



UConn continuously places high across several national rankings

by **Hallie LeTendre**
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The University of Connecticut has placed highly in several rankings throughout the last year.

Most notably, UConn was ranked No. 46 in the country for overall best university by The Wall Street Journal. That ranking included any public or private university across the nation.

In the U.S. News & World Report, UConn ranked as the 58th best university in the nation. This marked a nine spot jump since last year. Additionally, UConn kept its spot at No. 26 in the nation out of public universities.

UConn spokesperson Stephanie Reitz shared how high rankings and attention in the media benefits the university.

"Being highly ranked by several sources, all independent of the university and each other, is an affirmation that UConn continues to move in the right direction in providing a high-quality education at a strong value," Reitz said.



The UConn Storrs campus on a beautiful spring day from a birds eye view. Campus from the ground is one thing but looking from the sky is breathtaking. PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The U.S. News & World Report placed UConn's undergraduate nursing, psychology and business programs in the top 50 overall nationally, a UConn Today article said.

"UConn wants all students to develop skills in creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and emotional intelligence as they move along their academic path here," Reitz said.

Some additional impressive statistics UConn snagged was having a 93% retention rate of first-year students, a UConn Today article said. Additionally, 84% of students earn their undergraduate degrees within six years or less. This was compared to the national average for public universities of 63%.

Reitz highlighted how although rankings are not everything, the university does pride itself on what makes UConn a notable university.

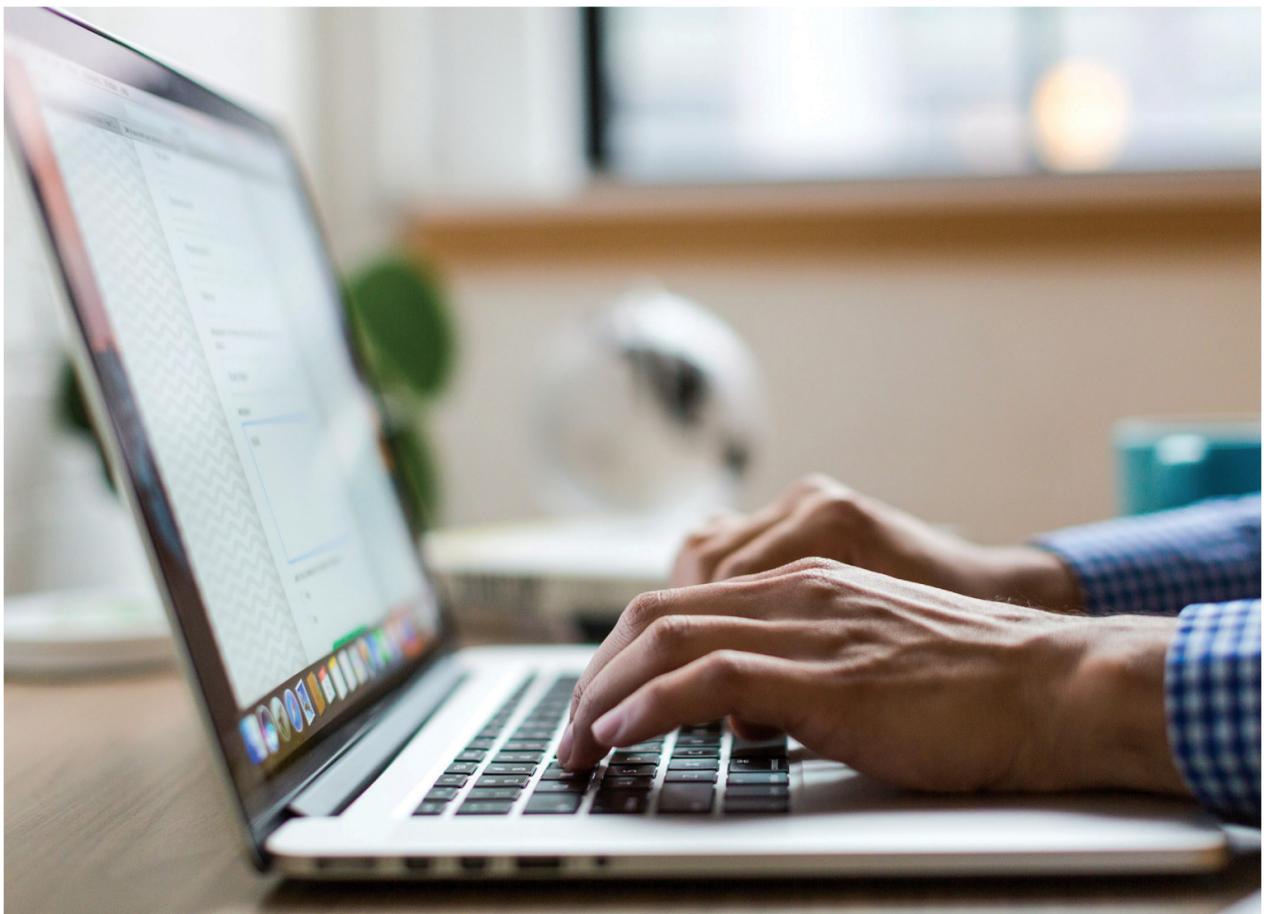
"Although we know that a ranking can't capture every aspect of any institution, the factors that go into these rankings are critical to success, such as student retention and on-time graduation, affordability, strength of the faculty and others," Reitz said.

A NEW 1-CREDIT ONLINE COURSE ON EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING FOR UCONN HUSKIES

by **Amaree Love**
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A new pop-up course about emotional well-being has arrived for the fall 2023 semester. This one-credit course, titled "Feeling Well: The Science and Practice of Emotional Well-Being," began on Oct. 16 and will continue until Dec. 8, 2023. University of Connecticut students can visit the Office of the Provost website for a more in-depth explanation.

In this one-credit course, students will delve into the science and practice of emotional well-being, which is defined as the general positivity an individual experiences regarding their emotional state and overall life satisfaction. The course will introduce the elements that comprise emotional well-being, emotional quality of daily experiences and assessments related to life satisfaction, meaning and goal pursuit. Students will explore the interconnectedness between individuals, communities and systems that collectively influence emotional well-being and effective strategies for improving it.



The course "Feeling Well: The Science and Practice of Emotional Well-Being" will be entirely asynchronous on HuskyCT. The course will cover the science and practice of emotional well-being. PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

See **NEW COURSE**, p. 2

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Daily THE STARK TANK | PAGE 7
Expel Matt Gaetz

Daily CONVERSATIONS WITH KARLA | PAGE 6
The COVID-19 for you page

Daily MEN'S BASKETBALL | PAGE 12
Huskies embrace underdog persona

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UConn fans just enjoying trolling at this point

News

NEW COURSE, cont. from p. 1

By the end of the course, students will be able to define the components of emotional well-being, recognize the link between the brain and body's emotional well-being, identify the connections that exist among individuals, communities and systems that impact emotional well-being and gain an understanding of practical techniques for enhancing emotional well-being.

The course, entirely asynchronous and accessible on HuskyCT, requires no prerequisites, making it an ideal choice for students seeking additional credits or those juggling a busy schedule due to their majors and other responsibilities.

