

The Dean's Almanac

A Dinner Invitation

September 15, 2008

I like to talk with students, and when I have the chance, I like to ask, “What’s going on out there?” “Out there” means “on and around campus.” I always get interesting responses and I learn a lot. What I learn really helps me do my job, a large part of which involves advocating on behalf of students, making sure we are doing right by you (but also making sure you understand when we don’t do what you think we should).



Dancing Dean

But at the moment, I’m pretty baffled. As you all know, we have had two alleged sexual assaults in the past couple of weeks, and a host of other problems that haven’t made the Daily Campus but have involved some risky and dangerous behavior on the part of students. I know that the vast majority of you out there usually make good choices for yourselves and look after one another. But that is cold comfort to those whose lives have been damaged by these acts. By “those,” I don’t just mean the victims. I’m talking too about the students who end up suspended or expelled because of what they’ve done. I’m talking about the parents who are devastated by what their son or daughter has either done, or had done to them.

I’m hoping that some of you might be willing to join me for dinner and some conversation about what’s going on out there. Why are some of these things happening? How does it all make you feel about yourselves, your classmates, UConn? What do you think we should (all) be doing differently? If you’re free next **Tuesday, September 23, at 6 pm**, I’d like to treat you to dinner in exchange for your comments, ideas, complaints, whatever. Or you can just come and listen to others. The menu? Breakfast for Dinner—pancakes, eggs, o.j., etc (I thought that might be a little more interesting than the usual dinner fare).

So if you’re interested, please [email me](#) asap and we’ll get back to you with the location. I can take the first **ten** people who respond (I’d like to keep the conversation small enough to hear from everyone).

Onto some other things.

I’ve been heartened to see an increase in bicycle use around campus, but, inevitably, that leads to a few of its own complications. An email came in from **Stacey** who said that even though she’s happy that more students are riding bikes, she’d appreciate it if riders could stay off the

sidewalks. Pedestrians already feel a bit under siege around here (of course, so do drivers), so if you're on a bike, please be considerate and stay off the sidewalk. Or, as we Jersey girls like to say to cyclists and drivers in our home state, where politeness isn't exactly the default approach, "SHARE THE DAMN ROAD!!!" Thank you.

Another email arrived from **Nicolle**, a commuter student, who wondered where she could heat up her leftovers for lunch when she's on campus. Jim Hintz, our Off-Campus Student Services Guy, suggests the Commuter Lounge on the first floor of the Student Union. There's also a refrigerator and some comfy chairs.

If you've been wondering about wireless service on campus (I know it keeps me up at night), you'll appreciate this email essay, sent by **Adam**:

I have heard rumors around campus that the University, by implementing wireless in Buckley and Shippee, has actually taken IP addresses, or user sign-ons, from the rest of campus. I believe the figures I heard were that there were 5,000 IP addresses purchased for the entire campus initially, much of which has now been routed to Buckley and Shippee in the new "Wireless" initiative. This, added to students getting on in their non-wireless dorms with overflow from first floor lounges and such has burdened the rest of the University's wireless network. *Is the university planning on fixing this issue, or is this a new reality to live with?*

I can't say for sure that I have any idea what Adam is talking about, but I know some colleagues who probably do. So I sent this along to them. Here's an essay in response from Jack Babbitt in UITS, who says Adam's information is partly correct, partly incorrect.

Wireless is in Shippee and Buckley 100 percent. We have not taken away from any existing allocations. UITS purchased 8190 new addresses for Storrs and Regional Campuses. I'm not sure what is meant by user sign-ons. No new IDs or anything were required for this. We do require that people sync/change NetID passwords as step 1 on all connection instructions. We did add IP addresses to the two troubled locations to help. Allocations of new IP addresses are: 6000 for the Storrs Campus (475 addresses for North-C and South-B each, currently) and 2000 for the Regional Campuses.

Problems were localized to those two area mentioned above. We have some problems, but most are in non-covered dorms, or because of poor signal strength or misconfigured end user devices.

Yes, we are working on it now with Security to: 1) Monitor DHCP pools better, 2) Send notification when exhausted, 3) Come up with ways to monitor the shift in IP addresses as they move, 4) Identify and recognize those trends as they happen, 5) Allocate addresses more efficiently based on trends we see, and 6) Develop a more proactive way of managing DHCP.

See? Ask a simple question, get a...never mind. Back to some things I can answer myself. Here's one from **Vincent**:

I was hoping you might be able to answer a question of mine regarding the Columbus Day holiday, in October. When I talk to all of my friends at other universities I discover that they get

Columbus Day off plus that Tuesday (their schools call it "Fall Break"). A couple other friends just get the day off. It's a nice 4-day or 3-day weekend halfway through the semester to have, and I am surprised UConn does not give its students at least the day off. Could you please offer some insight into why it is not considered a holiday off?

Well, it *is* actually considered a holiday, but classes are not cancelled. The reason for this is that our academic calendar provides us with a week off from classes at Thanksgiving, which your friends probably don't have. So the days off we might have had for a Fall Break are instead given to us in November. I say that it's *considered* a holiday because employees who are not faculty get a day off, or can take a day off at another time. Personally, I'd love a Fall Break in our academic calendar. Or at least I always think so in October. But when November rolls around, I'm happy to have the week without you all here (nothing personal—I'm sure you're sick of me by then, too).

Here's a question about parking garage passes from **Chiron**: Why, when she paid \$300 for a parking garage pass, was she told she couldn't park there until the second week of classes? Head Parking Honcha Ann Denny responded:

The student garages parking permits for this past year did not expire until August 31, 2008. Therefore, the new 2008-2009 garage parking permits could not be activated until September 2, 2008. Parking Services cannot oversell the garages based on the total number of the incoming and outgoing students requesting the garages. Regardless of what group of students the first week of class is assigned to, someone thinks that it is unfair.

So basically, either those with 07-08 passes were going to lose their privileges early, or those with 08-09 passes were going to get their spaces late. But Ann is keeping track of student concerns, and perhaps next year there will be a solution to this overlap.

Other questions about trays, paper cups, footballs being kicked into parking lots, tree-pruning behind the Benton and various assorted work order-type issues have been answered via individual emails, and I'm about to run out of steam. Or it might be poor signal strength. I hear that's a problem around here. So that'll wrap it up for this Almanac. Stay safe. Stay sane. Eat your vegetables.