

# | The Daily Campus |



PHOTO BY JORDAN ARNOLD, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## To the Class of 2024...



# News

# Class of 2024

BY THE NUMBERS

Total Number  
of Degrees Earned



8139

IMAGE COURTESY OF WANNAPIK

First-Generation  
Graduates



1874

IMAGE COURTESY OF ICONSCOUT

492

HONORS PROGRAM  
MEMBERS

13

UNIVERSITY  
SCHOLARS

806

STUDENTS WHO  
TOOK THEIR  
EDUCATION ABROAD

AGE OF THE  
YOUNGEST GRADUATE

AGE OF THE  
OLDEST GRADUATE

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33



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SET OF TWINS

# The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper. Thanks for reading.

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# YEAR IN REVIEW:

## A DYNAMIC YEAR FILLED WITH GATHERINGS

by **Aiza Shaikh** | INCOMING NEWS EDITOR | [aiza.shaikh@uconn.edu](mailto:aiza.shaikh@uconn.edu) and **Jenna Outcalt** | INCOMING ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR | [jenna.outcalt@dailycampus.com](mailto:jenna.outcalt@dailycampus.com)

The 2023-2024 academic year was quite dynamic for the University of Connecticut, with some major wins and records, alongside changes that brought on community dissatisfaction and protests.

In the fall, the university sent an email to students announcing that they would guarantee on-campus housing for only six semesters. Due to immediate student backlash, the university quickly rescinded its statement and guaranteed housing for eight semesters. Around this time, the university also announced that Buckley Dining Hall would close by the end of the year, to the disappointment of many who have enjoyed eating there over the years. A group of students even paid their respects through music earlier this year, playing an 'Ode to Buckley' inside the dining hall. This decision comes after plans to build the New South suites (Officially titled Connecticut Hall) by fall 2024.

Construction on the New South continued throughout the entire academic year. Despite the new housing, which was available for students to select for the upcoming fall semester, students still reported frustration with the housing process. Very few students were able to select their first choice of housing, and preferred housing such as apartments and suites were largely taken up within the first few days of the selection process.

In January, UConn announced a new plan to reduce spending by 15 percent over the next five years. The announcement was quickly met with criticism from students and faculty alike. The cuts were planned to affect ledger-2 categories, which includes academic programs. Protests were held throughout the year, including at Board of Trustees and University Senate meetings.

The university received criticism for its communication with different departments regarding how budget cuts would affect them. Faculty reported funds being taken from their departments' accounts without any warning and evasive answers about when cuts would occur and how severe they would be. The UConn administration held town hall meetings throughout, both virtual and in person, to field questions from students, faculty and staff and address their concerns. However, those at meetings still claimed the school was failing to be transparent and properly address their questions.

In February, the state legislature held a meeting of the Appropriations Committee to consider the governor's budget plan, which included less spending for public education than previous plans. UConn students and professors were among the many testifying to oppose the spending cuts. Ultimately, the university requested \$96 million from the state to cover the budget shortfalls and buy time to reassess their five-year plan.

With spring came some good news for UConn, when the men's basketball team won the national champion-



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CONNOR SHARP, INCOMING PHOTO EDITOR, BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER AND CRISTIAN WELCOME, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER

ships for the second year in a row, beating Purdue, 75-60. Perhaps as expected after last year's chaotic post-championship game events, this major win was met with riots and destruction again, with five students arrested. A watch party was set up in Gampel Pavilion, to which many students were denied entry. Not only were there less tickets given out than usual for a Gampel event, but many students also reported that, even with a validly claimed ticket, they were not allowed in to view the watch party. The women's basketball team also made it very far this year, making it to the Final Four round, where they were closely defeated by Iowa, 69-71.

Another win for UConn this year is its record number of applications received: 56,700 applicants to the class of 2028. This is an 18 percent increase from the past two years, and this also marks the first time in the school's history that applications surpassed 50,000. Shortly after that, a unique global phenomenon brought together students, faculty and community members all waiting to see just one thing on a random Monday afternoon: the solar eclipse.

Connecticut experienced the solar eclipse on April 8, with about 90 percent of the sun being obscured. Eclipse chasers and UConn students alike enjoyed the rare sight all around campus. Many went to Horsebarn Hill, where the Physics Club was selling glasses to safely view the eclipse, but there were people scattered around the campus observing this astronomical phenomenon.

Although Connecticut did not experience the total solar eclipse that parts of New England got to see, the darkness and chill of the eclipse was noticeable on the otherwise sunny day. The last total solar eclipse occurred in 2017, and the one before that in 1979. Although eclipse chasers can track down multiple solar eclipses around the world in the coming years, the next one that will be visible in the continental United States will be in 2044.

The university has also seen multiple protests by students and organizations, especially in more recent months. Recently, encampments in solidarity with Gaza have taken place at various college campuses across the country, and just last week, UConn students began one as well. Since the writing of this article, the UConn encampment has lasted at least six days, with demands for the university to divest, disclose and sever ties with weapon manufacturers Raytheon TX, Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics.

So, with its many ups and downs, this was surely a memorable year for many. A common theme for this year might just be its number of gatherings. Whether for a solar eclipse, riot after a national championship or a peaceful protest for university change, there were many times when the UConn community got together on campus — a wonderful sight after years spent online and inside due to the pandemic.

# AN IMPROBABLE SENIOR COLUMN

# COLIN PITEO

Outgoing News Editor He/Him/His

For this column, I was racking my already tired brain on what I should write about. For four years The Daily Campus has been a whirlwind of faces, memories and Slack messages — not easily condensed into one 750-word article. When I asked other seniors what they were doing for this column, a lot said they were starting off with how they got to the DC, and that's about as good a start as any.

I came to the University of Connecticut in August of 2020. I'll be honest, it was rough. I was an undecided major, and with strict pandemic restrictions, it was hard to have the “normal college experience” — whatever that means. I didn't meet anyone else on campus except for the occasional “Jackbox” party game with people I would never see again.

I remember one evening I was scrolling on Instagram (which was most nights during the pandemic), and I saw a flashy post with people crowded along Fairfield Way (like you'd see in movies about college). The post was from UConn Student Activities advertising their Fall Involvement Fair to happen later that week. I was ecstatic, until I read the fine print and “virtual” was plastered nearly everywhere. In retrospect, I should've known better.

I eventually decided that I was quite literally doing nothing the day of the “virtual involvement fair,” and I might as well give it a chance. The format was certainly its own brand of “2020 interesting.” I waited awkwardly in zoom breakout rooms for nearly three hours to talk to club presidents and executives, also sitting behind their laptops against the backdrop of childhood bedrooms. I remember talking to 10 or so clubs, but every one of them had the same caveat, “when the pandemic is over we'll do this” or “before the pandemic we did this.” It certainly wasn't encouraging. Then in my last or second to last foray in trying to find a community, I joined the waiting room for The

Daily Campus. Three people appeared on my screen; the editor-in-chief (what's that?), the news editor (that makes more sense) and a third person that I apologize for not remembering.

They gave me the usual DC pitch, the one memorized by hundreds of Daily Campus employees old and new, but the thing that really hooked me was a phrase that probably seems innocuous today: “Meetings happen weekly on Sundays, you should come.” I was sold. I wish I could say I joined the DC for aspirational reasons, or because I wanted to become a better writer, or even because I wanted to report on issues important to students, but in all honesty, I just wanted somewhere to be every Sunday.

As time went on I learned the hard lessons of the trade; like never use an oxford comma or always write September as “Sept.” During my sophomore year, the then news editor stepped down to take an internship and I got the opportunity to become an editor for the News section, something I never really desired but more or less fell into.

As an editor for the past two and a half years, I've had the ability to see this organization grow from the brink. From a news section in the midst of a pandemic with only three writers (shout-out to Dylan, Aiza and Hallie), to producing more than three articles a day, I never cease to be inspired by the writers in this section that work towards and achieve making this university a better place. I've gotten the opportunity to work with multitudes of wonderful people, not only in news (of which there are so many), but across all of the different sections. It may seem cliché, but the amount of passion and drive that goes into creating this paper every single day is mo-



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR

tivating. I've met people I consider good friends and have spent countless Sundays at the DC to deliver the news to the student body.

In final reflection, I think that my time at the DC and my time more generally at UConn has been anything but likely. I had no more than a passive interest in journalism prior to coming to UConn and I still have yet to step into a journalism classroom (I guess that window has closed), but despite that I've found myself somehow, improbably, the

leader of two newsrooms on campus.

While I'll be moving on to graduate school next fall, I want to thank all of my wonderful co-workers, family, friends and companions for making this one of the best experiences of my life. At the end of the day, this paper is just a piece of paper, meant to be thrown out and discarded. It's the contribution of every amazing student, working together with kindness, curiosity and drive, that makes this organization what it is. I can't wait to read what happens next.

# Senior Column:

# Outgoing Staff Writer

He/Him/His

# Dylan Champagne

With my first year at the University of Connecticut stuck at home due to COVID-19, by the time I ended up transferring from the Stamford campus to the main campus in the spring of 2022, I was eager to get involved in as much as possible. But at a school with over 600 student organizations, there were certainly a lot of options to choose from.

In retrospect, it seemed like an odd decision for me to join The Daily Campus. Not only was I almost halfway through my time at UConn when I arrived at Storrs, but I was not even a journalism major.

However, I knew I loved to write. So, with only the introductory journalism class I had taken freshman year of high school under my belt, I decided to take a chance and attend one of the weekly news meetings. I told myself that if I did not like it, I would not force myself to return the following week. But one story quickly grew into many more and The Daily Campus became the place I could write about constantly changing topics of importance to me and the

UConn community.

In the four semesters that have followed since I joined

er and dedicate hundreds of hours toward honing my writing skills.

ciate journalism. The Daily Campus strives to provide fair, accurate, relevant and editorially independent content. In an era of misinformation and extreme

While I am in no way an expert at reporting nor “journalistic writing” (I still do not understand half the nuances of AP style...), I am proud to have always done my best to reflect these ever so important values in every article I wrote.