Jen Ryu, a fourth-semester journalism student, shared her thoughts on the new implementation of the one-credit course. "It is a great opportunity for students to get involved and for those that may not have enough time in their schedule to take a full three-credit course in the semester." This perspective highlighted the course's appeal for those with busy schedules, offering a more manageable commitment.

Ryu also offered her perspective on emotional well-being in today's context.

"Emotional well-being nowadays pertains more to self-care, this class is focusing on college students and how our lives are so busy and

learning to be an adult, how do we take these daily stresses and turn them into motivation for the day?" Ryu said.

Her comments reinforce the relevance of the course's focus on addressing the challenges that college students face in their journey toward adulthood. Regarding the course's difficulty, Ryu drew from her past experiences with one-credit courses.

"I believe it is an easy course based on past experiences with one-credit courses even though it's packed into half of a semester as opposed to previous years. Quizzes aren't hard as long as you read the material and are open note," Ryu said.

This assessment reassured potential students about the course's accessibility and the manageable workload, even within a condensed time

"It is a great opportunity for students to get involved and for those that may not have enough time in their schedule to take a full three-credit course."

JEN RYU

frame. Ryu's closing thoughts conveyed her strong interest in the course, indicating her willingness to take it if offered in the future. She finds it to be one of the more captivating and light-hearted topics, highlighting its potential for engagement and connection. "I would take it if offered in the future, it is one of the more interesting and light-hearted topics," Ryu said. She emphasized the potential for personal and communal growth, adding to the course's appeal.

The course is comprised of seven modules, each with specific instructors knowledgeable about the content. The requirements are straightforward: review all materials for each module and complete a wrap-up quiz related to that section. To earn a satisfactory (S) grade for the course, students must earn 700 points, equivalent to 70% of the course. Each module carries 100 points, and the final quiz allows students to gain up to 200 points. Plus, open-book quizzes with two attempts ensure a fair evaluation process. All reading and media materials will also be readily available through HuskyCT or accessible via links on the relevant websites.

At the core of this course is the commitment to student success. Forming study groups on Nexus is encouraged, as collaboration often leads to a deeper understanding of the subject matter. The course team is ready to assist

"Emotional well-being nowadays pertains more to self-care, this class is focusing on college students and how our lives are so busy and learning to be an adult, how do we take these stresses and turn them into motivation for the day?"

JEN RYU

every step of the way, and questions and concerns are highly valued. Please feel free to attend office hours, which can be scheduled via email with Jessica Koslouski at emotionalwellbeing@uconn.edu.

Dr. Jessica Koslouski is the student engagement facilitator for this course and holds the position of Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at the Neag School of Education. Dr. Koslouski also provides support to schools in adopting trauma-informed policies and practices, assisting educators in understanding the impact of trauma on

students' development and how schools can aid in the healing and learning process. Additionally, Dr. Koslouski leads the mixed-methods evaluation of CDC-funded efforts focused on enhancing the health and well-being of school-age children and adolescents in Connecticut. She is also involved in other projects that explore the acceptability and impact of initiatives like "Feel Your Best Self" and collaborates with schools across the nation to implement trauma-informed policies and practices.

For inquiries, reach out to emotionalwellbeing@uconn.edu.



The NEAG School of Education is located in the Charles B. Gentry Building. A new one-credit course is being offered for the Fall 2023 semester by Dr. Koslouski, the Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

The Daily Campus

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Whomp, quaintly
- 6 Religious subdivisions
- 11 Injury reminder
- 15 Hoosier hoopster
- 16 Sunlit courtyards
- 17 Large volume
- 18 *"Attractive!"
- 20 Othello's false friend
- 21 Marketplaces on smartphones
- 22 Urchin-eating mammal
- 23 Place to stop on an RV trip
- 24 *"Noisy!"
- 27 Replayed tennis serve
- 30 Not particularly inspiring
- 31 Thin nails
- 33 Fundamental
- 36 Pulitzer winner Ferber
- 40 Many an emoji, and a feature of the starred clues and their answers?
- 43 Pedal pushers
- 44 Heeds
- 45 Expert in Islamic law
- 46 Breakfast brand
- 48 Sunscreen letters
- 49 *"Amazing!"
- 56 Function
- 59 Say "y'all," say
- 60 Without a rival
- 63 Big fuss
- 64 *"Delicious!"
- 66 Site with tutorials
- 67 Water filter brand
- 68 Plain text
- 69 Cut, as a log
- 70 Meal that gets tossed
- 71 More rational

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14	
15						16						17				
18						19						20				
21											22					
23						24				25	26					
		27	28	29						30						
31	32						33	34	35			36	37	38	39	
40						41						42				
43						44						45				
			46	47								48				
49	50	51						52	53	54	55			56	57	58
59								60				61	62			
63						64	65									
66						67						68				
69						70						71				

By Jill Singer

10/25/23

- 9 Metal derived from cassiterite
- 10 Droop
- 11 Sutures
- 12 South American mammal related to the raccoon
- 13 Pharmaceutical giant
- 14 Corp. makeover
- 19 Small digit?
- 22 "You for Me" singer Rita
- 25 Letter-shaped girders
- 26 International fashion magazine
- 28 Made shorter, in a way
- 29 Gp. known for travelers' checks
- 31 Buddy letters
- 32 Issa of "The Photograph"
- 33 Free jazz kin
- 34 Firetruck tool
- 35 Intel collector
- 37 Spread of cultural ideas, e.g.
- 38 "___ a chance!"
- 39 Singer-songwriter DiFranco

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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S	T	A	N			R	Y	E	S		S	T	O	R	E	

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10/25/23

- 41 Amazon's arrow smile, e.g.
- 42 Texting tech
- 47 Hurdle for Ph.D. hopefuls
- 49 Ballet leaps
- 50 Hilo hello
- 51 Inelegant bit of typesetting
- 52 Dilation target
- 53 Place to share pics
- 54 Wanderer
- 55 Dean's list no.
- 57 Gut feeling
- 58 Tool for making neat beds
- 61 Patients' main MDs
- 62 Pod in Cajun cuisine
- 64 Lots of ozs.
- 65 George Gershwin's songwriting brother

