



UConn has officially welcomed a new president

by **Hallie LeTendre**
STAFF WRITER
SHE/HER/HERS
hallie.letendre@uconn.edu

On Friday afternoon, the University of Connecticut held an inauguration ceremony in honor of the school's 17th president.

The ceremony was open to the public with students, faculty and staff filling the seats of Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts to celebrate Dr. Radenka Maric.

Musical performances from the UConn School of Fine Arts took place, along with a performance by Yootay singers in respect of UConn's location on Indigenous land.

Several speeches occurred throughout the hour, notably including one from UConn Board of Trustees Chair Daniel Toscano and a virtual remark from Gov. Ned Lamont.

Gov. Lamont touched on his and Dr. Maric's extensive history of working alongside one another and her devotion to sustainability. Dr. Maric holds the rank of Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor and Chair Professor in Sustainable Energy.

"What you do for the state of Connecticut is so meaningful. When it comes to sustainable energy, UConn has it in spades. People can feel that every day along with your positive energy," Gov. Lamont said. "I appreciate your making sure that UConn is incredibly relevant to the future of the state when it comes to renewable energy. You are the perfect person. This is the right job."



UConn's 17th president, Radenka Maric was inaugurated on Friday, Sept. 29 at Jorgensen Performing Arts Center. She was vice president for research, innovation and entrepreneurship for five years before she earned her current position.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN JEREZ, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Former UConn presidents were in attendance on Friday afternoon, including Tom Katsouleas, Susan Herbst and Philip E. Austin.

UConn's Provost, Anne D'Alleva, acted as the master of the inauguration ceremony. Among the group of people who sat beside her on the Jorgensen stage were academic deans, members of the Board of Trustees and ceremony speakers.

"This day marks a transition into a new era with a recognition of those that have come before us," D'Alleva said.

In September 2022, the UConn Board of Trustees named Dr. Maric as the university's new president. Before her presidency, she served as UConn's vice president of research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Board of Trustees Chair commemorated Dr. Maric for the prioritization of students that she has shown throughout the past several years.

"Students [as] first priority is something you will hear over and over again when she speaks," Toscano said. "I admire her passion for UConn and its potential, her ongoing commitment to her scholarly work and her appreciation for UConn's role in the state."

Throughout Friday's ceremony, speakers showed trust in and support of Dr. Maric officially becoming UConn's 17th president, as well as their hope for her longevity in the position.

"I am energized by the opportunity to partner with our president to take UConn to its full potential and I speak for the board when I note our high confidence in her ability to get the job done," Toscano said.

UConn graduate student union fights for student workers amidst UAW strike

by **John Haslun**
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
john.haslun@uconn.edu

At 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14, contracts expired between unionized automotive workers affiliated with national labor union United Auto Workers (UAW) and three American automaking juggernauts — Ford, General Motors and Stellantis. The failure of these large automakers to negotiate new contracts that adequately met the demands of the UAW led to a mass walkout of workers from assembly plants across the country and the beginning of a nationwide strike.

In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, the UAW strike is a result of the shared sense of systematic injustice resulting from corporations' failure to compensate workers fairly, according to the Guardian. Workers, who accepted significant cuts and government bailouts for large auto manufacturers during that time of fi-

nancial turmoil, have yet to see their share of the record "\$250 billion profits the big three automakers have raked in over the last decade."

"It doesn't make up for inflation, it doesn't make up for decades of falling wages and it doesn't reflect the massive profits we generated for this company," UAW President Shawn Fain said of the existing contract offer from the "Big Three." Fain and the UAW have put wage increases, reform towards the "two-tier wage system," an increase to retiree benefits, cost-of-living adjustment raises, and expanded job security protections at the forefront of their program.

In accordance with a novel "stand-up strategy", the UAW has not called on all auto workers to go on strike at once, but rather has called on specific plants to go on strike on a strategic basis. These stand-up strikes are targeted and without warning, allowing the UAW

to tactically increase the pressure on companies as a negotiation tool to secure further benefits. As the number of automaking plants involved in the strike increases, the sup-

"The strike is about more than just auto workers. It's about the whole working class of the United States and a just transition."

GRACE EASTERLY

ply of vehicles produced by automakers continues to tank, causing a decrease in production that could result in economic losses in the tens of billions at the strike's conclusion.

The Daily Campus reached out to UConn's Graduate Employee Union, an affiliate of United Auto Workers as UAW

Local 6950, to shed further light on these events and what they mean in relation to our student workforce on campus. The Graduate Employee Union, coming close to its 10 year anniversary as an organization for graduate student labor on campus, was formed out of a 2013 task force to address "stagnant wages, increasing workloads, and increasing student fees." By 2014, the GEU organizational committee began its first negotiating sessions within the university and in July 2015, their official collective bargaining agreement took effect.

"It's a really exciting time to be part of UAW," remarked GEU president and history graduate student Grace Easterly in an interview with The Daily Campus. "Obviously we're not auto workers, so we're not being called upon to strike... but as a Local, we are showing solidarity for our union siblings."

UAW, Easterly notes, has been transformed in

recent years by a significant movement to reform the structure and aims of the union. In 2023, the reformists succeeded in electing Fain, who promised an end to UAW's "top-down" philosophy and an aggressive stance in negotiations against Ford, GM and Stellantis. This staunch pro-worker stance has energized the GEU, who have taken trips to practice picket lines at Big Three plants, participated in rallies in support of striking workers and plan to visit a striking auto plant in Mansfield, Massachusetts in solidarity.

"The strike is about more than just auto workers," Easterly says, "It's about the whole working class of the United States and a just transition... we need to make sure that if this transition is going to happen as dramatically as it needs to happen, workers need to be front and center." While the UAW

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UConn students showed out today!

News

UConn Parking Services discusses potential increases in fines

by Dylan Champagne
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
dylan.champagne@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Parking Services has discussed potential increases to fines and the implementation of self-release booting mechanisms in the wake of rising parking difficulties.

Right now, Associate Director of Logistics Andy Kelly said that the biggest problem facing parking services is the dramatic rise of people parking without permits. "So on Tuesdays and Thursdays, we're going to have about 270 citations a day on the main campus, just here, not the regionals. And of those 40% don't have a permit. They're just taking their chances. And we never saw that pre-COVID. Last year, we were like, 'What is this?' and this year, it's even worse. And so that's a struggle for us to wrap our heads around," Kelly said.

The large amount of people parking without permits is making parking much more difficult for students with a permit, Kelly noted. In recent weeks, South Garage and

"We have increased enforcement presence from the start of the academic year this year compared to last year. And it's actually the other way around, more people decided it's just okay to not buy a permit and take their chances and get a ticket."

ANDY KELLY



Lines of cars slowly search for parking spots on Sept. 12, 2023. South Garage filled its parking spots as early as 9 a.m.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL PEDERSON, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

the on-campus apartment parking areas have been hit particularly hard.

Despite increased parking enforcement and the discussion of increasing fines in hopes of deterring people from parking without a permit, Kelly said that tickets continue to rise.