I also had the privilege of meeting many fantastic people during my time at The Daily Campus, including those I met while conducting interviews, other writers in the News section and the staff involved behind the scenes. I want to especially thank both the former news editor, Tommy Alvarez and the outgoing news editor, Colin Piteo, for all their guidance early on. Moreover, to all my friends and the UConn staff who would often tell me they read my article in the paper, I cannot thank you enough for showing your interest in my work.

Most of all, as I transition into the next phase of my life and begin law school in the fall, I cannot thank The Daily Campus enough for the many fond memories and for giving me an outlet to dedicate time to the art form we all love so much: writing.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR



CLIPART COURTESY OF VECTORPORTAL

The Daily Campus, I have had the privilege to write over 60 news articles, become a staff writ-

But beyond that, The Daily Cam-

pus has made me truly appreciate political polarization, these core values are more important now than ever before.

**Congratulations to the class of 2024!**

CLIPART COURTESY OF GREAZILLA



# Life

@dailycampuslife

## Congratulations to our 2024 graduates!



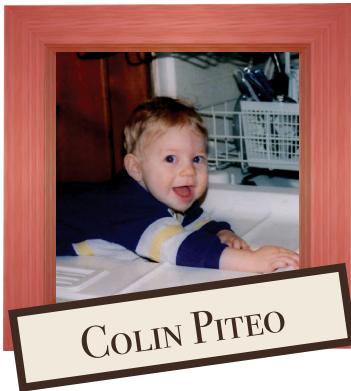
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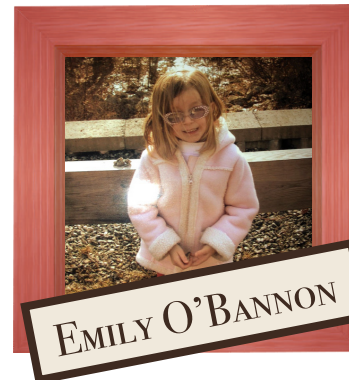
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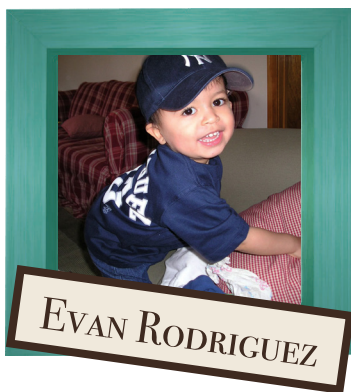
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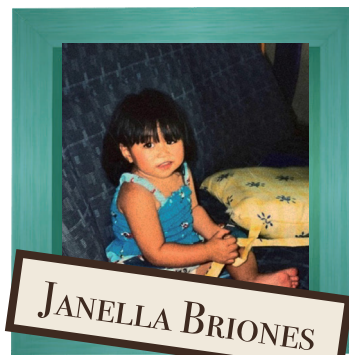
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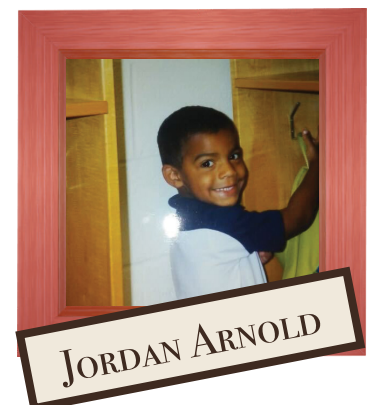
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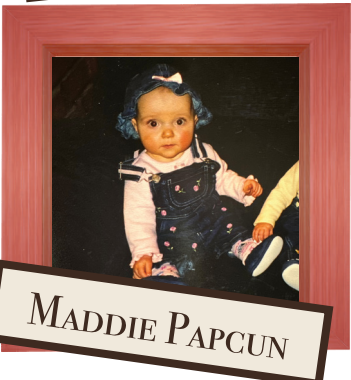
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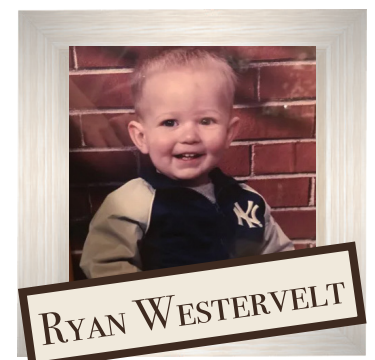
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STRATTON STAVE



XANDER SERRANO



VAN NGUYEN

# WISHING GOOD NIGHTS OF REST ON YOU ALL

**by Charlotte Chen**  
OUTGOING DIGITAL EDITOR  
SHE/HER/HERS

It feels so strange to say goodbye to The Daily Campus. I've been part of the organization for my whole college career. From my first semester during the COVID-19 pandemic working virtually as a digital producer to my last semester as the Digital Editor. There have certainly been lots of ups and downs, some stressful conversations and very late nights, but I look back fondly on my experiences.

I remember when I first saw that The Daily Campus was looking for digital producers in its distant cousin The Daily Digest before my freshman year of college. I had spent the summer not doing much after having a drive-thru graduation and a somewhat lackluster end to high school, and this job posting seemed like a fun opportunity.

Though I did overstate some of my website experience, I was so excited to apply for the job that I remember staying up far past my usual bedtime to write my applica-

tion. Despite working virtually, I loved getting the chance to read amazing articles and feel connected to the University of Connecticut while being at home. I have Courtney, the digital editor at the time, to thank for convincing me to apply for associate digital editor at the end of my first year. From there, I started working with Grace, who I'd also like to thank for being a great digital editor for two years. I loved the community that our little digital team formed and going into my senior year, I applied for digital editor.

This past year has been one of the most stressful times of my life, but also one of the most rewarding and fun. Being the digital editor exposed me to new scenarios where I had absolutely no idea of what to do and challenged me in ways that I had never imagined possible. I remember one time when I decided to update the theme on the website and had to rebuild the whole thing at 3 a.m. when everything crashed. Then there were the times when the executives had to figure out how to navigate the negatively trending

financial state of the organization, or the time we were threatened with a lawsuit.

But, I also remember the weekly boba runs that the Thursday night crew went on (Thursday night is the best night!), the nights where the executives took turns bringing in sweet treats, the Halloween party at which I was a stack of boxes, the late-night philosophical conversations about life and the future and the unhinged icebreaker answers. There are so many things and people that I'm incredibly grateful for at The Daily Campus.

This year went about as smoothly as it could have, and I don't think it would have been possible without my incredible girlboss executive team. Maddie, Naiya and Raquel. I'm proud of the work that you all have done to help better the organization and to leave things in a better state than when we first inherited our roles. I will miss Maddie's finger pos-

sums, writing "Food Fight" last minute with Naiya and Raquel's impeccable wall decor. I also want to shout out Ky'Lynn for being an incredible force in the digital team and for being the incoming digital queen! I can't think of a better person to leave things to.

I want to also thank the friends that I've made and people that I've met: Shannon, Van, Skyler, Connor, Emily, Ben, Hayden, Karla, Jordan, Stratton, Haleigh, Colin, Janella, Jess, Nell and so many more incredible people that I can't fit into this space. And last but not least, I want to thank Ryan, who has probably heard much more Daily Campus

drama than he should have and has been my voice of reason (sorry TSOS, we have been dating for the past two years ... while I generally do not condone dating your employees or coworkers, I do really like him).

I love the friends and connections that I've made, and I wouldn't trade them for the world. While I am a little sad to leave, I'm also ready to go. I'm proud of the growth that I've personally made and that the organization has made. The Daily Campus has been left in very capable hands and I'm so excited to see where you all take things in the future, I just know it'll be great!!

With much love, Charlotte :)



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

# SENIOR COLUMN:

# XANDER SERRANO

by Xander Serrano | OUTGOING CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS

To say I had dreams of becoming a student journalist would be a lie. I had zero interest in writing or even picking up a pencil to write my name on a test. Sometimes, I think about how I ended up writing for the school newspaper and I cannot believe how it happened, but writing my last article as a senior will hopefully answer some of questions I have for myself. So, I should start from the beginning, then fast forward to the present time, then back one year and then back to the beginning — kind of like a Quentin Tarantino movie. Stick with me.

Since nobody is curious, I began my college career at the University of Connecticut Waterbury campus — never heard of it? It's okay, because neither did I until I took my Infiniti G37x down Waterbury's main street to walk into my first general education class. I commuted to the Waterbury campus during the spring semester, eager to make it up to Storrs if I maintained a good GPA. Once I did, my family helped me move into a dormitory in the Northwest Quad.

It was a unique experience, to say the least, for a freshman in 2020. There were COVID-19 restrictions, and all classes were online. Although I spoke to everyone in my class, I felt isolated. I made friends with people on my floor with whom I still keep in contact today, but it was not the typical introduction to the “college experience.” Like any first-year student, I was immature and made mistakes, but I managed to make it through.

Come sophomore year, I was ready to return to school and a sense of normalcy after the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted — things around campus felt alive. I made some new friends, made more mistakes and did not know who I was or what I wanted to do with my life. I couldn't do a math problem to save my life, so a career in finance was ruled out. I was never good at making paper airplanes as a kid, so a job in engineering was out. That fall was a blur

after being caught up in the fun and freedom that college is, then I opened my eyes to realize I was almost a junior with no plan. It wasn't until one day at the Recreation Center's basketball court that my life changed.

As I drained my 10th three-point-er in a row, another kid joined in the shootaround, so he and I got to talking and I found out he was a writer for The Daily Campus' Sports section. I didn't even know what The Daily Campus was, but I liked the idea that students were given the freedom to write stories on their own and have them published. Having been a part of zero extracurricular activities up to this point and getting yelled at by parents over those painful yet loving Monday night phone calls, asking, “Well, what do you want to do?” I finally had something to tell them about that I felt proud of and that they approved of.

At the first Daily Campus meeting I attended, I immediately picked an article on the budget for the UConn golf team. Having no idea how to write an article or how to write about golf, I continued to write articles for the Sports section before I decided to switch to the Life section, where I was able to write about movies, television shows and music.