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PUMPKIN PALOOZA

COMES TO CAMPUS WITH A DECORATING COMPETITION

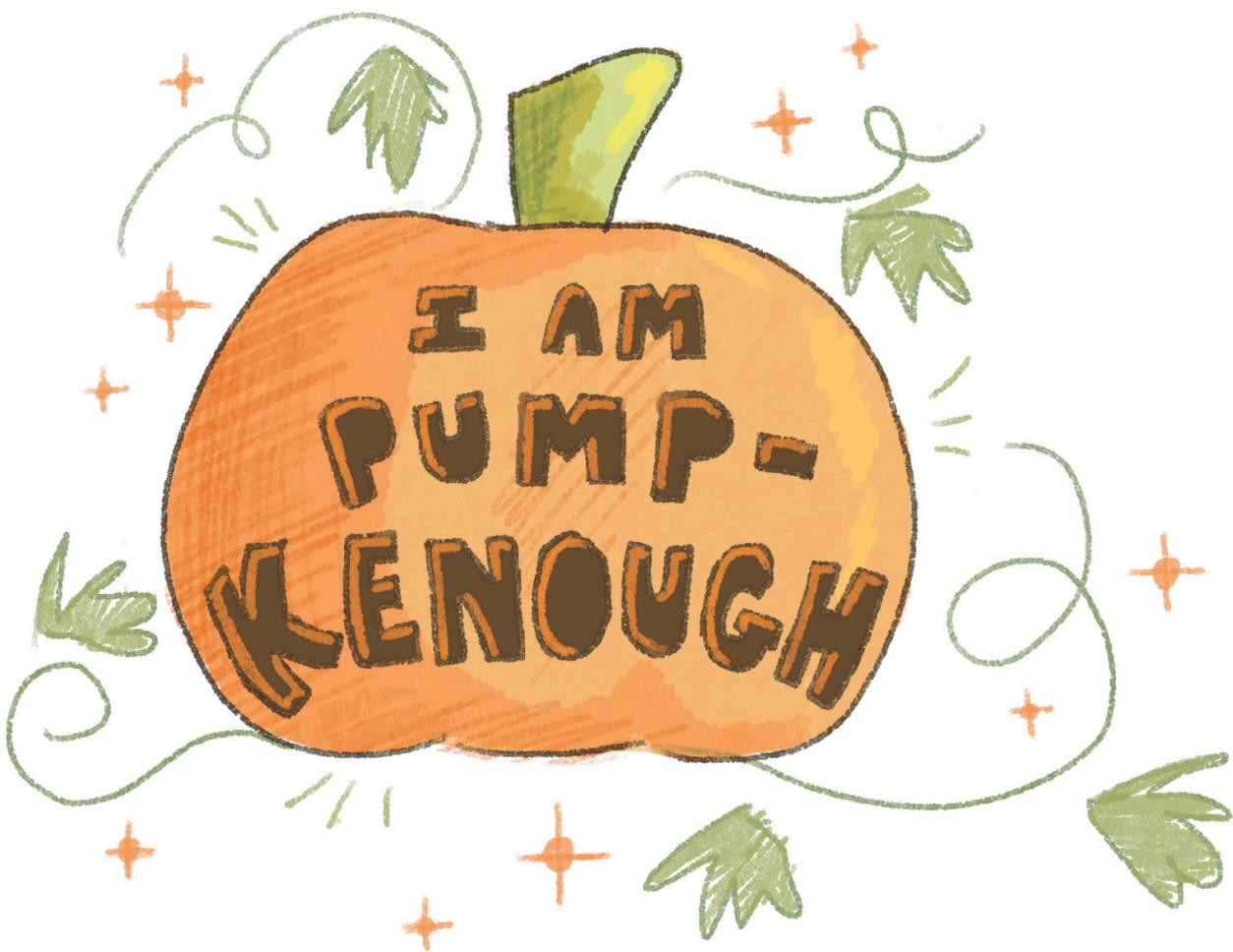


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Patrick Boots
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Autumn is in full swing, especially here in New England, and student groups and departments are hosting a variety of events for fall-time fun. The University of Connecticut's Human Resources division recently conducted its first Pumpkin Palooza event at the Storrs campus.

The event has been a mainstay of Halloween activities for many years at UConn Health centers, attached to the John Dempsey Teaching Hospital in Farmington and a satellite branch in Torrington. This year, participants have joined together to carve and decorate a variety of pumpkins which students, staff and the public can vote for using an online portal. Pumpkins were accepted from divisions, student groups and individuals at both campuses. Decorators also had the option of submitting a photo of a "virtual pumpkin" as long as the work was original.

On the morning of Tuesday Oct. 24, pumpkin entries were showcased on the Student Union Terrace, including spooky Halloween

designs from a variety of departments, "I am Pump-Keenough" inspired by the Barbie movie, the "Phantom of Neurosurgery" and more. People were encouraged to use the interactive voting portal located on the Human Resources webpage to browse the entries and comment. Over 20 entries were showcased both in-person and virtually. "It's been successful at UConn Health, but this was the first year that we did a Pumpkin Palooza [at the main campus]," explained Emma Belkewicz, UConn Human Resources assistant. "We want to make it a tradition."

The tradition of carving and decorating pumpkins has deep roots and has become an integral part of autumn and Halloween festivities. This practice, believed to have originated in Ireland, is a captivating blend of artistry and folklore. The origins of pumpkin carving can be traced back to the Irish practice of carving turnips or potatoes to create lanterns. Originally meant to ward off evil spirits, these tokens represented the embodiment of "Stingy Jack," a character from Irish folklore who made a deal with the Devil. When Irish immigrants brought this tradition to America, they discovered

that pumpkins and squashes were more suitable for carving due to their larger size and ease of manipulation. Thus, the modern pumpkin jack-o'-lantern was born.

Today, pumpkin carving is an exciting and creative way to celebrate Halloween. You may have gathered with your family to carve intricate designs, from scary faces to spooky scenes. Events and activities have also sprung up, often based around competing for the most impressive pumpkin. Pumpkin carving has evolved into a form of self-expression, a blank canvas for an imaginative and fun activity to take part in during the fall season.

Through UConn Health, the Pumpkin Palooza festivities are also a part of the "Seasons of Gratitude." This series of events is meant to recognize achievements in the UConn system, building community and fundraising for the "Cans for Candy" food drive, in support of the Husky Harvest pantry which has locations on all UConn campuses.

To learn more about the Pumpkin Palooza and to vote for your favorite carving or design, visit the Human Resources webpages for the Storrs campus and the UConn Health centers.



RATING: 3.75/5

WIGGLE BACK IN TIME WITH 'HOT POTATO: THE STORY OF THE WIGGLES'

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Released Tuesday, Oct. 24 on Prime Video, "Hot Potato: The Story of The Wiggles" details the meteoric rise and continued relevance of the colorful Australia-based children's music group. Opening with the quote "there needs to be a psychology of why you guys ... hit," the documentary elaborates on both the spontaneous and meticulous methods in which they became a household name.

The origin of The Wiggles stemmed from a 1980s pop-rock group, The Cockroaches, among the members which included Anthony and Paul Field — the latter of whom served as The Wiggles' manager until 2020. Eventually the band shifted, taking on the original lineup of Murray Cook (red), Jeff Fatt (purple), Greg Page (yellow) and Anthony Field (blue). The four developed synergy from a shared interest in childhood development, and their ambitions to entertain through music and interactive shows with kids is what started The Wiggles. Sticking to rock was to their benefit; according to Cook, "rock and roll just really resonated with the kids."

Going international with tours in the United States and the placement of their television show on Disney Channel were catalysts for their success. The Wiggles always valued representing their own country, but their influence spread farther and wider in the American market. They were persistent to grow their shows as they essentially had to start over when in America; they played shows for five people when they could've been playing for 500 in Australia.

Connecting with both children and parents meant they had to

step up to the plate when times were tough to spread positivity. The impacts of 9/11, the Australian wildfires of 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic were illuminated in light of The Wiggles' mission to bring joy during these dark times. Jackie Cannizzaro, widow of a firefighter who passed away during 9/11, said she would play their videos on repeat for their 10-month-old son to comfort both of them. She later brought him to one of their shows, and expressed her emotions with the group for hours after.