"A lot of folks say, your fines are high enough and if you compare them to Hartford, we're pretty in line with precedent. But it doesn't seem to be deterring people. And we expected it to get better this year. We have increased enforcement presence from the start of the academic year this year compared to last year. And it's actually the other way around, more people decided it's just okay to not buy a permit and take their chances and get a ticket. So it's been a

strange, really unexpected thing," Kelly said.

Kelly said that while they may raise ticket fines in the future to help mitigate this problem, UConn Parking Services does not rely on that revenue to fund parking operations.

"Our goal is to encourage good behavior. So if our enforcement officers only write five tickets a day, because everybody's following the rules, that's the best case scenario for me. We can get by even though parking is 100% self-funded, and we don't get any central funding from the university. And so permit sales and ticket revenue are our only means of maintaining the lots and the garages, and paying for the enforcement program. So if we get five tickets a day because people are following the rules, we can re-

duce enforcement. That's a huge win for us because the administrative burden of maintaining the program at the level like we do today, we don't win... no one wins," Kelly stated.

UConn Parking Services is also considering the implementation of other deterrence methods such as self-release booting mechanisms. While Kelly said this implementation is far off, talks have started with the company PayLock to obtain these devices.

When deployed on the tire of a car, the device cannot be removed until the car owner scans the code with their phone, pays the fine and receives a release code. After the device is removed, it would have to be dropped off somewhere on campus.

Kelly has also said that the construction of the new South Campus residence hall has had an impact on staff parking and will have an even larger effect as the year continues.

"Right now, the construction is taking a fairly small number in the bigger picture of staff spots. There's currently almost zero student parking spots affected by the construction. And that will generally continue, but there's going to be a much more significant impact to staff spots around mid-October," Kelly said. "And that's pretty problematic. We have reached out on the staff side and we've reached out to the town of Mansfield to ask if we can get folks a discounted rate at the downtown Storrs garage. And we've had a few people take us up on that."

UAW STRIKE, cont. from p. 01

is excited about climate change action and a transition towards climate-conscious policies, their first priority is ensuring that workers are not left behind in the process.

Easterly is right about the strike being about more than just auto workers. Many of the principal

demands, including wage increases, job security protections and reforms to the work week can be applied to workers across the country.

The GEU itself has fought for a wide range of reforms in their negotiations with UConn, including, as Easterly lists, "a 29% increase in compensation since 2015, better parking, protection against bullying,

harassment and racial discrimination and childcare benefits."

Unionization and the struggle for increased worker power, she stresses, does not just exist at the expansive scale of something like the UAW strike. "It is absolutely possible," she says, for those in any workplace to band together and empower themselves to advocate for bet-

ter working conditions. Months after the GEU's official recognition in April 2014, it had already become the largest union at UConn, ahead of groups devoted to the rights of faculty and staff.

Easterly notes an experience in her time within the GEU where there was an overgrowth of mold within many of the offices in the English department. This

overgrowth was not being addressed by the university, so the GEU was able to do something as simple as gathering graduate students together and filing a formal grievance to get the mold removed.

"A union doesn't just have to be about bread and butter issues," she says, "It's not just about the specific bargaining unit, but about the common good."

The Daily Campus

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Monday, October 2, 2023

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The Daily Campus Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Symbol on the Texas state flag
- 5 Central point
- 9 Sailboat poles
- 14 Muted, as colors
- 15 Cuatro y cuatro
- 16 To no __: without success
- 17 North Carolina university
- 18 Clothing part that might split
- 19 As of late
- 20 Talks things out to resolve tension
- 23 Miss Piggy's favorite pronoun
- 24 Spice amt.
- 25 Post for an MBA, maybe
- 28 Slumbers soundly
- 33 Ecol. or geol.
- 34 Catch a glimpse of
- 35 Digital camera insert, briefly
- 36 "Good Lord!"
- 39 Food drive donation
- 41 Familiar "Who's there?" reply
- 42 Arrived by air
- 44 Push-up bra feature
- 46 __ Diego Padres
- 47 Applies more pressure
- 51 Paramount channel
- 52 Paramount channel
- 53 Web pioneer
- 54 Jack London short story set in harsh winter conditions, and what the ends of 20-, 28-, and 47-Across can be used for
- 60 Green energy category
- 63 Tend the soup
- 64 Big celebrity
- 65 Learn to fit in
- 66 "__, Brute?"
- 67 Sizable bodies of water
- 68 Formally hands over
- 69 Amy of "The Wire"
- 70 Rabbit kin

DOWN

- 1 On __: how much freelance work is done

- 2 Like many supermodels
- 3 Sunburn soother
- 4 Change the title of
- 5 Deals in dirt
- 6 Rapper who plays Fin on "Law & Order: SVU"
- 7 Toppled Iranian leader
- 8 Black Lives Matter co-founder
- 9 Nail treatment at a salon, informally
- 10 State definitively
- 11 Toothed tool
- 12 Up to, briefly
- 13 Underhanded
- 21 Fish eggs
- 22 Inquires
- 25 Top-grade
- 26 Word processing menu heading
- 27 "Happiness is having a scratch for every itch" poet Nash
- 28 Disheveled clod
- 29 Crossbred big cats
- 30 Brief time, briefly
- 31 Cleared a hurdle
- 32 Take steps
- 33 Component of cider but not cola?
- 37 Hold the deed to
- 38 Twists, as data
- 40 "Nope"
- 43 Pink Floyd's "Comfortably __"
- 45 All-out sprint
- 48 Many a laptop owner
- 49 Condo management gp.
- 50 Mischievous
- 54 Cassette
- 55 Teeny
- 56 "Close My Eyes Forever" singer
- 57 Brain wave
- 58 Stadium sound
- 59 "Who __ knows?"
- 60 Cul-de-__
- 61 Rhyming tribute
- 62 Young fellow

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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10/02/23

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Melodic transcendence & harmonic resonance:

A symphonic odyssey through Ed Sheeran's mathematical finale, "Autumn Variations"

by Tianyue Zhang
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
tianyue.zhang@uconn.edu

Ed Sheeran's "mathematical finale" unveils a tapestry of melodic transcendence and harmonic resonance, presenting listeners with a poignant journey through the complexity of human existence. The concluding piece of his mathematical series represents a meticulous synthesis of emotional narratives and innovative sounds, merging to create a multifaceted musical experience. The album opens with the metaphorical "Autumn Leaves," symbolizing change, decay and rebirth to set a reflective tone for his ensuing musical exploration. At this point, Sheeran begins to interweave themes of transient life, new beginnings and the passage of time, leaving listeners to introspect on the brevity of existence.

Sheeran delicately touches upon a tragedy through portraying the sudden loss of a close friend that leaves a lasting impact. It is a beautiful synthesis of melancholy and reflection, representing the abrupt and painful intersections of life and loss. This could resonate with anyone who has experienced the sudden departure of a loved one. The essence of this album is not only the portrayal of sorrow, but also an exploration of hope, resilience and undying love, evident in the narrative of a pregnant wife battling a tumor. The juxtaposition of pain and hope in this piece showcases Sheer-

an's mastery in reflecting the ever-changing nature of human emotions and experiences. The lyric "We can't let winter win, I'll keep out for spring" acts as a metaphor for combating despair and looking forward to renewal and happiness — possibly a nod to Sheeran's own battles with depression and his will to seek the light. It's a reminder of the cyclical nature of life and is a beacon for those navigating through their darkest times.

