeed approved to add some. So hopefully there will be more places to plug in come finals this Spring, and you can thank Corey for the suggestion.

Speaking of electricity, **Cindy** asked about perhaps adding a blue light at Mansfield Apartments, and maybe even one at E.O. Smith. According to Jack Babbitt, Director of Several Things Including Telecommunications,

E.O. Smith has no phones on its campus. However, there is one on the corner at the light near Store 24, between the School of Fine Arts and E.O. Smith. The phone is located on the Fine Arts side of the road. As for Mansfield Apartments – we are currently getting detailed quotes from our contractor on the installation of five Code Blue phones within the Apartments complex.

I'll check in with them soon and see how that process is coming. Please continue to let me know if you think a blue light or other lighting might make an area of campus safer. I pass these suggestions along to Chief Hudd of our University Police Department and Barry Feldman, our Chief Operating Officer. They are very committed to making the campus safer every day, and have used your suggestions to help that happen.

The last Almanac question of 2008 I received came from **Heather**. Actually it was two questions. Here's the first:

Is there (and if there isn't there should be) personal finance classes for non-business majors? I am a communication disorders major and some of my friends and I were talking about investments and buying a car after college. It came to our attention that we do not have a clue on the first thing in stocks, mutual funds, etc. We are not business majors nor are we permitted to take business classes. Other topics we discussed included buying a house, choosing the right credit card, investment, interest, retirement, etc. We would like a "personal finance for dummies" type thing. It would be nice if there were classes offered for upperclassmen that would answer issues we all will face after graduating college.

Absolutely great idea, Heather. And it gives me a chance to plug one of our top-notch programs, [Senior Year Experience](#). It's more than "personal finance for dummies." It's more like "real life for dummies," and covers some of the very topics you mention. They offer classes and a variety of programs that juniors and seniors should definitely check out. It's well worth the effort to learn how to manage those big salaries you'll be making upon graduation...at least that's what I hope will happen for you.

Heather's second question was about the possibility of a 1-credit class offered around current events. I'd suggest some of the INTD 1820 courses, but unfortunately they are open only to first and second-year students. Juniors and seniors will need to use the tactic I always tried as an undergraduate: ask your professor a provocative current events-related question at the start of class, and see if you can distract him/her from the planned lecture on sorting cells for further analysis, for at least a little while.

Now I have a question for you. I've been using Facebook more frequently to keep up with friends (old people like me now regularly use Facebook, which I have to assume means it's not all that cool anymore). One thing I've found myself wondering is this: Does having such easy and regular access to friends from home reduce the need for you to make friends here at UConn? Or does Facebook enhance your social circle here? If you feel like procrastinating, send me an email and tell me how Facebook has impacted your friendships near and far.

And that's it for now, friends. I'm glad you're back.