With an extensive touring tenure and their popularity growing, the members persevered through many health problems. The first publicized was Anthony Field's battle with chronic depression in the mid-2000s, the severity of which his mates weren't aware of. Around the same time came Page's bouts of fainting and feeling ill on stage, which was diagnosed as orthostatic intolerance, involving health issues when standing upright. Additionally, every original member has undergone heart surgeries except Field, which is partially why he, along with many of his family members, are still part of the group.

The Field family's presence in The Wiggles now includes their tour manager Luke Field, the son of Paul, and Lucia Field, a daughter of Anthony, who is now a Wiggle along with her father. Based on the documentary, the magic of The Wiggles still exists because it has been maintained by the Field family's ambition to try new things, like circus-style performing and the inclusion of characters like Dorothy the Dinosaur and Captain Feathersword.

Their musical ability is not to be disregarded. Each member would partake in dancing and making wacky faces, but, Cook was the hard rocker of the group, Fatt was the keyboardist and Page was the

singer at the forefront. These musical roles mostly remained despite the retirement of these members. Emma Watkins, the third Yellow Wiggle, became the center of attention as she was the first female Wiggle, while Lachlan Gillespie, the second Purple Wiggle, gravitated towards the keytar. Anthony Field was portrayed as a jack-of-all-trades, providing just as much instrumentation as the other members.

In 2021, after a "rough patch" the group went through, proclaimed by Murray, three original and new members covered Tame Impala's "Elephant" for Triple J's series, "Like A Version." As with their 2013 hit "Do the Propeller!" The Wiggles' relevance skyrocketed, except this time it spread to an audience of young adults, most of whom grew up on The Wiggles. A radio host for Triple J made the point that "... our listeners grew up listening to you, also to Tame Impala." This nostalgia factor only increased when the four original lads embarked on a reunion tour throughout 2022, vividly capturing the essence of the audience members' childhoods. Footage of this tour is shown frequently throughout the documentary, highlighting how their journey has come full circle.

Their incorporation of a diverse cast further shows their care to create an inclusive experience for their audience. The aforementioned Watkins inspired children with her bow and skirt, and Tsehay Hawkins, born in Ethiopia, gives children of color a Wiggle to identify with. John Pearce is also a new member who radiates the importance of staying fit and healthy, an important image for youth tempted to stay inside by smart technology, even by media from such groups as The Wiggles.

The documentary is now available on Prime Video.



Life

@dailycampuslife

CONVERSATIONS WITH Karla

THE COVID-19 FOR-YOU PAGE

by **Karla Perez**
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Hi everyone! Welcome to the Life section's newest column: Conversations with Karla. In this column, we will meet different University of Connecticut students each week and discuss various topics relating to social media. In today's issue, you will hear from Emma Sherman, a third-semester finance major and communication minor, to talk about social media during the pandemic era and how it impacted society.

“On social media, you’re always comparing yourself to other people, and there are high standards that are so difficult to live up to ... It often portrays something that almost no one can obtain or even sustain.”

EMMA SHERMAN

THIRD-SEMESTER FINANCE MAJOR,
COMMUNICATIONS MINOR

Like most people during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sherman found herself especially sucked into social media, es-

pecially TikTok. “[I was] on TikTok for almost all hours of the day,” she said, “and that was really detrimental to my mental health.”

Sherman commented on the rise of YouTuber Chloe Ting and how the popularity of her videos caused people to lock themselves in their rooms doing her workouts. People were already experiencing isolation during this time, and content such as Ting’s only intensified it. Sherman also remarked how the behavior of influencers, such as Ting’s, promoted teenagers to develop unhealthy habits regarding exercise and eating.

Sherman said, “On social media, you’re always comparing yourself to other people, and there are high standards that are so difficult to live up to ... It often portrays something that almost no one can obtain or even sustain.” She elaborated by saying how this could be especially impactful for young girls, as their minds and confidence are not fully developed and are therefore extremely impressionable.

I also spoke with Sherman about a trend that I have noticed on social media today: Creators calling out creators for spreading misleading information about healthy practices. While this did not take place as frequently during the pandemic, that kind of conversation has increased. What has remained the same however is the amount of health “advice” shared across social media.

Sherman brought up how

fitness influencers’ comment sections are flooded with people begging for the “secret” to their glow-up. “People should take it with a grain of salt, but they take it seriously,” Sherman said, “[...] maybe what works for someone else isn’t going to work for you. We need to stop thinking that there is only way we can reach whatever image we’re striving for.”

This is something that I have been preaching for months now. Believing that there is one specific way to get healthy is one of the most detrimental mindsets to have. Everyone’s bodies are different, so in order for each person to achieve their goals of physical or mental health, they must take different approaches.

The conversation shifted with me asking Sherman if she noticed this kind of culture on TikTok as it was happening during the pandemic, or if it is something she came to realize as she matured. She responded, “I kind of saw it from the start, but I really noticed the impact whenever the Snapchat memories from either my phone or other peoples’ from that time would come up.” She elaborated by saying how no one really seemed to notice the impact this time period had on them until years later.

We closed our discussion with talking about today’s social media landscape and

“ [...] maybe what works for someone else isn’t going to work for you. We need to stop thinking that there is only way we can reach whatever image we’re striving for. ”

how it affects teenagers now. “I think they’re kind of going through the same thing because I still see content like that coming up on my own feed,” Sherman stated. She further explains how younger kids may not be able to understand that waking up early every morning and eating overnight oats or going to the gym everyday is not a realistic lifestyle for every single person and that it doesn’t have to be.

That’s all for this week’s Conversations with Karla! Remember that you’re loved. See you all next week when we’ll be discussing the spread of information and misinformation on social media.



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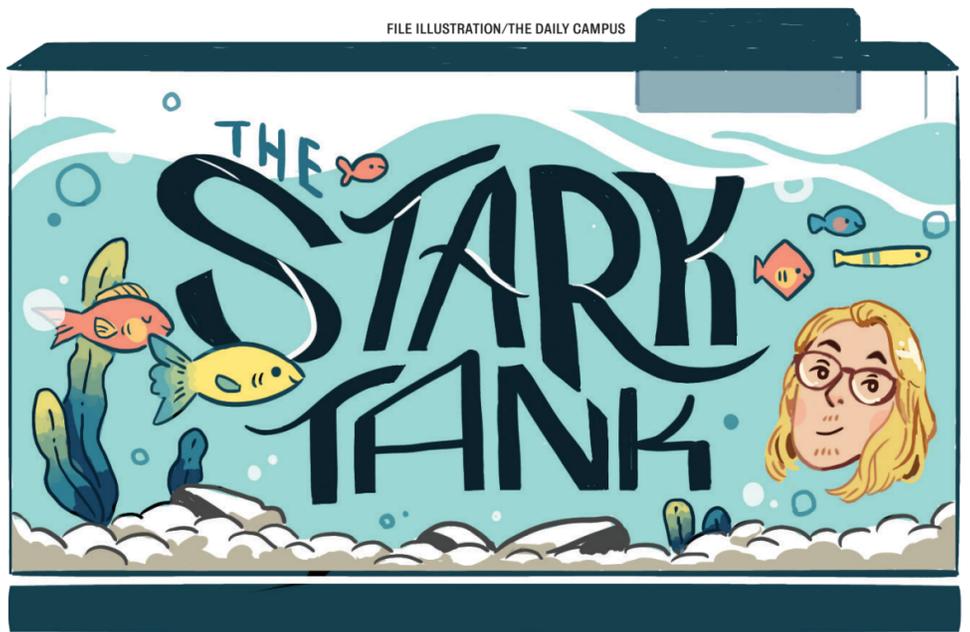
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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