Each track on this album from "Magical" to "Head > Heels" is a musical entity in its own right, representing various facets of Sheeran's artistic identity. The contrast between the vibrant rhythms of "Page" and the profound depths of "Midnight" illustrates Sheeran's versatile musical range and his ability to capture a multitude of human experiences. "When Will I Be Alright" is a passionate representation of Sheeran's internal dialogues, exploring themes of self-discovery, maturation and the quest for inner peace and stability.

This album is not merely a collection of songs, but a harmonious journey through the facets of human experience, echoing with the resonances of love, loss, joy, sorrow, discovery and reflection. The diversity in themes and soundscapes invites listeners to explore Sheeran's multidimensional musical universe, providing a rich, immersive experience that lingers long after the music has ceased.

Whether you are a long-time fan or new to his music, Ed Sheeran's "mathematical finale" promises a symphonic

journey that is bound to touch your soul, stir your thoughts and offer a renewed perspective on the inherent beauty and pain woven into the fabric of our existence. The lyrical and musical sophistication

of this album are a testament to Sheeran's evolving artistic journey and his unerring ability to create relatable and reflective musical narratives.

Remember, we can't let the winter win!

Rating:
4/5



ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

AN ALBUM TO SPACE YOUR FACE: GRATEFUL DEAD'S WAKE OF THE FLOOD 50TH ANNIVERSARY



The Grateful Dead posted this as their official announcement of the release of "Wake of the Flood" 50th anniversary edition on Thursday, July 27. The art slightly differs from the more eclectic aesthetic the band is known for. PHOTO COURTESY OF @GRATEFULDEAD ON INSTAGRAM

by Henry St. Pierre
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
henry.st_pierre@uconn.edu

Though the band split following the passing of frontman Jerry Garcia nearly three decades ago, the Grateful Dead has never really left cultural relevance as a symbol of easygoing counterculture.

Deadheads — as their fans affectionately call themselves — still exist in all walks of life. Time and time again, the Grateful Dead is listed as one of the most influential bands of all time, and Jerry Garcia one of the most influential guitarists of all time.

With their incredibly large body of work and massive cult following, it comes as no

surprise to see new Dead content cropping up a few times a year. They have played thousands of shows across 30 years and thousands more post-breakup through Dead & Company (which just finished its final tour as a band this past July). On top of that, there are thousands of hours of unreleased studio record-

ings showcasing how these Californian jam masters crafted their songs.

That's where this new record, "Wake of the Flood: The Angel's Share," comes in, as 2023 marked its 50th anniversary. "Wake of the Flood" continues to be one of the Dead's most celebrated albums, with tracks such as "Eyes of the World" and "Stella Blue" being staples of the band's performances.

The record is much more jazz-focused, taking inspiration from modal jazz and bebop as opposed to the straightforward blues-inspired psychedelic rock the band had been making beforehand. The record has an emphasis on keyboards, played by Keith Godchaux, and has an eclectic mix of influences that range from reggae to folk rock.

The 50th anniversary release includes alternate takes of each track, giving the listener a chance to peek behind the curtain into the songwriting process exhibited by the band. Also included are demos for two songs, "Eyes of the World" and "Here Comes Sunshine." For hardcore deadheads and aspiring songwriters, this is a masterclass on what goes into crafting a song. Though the band doesn't explicitly explain their process, each take gives a clear picture of where the song is going and where it came from, and each take differs, albeit in slight ways. The opener, "Mississippi Half-Step Uptown Toodleo," is an extended jam in earlier takes before being shortened to a more traditional song structure in the final master.

This record is surely one for the dedicated fans: those who are curious and eager to listen to the band record their music and refine it down to

a commercial release. However, casual fans may not see much enjoyment in listening to the group play the same song four times in a row. The band also includes live performances of several "Wake of the Flood" cuts. A staple part of the Dead's music is their emphasis on live performances, with thousands of their shows being recorded and released by the band and fans alike. The live performances on this record were taken from a 1973 concert at Northwestern University.

"Wake of the Flood: The Angel's Share" offers a unique insight into one of rock's most celebrated albums while also including unheard live performances and demos — everything one would want to be compiled in a deluxe reissue. For both casual and hardcore deadheads, there is something to offer with this reissue.

RATING:
4/5

‘NOWHERE:’

A one-character survival story through the unknown

by **Thaomy Phung**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
thaomy.phung@uconn.edu

Scared of the ocean? “Nowhere,” a movie directed by Albert Pintó in which the infamous “Titanic” and a history of totalitarian regimes meet, will make you face your phobia.

The newly released survival movie emphasizes the experience that many refugees desperately endure while fleeing their countries in hopes for a better chance at life.

“Nowhere” initiates the scene by presenting the love of two soon-to-be parents who had dreams of finding refuge in a secure and sheltered homeland. Interestingly, the only way they were able to escape was to hide themselves in transportation containers traveling across the sea.

To add to the already intense emotions of starting a family in a war-torn country, the two star-crossed lovers were ripped apart from each other when they were separated into two different storage containers.

Although the storyline sounds enticing, the movie itself isn’t all that intriguing. The first 20 minutes are incredibly engaging in its effort to highlight the tragedies of fateful or forced deaths. However, the rest of the movie is a bit cliché and follows a typical survival storyline.

First, the protagonist is overconfident in a low-rate of success situation, but then encounters a situation to which their confidence plummets, leaving them with just pure hope.

Second, their hope converts into a split second of bliss when they discover a rescue

option, only made available when they shine a light towards the sky, use a flare gun, send a smoke signal for help or the typical option: draw SOS in the sand. In this case, it was using a piece of glass to reflect light from the sun to a plane that was flying overhead.

Third, when all hope is lost, the protagonist resorts to the last option, like how Rose drifts along the ocean on a door. Of course, this is the most illogical solution, but it somehow ends up being the choice that saves lives.

The only thing that saves the movie is Anna Castillo, who played the protagonist, Mia. There are multiple disappointing choices in the film’s directing, but Castillo’s performance makes it easy to overlook these mistakes. She portrays the overbearing

and overwhelming nature of a single-character survival incredibly well. After being split from her partner, she’s forced to witness the gory manslaughter of many of the people she was initially in the container with. Still alone, she is faced with enduring the birth of her newborn daughter, Noa, in a container half-filled with water.

Although the storyline is predictable, there are still nerve-racking moments where Mia learns how to increase her chances of survival. Luckily, Mia finds a sharp object to pry open the ceiling of the container, which creates a world of opportunities such as fishing, waving for a rescue and getting to drier ground.

As viewers watch her go through these deathly experiences, we’re only left to wonder

what we would do or if we would even survive. Some may argue whether Mia’s newborn baby helps or hinders her chances at survival. On one hand, the baby takes up more of her energy and resources, but on the other, it gives her the motivation to survive as she’s not just living for herself anymore.

Even if “Nowhere” is an addition to the list of repetitive survivalist movies, it has graciously hit the second spot on Netflix’s Top 10 Movies Today ranking list — and deservedly so. Although it isn’t anything short of “been there, done that,” the mesmerizing visuals, haunting soundtrack and outstanding performance by Castillo invite you to doubt yourself and explore the depths of your own consciousness.

