

The Dean's Almanac

Fabulous Finals

November 14, 2008

Hiya, Huskies. I hope this finds you doing well and able to see light at the end of the Fall semester tunnel. Soon you'll head home or somewhere for Thanksgiving Break, leaving me here to gaze out my office window, miss you, and marvel at all the available parking.

I'd like to take this opportunity to talk about final exams, because it's one of those things the Dean of Students office finds itself involved in quite a lot. If I could share a few thoughts, perhaps I could keep you, Generation O, from becoming Generation O-No, I Missed My Final (it's a limited, but still important, demographic).



Students routinely show up at our office having missed their final exams because they overslept or misread the final exam schedule. I remember one guy who Googled "UConn final exam schedule" and sadly, Google took him to the previous year's schedule (once it's out there on the web, we can't really control it). Of course, he wrote down the wrong times for his exams, missed them, and then accused us of causing his mishap. So Lesson 1: Make sure you are reading the *Fall 2008* schedule.

Lesson 2: If you don't know the difference between a.m. and p.m., please ask someone to explain it. Seriously—each semester, at least one student will miss a final they thought was at 8 p.m. but was actually twelve hours earlier.

Lesson 3: Faculty are not sympathetic to parking problems, so allow yourself plenty of time to park and get across campus to your exam. Remember that people's schedules are different during finals week than the rest of the year, so you can't count on the parking situation being the same as it is on other days.

Lesson 4: If you're a sound sleeper, set three alarm clocks and ask someone to call and make sure you're up. If you can't find anyone willing to do this, call me. I will be more than happy to call you, wake you up, and wish you luck on your exam (486-3426, ask for your all-purpose Dean of Students).

Lesson 5: If it snows, and finals that day are postponed, you'll need to hang around and take the rescheduled exam. Your faculty have to hang around too. And I'm not going anywhere. We're all in this together. Pray for good weather, because last year was no fun for any of us.

And the biggest lesson of all: Study both smart and hard. Research shows that if you study for a particular exam an hour a day for five days, you will do better on that exam than if you study for five hours the night before. Don't ask me how it works. It does. I've seen the numbers. So plan your studying accordingly.

There've been a few questions about parking and transportation since my last Almanac. **Kristen** wanted to know, "What happened to the bus stop sign at Monteith?" Janet Freniere, Shuttle Maven, reports that Facilities has removed a bunch of signs and poles, and they are waiting to replace them while some other changes to signage around campus are decided. On a related note, **Carrie** asked why there were no schedules posted in W Lot. Janet took care of that for you. As for Carrie's other question about the unpredictability of the shuttles during the day, I'd say, be patient. The drivers do their best to stick to the schedules as printed, but there are sometimes delays beyond their control. For example, yesterday, I, along with at least two shuttle buses, had to wait on Glenbrook Drive for a tractor-trailer to finish unloading outside the Student Union loading dock area. I'm sure that put the shuttle a few minutes behind. Also, two weeks ago, our friendly president, Open Mike Hogan, was distributing Halloween candy on the shuttles passing by Gulley Hall. I'm sure you'll agree that the chance to get a Reese's from the Man himself was worth two extra minutes.

Tony wanted to know about the possibility of getting an ATM at Towers so he and others don't have to trek to the Union for cash. That's a complicated issue, and I'm not sure it will happen, in part because there has to be a lot of traffic (i.e. customers) to justify putting a machine there. Banks typically pay rent to place these somewhere, and need to have enough business at the site to justify maintaining it and paying for it. Doesn't seem likely that Towers would have that. So keep trekking to the U, and enjoy a Frosty while you're there.

Michelle and several others have written in with suggestions for additional exterior lighting. When I get these suggestions, I pass them on to our Vice President, Barry Feldman, who consults with Chief Bob Hudd and our Facilities folks about installing new lights. Some new ones have been added, thanks to your suggestions. I'll keep passing these along as I get them. I can assure you that this is a high priority for us, even though we're a little short on money these days.

A great suggestion came in from **Greg**, wondering if the Library might consider a two-sided copier to help save paper. I checked with Head Library Guy Brinley Franklin who said "Great idea! Already thought of it! It's been ordered." Let's hear it for synchronicity.

A different **Michelle** wrote in to say that she and several of her friends did not get the Huskymail email about the basketball ticket lottery, and so missed their opportunity to get tickets. I've done some research about why this might have happened, and the best answer I can get (and give) is that it might be because some people have forwarded their Huskymail to another account, which thought this was spam and deleted it. But if that's not the case, there seems to be no reason other than the angry ghosts that inhabit the Huskymail servers (we've all felt their wrath at one time or another). Sorry about that, Michelle and friends. I hope you can still get to some games with single game tickets.

An alum, **Matt**, wondered why UConn's sports teams have different logos, specifically different "Cs". Some of it is tradition, and what the coaches prefer. Most other big schools have a few versions of their logo, all the better to market their clothing. You really do need a sweatshirt with *every variation* of the C in order to be a true Husky.

Here's a very cool announcement: the new Dean of CLAS, **Jeremy Teitelbaum**? Turns out the guy likes folk, bluegrass and old-time acoustic music. He wants to start hosting jam sessions on campus for like-minded musicians—students, faculty, staff. The first one is scheduled for December 4, and, being the mathematician that he is, the Dean has a formula for how this will work. [Read all about it here](http://www.dos.uconn.edu/docs/THE_DEAN%27S_JAMS.pdf) (http://www.dos.uconn.edu/docs/THE_DEAN%27S_JAMS.pdf), and hopefully you'll be able to make it. I'm hoping to.

Enjoy your break, and I'll see you soon. Oh, and things I'm thankful for? Every student I've met and had a conversation with this semester, even Anthony, who spoke the most memorable line of all, about one of our nifty DOS highlighters that has a clip to attach to your backpack: "Ouch! It's hard to attach this to my nose." Yes, Anthony. It is.

Cheers.