EXPEL MATT GAETZ



FILE ILLUSTRATION/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Dan Stark
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The United States Constitution states that "Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member." In the history of our nation, only five members of the House of Representatives have been expelled, with only two of these expulsions occurring in the last 160 years. It's an exclusive club that has been only used for Confederate sympathizers and cartoonishly corrupt representatives. It's about time that this club gets a new member, and there's no congressman that deserves to be expelled more than Matt Gaetz.

It's about time that this club gets a new member, and there's no congressman that deserves to be expelled more than Matt Gaetz.

Thanks to Gaetz's crusade to satisfy his massive ego, he has derailed the House in a way that no other member in the history of the U.S. has.

him of bringing underage girls across state lines to have sex with him, though he walked free of any charges since this is the U.S. justice system after all. Despite becoming known as a partisan hack and repulsive human being, he has remained in the House. He has finally gone too far however, as his latest actions that have brought the House to a screeching halt.

Gaetz previously led the opposition to Kevin McCarthy in the Speaker election this past January, where he and his group of conservative insurgents forced 15 rounds of voting before McCarthy finally had enough votes to win. But while McCarthy may have won the initial battle, Gaetz won the war when he introduced a successful motion to vacate the speakership three weeks ago. It was a stunning defeat initiated by the

man that proudly stood as the face of the "Never Kevin" caucus. It was the culmination of the Freedom

Caucus' years of pushing to drive House Republicans increasingly to the right, but came at the cost of derailing an entire legislative body.

Since Gaetz's ouster of McCarthy, the House has been in utter chaos as they

try to navigate through this unprecedented scenario. The House Republican Caucus has been an absolute mess as they try to figure out who their next leader is, resulting in the failed nominations of Steve Scalise and Jim Jordan.

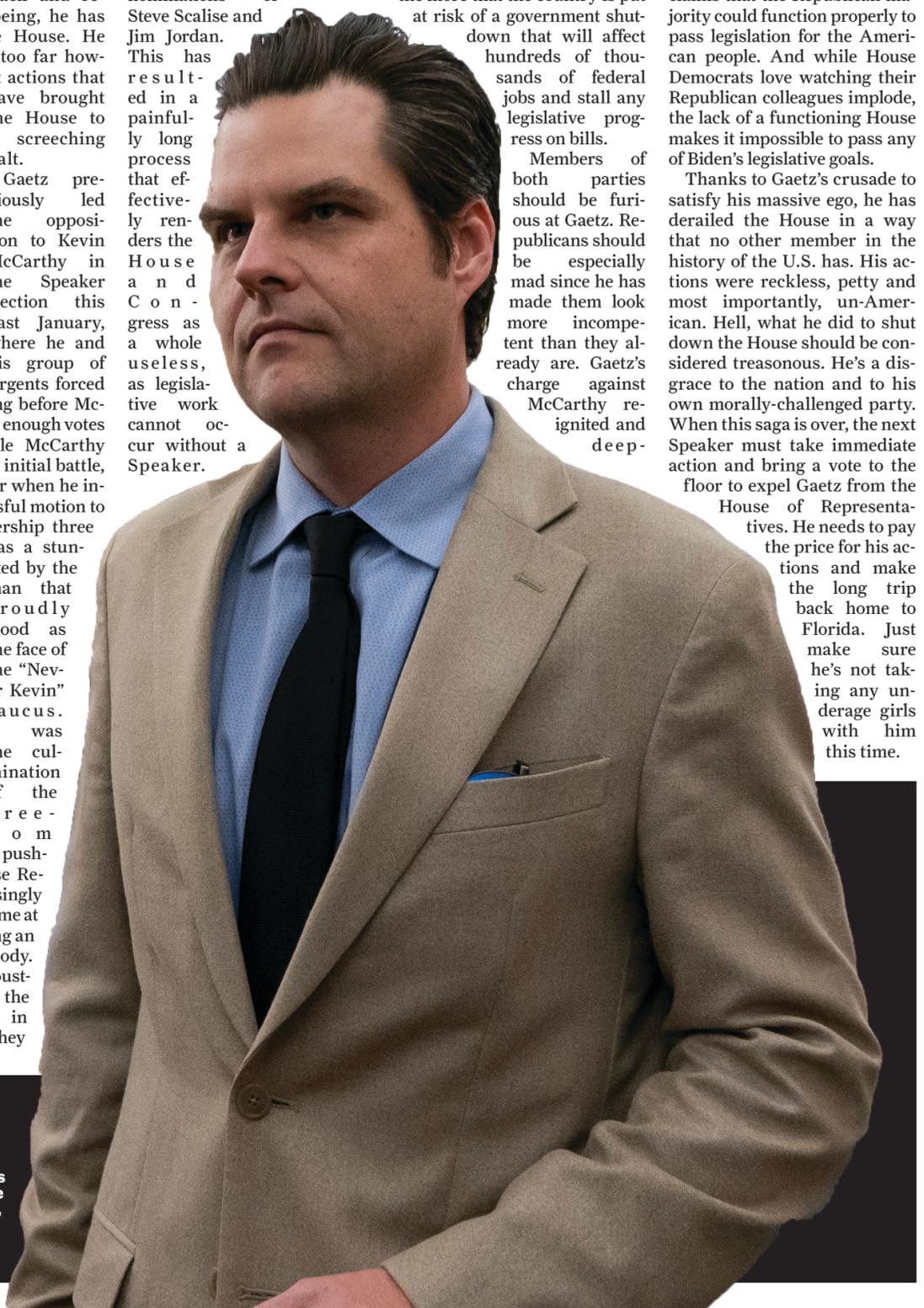
This has resulted in a painfully long process that effectively renders the House and Congress as a whole useless, as legislative work cannot occur without a Speaker.

This could not occur at a worse time, as the stopgap spending bill that doomed McCarthy only keeps the government open until Nov. 17. The longer that the voting process is prolonged, the more that the country is put at risk of a government shutdown that will affect hundreds of thousands of federal jobs and stall any legislative progress on bills.

Members of both parties should be furious at Gaetz. Republicans should be especially mad since he has made them look more incompetent than they already are. Gaetz's charge against McCarthy reignited and deep-

ened the bitter divides within the ideological factions of the House GOP, plunging them into a civil war that's not going to be resolved anytime soon. He single-handedly destroyed any claims that the Republican majority could function properly to pass legislation for the American people. And while House Democrats love watching their Republican colleagues implode, the lack of a functioning House makes it impossible to pass any of Biden's legislative goals.

