World AIDS Week was a great success this past December. Our annual Condom-a-thon was held on December 2, at the last Late Night event of the semester and we had the largest turnout yet; over 360 participants! Other events that were hosted by the Health Education Office this past year included Wear Red Day, ART4AIDS, and an HIV/AIDS vigil; all of which were very successful as well. We had several new artists submit work to the ART4AIDS exhibit and many who donated their artwork to the office.

Additionally, our HIV/AIDS awareness efforts continued while we tabled at major dining halls during the week to reach out to as much of the student population as possible.

Shown left is Becky Warren, the World AIDS Week coordinator for 2011, with her art submission to the ART4AIDS gallery.

** Update us!! We would love to know what you are doing so we can put you on our Alumni Page and in our next newsletter. Email us with updates at healthed@uconn.edu!!
Sexperts at the BACCHUS National Conference

Sexperts Present at a National Conference

Last fall semester three Sexperts, Amanda Sullivan, Cassy Setzler and Jenn MacDonald, all Seniors at UConn, presented at the BACCHUS National conference in Reston, Virginia, under the supervision of Joleen Nevers. The students paid for their registration fee while the department covered the hotel and travel fees. Below is a reflection of the experience from Cassy Setzler.

“Presenting “Rubberwear” at the national BACCHUS conference in Virginia was an amazing experience. Although it was a large audience, people were really responsive and seemed to enjoy and appreciate our presentation. It is different presenting to other educators than it is to students at UConn, but it’s great to get feedback from people that do similar work. Getting to see how other groups and schools presented from across the country was a really cool opportunity also. There were similarities and differences between programs, but I took something new and useful from each one. I enjoyed the atmosphere of the conference: people were positive, enthusiastic, and genuinely interested in educating others about health and wellness. It reminded me that as Sexperts, we are part of a larger group of peer educators. Being a part of the national BACCHUS conference validated why I chose to be a peer educator – to help the people in my community.”

Thank you Cassie Setzler for your feedback. Attending the BACCHUS national conference was a great growth opportunity for the Sexperts since it allowed them to learn from other peers and it exposed them to different approaches to peer education. We hope to incorporate some of the ideas and skills learned at BACCHUS at UConn.

Health Education: Recent Updates 2011-2012

- The Health Education Office ranked top 20 in the nation for sexual programs! We are extremely excited about this accomplishment and would like to thank and acknowledge our staff and alumni for their support that helped us receive this recognition. We couldn’t have done it without you! [http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/10/18/sex-education-colleges-with-the-best-programs.university-of-connecticut.html]

- Our Sexpert Peer Education program is continuously growing. This semester we have 11 returners, 10 Sexperts who were “shirted” during our spring Sexpert retreat, and five new Sexperts who will begin their training this semester for a grand total of 26 Sexperts for Spring 2012.

- Three of our Sexperts programs, ART4AIDS, Condom-a-thon, and QuickDraw, were featured in the national campaign from BACCHUS for sexual responsibility awareness campaign for this year. This gives UConn even more national recognition!

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Alumni Updates

- Haley McCarthy, MPH, CHES was hired in the fall by Yale University to be the Student Health Educator working for the Student Wellness Office. She was engaged in November to her partner and they will marry this fall.

- Ellie Gisler is working in the management of classical solo artists, conductors and symphony orchestras at Columbia Artists Management in New York City. She currently resides in Brooklyn, New York.

- Zane Haider graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in May 2011 with a DMD. He is currently pursuing a Certificate in Orthodontics and his Masters in Oral Biology from Temple University.

- Samati Niyomchai works as a social worker at Saint Louis University Hospital. He is also a volunteer advisor for Growing American Youth, an LGBT youth support organization and has joined the Board of Directors of Health Action Network, a new agency combating commercial sexual exploitation through advocacy and services for survivors and community education.

- Sara Farooquee is living in Korea teaching adults English. She is pursuing residency in Australia where she obtained her Master’s degree.

- Katie Agostine is engaged to her partner Bill and will be married in August at the Barns at Wesleyan Hills.

- Julianne Ceruti is a Teaching Assistant at the University of Connecticut pursing her PhD/AuD. She lives with Sunny (her dog) and Antonio (her bunny) pictured above.

- Ashley Esak is attending Saint Joseph College pursuing a Masters degree in School Counseling. She is starting the practicum portion of the program and will be spending one a day each week in a middle school.

To the right are pictures of alumni who have visited the office recently. Please stop by whenever you can and get your picture taken as well.

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