3rd Annual Institute for First-Year Curricular Innovation

Teaching Community
UConn, Storrs—Student Union
May 11, 2016—8:30AM–3:45PM
AM Schedule

8:30AM-9:00AM—REGISTRATION AND POSTER SESSION

SU Ballroom Registration
Room 304 Poster Session—Expert-Led Lesson Campus Partners

9:00AM-9:15AM—OPENING REMARKS

SU Ballroom Welcome — David T. Ouimette, FYP&LC
State of the Program 2016 — Shawna M. Lesseur, FYP&LC

9:25AM-10:15AM—SESSION ONE

Room 320 Social (Media) World — Alexa Biron, University Communications
Social media is a pervasive element of modern life. Learn about your students’ experiences with it, how to help them navigate social media usage, and how you can weave social media into the classroom. Plus, get tips on how to optimize your professional social media presence.

Room 321 Teaching in an age of Microaggressions and Trigger Words — Dr. Aynsley Diamond, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
In the classroom identities and power matter, both for students and instructors. Awareness of our own biases, privileges, assumptions, and roles can help us better connect with our students authentically and respectfully, allowing us to build stronger, more supportive relationships.

Room 324 FYE 2016 Update — Shawna Lesseur, FYP & LC
If you’re new to FYE, returning after a break from teaching, or just want a refresher on the basics, this is the session for you.

Room 325 UConn Reads 2016-2017: Religion in America — Dr. Cathy Schlund-Vials, English, Asian American Studies
What is UConn Reads, and how can I engage with it in my FYE or through Learning Community Events? Learn to make the most of this opportunity with a former Faculty Director and current UConn Reads Chair.
10:25AM-11:15AM—SESSION TWO

**Room 320**  
**Talking About Religion: Lessons from In and Out of the Classroom** — Dr. Jeremy Pressman, Political Science, Middle East Studies

Religion can be a core element of our students’ and our own identities. Discuss strategies for how we can respectfully navigate conversations about this realm of life with our students in and out of the classroom in the context of a diverse state University.

**Room 321**  
**Serving People, Not Solving Problems** — Julia Yakovich, Public Engagement

Service Learning can be a transformative experience that helps students build global citizenship while serving their communities. However, service in a spirit of the “savior” going in to “fix” others can be destructive to both the community and the students’ development. Learn strategies for how to create experiences that truly serve.

**Room 324**  
**Intercultural Competence** — Dr. Manuela Wagner, Literatures, Cultures, and Languages

Our University, as with others around the nation, continues to increase international student enrollments each year. In fall 2016 we expect to welcome roughly 400 international students in FYE, mostly coming from China. Building our intercultural competence as instructor is not only vital to our success in our classes, but also in our roles beyond the FYE classroom.

**Room 325**  
**UNIV 1800/1810 Core** — Center for Career Development, the Writing Center, and Violence Against Women Prevention

Meet the offices with which all first-year students will connect through their UNIV 1800 and 1810 courses/communities. This session will be a roundtable and discussion with the Center for Career Development, the Writing Center, and Violence Against Women Prevention will get you off to a great start designing your syllabus and LC programming.

11:30AM-12:50PM—PRESIDENT’S PICNIC

**The Burton Family Football Complex**  
**Employee Appreciation Day**—President Susan Herbst

“We have so much to celebrate, starting with you, at the Burton Family Football Complex, Mark R. Shenkman Training Center, and the Werth Family UConn Basketball Champions Center. UConn employees are invited to attend the 2016 Employee Appreciation Day. Festivities include food, photos with UConn’s championship trophies, building tours, games, information tables, and prizes! We look forward to celebrating #UConnNation.”

**Room 304**  
**Open Lunch and Work Area**

Has the morning left you with pressing questions, concerns, or great ideas that you have to explore before you can finish out the day? Or did you just finish the picnic early? Revisit the Expert-Led Lesson options and brainstorm solutions to puzzles in a welcoming space.
1:00PM-1:10PM—AFTERNOON SESSION KICKOFF

SU Ballroom  
Awards—Shawna M. Lesseur, FYP&LC

Recognitions include instructor of the year nominees and winners, Faculty Oversight Board members, and conference committee members.

Door Prizes—Sarah Renn, FYP&LC

Come back on time for chances to win great prizes!

1:10PM-2:45PM—SESSION THREE, CONFERENCE KEYNOTE

SU Ballroom  
Courage in Conversation Workshop — Parisa Parsa, Public Conversations Project

In our world of growing understanding and sensitivity to the complex legacy of oppression and power imbalances, open, honest dialogue feels like a minefield at best. How can we open up spaces for asking our naive questions, bringing our true uncertainties, and also live our commitment to equity and justice? For 27 years, Public Conversations Project has been bringing people together to talk about the toughest subjects – from municipalities to universities to religious communities and war-torn regions. Executive Director Parisa Parsa will share stories of dialogue at its best, and some of the key features of productive conversation across differences. The workshop to follow will offer participants an opportunity to practice shaping open, honest questions and preparing themselves for resilient listening.

PARISA PARSA, PUBLIC CONVERSATION PROJECT

Parisa is the Executive Director of Public Conversations Project in Boston, MA. She focuses on cultivating others as leaders to build strong and meaningful organizations. As an experienced facilitator and intercultural consultant, she trains nonprofit staff teams and congregations to develop skills at greater intercultural relationships within their communities.
Room 320  SchOLA²RS House and the African American Male College Experience—
Dr. Erik Hines, Educational Psychology

SchOLA²RS House launches in fall 2016. Learn about the academic vision, relevant
research, and how you too can support African American men on our campus from the
founding Director.

Room 324  Loneliness and College Success—Leo Lachut, FYP&LC and Dr. Betsy Cracco,
Counseling and Mental Health Services

Loneliness is one of the most common issues facing our first-year students, one that
can influence not only personal wellness, but also classroom performance. Learn what
this might look like and how you can support your students experiencing loneliness.

Room 325  So You Have an FYE Peer Mentor: Best Practices, Reminders, and Expert Tips —
2016-2017 Peer Mentor Leadership Team: Supervising TAs Lucia Greene and
Karim Abdel Jalil with Instructors Shawna Lesseur, Sarah Renn, and Jen Murphy

Mentors are one of the greatest resources provided for FYE instructors, but it can be
challenging to know how best to incorporate, stretch, and support these peer leaders.
Get your questions answered and hear tips from the 2016 Supervising TAs and
instructors.

Thank you for being leaders in our community!

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UConn First Year Experience
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