Thanks to Gaetz's crusade to satisfy his massive ego, he has derailed the House in a way that no other member in the history of the U.S. has. His actions were reckless, petty and most importantly, un-American. Hell, what he did to shut down the House should be considered treasonous. He's a disgrace to the nation and to his own morally-challenged party. When this saga is over, the next Speaker must take immediate action and bring a vote to the floor to expel Gaetz from the House of Representatives. He needs to pay the price for his actions and make the long trip back home to Florida. Just make sure he's not taking any underage girls with him this time.



Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., arrives as Republicans meet to decide who to nominate the new House speaker, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/AP

Study Break

Photo of the Day | Silent studying



UConn students studying in the Hartford Times building. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

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THE DAILY CAMPUS SUDOKU

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COMIC BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

FLIP THE PAPER UPSIDE-DOWN FOR THE ANSWERS!

Soccer in America:

U.S. National Ricardo Pepi calls for changes in America's 'Pay-to-play' system

by Nahum Valiente
 CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
 HE/HIM/HIS
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During Hispanic Heritage Month, the United States men's national team announced a "Cultural Connections Campaign" to celebrate the month. The partnership was mostly symbolic, as the U.S. Soccer Federation sought to sell specific merchandise that has Latin American culture, with portions of the proceeds to be donated to Ricardo Pepi's elementary school. The U.S. Federation explained this project was meant to showcase Pepi's story and the story of Hispanics around the country.

"This initiative was inspiring for me to get behind in an effort to not only bring visibility to the millions of Hispanic-Americans in our country, but to connect them all through soccer," said Pepi in a recent statement on U.S. Soccer's website. "There are millions of stories like mine in this beautiful country, and we are all proud to represent the diversity of our Hispanic heritage, together united."

One thing that is not mentioned in the statement released by the federation is that millions of Hispanics in the U.S. can't afford to live out their dream to even play local academies, let alone suit up for a national team or for a major European team, which Pepi does.

Due to the high cost of joining soccer academies, many families who are disadvantaged cannot afford to play in these academies. A 2017 study revealed that it can cost a family conducted by Bradnon Hartman at George Mason University revealed that can cost a family on average \$6,000 - \$7,000 a year to put just one child in a soccer academy. Low-income families often cannot afford that rate, particularly if they're already living paycheck to paycheck. Current statistics collated by the Peter b. Peterson foundation show the average median income for a Hispanic household is just under \$58,000 and \$50,000 for a Black household, compared to



Ricardo Pepi chases after a ball while playing for PSV vs Fortuna Sittard on Oct. 17, 2023. PSV won the game 3-1.
 PHOTO COURTESY OF @PLETTIGOAL ON X

over \$77,000 for both White and Asian households.

The difficulty for families across the nation to afford a spot in a soccer academy places limits on these players' ability to make progress in professional sports. Academies are the gateway toward being scouted by professional soccer leagues like the MLS or USL, or more importantly colleges and universities. Without a soccer academy, prospective players are limited in their chances of making it far in the American soccer ecosystem.

After the game between the U.S. and Germany, Pepi was confronted by these same points and his response to the issue of pay-to-play is a true representation of its current state.

"To be honest we have always had this problem," explained Pepi. "Personally I had a problem before; some families don't have enough money to give their kids opportunities and I feel like as a country and as a sport, we need to be able to help those families and make it cheaper in a way, so we can keep developing a lot of talent...there [is] some lost talent because of how expensive it is; I feel like as a

community and as a country we can work on [this] and maybe we can help some of the kids."

These comments made by Pepi are a stark contrast to the comments made by MLS commissioner Don Garber, who in a 2019 piece by The Guardian claimed he did not agree with, was quoted as stating the U.S. women's national team member Alex Morgan's claim that the pay-to-play model was "detrimental to the future of the game." Keep in mind the MLS is the top division soccer league in the country, a league that many players in academies strive for when attempting to become homegrown players in their respective markets.

Pepi is right, a great deal of talent is lost. When you look at nations around the world that do not have a pay-to-play system, you see youth from all ethnic backgrounds having an equal chance of making it big in professional play. This talent that falls through the cracks can also explain why the U.S. and MLS are not producing the quality necessary to keep up with homegrown talent being produced overseas.

There is a long way to go for the pay-to-play system to receive the overhaul that it sorely needs. Granted, it's easier said than done. There have been new initiatives launched such as "MLS Next Pro" and "MLS Go" created in an effort to increase accessibility for youth around the nation.

One way the pay-to-play system can be reformed is through expanding where academics are located. Many towns are left behind when it comes to the development of soccer, including often overlooked cities that would provide youth to play for a team without having to go through the burden of traveling. For example, many states do not have access to the aforementioned programs such as MLS Next Pro and MLS Go. One does not have to look further than Connecticut, which not only has no MLS Representation but also no access to the MLS Go academy programs. While local states do have markets, many families simply do not have the time or funds needed to travel long distances for training.

Another way pay-to-play can be reformed is continuing to build on the U.S Soccer Development Academy Scholarship Program. This program provides for the support of player scholarships. Expanding on this and providing more for youth while also promoting it more would relieve the economic stress on many underprivileged families. The fact is, the U.S. Soccer Federation needs to invest more in its philanthropic efforts, with the message that those contributing are a key part of the change. With a World Cup coming up, the pitch for investors to give to a cause to expand the sport for all is one that could be effective. As a nonprofit organization, the federation needs to effectively operate as one. This is a key difference between Europe and the U.S. While the U.S sees youth academy as a market for profit, Europe sees it as an investment opportunity.

With the sport growing in the U.S. and with the upcoming 2026 World Cup expected to push the sport forward, making sure all families have a chance to play is crucial for the integrity and development of the sport.



Illustrator Luis Pinto shares his creative collaboration with US player Ricardo Pepi. The design is a symbol of celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF @MENDOLAARTISTS ON X

Sports

Photo of the Day | Looking Scary on Friday the 13th



The Huskies Women's and Men's basketball teams kick off their season with the annual First Night event at Gampel Pavilion on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. In spirit of the date, UConn became college basketball's worst nightmare with its Friday the 13 theme.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACK MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sam's Section:

USC's defense is holding the Trojans back from winning the Pac-12, and it'll continue in the Big Ten

by Sam Calhoun

HE/HIM/HIS
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USC is one of the most decorated programs in college football history, with 11 claimed national championships, 37 conference titles and 84 consensus All-Americans. There was a lot of hype coming into the 2023 season, with reigning Heisman Trophy winner Caleb Williams returning along with head coach Lincoln Riley.

Southern California had positioned itself for a College Football Playoff appearance heading into the 2022 Pac-12 Championship Game. However, Utah had other plans, beating the Trojans 47-24 to clinch back-to-back Rose Bowl appearances.

Many people in the college football world have called for defensive coordinator Alex Grinch to be fired. Trojans Wire said Riley might have to fire him "just because this season has been a disaster."

There were extremely high expectations in Los Angeles following the 2022 season. However, with back-to-back losses, time is running out for Grinch to prove he's worthy of being responsible for the defense at one of the top programs in the country.