RATING: 3/5



Daily

Life

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This is a piece from John O'Donnell's "Colosseum Simulations" collection. To create this piece, O'Donnell explained that he used cast resin, video game figurines, shelves and glue.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @JOHNODONNELLPROJECTS ON INSTAGRAM

**Artistic
Huskies, here
is some of the
Artistic Talk
with John
O'Donnell for
you!**

by Fernanda Ieffet
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
fernanda.ieffet@uconn.edu

Calling all Artistic Huskies out there! If you were not at the William Benton Museum of Art on Friday, Sept. 29, you should have been. The Museum welcomed a talented speaker, John O'Donnell, a printmaker and new media artist. O'Donnell shared his story of personal growth from his early interest in art as a middle schooler to displaying several of his pieces in exhibits as a modern artist today.

O'Donnell's presentation included a collection of slideshows that emphasized the significance of his trip to Italy on his artistic journey. There, he was delighted with the works of many extremely skilled Italian printmakers, such as Giovanni Battista Piranesi, who ended up serving as an inspiration for many of O'Donnell's own pieces.

O'Donnell's works are creatively and originally constructed, focusing on capturing the essence of feelings such as illusion, frustration, defeat and nostalgia. He showcased most of his pieces during the presentation, and the crowd payed close attention to his touching presentation.

O'Donnell works through a mix of both traditional and experimental techniques that, once applied, result in an original piece. At the same time, each new piece resembles his other works in the sense that they all carry his unique artistic signature marks. Overall, the experience was extremely worthwhile and the event was considered a success by those who attended.

About forty people attended the event. O'Donnell's pieces are currently on display both at the William Benton Museum of Art, virtually and physically, and on his website, <https://www.johnodonnellprojects.com>. Those who were not lucky enough to

be there on Friday can access and admire his artistic work at any time online. What are you waiting for?

And for the fellow Huskies who are sitting and thinking how sorry they are that they could not come, here is some good news: the William Benton Museum of Art will be welcoming Janet Pritchard, an accomplished photographer, on Tuesday, Oct. 10 to discuss her work, life story and personal perspectives on art.

The event will happen from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. If Pritchard's name rings a bell on your end, it is probably because you have already been exposed to some of her work in FlakPhoto Projects, View Camera Magazine, The Photo Review and many others publications. More information on the event can be found at the William Benton Museum of Art's calendar, available on their website. Therefore, artists who bleed blue, grab your cameras and stay tuned for upcoming events!



Opinion

The Daily Campus

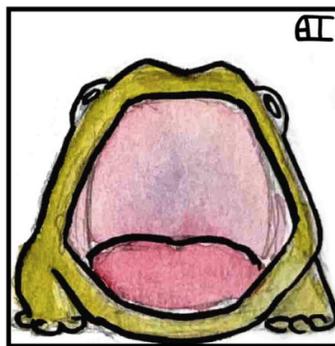
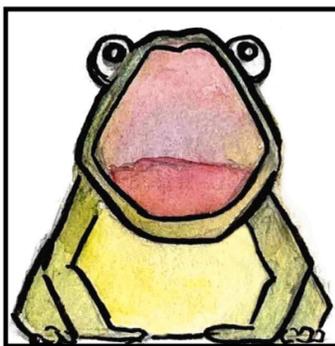
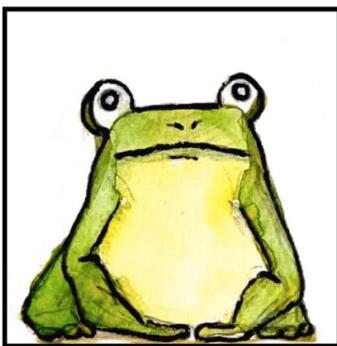
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COMIC BY ANNA IORFINO, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

RAPID FIRE

If we're lucky in the Opinion section, we work through our beliefs completely and support them with great arguments. But sometimes, we don't need a deeper reason to hold our convictions. Rapid Fire is for those tweet-length takes that can be explained in just a sentence or two — no more justification needed.

In this Rapid Fire, writers gave their opinions on the question: What UConn ritual do you just not get?



ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL ZIMMERMAN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Nell Srinath, Opinion Editor:

When I actually learned that HuskyTHON was an 18-hour dance marathon, I thought I was being lied to. The idea of dancing to raise money for ill children when the state could be doing so — more effectively, might I add — by taxing the wealthy by a few bucks more or outlawing medical price-gouging feels so perverse. That and the Greek life-dominated environment is a personal deterrent. I'd enter a dance marathon to nationalize healthcare, though.

Dan Stark, Associate Opinion Editor:

Not a ritual, but I've never gotten the hype around Pourhouse. The lines are always long, it's packed inside and worst of all, it's overrun with freshmen. Count me out.

Emma Mattingly, Contributor:

When the time comes around, I dread seeing HuskyTHON in action because of the money raising efforts. The goal at hand is a great one, but every single person hitting up their followers on their Instagram stories asking for petty cash drives me insane.

Tomàs Hinckley, Contributor:

Why do we go to football games? We literally suck.

Naiiya Patel, Business Manager:

Who is avoiding the seal in 2023? The seal was removed in 2021, yet every single tour guide is still talking about it. Absolutely no one is running to rub Jonathan's nose over a few pieces of brick. I would totally understand it if we still had an actual seal to be afraid of walking on. However, there is nothing there. And everyday I'm watching people go around in circles over a superstition that technically no longer exists.

Athena Brown, Contributor:

Between the screeching karaoke and the stale popcorn, Late Night does not live up to the hype. If I'm dragging myself across campus in the dark and cold, I would like an exceptional experience as advertised by UConn. Instead, the three unoriginal events are hidden, sending students running around the building looking for the deepest darkest corners of the Union. I vote to unplug the microphones.

THE INNOVATION ZONE: UCONN'S NOT-SO-HIDDEN GEM

by Youssef Macary
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
youssef.macary@uconn.edu

In this day and age, we live in a world of constant change, advancement and opportunity. The field of science, technology, engineering and math, also known as STEM, has produced an ever-growing workforce, increasing 20% between 2011 and 2021. As an educational institution, the University of Connecticut has an obligation to ensure that each student has the ability to explore this constantly expanding field. As an initiative, UConn has been hugely successful at this promotion through the UConn Innovation Zone.

The Innovation Zone has three different parts: the Emerging Tech Center, the Recording & Editing Studio and the Makerspace. All of these areas are completely free for all UConn students and grant access to a variety of equipment such as 3D printers, a CNC machine, a laser cutter, sewing machines and much more. There are also maker specialists in the area who are there to provide basic training. The space does more than accept walk-ins; additionally, they hold workshops for UNIV classes and host skillshares

where students can learn more about certain topics such as 3D modeling or sewing basics. Many students come to the space to work on projects. Overall, the Innovation Zone serves as a vital introduction to real-world STEM concepts, which helps students explore their interests in the topic and develop important real-world skills.