I learned how to write movie reviews, incorporate humor and wit into my writing and find my voice. I am forever grateful for joining The Daily Campus and how much of a positive influence it has had on my writing, learning about the process of journalism and also making me a better student. For anyone who wants to have a career in creative writing or journalism, or just enjoys creating work of their own, The Daily Campus is a great place to start. Now, as I move on to pursue my MFA in creative writing, concentrating on writing for stage and screen at Fairfield University, I found my way to this point thanks to The Daily Campus.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

# Senior Column: Leaving College, Finding Connection

by **Estelle Jarrett**  
OUTGOING COPY EDITOR  
SHE/HER/HERS

As I prepare to be shoved out of the safety of the airplane that is college, I can't help but scramble to figure out what it is about school that I love so I can take it with me out into the open air.

Even as a person who took a gap year between high school and college, it still unnerves me to think that this will be the end of an era unique to my age and status in society. The University of Connecticut has been my safety net from outside pressures and taking on heavy family responsibilities, and I will miss the reprieve.

I will no longer be in the loop, but I will be out in the cold adult world wishing I'd taken this class, gone to this sports game or joined The Daily Campus my freshman year instead of literally my last year here.

During my freshman year, I was by myself in North Campus Residence Hall, cooped up because of the COVID-19 pandemic and separated from everyone as if we were individually wrapped produce. It was to the point at which seeing someone else in the communal bathroom was too much social interaction.

I started as a fine arts major and discovered that the island-like Art Building made me feel too far away from UConn. In sophomore year, I joined an arts learning community where I shared one room with two other girls. Our floor was always doing things together, and our neighbor would always come into our room to dance or sing at us.

Things felt so much more alive; it was night and day. When I took The Press in America with Professor Amanda Crawford, I completely picked up what she was putting down and felt as if I belonged in the major. It makes sense that I'd pick two of the smaller departments to be a part of.

When my involvement began is when I started doing college right.

The UConn women's club soccer team is my college love, and I'm so grateful they found my old goalkeeping Hudl account from high school. The team's culture is really magical, and we play to win — if it wasn't obvious from the team flying to the National Championship all the years I was there.

It's truly just a big celebration of girls who grew up with that fire in their hearts and

never stopped loving soccer despite wanting to have other facets in their lives. All these girls are impressive athletes who are tough as nails but love to dress up and connect.

(Every time I try to explain what college soccer means to me, I just can't do it without feeling like it's too cheesy. Excuse me while I make a little love letter rant.)

It's a sport I've loved throughout girlhood. Before I could walk, I was kicking a soccer ball — stumble, kick, stumble, get up, kick. I've been on so many teams and experienced my own temperament change.

As a goalie, we train to increase the possibility of saving a shot, and they do it with no protective gear, just a dream. The rush you get from flying through the air is surreal. It's also the only position of its kind on the field. You're in the defensive line, but not a defender. You can either save the day, crumple from shame or be invisible in a game — or all three!

The nature of the position is putting yourself on the line to protect your team from a loss. You can see the entire field from the goal, so you should be yelling almost nonstop to let your players know when

there's an open man. Communication helps them feel supported; communication can prevent confidence breakdowns that cause goals.

I joke that sometimes being in women's club soccer is like being on the TV show "Glee" because everyone has their own friends and lives outside of it, but all the girls choose to show up to all of the games and practices. We don't take ourselves seriously, but we take soccer seriously. It's a mishmash of different personalities, but that's what is so refreshing and grounding.

I need pockets of community that are very different and bring different information and energy to my life. From playing "Dungeons & Dragons" on the weekends in a McHugh classroom, taking Jujutsu, taking pottery with Professor Monica Bock, doing my journalism internship to working at The Daily Campus, my senior year was so ambitious. I just don't want it to end.

The only aspiration I have is to continue to be a part of diverse communities after college, despite leaving the wonderful bubble that is UConn, where meeting wonderful humans is just around the cor-

ner. Hell, I met my girlfriend in Hilltop Apartments!

A moment that sticks out to me is a Friday leaving a fantastic "D&D" session. I was walking back to my car, which was illegally parked near the library. I passed by Susan V. Herbst Hall and saw other groups of students sitting inside through the window. They were also bunched together, laughing with their character sheets in front of them and mood music playing on the projector.

In the next window, I saw people dancing with the chairs pushed to the corners of the room. Students were leaving the library chatting, a girl was crying to a boy on the Dodd Center steps and a professor was engrossed in a conversation near their car.

There is always so much going on at this school and it gives me such peace to be around the energy of human activity. I wish I could be in a million places at once, but I'm satisfied just seeing it happen, even from a window.

I don't think I'll ever quench my propensity for improvement, so at this moment, I'm trying to accept my college journey as finished and a job well done. Here's to hoping I can be helpful to my community wherever I land next.



# Opinion

>>GRAD EDITORIAL

# A LOOK BACK, A LOOK FORWARD

## The Daily Campus

**EDITORIAL BOARD:**

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**DISCLAIMER:** The views and opinions expressed by individual writers in the opinion section do not reflect the views and opinions of The Daily Campus or other staff members. Only articles labeled “Editorial” are the official opinions of The Daily Campus.

If there is one thing UConn has not been this past year, it is dull. There have been incredible highs and lows, national championships, budget crises, many protests, controversies, hypocrisy and contradictions. We have a new Jonathan, who is growing up before our eyes, and even a new president, officially. The Editorial Board of the Daily Campus has attempted to navigate all these topics and provide analysis for the UConn community. We believe that it is imperative that UConn students stay informed, especially in the face of the dominant narrative put forth by sources like UConn Today meant to glorify the university.

As students at this university, we exist in a liminal, transient space, and are often

unconcerned with the state of it because of how temporary it is. It is relatively easy for many students to pass through UConn unconcerned and unaware of what happens on this campus or its various problems. For some, UConn is merely a stepping stone toward much more later in life, to do well enough in classes, build a resume and graduate with a job or further schooling. There is ultimately nothing wrong with this mindset, but it does not properly capture the unique opportunity present here.

Despite the fact that we have such a short period of time at this university, there is value both in the process of it and in the place itself. Even if we graduate after only four years, the presence that we have and the ways in which we shape

the space outlasts us. When we create connections and do work outside of the classroom to create community, it ultimately does not matter how long we were here personally. It is about creating something larger than ourselves, for the betterment of people. It is the next person, and the person after that, who are what students need to consider when they live here at UConn. It is both possible and necessary to create community at this place with however much time we have.

As even in this transient state, we face problems because of the values, direction and operations of this university. The need for us to look towards more than our own future becomes clear. The Editorial Board has written about the failures on all types

of issues. We have no real plan to become truly carbon zero and the administration continues to greenwash the current circumstances into oblivion. The UConn Foundation does not care what any students have to say on any of its unethical uses of this school’s money. This university puts blood on all our hands by economically tying itself to the war industry. It represses students’ rights to free speech and protest. All the while, budget cuts threaten to harm the quality of education for all students.

This year has revealed new depths of some of the issues plaguing this university, but it has also shown great hope from the UConn community. Regardless of all the issues, we continue to move forward, organizing and coming

together to demand better. Even if some of the issues continue after this year, the act of resistance and advocating for something better ensures the future of the new generation who will continue onwards. The Editorial Board will continue to question, to advocate, to call for more, to build and support community on UConn’s campus. Students will continue to do the same.

To all seniors who sought to create a space for themselves and others at this university, to all who sought to improve the world around us, even if we’re only able to see it through for a short time, to all the seniors who care and all those who trust in those younger than them to continue onwards, we wish you good luck and we will take it from here.

# Senior Column:

# Peace and love, be good

## Maddie Papcun

**OUTGOING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

As my time at The Daily Campus comes to an end, I feel compelled to reflect on the fact that I joined this organization as an 18-year-old from the confines of my childhood bedroom. I happened to see an ad for the Opinion section in The Daily Digest and the rest is history. I've held a lot of roles here, most recently this year as editor-in-chief, but at a certain point, the titles lose their meaning anyway. It's the memories the DC has created for me and the feelings I've felt that I'll remember beyond my time at the University of Connecticut.

I'd be lying if I said all of my time at the DC was fun. A light fell from the ceiling, quite literally nearly killing me and my co-editor at the time. (For the record, all I did in this instance was take a picture of Nell with the dangling light and send it in the #general Slack channel with the message "lil problem in the basement right now" and waited for someone to come get us. I like to think I'm more self-sufficient nowadays.)

I once almost-single-handedly copy-edited an entire graduation issue over two nights during finals — editing many senior columns just like this one. People threatened to sue us, making me the main recipient of relentless emails and meetings, merely because we did our jobs as journalists. I've stayed up late making a paper only to wake up and deliver it the next day, even cracking my phone in the process on one occasion. I've hidden in the basement and sprinted down the street away from my coworkers because fight-or-flight kicked in and Maddie always runs.

Luckily, everything gets funny as time passes, and I really do look back on all of my time at the DC with fondness, even the situations described above.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR



It's not just the good and the bad that I'll hold near and dear to my heart — I'll treasure each insignificant moment at 1266 Storrs Road for as long as I can remember them. Everything is beautiful when you look at it with love, and that's how I view the DC.

So now, the thank you's: Thank you Nell, for being a beautiful human being and my true partner in crime, united front, us against the world for real — I wouldn't have want-

ed to share an email address or nearly die with anyone else. Thank you to Maggie and Grace for showing me how to be DC Mom — a title I initially protested, though now I suppose I understand the love meant from it. Thank you to Harrison, for teaching me how to write and also how to engage critically with the world around me. You've shown me kindness and grace as a

boss for two years that I've attempted to emulate, and I'm extremely proud to have been able to follow your path. Thank you to Emily, my (second) twin in so many ways, good and bad — Hot Off the Press recording session soon? Thank you to my roommates (and employees, for two thirds of you) Renee, Delaney and Sophia, for listening to my many DC gripes via couch-kicking sessions; I wouldn't have been able to do it without your support. Thank you to Naiiya, Charlotte and Raquel — I'm not sure anyone will ever really know what we did over this year but I'm glad we got to go through it together. Thank you to Zach, for caring about me with purpose; I hope I know you forever. And to Sara, Connor, Ky'Lynn and Naiiya — you've got it, I believe in you and I know you can do it.