Southern California led by 27 points at Colorado late in the third quarter and gave up three unanswered touchdowns, still holding on to win 48-41.

Again, the defense was a no-show in a triple-overtime battle at home against Arizona. Despite USC putting up 43 points, they were not able to extend their lead as much as one score against the Wildcats. When they traveled to Tucson last season, they won again, giving up 543 yards this time.

Utah, led by head coach Kyle Whittingham, defeated the Trojans in the Riley era.

The Utes first took down Southern California in 2022. USC led by as many as two scores during the first half, but that lead would shrink to one touchdown during the second half. With 48 seconds left, Utah quarterback Cameron Rising crossed the goal line for a touchdown and the game-winning two-point conversion. They gave up 562 yards to the Utes and could not stop tight end Dalton Kincaid, who had 234 yards on 16 receptions.

Later that season, the two teams met in Las Vegas for the Pac-12 Championship Game. USC led early in the game by as many as 14 points. However,



Caleb Williams, star quarterback for USC, is devastated after a loss to Utah on Oct. 23, 2023. Caleb Williams has decided to sit out the rest of the season to prepare for the NFL draft.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @BARSTOOL SPORTS ON TWITTER

that lead quickly vanished as Utah scored two touchdowns in the final four minutes of the first half. Southern California wide receiver Mario Williams caught a 12-yard touchdown pass to cut the deficit to a field goal in the fourth quarter, but the Trojans then gave up three touchdowns with no response from USC's offense. They gave up 533 yards in the team's second loss of the 2022 season.

On Saturday, Southern California gave up 482 yards in a 34-32 loss to the Utes. They were unable to stop Sione Vaki, who caught five passes for 149 yards and two touchdowns. One element of this game that is different from the others mentioned is that Utah was in front for most of the game. The Trojans did not lead during the second half until their star quarterback ran in for an 11-yard touchdown with less than two minutes remaining in the game. However, the defense could not stop the passing and rushing offense

Utah had to offer despite Rising being out for the season.

California has been one of the bottom feeders in the Pac-12 for a few years now, but USC's defense still gave up 469 yards, including 406 passing yards from quarterback Jack Plummer, who threw for three touchdowns. The Trojans led by as many as 20 points early in the second half but gave up three fourth-quarter touchdowns as the Trojans held on to win 41-35.

The 2023 Cotton Bowl Classic showed how poor USC's defense is. With four and a half minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, the Trojans saw their 15-point lead evaporate as Tulane defied all odds and came back to shock them 46-45. Southern California gave up 539 yards in the shootout. In my opinion, this is USC's most embarrassing moment yet.

USC gives up 30.5 points and 407.6 yards per game, which ranks ninth out of 12 teams in the conference. They

have the worst rushing defense in the Pac-12, giving up 164.3 yards per game.

On third down, the Trojans' opponents convert 36.44% of the time, while opponents are 58.82% on fourth down conversions.

The rest of the Trojans' schedule is no cakewalk. Three of their four remaining opponents are currently ranked in the AP Poll: Washington, Oregon and UCLA.

Their schedule won't get any easier as USC joins the Big Ten in 2024, including but not limited to Notre Dame, Michigan, UCLA, Penn State and Washington next season.

If Southern California wants to be considered a national contender, they must take their defense to a higher level. Georgia has won back-to-back National Championships thanks to their top-tier defense.

The Trojans will soon be facing more of the most prolific offenses in the nation while their defense is not ready at all for the challenges that await them.

Grinch and USC's defense will look to bounce back as they take on California on Saturday at 4 p.m. on Pac-12 Network.

"The Trojans will be facing more of the most prolific offenses in the nation while their defense is not ready at all for the challenges that await them."

Point/Counterpoint

WHO IS SET FOR A DEEPER RUN IN MARCH?
THE UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM OR THE UCONN WOMENS BASKETBALL TEAM?

by **CJ Dexter**
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The 2023-2024 college basketball season is just around the corner and the University of Connecticut is proud to be the only school in the country to feature both their men's and women's teams in the top 10 of the national rankings. The UConn men's basketball team brought home their fifth national championship in program history last season and begin this year ranked sixth in the national poll. The women's team look to finally have Paige Bueckers and the rest of their talent-stacked roster healthy for the duration of the season as they chase their 12th banner and begin the season ranked second in the nation. With both teams amongst the top of the national rankings, Daily Campus correspondents CJ Dexter and Gavin Friedman debate which roster is built to go deeper in the 2023-2024 college basketball season.

CJ-Mens

UConn fans will forever remember the contributions that former Huskies Adama Sanogo, Jordan Hawkins and Andre Jackson Jr. made in 2023 to help Connecticut bring home their fifth title in program history. With that being said, the reigning champs go into the 2023-2024 college basketball season with an arguably even better roster than last year. Head coach Dan Hurley has constructed an almost perfect roster that includes size, three-level scoring, elite shooting and suffocating defense.

Connecticut welcomes back point guard Tristen Newton who started 38 games for the Huskies, led the team with 4.7 assists per game while averaging 10 points and shooting 37% from beyond the arc. The sophomore tandem of Donovan Clingan and Alex Karaban are back and expected to take on an even larger role after their impressive freshman seasons. Clingan, who was just named as a Preseason Third Team All-American, was one of the best big men in the country coming off the bench last season and now looks to emerge as superstar with Sanogo's departure to the NBA. Karaban started 38 games last season and was one of the more consistent players in the starting five. The 6 foot 8 forward from Southborough, Massachusetts averaged 9.7



The Huskies women's and men's basketball teams huddle up for a team photo at the First Night event at Gampel Pavilion on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. This will be star player Paige Buecker's last first night.
PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

points on 48% shooting from the field and shot an excellent 40% from beyond the arc.

In addition to those returning, Dan Hurley welcomes the fourth-ranked recruiting class in the nation, highlighted by five star recruit Stephon Castle and three other four star recruits. A McDonald's All-American out of high school, Castle (No. 12 in the ESPN100) is a 6 foot 6 point guard who is disruptive on the defensive end and scores well in ball screen opportunities and isolation. Solomon Ball (No. 33 in ESPN100) is a 6 foot 3 guard with a 6 foot 10 wingspan who can explode to the rim and shoot beyond the arc at an elite level. Forwards Jayden Ross (No. 84 in ESPN100), Jaylin Stewart (No. 95 in ESPN100) and Youssouf Singare (No. 135 in 247) round out the rest of the highly anticipated recruiting class. UConn also welcomes in former Rutgers shooting guard Cam Spencer who shot a blistering 44% from three-point range last season and scored 13 points per game.

The sixth-ranked Huskies go into 2023 with a roster built on size, elite athleticism, three level scoring and great defense as they aim to bring home banner number six.

Gavin-Womens

While both teams should have successful seasons this year, it looks like the women's basketball team is more capable of being successful in the regular season and they should be able to make a deep run in the NCAA tournament after a disappointing loss to Ohio State in the Sweet 16 last season. Last year, they had to deal with numerous injuries to some of their best players including Azzi Fudd, Ice Brady and former player of the year Paige Bueckers. All three of them look to be healthy and ready to go for the start of the regular season. The Huskies will also see the return of several big contributors from last season, including Aaliyah Edwards, Nika Mühl, Caroline Ducharme and Aubrey Griffin. If they are able to remain healthy, Bueckers, Fudd and Edwards could be the best trio in the nation.