Werth Tower was built in 2016, and that year also marked the creation and opening of the Innovation Zone. This campus resource has skyrocketed in popularity over the years and is extremely valuable for providing students with the resources to supplement their education through skill development. The Innovation Zone provides students "the necessary materials, equipment and guidance [and] creates an environment where UConn students can bring their ideas from conception to reality." However, the Innovation Zone provides so much more than a space for students to simply make something. It provides a gateway into exploring the valuable skills of the 21st century that guide student success.

The space not only provides a valuable resource, but unlike other campus resources, it's an asset that

a lot of students use. In the 2022-2023 academic year, the space had 2,382 unique sign-ins, which is an impressive chunk of the Storrs student population. The total number of sign-ins last year was seven times the amount from the first year, showing incredible growth in the Zone's usage. Many of these sign-ins are first-year students, a demonstration of the Innovation Zone's ability to promote itself and introduce students early in their college careers. This information is from "IZone 2022-2023 Year In Review" delivered via communications with student managers of the Innovation Zone.

The most phenomenal impact of the Makerspace is its ability to prepare students for the real world. There is a clear difference between theory and practice, and while classes serve as an excellent

foundation for knowledge that students need, the Innovation Zone is a fantastic supplemental property for students to practice the skills they'll actually use. CNCs, CAD software, and 3D modeling and printing are some of the technologies at the forefront of the STEM industry, and all of them are accessible to students through the Innovation Zone. It presents an awesome opportunity for students to become proficient in skills that can one day help them succeed in their prospective careers. More importantly, these skills are a part of a growing field and are becoming more and more valuable in society. The Innovation Zone quite simply takes career readiness to the next level and helps students leave UConn with not just a degree, but also the abilities needed to thrive.

Even if students don't want to enter STEM, the Innovation Zone has many benefits. There are a number of skills that are needed in everyday context. For example, sewing is something that everyone should know how to do. This program is just one example of how the Innovation Zone is valuable for all students, not just a niche. This model is impressive because it allows STEM students to add depth to their expertise and provides breadth for those who just want to learn cool everyday skills.

Overall, the UConn Innovation Zone adds a tremendous amount of value to our campus and is a space that a lot of students benefit greatly from. Every student on campus would gain from taking a trip to the Innovation Zone and checking everything out.



The Innovation Zone located in Peter J. Werth Tower on the UConn Storrs campus holds some incredible technology including vinyl presses and 3-D printers. All students have access to the facility and its resources.
PHOTO BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Opinion

Photo of the Day | Fall foliage



Fall foliage has begun to show its colors as the season progresses towards its colder half. Fall is a favorite season of many UConn students and faculty.
PHOTO BY SKYLER KIM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

UCONN:

DISTINCT, DIVERSE AND UNCATEGORIZABLE

by **Emma Mattingly**
CONTRIBUTOR
SHE/HER/HERS
emma.mattingly@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Storrs campus was recently voted fifth among campuses with the “most dark academia vibes,” a distinction seemingly unfit for this university that has been growing and developing for 142 years.

There’s a reason why this ranking has left many heads scratching. Beyond the fact that they put a positive spin on the cold, rainy days in Storrs and claimed that this college town is home to 11 bookstores when there are only two, they also say that UConn can be considered “dark academia.” The term “dark academia” refers to the old, mysterious and classical experience of higher education. Such a distinction, however, ignores the buildup of campus.

That “buildup” is literal. Not one original academic building remains unaltered, and of those that stand today, only a small section of them were deliberately constructed in a classical or colonial style.

This is a matter that extends beyond the architecture, however. UConn is an institution that has a distinct story and student culture that cannot be categorized — one that can, at least in part, be told through the buildings around campus. So, while UConn may not have a universally charming exterior, it’s the story on the inside that counts.

The first place to see that story lies in the heart of the campus: Homer Babbidge Library. When you first approach the behemoth of a building, it’s difficult to be impressed. Its brutalist style makes it look like a massive wave of brick and cement, but its great significance lies within its moniker.

Named after UConn’s eighth president, Homer D. Babbidge, the library commemorates someone revered for his leadership during its period of great

change. Babbidge oversaw an increase in the library’s collection to one million copies, a massive increase in the student body, a rise in professors’ salaries and a greater focus brought to the study of liberal arts to expand the school’s academics beyond agricultural studies. Even through the era of student protests during the 1960s, Babbidge remained popular with students. This unseemly building holds an important story of UConn’s evolution, academic growth and the developing voice of the student body.

As you move towards the northeast corner of campus, you’ll find yourself looking at a building that is an odd hybrid of two very opposite eras in the school’s history: Storrs Hall and its Widmer Wing combine to create the home of UConn’s extraordinarily competitive School of Nursing.

A distinct student culture is created and memorialized here, and it’s done behind every ugly brick, cement and metal wall on the Storrs campus.

Storrs Hall is one of the oldest buildings on campus, originally acting as a dormitory. Built in 1912, Storrs was designed in a colonial revival style, but the Widmer Wing visually opposes that classical beauty. The Wing was built in 2012 to expand the School of Nursing and was named after Carolyn Ladd Widmer, the school’s first dean.

While the buildings don’t fit cohesively, they symbolize growth from UConn’s origin and display a mix of the old and the new, each playing a massive role in UConn’s history and cultural makeup on campus.

Though Storrs Hall no longer houses students, a trip westward takes you to a place that does. North Campus was constructed in the 1950s following a rise in student enrollment that stemmed from the post-World War II G.I. Bill. Though the entire dormitory lacks distinct features and is outdated, residents there created a place to call home: “The Jungle.”

That old charm of The Jungle has been lost through the years, but even so, North remains a place for thousands of students to make their first memories at UConn, establishing a home for a rich start to student life despite its indistinct physical aspects.

As you stroll to the middle of campus, you’ll find the physical and cultural epicenter of student life at UConn. Constructed in 1952, the Student Union stands as a massive building with many new and modern additions, representing UConn’s growth over the years. As its name suggests, “the U” is home to student life. Here, students find their place through both personal and community-related interests, such as with cultural centers including the Asian American, Puerto Rican and Latin American and African American Cultural Centers. This is where students are provided a place to join cultural communities at their home away from home.

Even though its original grandiose appearance has been lost to the new additions, it continues to enrich both the academic and personal facets of student life to create a thriving college community.

So, it can clearly be said that UConn doesn’t fit into the “dark academia” mold. UConn does, however, hold a unique story told through its building development that details the rise of the university and its students. A distinct student culture is created and memorialized here, and it’s done behind every ugly brick, cement and metal wall on the Storrs campus.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ROMAN EMPIRE?

by **Aastha Gupta** | STAFF WRITER | SHE/HER/HERS | aastha.gupta@uconn.edu

TikTok is a constantly evolving app with new trends and ideas popping up daily in a continuous turnover of content. Recently, a new trend has presented itself on the app. Women everywhere have been asking their guy friends and significant others a question: How often do you think about the Roman Empire? For some, it occurs at a surprisingly high frequency. But what specifically is the reason for this intriguing occurrence?