People can be really critical of student journalists — and public trust in journalism in general isn't very high nowadays. But I see The Daily Campus and other organizations like it as a place to learn and grow as journalists, professionals and individuals. It's not about beating yourself up over hard times or mistakes made, but about learning from the experiences you've had, making connections with others and becoming better people through collective effort.

I'm not sure what the future holds but I do know worrying about it is pointless; we must learn to proceed without certainty. The Daily Campus is and will always be home for me, so thank you to everyone for being a part of that.

As I've signed off all my weekly announcements for the past year: That's all for now folks! Peace and love! Reach out with any questions! Be good!



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS KERMIT COURTESY OF DEVIANTART

# SENIOR COLUMN

## NELL SRINATH

### OUTGOING OPINION EDITOR

#### THEY/THEM/SHE/HER

## Live from 'The UCommune'

On Sunday, April 28, 2024, as light showers turned to heavy rain, 30-some-odd University of Connecticut students departed a teach-in given by faculty to throw tarps over food and various equipment. Neighboring Dove Tower — that confounding structure between the Student Recreation Center and School of Business that we've affectionately been calling the "Leaning Tower of Business" — students, faculty and community members donning raincoats and ponchos arranged themselves under tents and canopies at breakneck speed. Huddling to escape the rain, members of the gathering discussed esoteric memes, political theory, event logistics and the crushing stress of finals week. Despite the dreary weather conditions, the gathering was gregarious and calm.

So why were two cop cars flashing their lights just a few hundred feet away?

As of writing this, students and faculty adjoined under the name "UConnDivest" are on their fourth night of a solidarity encampment with the people of Gaza, who themselves are enduring the seventh month of an ongoing genocide. Since October, the State of Israel, with billions of dollars in U.S. backing, has killed over 34,000 Palestinians in Gaza under the fragile pretenses of

eliminating Hamas militants.

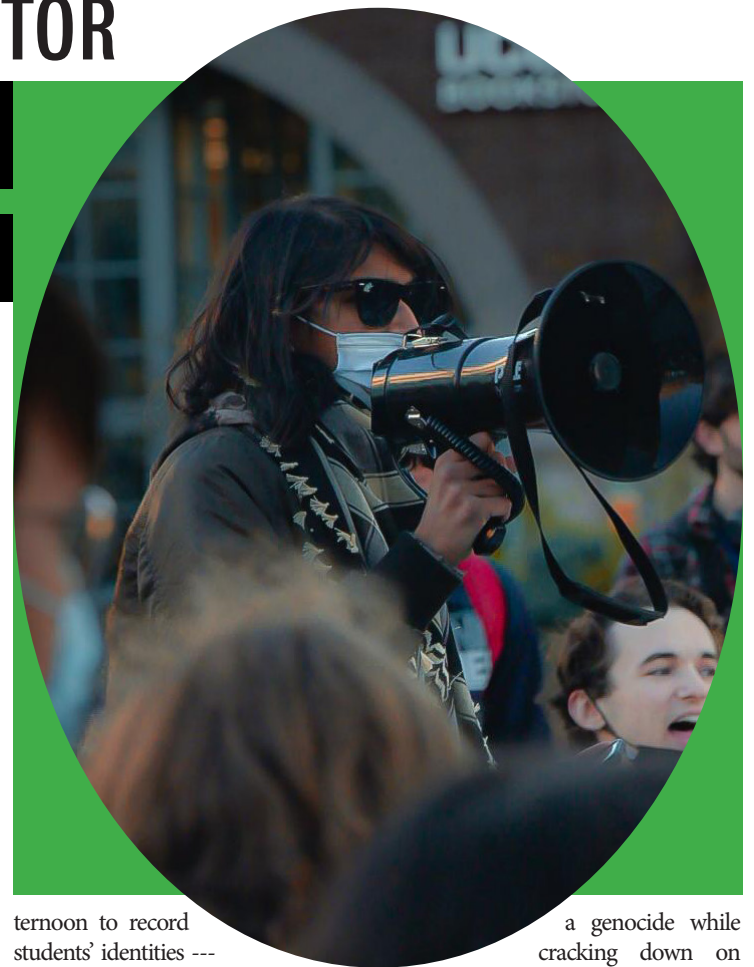
The Gaza solidarity encampment, nicknamed "the UCommune," follows the example of other extended protests at Columbia, Yale and countless other universities that are attempting to apply pressure on their universities to divest their endowments from the State of Israel or weapons manufacturers arming its genocide. UConn's expanding connections with weapons manufacturers have been meticulously documented by activists in the community. However, information about the companies in which the UConn Foundation invests the university's \$600 million endowment remains invisible due to the Foundation's private non-profit status.

Currently, the Foundation has no incentive to disclose nor divest its holdings in Israeli companies or weapons manufacturers; however, this is an imperative. With Israel remaining steadfast in its contingency plan to invade Rafah, a border city containing over 1.7 million displaced Palestinians, the stakes for cutting off Israel's funding streams internationally could not be higher. That is why The UCommune exists.

Similarly to its Ivy League counterparts, The UCommune was immediately met with repression by police doing the work of an administration with vested interests

in genocide. Minutes after activists threw up tents by the Leaning Tower of Business, the UConn Police Department broke into an encirclement of protesters and started ripping up tents with no basis in the law or prior established university policy. Students who attempted to hold their ground were threatened with arrest. Others were not so lucky as to just be threatened. According to reports, two students were arrested and subsequently subjected to a local media circus that highlighted them over the cause for which they were arrested — a convenient cop-out from substantially platforming progressive, anti-war demands. Unfortunately, this publication also perpetuated this sensationalism, either due to the pressures of expediency or the spectacle of students being violently repressed by police.

Since the first instance of UCPD's repression of The UCommune, the university has been in damage control mode, crafting new policies on the fly with the clear intention of suppressing peaceful encampments and protests — two things that should be completely permissible on public property. Additionally, police have been given more license to surveil and intimidate members of the encampment, using methods such as strolling through the site in the early mornings and af-



ternoon to record students' identities --- often while sleeping. Campers resisting these unreasonable searches by locking arms around the camp were accused by police of violating university policies for supposedly impeding law enforcement in public spaces. This is, to put it respectfully, bullshit.

The Daily Campus Graduate Edition has historically been a space for outgoing writers, editors and production employees to reflect on their careers at a paper that shaped their college life — a final sendoff before moving on to greener pastures. However, there can be no greener pastures when the university we attend monetarily and intellectually contributes to

a genocide while cracking down on those who oppose it. I have not seen this university's ethical and moral standing crumble faster in my four years here than in my four days of observing this encampment in which students and faculty commit incredible acts of kindness to each other and show audacious support for Palestinian life and freedom, yet are met with idling police cruisers in return.

My time at UConn has been nothing short of a partner dance between beauty and disgust. Though I could list off all the people for whom I owe all that I am today, I'm sure they would be satisfied if I sign off by writing that Palestine will be free, and may all empires fall.

# LUKE FEENEY

## OUTGOING WEEKLY COLUMNIST

### HE/HIM/HIS

One of my biggest creative inspirations is “Inside” by Bo Burnham. I’ve alluded to the fact that for the first two years of my college career, I felt more or less trapped inside --- be it from COVID-19, diabetes, depression or the occasional day of bad weather.

Of all the moments within the special, the moment that I found the most relatable to was the final lines of the show: “Well, well, look who’s inside again. Went out to look for a reason to hide again. Well, well, buddy, you found it. Now come out with your hands up, we’ve got you surrounded.”

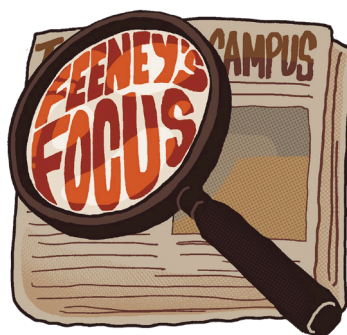
I think I found so much comfort in this line because over my first three years at college I would feel like every time I tried to interact with the outside world — be it socially, professionally or academically — it would reinforce my desire to stay inside. It was familiar.

There was similarity between viewer and performer. Burnham has been vocal about his struggles with performance anxiety, specifically panic attacks — which is something that has plagued my life as well. I’ve had panic attacks during tests, class and presentations. All I can say is that they suck.

My attacks were so closely intertwined with performance that I didn’t feel qualified to do anything. But one organization really made me change my

stance on staying inside: The Daily Campus. My first ever article that I wrote here took me almost 10 hours to write; I felt so nervous to the point where I almost canceled my submission because I was so convinced no one would read it.

This was one of the few moments in my life when I turned



CARTOON BY HALEIGH SCHMIDT, OUTGOING ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

out to be dead wrong. It helped that my family was over the moon for me to be finally getting published — something they wanted since I began at UConn — but I also got positive feedback from classmates and peers.

For the majority of my life, I viewed writing as an inherently individualistic process; your ideas, your words and your name on the piece of paper. However, this organization made me realize that I was, in fact, wrong again!

Working with the most talented section at the campus

(in my humble opinion) on a weekly basis not only made my writing process more efficient, but the ideas my fellow opinion section members pitched influenced my own ideas as well. The more I expanded the circle of people to work with, the better it made me.

Now, as I sing my swan song, I can say with confidence that I am not leaving college deciding to stay inside. Writing for this paper, rediscovering my love for this process, has made me want to stay outside.

So, to Maddie, Nell, Dan and Tomas: I know my attendance was crappy at best, but you guys were the best coworkers I’ve had. I could not have asked for a better group of people to introduce me to collaborative journalism. I wish we could have another semester together; but then again, given the budgetary hell the University of Connecticut is about to enter, I’m okay with getting out of here.

You guys are the best. I love you. To future Daily Campus employees: In this section or any other, I encourage you to keep trying to explore your interests while holding this beautiful, dark, twisted fantasy of an institution accountable for the almost daily bullshit they try to pull on their students.

Anyways, it was real and it was good. Be sure to read Feeney’s Focus! That’s all folks! I will see you outside.