Head coach Geno Auriemma was able to bring in several freshmen that will be able to make an impact alongside the returning members that they already have. We will see the debuts of KK Arnold (No. 6 in ESPNW100), Ashlynn Shade (No. 15 in ESPNW100) and Qadence Samuels (No. 41 in ESPNW100). All of them will have an opportunity to make

an impact at the start of the season. 2022 five star recruit Brady will also make her debut this season after missing all of last year due to a knee injury. The strong freshman class, along with the returning players, will make this team one of the best in the nation.

CJ

There is no doubt that it is National Championship or bust for Auriemma's squad. While both teams are capable of playing deep into the tournament, I think the versatility of elite scoring options and overall depth gives the men's team a better chance of going deep in the tournament. Players like Clingan, Karaban, Newton, Castle, Spencer and Ball are all threats to average over 10 points per game this season. In addition to finding a way to contain every single one of those players, opposing teams will have trouble making shots with consistency against the freakish athleticism and size that Connecticut has on the defensive side of the ball. An important trend that bodes well for the Huskies is that every national champion since 2002 has placed in the KenPom top 40 in offense and KenPom top 22 in defense. The Huskies are one of three teams in the country to be in

the top 10 in both KenPom offensive efficiency (No. 9) and defensive efficiency (No. 4).

Gavin

While the men's basketball team certainly has a lot going for them, there is one concern I have that I feel gives the women the edge. Hurley's team lost several big playmakers from last year's team including Sanogo, Hawkins and Jackson Jr. While they do have a strong recruiting class that will look to fill those voids, I feel more confident with the women because they have more players with experience in the program. Hurley's squad will be more dependent on strong performances from their freshmen while Auriemma will be more capable of relying on his more experienced players. Edwards, Bueckers, Fudd and Griffin are more than capable of scoring upwards of 10 points per game and players like Edwards and Griffin will be dominant under the net. Auriemma's team is able to beat opponents in just about every way possible and they have a deep roster with a good mix of experienced playmakers and talented first years that will lead them to a strong performance in the NCAA tournament in March.



The UConn Mens' basketball team is helping set up First Night event at Gampel Pavilion on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. This will be Alex Caraban's second first night.
PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



Sports

Men's Basketball:

HUSKIES EMBRACE UNDERDOG PERSONA, LOOK TO MAKE NOISE IN LOADED BIG EAST

by **Connor Sargeant**
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In case you missed it, two weeks ago, the Associated Press released its top 25 pre-season polls, and with it came many narratives. Kansas ranked first, receiving 46 first-place votes, with Duke following closely behind. One of the most interesting teams to watch this season will be UConn. Despite winning its fifth national championship, Connecticut comes into the season ranked sixth according to the AP and third in the Big East coaches poll, with no coaches giving the program a first-place nod. Some Huskies fans may take this as a sign of disrespect, however, this team is much different from last year. Their three best players, Jordan Hawkins, Andre Jackson Jr. and Adama Sonogo are all in the NBA. The Big East Conference is arguably the best it has been in a long time but UConn will not let this deter them.

"I think last year's team we were really headlined by, you know, our superstars in Andre [Jackson Jr.], Jordan [Hawkins] and Adama [Sano-go]." Alex Karaban noted on the "lack of respect" UConn got in the preseason poll, adding, "and they really led the way for us. Myself, Donovan [Clingan], Tristen [Newton], we did a great job supporting them, so now that they're gone we're going to have to step in and fill those roles and people may not believe that we are capable of doing it, but I believe all three of us are."

If Connecticut can make it in the Big East Conference, they can make it anywhere. There's no doubt that their starting five can rival almost anyone else in the country, however, their X factor will show how deep they really are and that's the UConn bench depth. This was the deciding factor last year for the Huskies, as Karaban himself was

not a day-one starter. Samson Johnson held that role until the big man's foot injury early last season. Johnson has never had a defining role on this team. As a first year he played during the COVID-19 pandemic, so he was a member of a logjammed frontcourt therefore he did not see significant time. When he got his opportunity to start, he suffered an injury 16 minutes into his first game, which kept him out until January with Karaban taking over the starting role. Undoubtedly, Johnson will play a massive role on this Husky team, and Karaban had plenty of praise for his teammate.

"He's more than ready. He's been waiting way too long to show his talent. Everyone in the program knows how talented of a player he is, and he's going to be a huge surprise to people in the Big East, just his skill, his athleticism, his defensive presence, he's really good."

This does make sense, as coach Dan Hurley continually praised Johnson as having "wall potential," meaning he believed Johnson could be a future NBA lottery pick. Unfortunately, circumstances out of his control have derailed that vision. Yet this season he has a crucial chance at flipping the script. He could be the sixth man on this Husky team, and if he puts the pieces together and plays like the player Hurley recruited, he will be as good as most teams' starting power forwards.

Bench pieces aside, Hurley doesn't put too much stock in any preseason poll.

"No, because it's all a bunch of shit anyways, so it doesn't matter." Hurley said of Connecticut's pre-season rankings, "You know Jordan Hawkins was not picked on an All-Conference team last year, and he led us through a dominant run and was a lottery pick."

Despite this, Hurley acknowledged Connecticut's Big East opponents will be as tough as ever. "I mean



The Huskies Women's and Men's basketball teams kick off their season with the annual First Night event at Gampel Pavilion on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. In the spirit of the season, UConn became college basketball's worst nightmare with its Friday the 13 theme.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

some of the stuff I get this year more than other years if you really look at the all-conference teams, player-wise, it was hard when you got through the second team, like really good players didn't make one of the first two teams," Hurley said. "We have three teams ranked in the top eight of the AP Poll, we have probably three, maybe even four national championship contenders."

Hurley is right to an extent, the pre-season rankings do not determine UConn's or any other teams in the Big East's finish. Last season, Marquette was ranked eighth, yet the program won the entire Big East tournament. Connecticut was unranked in the preseason AP poll, however, they were the last ones standing in the quest for their fifth national championship. It was not just

Hurley saying this, but many coaches and players around the Big East acknowledged this sentiment and made it known that while it is nice to get this pre-season recognition, the job is not finished. The fight starts now, and while unproven, Connecticut's new cast of stars looks to relish in the chance to prove the doubters wrong and come out on top of a loaded Big East Conference.



WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UCONN SCOREBOARD

vs.

2 vs. **1**

Women's Soccer
Tuesday

Upcoming Games

vs.
Women's Soccer, 6 p.m.
Friday | South Orange, NJ

vs.
Field Hockey, 2 p.m.
Saturday | Storrs, Conn.

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

@uconnwbb
Paige Bueckers is the BIG EAST preseason player of the year!

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Uconn Women's Basketball
[@UConnWBB](#)

Our hearts are with Tasha Butts' family and friends and the Georgetown community.

[#TashaTough](#)

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