When we consider the might of the Roman Empire, especially as it is aggrandized in the field of history, this trend is not surprising. The Roman Empire was certainly not the first to conquer great amounts of land, but in my own experience, it is most often discussed in the context of Western history. Indeed, when I decided to test it out for myself, I found that people regarded the Empire as a major influence on Western culture, science and technology. I found people often thought about the Roman Empire in the context of its “greatness” and military prowess. When asked about the Roman Empire, one might wonder how its people were able to create aqueducts and cement, seemingly simple items that were revolutionary at the time.

But what does this historical kinship say about our own society today? The very symbol of the Roman Empire aligns heavily with classical ideals of masculinity, which is why we are seeing a gendered divide in who thinks about the Empire more commonly. The Roman Empire is often considered the epitome of strength and might, two characteristics that are conflated with

masculinity. Answers that venture slightly into the unconscious show that such correlations still exist within our minds and likely also exist in our actions.

The focus on the Roman Empire also illuminates that much of the history we are taught largely focuses on Western culture. I distinctly remember my world history class in high school where, rather than learning about history in numerous regions across the globe, our work was nearly always focused on Europe with little to no information about other countries and continents. Of course, European history clearly affects our own history, but there are many more invisible strings that connect us to histories in so many other areas, especially as a country that is often quite involved in global politics. Much of our history is intertwined with countries from around the world and perceiving history through a Eurocentric view can cause other important events to be ignored. Our past is tied with every country we interact with, and understanding their history allows us to better understand other nations and our roles in interactions with them.

It is interesting what is revealed about society by something as common as a TikTok trend. Of course, the creator of this trend likely did not mean to elucidate the unconscious differences between men and women or provide insight into our educational system, but by identifying pop culture trends, we can more clearly see societal tendencies that have a significant effect on numerous other, and arguably more important, parts of our society.



ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTINE TRAN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



MEN'S SOCCER:



CLIPART COURTESY OF RAWPIXEL

CHANDLER'S EFFORT LEADS TO WIN IN TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR



UConn men's soccer plays a great game against CCSU at the Morrone stadium in Storrs, Conn. on Sept. 19, 2023. The Huskies stayed strong throughout the game coming back from half time even more energized than before, which led them to a 3-0 victory.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER / THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Nick Spinali
STAFF WRITER
HE/HIM/HIS
nicholas.spinalli@uconn.edu

Despite the pitch looking more like a slip 'n slide than a soccer field due to the immense amount of rain that plagued Storrs on Friday, the University of Connecticut men's soccer team bested the Villanova University Wildcats in a gritty 1-0 affair.

The two teams couldn't muster enough offense through the first 20 minutes of the contest to have a real shot at putting points on the board. UConn's Jayden Hibbert stepped up for his team in goal, saving four Villanova shots in the first half to keep the opponent from striking first. The Huskies' first chance to convert a goal came in the 21st minute. After penetrating the Nova goalbox, Connecticut's Pierce Bateson rifled off a shot from close distance. His aim was just awry as the ball deflected off of the left goalpost and missed the net entirely.

As the rain continued to fall and neither team advanced, the two sides began to elevate the intensity. On one play, UConn's Kwame Adu-Gyamfi and Villanova's Belmar Joseph slid into each other while trying to gain control of the ball. The two collided, and Bateson and the Wildcats' Mikhail Zaretser joined the scuffle. After tensions settled, Zaretser

was given a yellow card for unsporting by the game officials. It wasn't the only yellow card the Cats got in the first half. Gray Ricca also earned a yellow card when his momentum knocked over a Connecticut player just before halftime.

Freshman Kieran Chandler provided the Huskies with the spark plug they so desperately needed to gain an edge over the Wildcats. With just one minute remaining in the first half, the UConn offense broke loose on a fast break towards the Nova goal. Just as the Huskies ran into the teeth of the defense, it appeared that Villanova had successfully stopped the Connecticut push. The Wildcats' Marcus Brenes attempted to clear the ball away from the goal, but instead kicked the ball directly into the leg of Chandler. The mistake proved costly after the ricochet was directed straight into the net before a Villanova defender could stop the ball. Chandler was credited with the goal on the play, the first in the freshman's young collegiate career, and the breakthrough gave the Huskies some much-needed momentum in the previously stagnant contest.

Three minutes after halftime ended, UConn's Max Gummesson was forced to briefly exit the game when he caught the elbow of a Villanova player while attempting a slide tackle. Later, Connecticut's Adil Iggoute was issued

a yellow card for running into a Nova player that was clearly out of bounds. Adu-Gyamfi also received a red card for shoving a Wildcat out of bounds 10 minutes later. Just before the clock hit zero, Villanova's Vincent Petrera was issued a yellow card for arguing with an official.

UConn had a number of close opportunities to convert. In the 50th minute, Iggoute had what seemed to be a surefire score after he wonderfully headed a pass mere feet from the net. However, Nova goalkeeper Kent Dickey masterfully commanded the goal on the play, stepping up to make the sprawling stop and leaving Iggoute stunned. The Huskies had another chance from close range two minutes later, but Dickey again made an effort to tally the save and stop the home team from extending their advantage.

As the game progressed, neither side was able to snap out of their sluggish slump until the game clock displayed all zeros. As a result, Connecticut had claimed an ugly 1-0 win, besting Mother Nature under

conditions that soccer was not intended to be played under.

With the victory, the Huskies improve their overall record to 6-3, including a 2-1 showing against Big East teams. Meanwhile, Villanova drops to 1-4-3 on the season, including 0-1-3 in the conference.

Overall, Villanova outshot Connecticut 14 to 13 and managed to put five shots on goal compared to UConn's three. Hibbert played well in the goal, gobbling up five saves compared to two for Dickey. A total of 16 fouls were called by the officials, with 11 being directed at Nova and the remaining five going against the Huskies. UConn attempted 11 corner kicks to the Wildcats' six, and the one offsides call of the night was against Connecticut.

Connecticut's next matchup is set for Tuesday when they welcome the Catamounts from the University of Vermont. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. at Joseph J. Morrone Stadium in Storrs, Connecticut, where UConn will be hosting International Student Night. Fans can catch the game from home with a subscription to UConn+.



UConn men's soccer plays a great game against CCSU at the Morrone stadium in Storrs, Conn. on Sept. 19, 2023. The Huskies stayed strong throughout the game coming back from half time even more energized than before which led them to a 3-0 victory.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SIHAM NEDLOUSSI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER / THE DAILY CAMPUS

Sports

Photo of the Day | Blue and white



The UConn women's lacrosse in their huddle before the start of their annual blue and white game on Friday, September 22, 2023 at Morrone Stadium. UConn blue played UConn white with alumni on each team to show appreciation to their alums. PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

WOMEN'S HOCKEY:

UConn DEFENSE HOLDS STRONG IN EXHIBITION SERIES AGAINST NO. 11 PENN STATE



UConn women's hockey team picks up a 2-1 loss against Holy Cross at the Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. on Feb. 11, 2023. FILE PHOTO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Avery Becker | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | avery.becker@uconn.edu

The season for the UConn women's hockey team officially started when they played two exhibition games this past weekend against No. 11 Penn State.

Even though the Nittany Lions outshot the Huskies 33-27 on Friday night, Connecticut still managed to shut them out with a score of 2-0.