# SENIOR COLUMN

# SOPHIA DOVER

## Outgoing Copy Editor

she/her/hers

My biggest fear is the forced perception of time passing — birthdays, new years and even the pregame countdown in Gampel Pavilion makes me tear up sometimes. I never really had this issue until 2020.

I was a senior in high school when the infamous March 12 happened. I had just gotten my hair done after school when I got the call that classes were suspended for two weeks. At the time, I was just pissed because no one was going to see my fresh cut.

Two weeks in, I had already tried and given up on the Chloe Ting workouts, drank way too much whipped coffee and the Renegade TikTok dance was a reflex at that point.

Then suddenly, it was April 21. It was the time of year when all the fun stuff was supposed to happen — college t-shirt day, senior countdown, prom and graduation to name a few. But instead, school was canceled for the rest of the year?

That's when I think the fear started, or at least definitely the depression — watching the days on the calendar pass by while I felt stuck in place. Living in a loop of playing way too much "Fortnite" and eating my weight in shredded cheese for weeks on end. I was angry, but I felt guilty about being angry. The things I was missing

Time flies when  
you're eating  
shredded cheese



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

were so trivial in the grand scheme of everything, but I couldn't stop thinking about it.

I had it in my head that things would go back to how they were when this was all over. But then I realized that not a single aspect of my life was the same. I had moved away from my hometown, "graduated" high school, and eventually would be moving to Connecticut (spoiler alert: I did all of freshman year online in my bedroom).

When I finally got to campus sophomore year, I felt like I had to make up for lost time. I thought if I took advantage of every opportunity and said yes to every plan, it would somehow cancel out all my anger.

But here I am, six days away from donning that cap and gown, and I'll let you in on a little secret: It didn't work. It'll never feel like I had enough time here. It sounds cheesy, but trust me, it's true. Cherish every moment. There's no other time in your life quite like these four years. You're teetering on the edge of independence, free to make mistakes but still sheltered enough to avoid the real-world consequences. There's so much to miss, so much to hold on to. Go to the party, lean into the school spirit and pull the all-nighter at Babbidge (it's lowkey fun). I have so much to be excited for once I'm out of here, but growing up sucks.

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CARTOONS  
COURTESY OF  
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# Sports

## UConn Sports Season Recaps

**by Avery Becker**  
SHE/HER/HERS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

### Men's Hockey

The UConn men's hockey team finished their 2023-2024 campaign with a 15-19-2 record. The team kicked off their season with a 4-2 win at Colgate, giving Husky fans a taste of victory, although after that, the team faced many challenges. These obstacles have stemmed

from their inability to mount significant offense at times. However, a bright spot from this past season came on Nov. 25, when Connecticut hosted Dartmouth at the XL Center. UConn won 6-1, with five individual players contributing goals. Connecticut's season ended on a sour note, losing 5-4 in the second round of the Hockey East tournament to Boston College. UConn's roster

will look much different next season with Matthew Wood, Samu Salminen and Arsenii Sergeev entering the transfer portal. Mike Cavanaugh and his staff plan to bring in new freshmen and players from the transfer portal next season. Captain Hudson Schandor and defenseman John Spetz will return to Storrs for a graduate year in hopes of flipping the script next season.

**by Sam Calhoun**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
STAFF WRITER

### Women's Hockey

The 2023-24 UConn women's ice hockey team will forever go down in history as one of the all-time great teams the program has had. The 2022-23 season was all about goaltender Tia Chan in the crease, but junior Megan Warren worked her way up so the two goalies could become Linus Ullmark and Jeremy Swayman of women's hockey in Hockey East. After beginning the season 1-3-1, UConn did not lose a game in conference play until February. They won the Hockey East regular season title, and, in a low-scoring overtime thriller at Toscano Family Ice Forum, forward Megan Woodworth punched their ticket to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history. Kathryn Stockdale, Ashley Allard, Camryn Wong, Jada Habisch and Tia Chan all earned Hockey East honors. Head coach Chris MacKenzie was named the National Coach of the Year to cap off a historic year.

**by Bridget Bronsdon**  
SHE/HER/HERS  
INCOMING SPORTS EDITOR

### Men's Soccer

After nailing a season opener against Holy Cross, victory was in the hands of the men's soccer team. Despite this early success, the path to the finish line wasn't a straight shot for the Huskies. After going 9-8-1 overall and 4-4 in the conference, the Huskies were challenged to find their rhythm. A mid-season run granted the group much-needed momentum, but quickly pushed them into the second half of a demanding season. Despite falling to Xavier in the regular season finale, the Huskies clinched the No. 5 seed in the conference tournament. The crew went on to upset No. 4 St. John's in a thrilling 2-1 overtime victory. Days later, the Huskies' season ended in the second round of the tournament by two late goals from No. 1 Georgetown. Despite this finish, several Huskies received Big East awards, including freshman defender Kieran Chandler.

**by Nahum Valiente**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

### Women's Soccer

It was an impressive showing for the UConn women's soccer team this season as they improved from last year's record. Overall, the group went 10-4-5 and 6-1-3 in the conference. Although the Huskies were just one point shy of sharing the Big East regular season title, they managed to go on a deeper postseason run compared to last year. The first round of the Big East Tournament ended in a thriller when the team's leading goal scorer, Chioma Okafor, put the Huskies in the lead with just minutes left in the game, sending them to a semi-final match-up against Georgetown. In that match, the Huskies fell 1-0 but kept the game competitive against the co-champions of the Big East. Two Huskies, Jessica Mazo and Okafor, ended the season with places in the All-Conference first team. Additionally, Kaitlyn Mahoney earned the goalkeeper of the year award.

**by Ava Inesta**  
SHE/HER/HERS  
STAFF WRITER

### Women's Basketball

The UConn women's basketball team went through a season of adversity and injuries but managed to finish the year with a 33-6 overall record. Having only eight players available in the NCAA March Madness tournament, the Huskies beat all the odds, making their way to the program's 23rd Final Four appearance. Paige Bueckers, Aaliyah Edwards and Nika Mühl were the three anchors to this team, leading the Huskies to success. Through the year, UConn had many thrillers in facing opponents like Notre Dame, UNC, Syracuse, Duke, USC and Iowa. The Huskies earned the No. 1 seed in the Big East conference and became champions of the Big East Tournament at Mohegan Sun. Bueckers and Edwards were named All-American honors, while Mühl earned an honorable mention nod. Edwards (Washington Mystics) and Mühl (Seattle Storm) were then drafted into the WNBA in April. Adding No. 1 recruit Sarah Strong, Allie Ziebell, Morgan Cheli and players returning from injury, the UConn women's basketball team has a bright year ahead of them.

**by Connor Sargeant**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
INCOMING ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

### Men's Basketball

Despite losing Andre Jackson Jr., Adama Sanogo and Jordan Hawkins to the NBA, the 2023-2024 UConn men's basketball team dominated the college basketball scene at a historic level. Not only did the Huskies run through a loaded out-of-conference schedule that included Texas, UNC and Gonzaga, but the program also avenged last season's unfinished business by winning the Big East. However, UConn was far from done. Whether it was their 30-0 run against Illinois, blowing out SDSU by 30 points or beating Purdue by 15 to win their sixth national championship in program history, Connecticut ran through March Madness like no one before them. Thanks to the high level of play from the departing class of Tristen Newton, Cam Spencer, Donovan Clingan, Stephon Castle and Alex Karaban, the 2023-2024 season for the UConn Huskies will be one that all UConn fans will remember for the rest of their lives.

**by Gavin Friedman**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

### Football

After an impressive 2022 season that saw the UConn football team in their first bowl game since 2015, they took a step backwards in their 2023 campaign. The Huskies finished with a 3-9 record as a result of several disappointing performances, including a heartbreaking loss to Utah State after the potential game-tying PAT was blocked with 40 seconds left. Starting quarterback Joe Fagnano suffered a season-ending shoulder injury in the second game of the season, leaving Ta'Quan Roberson as the starter for the remainder of the season. Running back Devontae Houston entered the transfer portal after four games, but this led to the emergence of Camryn Edwards, who led the team in rushing yards and will likely make a big contribution again this fall. Although 2023 wasn't exactly the reload the Huskies were hoping for, they will look to get back to a bowl game in 2024.

**by Sean Ahern**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
STAFF WRITER

### Baseball

Sitting at 23-18 overall heading into May, the UConn baseball team has taken a step back in the win column from last season, but with 13 regular season games left, anything can happen. The team must play more consistently on the road, as they are currently 10-13 on the season away from Elliot Ballpark. However, the Huskies have had a successful April, which saw them go 15-3. If they can limit their strikeouts — which they lead the conference in by a wide margin — and continue their league-leading stolen base rate, they have a chance at adding another Big East title and a trip to the College Baseball Playoffs. With players on the roster who were members of the back-to-back title run in 2021 and 2022, their experience is invaluable as the Big East Tournament approaches.

## SENIOR COLUMN

# STRATTON'S STAND:

## A FINAL STAND FROM THE LAND OF STEADY HABITS

by Stratton Stave | HE/HIM/HIS | OUTGOING SPORTS EDITOR

It's honestly hard to believe that I'm sitting here writing this. Just like that, my time at The Daily Campus is over. Apologies for the cliché, but it feels like just yesterday was the day after high school graduation and I was sending former Associate Sports Editor Jon Synott an Instagram direct message, asking him how to get involved in DC Sports. A universal experience, I know. Now, over 300 articles later, I'm drafting my final piece.

I debated what to write here, so I looked at my predecessor's work. After taking a bit too much time perusing past senior columns, I decided to use this platform (whoever is foolish enough to take five minutes to read) to discuss my time here. Probably the best way to get some closure. I won't waste any more of your time blabbering on (and my words, since I'm already eating way too far into the word count). Let's begin.

Over that first summer when I joined the Sports section, I felt eager enough to write Azzi Fudd's freshman introduction article — a fairly large task for my first piece. Then again, I was one of the very few committed members of the section, with just three other people writing in the edition.

That article, which I was sure the editors would tear apart, was still a lot of fun to write. I took something that I had an interest in — UConn basketball — and got to write about it. Jon ended up liking it enough to not rip it apart and just like that, I was looking at my first published article as I drove up to Storrs, Connecticut, getting ready to start college.

Just two days later, I stumbled into the hard-to-find Daily Campus building in absolute awe. The way the production room was designed felt akin to a superhero

headquarters, tailored to a nerd like me. Newspapers everywhere on the wall, framed championship editions and more. It was truly a moment where I was confident that I had found my place — and the sports meeting hadn't even started yet.

Though there were only a handful of people in the conference room, the atmosphere in the sports meeting was unmatched. Sports talk galore and people who were excited to see a new face join.

As I found my footing in every aspect of college, I began penning "Stratton's Column," which became "Stratton's Take" and eventually "Stratton's Stand." My second-ever column set the standard far too high for my next three years as a writer. I wrote on the UConn football coaching vacancy, advocating for Kevin Kelley's hiring — a polarizing coach breaking the bounds of football. It seemed like a good pick on paper, as he was smashing scoring records in his first few games at the FCS level, but he flamed out before the year was over.

The reception that piece received was otherworldly for a freshman who hadn't yet published 10 articles. Not only did it take UConn Twitter (now known as X) by storm, but I also got recognition from people

ly, mentioned me and my idea in his personal column. Equally insane was when ESPN's Ryan McGee, who writes "The Bottom 10," my favorite column ever, cited my idea in that very column. Getting that recognition was incredible and I don't think I understood how unusual it was until it didn't happen again.

Even though that particular high was unique, different highs kept coming my way. While I had already logged over 50 articles by the time my first semester was over, I do feel like I lucked into the women's basketball beat. I started the winter as a hockey writer, but thanks to a series of events including an early-graduating editor and a writer who vanished, I ended up covering UConn women's basketball — arguably the most historic program the sport has ever seen.

I'm already running out of space, but the rest of my time here was incredible. I was very lucky to have the chance to attend that year's Final Four in Minneapolis, Minnesota along with two more on the men's side. It's

rare that a writer goes 100% on Final Four coverage.

I was fortunate to end up as the associate sports editor for my sophomore year and eventually the sports editor for my third, and final year at UConn. I was a little less prolific those two years, but still managed to finish with 25 articles over 1,000 views, a best on the DC's new website. That takes us to my "thank you's," which has to start with Jon.

Thank you Jon, for accepting my follow request on that June day and entertaining my direct message. Thank you for letting me write for the freshman issue and trusting me with the basketball beat so early. Thank you for being a great editor; you made my job really easy and taught me how to lead. And thank you for being my biggest mentor at UConn.

Thank you to Evan, my current co-editor, who has been a lasting friend at the DC. We managed to avoid any disasters this year and overall, put together a bunch of great sports sections.

Thank you to Cole for being the only person with more articles than me on the new DC website and being my right-hand man for women's basketball. You always brought life to meetings, which I immensely appreciate.

Thank you to Ashton and Taylor for being great editors my first year and helping my development.

Thank you to the entire sports section for indulging my dream to have highly attended sports meetings and for helping us make a killer paper every day. The sports section doesn't exist without you all.

And a final thank you goes to my family: Mom, Dad, Sabrina and Emma for always supporting me.

I am forever grateful for my time at the DC — I'll cherish it forever.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR

whom I'd long admired.

Dom Amore, a lead writer for UConn sports at the Hartford Courant, whose work I read religiously-

## Senior Column:

# Thank you UConn Nation

by **Evan Rodriguez**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
OUTGOING ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

Well, that ended more quickly than expected.

I'm not going to lie to you at all. When I first stepped on campus as a young freshman, I really didn't know what to expect or where things would go. Everything was closed, classes were virtual, and worst of all, no University of Connecticut sports. That's not exactly the formula for a great college career, especially for someone who wants to have a career in sports. On top of all of that, I wasn't the massive UConn basketball historian like my peers, so I had to get in the lab and really hone some Husky history from the very beginning.

Fast forward to 2024 and things somehow ended up 100 times better than expected.

This school has meant more to me over the years than I could ever put into words. The fact that I was able to cover back-to-back National Championships for the men's basketball team, the only Daily Campus writer in history to achieve such a feat, means the most to someone who couldn't have imagined such a reality. That's not even mentioning my time around the UConn football team or checking out some Hook C baseball — two amazing programs.

I'm not the type of person

to brag about my accomplishments to people, but to feel the love of the UConn community on social media, especially X (formerly known as Twitter), is truly an awesome feeling. You never really know how much you've made an impact on people sometimes, but I was reminded of how much some people on X appreciate my work in the most unlikely way possible: A suspension from the UConn Recreation Center.

Do I regret my decision to go against the rules and film such an incredible event at the Rec Center on campus — especially in one of my final weeks as a student? Absolutely not. To

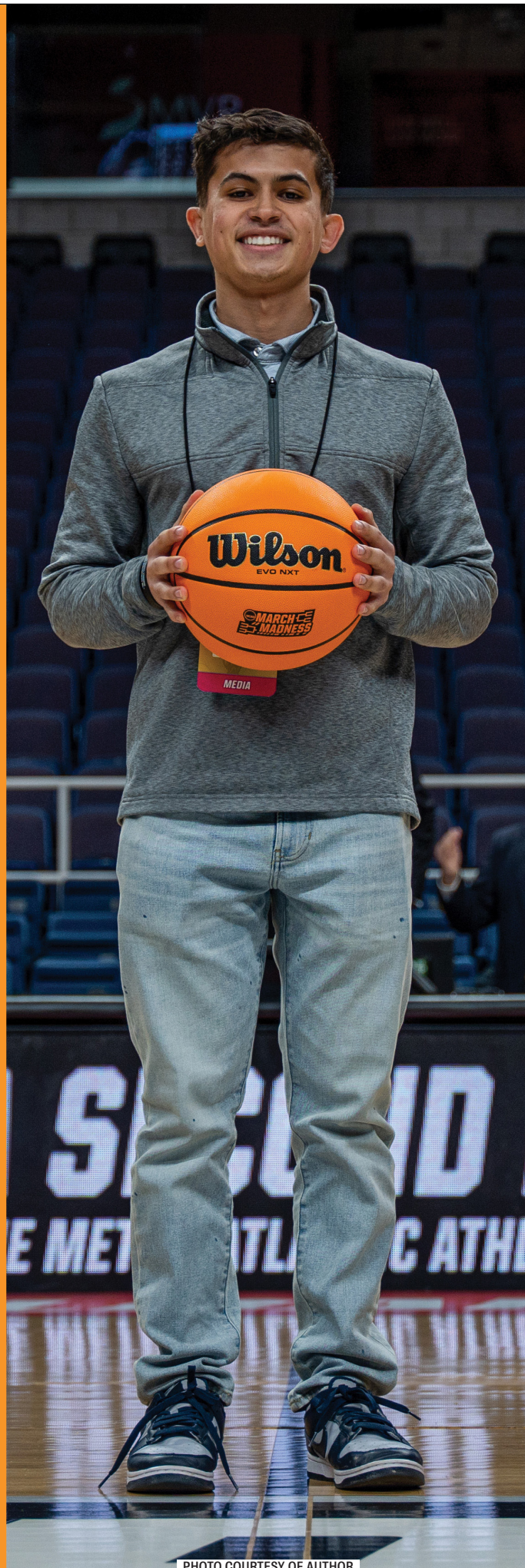


PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR

see so much of the fanbase really support and appreciate my content throughout my time here is amazing, and if that means getting a slap on the wrist, so be it.

But even through the stress of making sure tweets are accurate or posting Husky basketball/football content on X, this job has been so awesome to me and it's really something that I've cherished throughout my time here. I really didn't start my account until 2020 and my primary page sat dormant until 2021, so it was a massive uphill battle to get where I stand today at over 1,600 followers on the platform. Even through gaining the trust of the UConn basketball community and the long journey that it's been, I wouldn't change it for the world.

Of course, this article wouldn't be complete without thanking some people who have been massive helps throughout my time at The Daily Campus.

To my guy Jon, who I started covering women's lacrosse with

in 2021, you've really been the best. From watching UConn upset Villanova at the XL Center in 2021, to taking trips to Las Vegas to watch UConn take care of business against Arkansas and Gonzaga to ultimately covering a National Championship together, there's so much that I could thank you for. If there wasn't a word limit on this article, just know I'd go into way more. Even though you're not here at the DC anymore, know that I'm so appreciative of what you've meant to me.

My time at The Daily Campus certainly wouldn't have been the same without Stratton either. That enthusiastic energy when coming to The Daily Campus, coupled with plenty of jokes from time to time, has made you the perfect person to lead this section this year. Just watching you grow in the organization has been a joy to watch, and even though we'll be on separate paths with different organizations, just know you'll always be my Husky brother for life.

To Connor, who has been an awesome partner to have covering UConn men's basketball, I know you're going to keep The Daily Campus in great shape when me and Stratton are gone. I know we're leaving quite the legacy behind, but with what you've shown and the hard work you've put in, you've truly got the best job in the world.

Last, but not certainly not least, my brother Cole. Ever since meeting over Zoom and ultimately transitioning into in-person meetings, you've always brought the energy since day one of our Daily Campus meetings. Things simply wouldn't be the same without you at the DC and I'm going to absolutely miss those energetic interactions we've had on countless occasions.

My Daily Campus career may be over, but as Jalen Ramsay once said: "We ain't done."

Sincerely,

**The Rod Wave**

# The Final Column:

It is okay to not be perfect; Cole Stefan's self-reflection and sentimental farewell

by **Cole Stefan**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
OUTGOING SENIOR COLUMNIST

Greetings, dear reader.

Allow me, Cole Patrick Stefan, to take you on an intense journey back in time. You might want to buckle up.

There were no live sports going on at the University of Connecticut because of the COVID-19 pandemic back in the fall of 2020. Each of the professional sports leagues was in action at the time, whether in their regular season or the playoffs. Unlike most years during which there are collegiate athletics to cover from the first day of the fall semester. However, things just felt different.