The Huskies came out strong in the first and second periods, challenging Penn State defensively. Their first scoring chance of the game came from forward Brianna Ware when she collected a turnover at the blue line. She was left alone and took a backhand shot attempt, but it was ultimately saved by Penn State's net-minder Josie Bothun.

Shortly after, Penn State wanted to get in the mix. UConn

goalender Tia Chan made back-to-back saves in the first period. In that frame alone, Chan managed to make seven saves, keeping the score at zero.

The Nittany Lions held the majority of puck possessions in the second period, outshooting the Huskies 17-15, but the game remained scoreless until the third.

After a back-and-forth game, Connecticut managed to put themselves ahead with a goal from forward Riley Grimley. The score came after Grimley stole the puck from Penn State's defense, and took aim above their goalie's shoulder.

With the Huskies looking to put the game away, a pass from defenseman Camryn Wong to forward Kathryn Stockdale set up the team's

second goal, coming only two minutes after the first.

Chan proved herself to be tough enough for the Huskies as she kept things scoreless the rest of the game. At the end of the night, she tallied 33 saves.

Coming into Saturday's game, the Huskies looked to jump on their chance to sweep the Nittany Lions. Connecticut struck first as forward Coryn Tormala skated through Penn State's defense to find forward Brooke Campbell alone at the side of the net for a tip-in score. The power play goal came at the 12-minute mark in the first period.

Chan was able to weather the storm from Penn State's offense until the second period. Penn State had the opportunity to tie the game at one from a de-

layed penalty. With the help of the extra attacker, the Nittany Lions found the back of the net.

The premature excitement gave way to disappointment, however, as the goal was waved off. This was due to a review showing that a Connecticut skater touched the puck before the goal was scored. UConn's penalty kill remained strong once again and they were able to enter the third period up by one.

Through the final frame, Penn State fought to even the score. They were ultimately successful, as forward Alyssa Machado found a spot above Chan's blocker to tie the score at 12 minutes into the third.

Neither team was able to find the net again in regulation and the game was brought to a winner-take-all overtime. As both

teams battled, UConn's only chance came with one minute remaining during a power play. However, their attempt was thwarted as the Huskies failed to put the contest to bed.

The game finished with a score of 1-1. UConn now holds a 4-0-3 record all-time against the Nittany Lions and remains undefeated. The Huskies notched 17 shots through the match and Chan finished with 39 saves. Her one-goal weekend proves the success and abilities of UConn's defense.

The regular season for Connecticut will commence against Boston College. They are set to play in Chestnut Hill on Oct. 13, then will return home to Toscano Family Ice Forum on Oct. 14 for a 2 p.m. puck drop. Huskies fans can stream both of these games on ESPN+.

FIELD HOCKEY: HUSKIES FALL SHORT IN CLOSE BIG EAST SHOWING



The UConn Huskies stay tied at 0-0 after the first quarter vs Georgetown on Friday, September 22. The Huskies record sits at 2-6 and the Hoya's record is 1-7.

PHOTO BY SHELAGH LAVERTY, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER / THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Connor Sargeant
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
connor.sargeant@uconn.edu

After the UConn field hockey team went a perfect two-for-two at their last showing against No. 20 Maryland and Big East rival Georgetown, expectations were sky high for this young squad. This past weekend, they traveled to Conshohocken, Pennsylvania

for a Big East showdown against Villanova University. Up to this point, fans have been accustomed to the typical Friday and Sunday two-game split; however, UConn's match on Friday afternoon was their only game this weekend.

Villanova came into this fixture as the favorites, boasting a 5-4 record and looking for revenge after Fairfield snapped their

three-game winning streak. The Wildcats' season-long strength has been their prolific offense, most notably their victory over Longwood by a healthy 7-0 margin. Conversely, Connecticut's assertive defense has kept them competitive all season, but last weekend, their offense brought it, too.

It took only 10 minutes for Villanova to draw first blood,

thanks to a nice shot by Colleen Finnan against freshman goalkeeper Natalie McKenna. While the Huskies failed to score anything in the first quarter, it wasn't due to a lack of effort. Connecticut did a good job creating scoring opportunities, drawing three penalty corners compared to the Wildcats' two and outshooting Villanova 6-4. Undoubtedly, if the UConn women had kept this pace up, they would have eventually found the back of the cage. However, their aggressiveness on offense did not follow them into the second quarter.

While the Wildcat offense has been exemplary this season, make no mistake: their defense is just as good. Villanova's defensive work was on display for their home crowd as UConn failed to get a shot off the entire second quarter. On the same note, the Connecticut defense picked up the slack, only allowing one shot.

The second half started on a positive note for the Connecticut women as graduate student transfer Belle Bressler leveled the contest. All season long, Bressler has played excellently and her latest goal marks a two-game goal-scoring streak, a bright spot in an offense that fails to generate many goals. The rest of the third was close until, in the dying embers of

the frame, Sabine de Ruijter smashed one past Connecticut's defense off a penalty corner. This goal proved to be the nail in the coffin for the Huskies as neither side scored again and Villanova improved to a 6-4 record with this nail-biting victory.

While some may look at the UConn women's record of 4-7 and chalk this season up as a loss, it doesn't tell the entire story. The Huskies had a tough schedule up to this point and have played competitive field hockey in each contest. Five of their losses have been by one goal, and two of them in overtime. It is not fair to give up on this team, as they still have seven games left to play and will bring that fighting spirit that we have seen time and time again.

Connecticut looks to rebound next weekend with a road trip that includes the 4-4 Quinnipiac Bobcats and the No. 18 UMass Amherst Minutemen, who boast a 6-5 record. Without a doubt, if the Connecticut women wish to pull off the victory, it will be a fight to the finish. Both of these schools are excellent and have succeeded on the field, but the high-powered Connecticut defense has proven they can keep it close against anyone. It is up to the offense to come in and close out the show for Connecticut.

CROSS COUNTRY: HUSKIES TAKE FIFTH PLACE AT THE BATTLE IN BEANTOWN



Chloe Thomas runs a 5k at the Franklin Park course in Boston, Mass. UConn's cross country team placed fifth in the invitational.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @UCONNFXC ON INSTAGRAM

by CJ Dexter
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
christopher.dexter@uconn.edu

Over the weekend, the UConn cross country team competed in the Battle in Beantown for the squad's third race of the season. Hosted by Boston College, the five-kilometer race took place at a rainy Franklin Park course in Boston, Massachusetts. Racing alongside 15 other schools including many other New England powerhouses, the Huskies finished in fifth

to stellar seasons under head coach Beth Alford-Sullivan.

Connecticut's total score of 126 trailed Villanova (118), Texas A&M (107), Penn (103) and Harvard (61), who had three runners place in the top 10. Harvard's Maia Ramsden, who won the 1500m event at the 2023 Division 1 Outdoor Championship, finished in first place individually with a time of 17:00.

With the first three races of the 2023 fall season officially under their belt, Connecticut should be happy with the results that they've seen early

“Leading the way for Connecticut was junior Chloe Thomas, who ran a personal best of 17:15 in the 5k.”

CJ DEXTER

place with a scoring order of 7-10-24-39-46 = 126.