How does someone like me, who found out about this organization through a virtual involvement fair, attempt to make an immediate impact? Simple: write about what they know. The first-ever article with my name on it was about a no-hitter from pitcher Alec Mills. Mills, then a member of the Chicago Cubs, most recently made eight appearances across 2022 and 2023.

That is how it all began. An approximately 850-word article was the debut single of four albums of "Coleumns," "Big East Baller Updates" and coverage of six different sports programs at UConn.

I wrote for my high school's newspaper, The Forum, from 2016 until 2020 while balancing my participation in track and choir. Never in my wildest dreams back then did I imagine that my passion for writing would lead to covering two Final Fours, a bowl game and two Big East Media Days. There was no way that I could see myself providing my wild takes in almost every roundtable over four years or writing an entire point-counterpoint when I joined as a freshman.

Yet across all 362 articles I have written — the most ever on The Daily Campus' current website — there is one message that I feel has been my guiding light. I did not realize it until very recent-

ly — then again, I cannot recall how it came about — but I wish I knew about it much sooner.

Your work does not have to be perfect all of the time.

From the countless hours in the Homer Babbidge Library to the weeknights spent in basketball arenas fine-tuning UConn women's basketball recaps, I put maximum effort into each article that I wrote. No matter where I produced it, my expectations were the same. The final published product, a 1,000-word article, is just the fruit of my labor.

But the more one works on something, the more it may become "technologically advanced." There is such a thing as overworking. Engaging in this behavior is a symptom of overthinking each and every minuscule detail. It can hold your confidence in your abilities to do something back and stunt your overall growth in that skill. It is very time consuming and may prevent one from being succinct with their words.

There is a solution to the pressure of perfection: Recognizing when you have done enough with something goes a long way, even if it is not perfect by one's individual standards. One mistake in one piece of work is not going to make or break you individually. Do not let something that is commonly hard to attain wreck what you are trying to create.

Allowing yourself to fall short of perfection while still putting in maximum effort has its benefits. Letting go when you have finished something is all part of the plan. Through this action, you accept that you are, respectfully, far from perfect. Writing, let alone doing anything, in college allows you to get better.

Being in college and improving my craft in a university setting is just the prologue of a decades-long professional odyssey. It is also where I met some incredible individuals that I want to recognize. Without them, I would not be

where I am as a writer today.

Thank you to Danny Barletta and Conner Gilson, the second and third editors I ever met after the then-editor-in-chief at the involvement fair. You both welcomed me into The Daily Campus Sports section family and allowed me to fine-tune my writer's craft to the Associated Press style from the start.

Thank you to Ashton Stansel, the only individual I covered three different sports teams with. Your wisdom and expertise in the industry really helped me when I first started covering sports teams as well as when I joined the UConn women's basketball beat.

Thank you to Jonathan Synott, a fearless sports editor through a significant transition period in my sophomore year. There are very few things I wish I had done during my time in the organization; covering a beat with you is one of them.

Thank you to Stratton Stave, my superior for the past two years and the standard when it comes to writing quality articles. I will never forget all of the memories made covering UConn women's basketball and UConn football, and I am forever in awe at how quickly you can

produce a game recap.

Thank you to Evan Rodriguez, someone I have seen grow as a hard-working person, a writer and a multimedia producer throughout their time in Storrs. No one has as much energy or enthusiasm for UConn athletics as you do.

Thank you to anyone who has read my work over the past four years, from my parents to my grandmother to my friends and family. You are all the reason I continue to promote my intriguing articles on four different social media platforms.

Lastly, to everyone else I have ever met through

this fantastic organization, thank you so much for being my friend and contributing to this remarkable journey. I have questioned my decisions about what I am doing throughout my time in college. At the end of the day, though, I know that I made the right choice spending part of the last four years writing for The Daily Campus.

What I am about to write for my final sentence in UConn's student-run newspaper does not feel real. Nothing in my college experience has.

For the last time, this has been first name Cole, last name Stefan.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR

Senior Column

# SENIOR COLUMN:

## Chris Charbonneau



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR

**by Chris Charbonneau**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
OUTGOING CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

It feels strange to write these words. This is my last article for The Daily Campus, and it was an experience that I will cherish forever.

When I was approached to write a weekly column for the student newspaper, I was hesitant because of my full course workload. However, I'm glad that I took up the opportunity to cover the University of Connecticut men's golf team last fall.

I want to thank my family for their unwavering support in pushing me to get involved with The Daily Campus. They have helped me so much along the way and believed in me even when I doubted myself.

I'm also grateful to my professors, mentors and the entire UConn community for their guidance, wisdom and unwavering support. Their contributions have played a significant role in shaping me into the person I am today.

As I graduate with a B.A. in journalism and communication in a week, I am proud to have contributed to the student newspaper weekly, sharing my game previews and takes on sports.

I owe everything to Stratton Stave and Evan Rodriguez for welcoming me and developing my writing skills. I reached out to Stratton over Linke-

dIn about getting involved and started writing as soon as possible. When I received feedback after writing my first article "On the Freshman To-Do List: Toscano Family Ice Forum," I knew from that day forward that I enjoyed the process of writing.

I would also like to thank the editors and the entire staff who helped put together my articles.

To my fellow Daily Campus graduates, congratulations! We have all spent countless hours writing and crafting weekly stories on a wide range of topics. Through last-minute submissions to meet deadlines, late-night study sessions and group projects and exams, we are now ready to embark on this new chapter in our lives.

For me, it's not about looking back, but about looking forward and having a clear vision. I had a mental block for a little while when my grandmother passed away in the middle of March. I didn't know what to write about weekly, and this final month had been tough on me. My grandmother would have been proud to see me walk across the stage and throw my cap in Gampel Pavilion.

I want to leave everyone with these words of wisdom by Arnold Schwarzenegger, "If you think that you're gonna go and accomplish some-

thing really special and be the best in anything in the world and if you think you can do it without working you make a big mistake."

It doesn't have to be The Daily Campus, but find that club to join. It's too late to be scared, and in four years, you can't look back and say, "I wish I did this" and "I wish I did that."

Keep striving towards that dream. If you make mistakes, so what? I've made countless errors in my articles, but I've learned and grown from them. Life is too short to waste, so seize every opportunity that comes your way. Even on days when you don't feel like writing or studying, push yourself to be the best that you can be. That's how you achieve your dreams.

College is not going to be easy. One thing The Daily Campus and UConn have taught me is that you are going to encounter issues along the way. It's about how you handle those problems. You may fail assignments or make mistakes on your papers or quizzes, but that's all part of the learning process. Embrace them, learn from them and keep climbing the mountain.

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**If you really want something, get after it!**

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Senior  
ColumnOne  
last  
Reed

by Noah Reed

HE/HIM/HIS  
OUTGOING STAFF WRITER

Looking back on my life, writing has always been a big part of it. Since I was a kid, I have always enjoyed writing but didn't have anywhere to go with it. I took writing classes in both high school and college, but once those ended, I had no outlet.

Sports have also been a big pillar in my life. Having played and watched them growing up, sports have been there forever and have connected me with a lot of people. Because of this, I had friends and family telling me to try and find a job in sports, but I never really knew where to go with that either.

Combining the two and doing sports writing had always been something I've considered but hadn't really found a way to do, but I knew I wanted to try.

I got my first taste of sports writing through my best friend, Josh. Josh, a student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, had joined his newspaper our sophomore year of college and had me help him write some of his articles. I remember the first one we did together was about the 2021 World Series and after it was published. He grabbed me the physical copy of the paper and gave it to me. When I read it, I noticed that he put both of our

names on it, despite me being a University of Connecticut student. I still have that paper to this day. I helped him think of some other article ideas throughout the rest of the year, but it really sparked my interest in doing something similar at UConn.

I thought about doing so my junior year, but nothing really developed until the involvement fair. There, I ran into the associate sports editor, Stratton Stavefor, who gave me a quick rundown on the department and what I would be getting myself into. I was fully convinced to join right then.

When I started writing for The Daily Campus in my junior year, I didn't really know what to expect barely having any experience in sports writing — especially for anything other than baseball. I picked up the women's hockey beat and had barely, in my life, watched any hockey prior. I had such a great time with the beat, going to games and coming home to write about what I had watched and seeing it in the physical paper the next day. For the next few months, I continued with women's hockey and decided to start writing articles

for my own ideas.

Then, I applied to be a staff writer so I could have my own weekly column — a move that made me commit more time to the department. It was the best decision that I could have made and I

am so happy I decided to apply. "The Weekly Reed" was such a fun part of my week for the last year and a half, I always looked forward to writing it.

Now as my undergrad wraps up I have over 90 articles, I've seen our school's first Hockey East Women's championship, back-to-back 30-win softball seasons (hoping for a third), two national championships and a bowl game in 2022.

I genuinely wish I had joined at least my sophomore year so I could have enjoyed this position even longer. The Daily Campus is a big part of my college experience, and I will always remember the opportunities I was given to work here. I have almost every article I've written in print and will continue to save those as memories from my time at The Daily Campus.

Thank you to former sports editors Jon Synott and Stratton Stavefor giving me an opportunity to write on a consistent basis as a staff writer here at the Daily Campus; I am truly grateful for that.

Thank you to my friends and family who read most of my articles and really supported me and my writing.

Lastly, thank you to The Daily Campus for giving me a platform to write over the last few years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR

## Senior Column:

## Dear The Daily Campus...

Looking back at my time at the University of Connecticut, countless events have happened. My freshman year was nonexistent due to the COVID-19 pandemic when I participated in the meme-worthy Zoom University. My sophomore year began with a move across the country and ended with me creating my own little bubble in Storrs, Connecticut. Junior year was marked by my start as a Neag student, a historic fifth national championship for men's basketball and my appointment as Managing Editor of The Daily Campus. My senior year brought trials and tribulations as a new educator and leader of a Tier III organization — and yet another national championship. As this year comes to a close, I can't help but look back and think about all the amazing opportunities I've had and all the incredible people I met.

Getting involved at The Daily Campus started small. I attempted to find the building during my sophomore year, failed, and never reappeared until the end of that year when I applied for an editor role. Sadly, I didn't get that job, but I did get something even better: An invitation to join The Daily Campus' production team the next fall. Little did junior year Raquel know that she would be leading that very same team a year later.