Leading the way for Connecticut was junior Chloe Thomas, who ran a personal best of 17:15 in the 5k. Thomas' stellar performance propelled her to a seventh-place finish out of 185 individual runners. Also placing in the top 10 for UConn was senior Jenna Zydanowicz, who ran a 17:27. Both Thomas and Zydanowicz recorded their second top 10 finishes of the season and are on their way

on. UConn opened the season with a first place finish in the Suffolk Short Classic and followed that up with a second place effort in the Providence Friar Invitational. This weekend's fifth place performance in the Battle of Beantown is the most recent impressive performance by the Huskies, who are looking to move up the north-east regional rankings.

The Huskies will return to action on Friday, Oct. 13 at the Arturo Barrios Invitational in College Station, Texas.



Sports

FOOTBALL: BLOCKED KICK SHATTERS HEARTS — IN EAST HARTFORD —



by Cole Stefan
SENIOR COLUMNIST
HE/HIM/HIS
cole.stefan@uconn.edu

In a matter of two plays, the UConn football team experienced the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. Jelani Stafford, a defensive tackle who had a rushing touchdown and caught a pass, rumbled into the end zone with 40 seconds remaining for his second score of the contest. All the Huskies needed was to kick a field goal for the extra point to again tie the Utah State Aggies in an explosive second half.

That was one of their decisions, at least. Head coach Jim Mora also had the option of attempting a two-point conversion in that situation, but the choices left him scrambling until the snap.

“I contemplated it,” Mora said about going for two. “When you have those two factors [offensive momentum and the defense not allowing points] going in your favor, then you certainly want it to go to overtime.”

UConn ultimately settled on the PAT, but Utah State safety Ike Larsen audibly blocked Joe McFadden’s kick in a blur.

The Huskies face off against Utah State at Rentschler Field on Saturday, September 30. UConn started strong with a big lead after the first half, but could not pull off the win, with a final score of UConn 33 - Utah 34.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ZACH MOLLER, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Cheers suddenly became groans for many of the 21,000+ fans in attendance at Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field as the Aggies crushed Connecticut’s contest-equalizing chances. That block and the ensuing on-side kick recovery sealed the Aggies’ 34-33 comeback victory in a high noon shootout, one where the Huskies led 17-7 at halftime.

“That is about as disappointing as it gets,” Mora said afterward. “You fight your way back into a back-and-forth game, and to lose it like that is pretty devastating.”

Utah State’s special teams swat overshadowed anything UConn did offensively. Quarterback Ta’Quan Roberson finished with a career-high 255 yards and two touchdowns; wide receiver Cameron Ross caught seven passes for 70 yards; defensive back Cam Edwards rushed for a career-best 73 yards on 13 carries; wide receiver Geordon Porter finished with 62 total yards and a receiving touchdown.

“It all comes down to execution,” Ross commented regarding Connecticut’s offense. “We just executed on plays more.”

Holistically, the Huskies recorded 473 total yards, exceeding the numbers they posted in any of their 13 games last season. UConn scored over 30 points in a contest for the first time since extinguishing the then-No. 19 Liberty Flames at the Rent on Nov. 12, 2022.

Scoring no more than 17 points in every game since that postseason-clinching upset, each one of them ending in defeat, Connecticut matched that total in just one half despite Aggies safety Devin Dye intercepting Roberson’s third pass on the opening drive. Linebacker Jackson Mitchell, one week removed from getting ejected for targeting in the first quarter of a blow-out loss against the then-No. 18 Duke Blue Devils, returned the favor when he snared Utah State quarterback McCae Hillstead’s pass at the speed of sound.

Porter followed suit with a 34-yard scamper down the right sideline, setting the tone for a run-heavy drive culminating in Stafford barreling into paydirt for his second touchdown in three weeks. Two

plays later, Aggies wide receiver Colby Bowman’s bobble became the Huskies’ gain as Chris Shearin collected the deflection for the team’s second interception of the frame and season. Going for it on fourth down in the red zone early in the second quarter, tight end Nick Harris hauled in Roberson’s floater for his first-career touchdown.

After turning the ball over on downs in the red zone on their ensuing possession, UConn redeemed themselves with a Joe McFadden 36-yard field goal that burned over five minutes off the clock. In the first 29 minutes of play, Utah State amassed 22 yards of offense and allowed Durante Jones’ first career sack, but prevented Connecticut from shutting them out when Bowman caught Hillstead’s dime for a 63-yard touchdown.

Down 10 at the half instead of 17, the Aggies marched out of the locker room and onto the field on their first drive of the second half. Senior Cooper Legas took over when Hillstead suffered a concussion, pulling Utah State within three when he found

wide receiver Jalen Royals open for a 15-yard touchdown. Elliott Nimrod’s 37-yard field goal six minutes later tied the game at 17, but things got worse when Royals found a hole in the Huskies’ defense and sprinted down the left sideline for a go-ahead 71-yard touchdown.

While demoralizing, Utah State’s first lead of the afternoon reawakened the beast in UConn’s offense, which answered right back following Edwards’ numerous big rushes. Roberson connected with Victor Rosa for 16 yards to start the fourth, then found Porter wide open in the end zone for a game-tying 28-yard strike and Porter’s first score as a Husky.

Not even that stalemate lasted long as Royals notched his third touchdown of the half five plays later when he left Shearin in the dust for 52 yards. In all, the junior wide receiver finished with a career-high 185 receiving yards and three touchdowns on seven catches. Both teams subsequently exchanged field goals and three-and-outs for a 34-24 Aggie lead, leaving 161 seconds on the clock for Connecticut’s biggest drive of the day.

Ross snagged Roberson’s risky throw in double coverage on the first snap, highlighting a possession where the redshirt junior went 5/6 and got his team down to the two-yard line. While loudly chanting “let’s go UConn” during an extensive video review, fans felt pure elation on Stafford’s second touchdown and had it violently taken away when cornerback Al Ashford III recovered the blocked ball. While the Huskies’ chances at a second straight bowl game thinned further at 0-5, hope remains in the air for a season turnaround in the Heart of New England.

“The only thing we can do is continue to stay together, fight our way out of this, find ways to improve as a team,” Mora stated. “That is what we intend to do.”

That potential adjustment begins Saturday when UConn becomes the first team in Houston since the UConn men’s basketball team won the national championship on April 4. Kick-off versus the Rice Owls (3-2), one of the newest programs in the American Athletic Conference, takes place at Rice Stadium at 5 p.m. EDT on ESPN+.

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

UConn SCOREBOARD



2 vs. 3

Women’s Volleyball
Sunday

Upcoming Games



Men’s Soccer, 7 p.m.
Tuesday | Storrs, Conn.



Softball, 6 p.m. Friday
Storrs, Conn.

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnpres
I want to personally thank everyone for coming to this inauguration ...

TWEETS OF THE DAY



Wes Ball-o-suknia
@walkrightier
Everyone is welcome to root for UConn. But unless you can prove you are an alumni who was as at every football game as an undergraduate, you don’t have any standing to criticize students for not showing up.

Derrin
@_chopperj
All 4 of these teams have UConn alum what Sza say? I can’t looooooosEEEEEE

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