Despite all the twists and turns of my college career, I couldn't be more thankful for the people I've met and the memories I made at UConn.

Many of those memories occurred in a small brick building I couldn't find my sophomore year. Nestled between Moe's and Buckley Residence Hall, The Daily Campus building remains mysterious to many UConn

folks.

While The Daily Campus building may seem unassuming (and honestly a little creepy to the naked eye), it is so much more than that. Not only is it home to UConn's independent student-run newspaper — it is also the heart of my experience at UConn. Through The Daily Campus, I met people who became my closest friends, grew as a leader and strengthened my connection to my fellow students. I gained opportunities to lead other like-minded individuals and grew into a stronger,

more confident Raquel.

My experience at The Daily Campus has changed me for the better and taught me so much about myself and what I can accomplish.

To my girlboss E-board, I could not have survived this year without you and I'm so thankful for all the work we've done. We have made significant and long-lasting



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changes within The Daily Campus and worked to create the best newspaper possible. Sure, there were trials and tribulations (often all at once), but we made it through and supported each other through all of it. I couldn't be prouder to be part of such a strong and fearless group of women.

Maddie, thank you for teaching me to be firm in my beliefs and always being a support system (and human shield) in and out of the production room. Naiiya, you always kept

our executive meetings light and could always bring a smile to my face — even on my longest days. You managed all the Kuali and budget forms with grace and skill that I can't even imagine. Charlotte, our digital queen, thank you for always fixing the website and reminding me that positivity and kindness do wonders in this world. I honestly don't know what I would have done this year without the three of you.

To my managing editor team, thank you for all the work you put into this year. Emily, thank you for your leadership guidance, kind words of support and expertise with Adobe Photoshop. Shannon, thank you for being one of the first people I met and connected with at the DC and always being by my side on crazy production shifts. I don't know how I would've survived all the long production nights without you both.

To my production squad, you make the job fun and I'm so blessed to have worked with all of you this year. Here's to more collaborative production playlists and goofy icebreakers.

To the new executives, get ready for the most insane, fulfilled and jam-packed year you'll experience in college. You will face challenging experiences, but you're never alone. Lean on your fellow executives and support each other through all the changes and challenges. I have faith in you all and know you will continue the legacy that The Daily Campus began in 1896.

All in all, my time at The Daily Campus has been an unforgettable one. I couldn't be more grateful for my experiences at The Daily Campus and the people I met as Managing Editor.

As I sign off as your Managing Editor, peace out and enjoy the wonderful things The Daily Campus offers. I know I did.

# Senior Column

# Emily O'Bannon

## Outgoing Associate

## Managing Editor

I've worked at The Daily Campus for three years now, but I haven't written a single article. So, I guess my first piece will also be my last.

One of the biggest things I learned in college — and especially from working at the DC — is to be open to trying new things. I started school with absolutely no idea what I wanted to do. It was incredibly overwhelming to start the whole process with no real plans or defined goals.

I came to the DC in the fall of my sophomore year. I was looking for a job as I was returning to campus for my first “normal” semester of college post-COVID-19, and JobX had a listing for a “Student Written Communications Trainee.” I had no idea what that meant but the description mentioned design, so I decided to give it a try.

I ended up designing the sports section for my first semester, and I loved every second of it. I learned so much about design, met so many new people and had so many new experiences.

One of the reasons I never wrote for The Daily Campus is because I didn't think I'd be good at it. At various points in my time here, people have encouraged me to write, but I was always too nervous because I never thought of myself as a good writer. The ideas always made sense in my head, but when I would try to put them into words, I felt like I



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OF THE AUTHOR

couldn't do them justice or I wasn't getting my point across.

That's one of the reasons I was always so drawn to design. It was always easier and felt more natural for me to make my ideas into visuals. Design has always been a way for me to take risks and try new things, and seeing other people enjoy my work was so rewarding. But most importantly, I realized that in order to grow as a designer, I had to continue to try something new. At first, I put a lot of pressure on myself to design something

bigger and better than the piece that preceded. This eventually put me in a creative block that I wasn't able to get out of until very recently.

I realized that I had to stop putting so much pressure on myself to create something that would be more impressive than what I had done before. Instead, I started to take a much more open approach to my work. If I had a new idea, I would try it. If it didn't work out the way I wanted or didn't impress me, that was fine, and I could try something different next time.

Taking the time to focus on what I could do differently was a far greater learning experience than just competing with myself to make something cooler every time.

Applying this type of mindset to different aspects of my life other than work became very impactful. I quickly found that being more open to new things and taking the time to really experience them has led to so much personal growth. I also came to the realization that trying something new isn't always fun and exciting, and a lot of times it's actually really, really scary. The idea of failure can be daunting, but it shouldn't always keep us from trying. Sometimes failing is exactly what we need so we can learn from our mistakes and grow.

As my senior year comes to a close, I'm still not really sure what it is that I want to end up doing. But through trying new things and being open to new experiences, I have found a better understanding of myself and the world around me. Finishing school and entering this next stage of life is scary, but I'm excited to see what I can learn from it.

So, for those reading, I encourage you to be open. It's never too late to try something new, and you just might surprise yourself. Live in the moment and do your best to experience all of the beautiful things that life has to offer.

# Senior Column: Consistency

by Shannon Hong | ANY PRONOUNS | OUTGOING ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR

Coming into the University of Connecticut, I didn't expect the school newspaper to be one of the few constants in my college life. A freshman year of fully-online classes didn't help with getting involved on campus, so in my sophomore year, I applied to be a digital producer for The Daily Campus in search of an on-campus job. Little did I know that this random building behind Moe's with the sketchy staircase would become such a big part of these past three years.

During my first few months of working as a digital producer, I didn't actually realize we were a newspaper organization. I know it sounds silly after finishing my senior year working as an associate managing editor, but I genuinely didn't make the connection that the articles I was uploading were also being printed in a physical paper. As a shy, self-conscious underclassman, I just kept to myself and uploaded without speaking to many people at production. To those who worked with me during that time, you probably don't remember, since I literally didn't open my mouth unless it was for the production icebreaker.

When I finally put the pieces together that I was working for the school newspaper — don't ask me how long that took, I couldn't tell you — I applied for a designer position my junior year. I wanted to get more involved with the DC and always had a passion for graphic design. Plus, I was already there twice a week and thought, "What's one more day going to do?" Looking back at the mock design I created for my designer application, I want to say thank you to Sam and Janella, the managing editors at the time, for hiring me. That design honestly looked like a hot mess, but

I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity since my time as a designer was so enjoyable.

The first shift I worked in fall 2022, I accidentally got assigned as the Life designer. With Life section designs, you have a lot of

Thursday production, gave me tips and tricks to

page. After that, I got switched to design for news for the rest of the fall semester, and was able to learn InDesign without feeling the pressure of creating fancy Life designs.

In the spring of 2023, I got assigned as the Life

but rather excited, to have so much creative freedom. Every week, I would come into production with new ideas of how to design my pages.

This was also around the time I started talking more at production and generally just having more fun there. I was at the DC three nights a week, often past midnight, and didn't care about getting back to my dorm late. When I first joined, production was explained to me as more like a club than a job, and I couldn't agree more. So, if you're reading this and thinking about applying to be a part of DC production, do it! I met one of my closest friends, Van, at production my junior year, and we've been inseparable since. Joining production was one of the best experiences I had at UConn and I don't regret it for a second.

I had the pleasure to work as one of the associate managing editors this year, alongside Raquel and Emily, and it's been such a wonderful opportunity. Just working as a digital producer or designer, you don't realize how much behind the scenes work goes into getting an article in the paper or online. It's kind of funny this will be my first and last article I write for the DC, but I'm proud of all I've done here. The DC helped me gain confidence and was a place I could always go to escape all other things in college. I'm genuinely going to miss working late hours in this small building, but I know the incoming generation will do great things next year. Thank you to everyone I've worked with this year and good luck to everyone in the upcoming year! Lastly, congratulations to the class of 2024! It's been a crazy four years, but we did it.

creative freedom to play with various fonts, colors and shapes. As someone who had never touched Adobe InDesign prior to that day, I was intimidated and had no creative gears turning in my head. Luckily, Janella, the associate managing editor for

fill space on the

designer again, this time not by mistake. After a semester of designing the News section and gaining confidence with my InDesign skills, I was no longer intimidated,



# Shannon Hong

# Janelle Briones

In my first year designing at The Daily Campus, I had the pleasure of working on the graduation issue. Now that it's my turn to write a senior column. I'm not at all surprised that I still don't know what to say. Time is funny like that. It would make sense that, after all these years, I would be even slightly more prepared. But, like many others, I'm at a loss for words when it comes to writing about graduating. It's a big goodbye and hello, and I find myself in a back-and-forth between being excited and intimidated by the future, especially one that's no longer dependent on educational institutions. You would think that after 18 years of school, I would be better equipped with the knowledge to confidently "enter adulthood," but I guess life is just like that. Time isn't always parallel to experiences gained, people will tend to fear what they have little experience with and, at the end of the day, things don't always end up as planned. In the grand scheme of everything, my time spent at the University of Connecticut may constitute just a small fraction, but its influence on shaping my future holds significance far beyond its duration.

For starters, my freshman year at UConn coincided with a global pandemic. Sure, any year marked by such a widespread event will leave a lasting impression, but I never anticipated anything of the sort when it came to my college journey. One evening, I'm picking up my usual meal a Towers Grab & Go before studying with friends in the Morgan Hall lounge. A year later, I'm desperately trying to explain the hype over the lost "Cluckin' Russian" on a Zoom meeting with floor mates that I'd never get to meet in person. By the time students were allowed to return to campus, everything about the UConn I knew had changed. I was in Storrs with a full schedule of online-only classes in a six-person Busby suite all



to myself. Amidst the isolation, I sought different opportunities on campus that sparked my interest. In February 2021, I replied to an ad in the Daily Digest and sent an application to design for the campus newspaper.


I wasn't exactly sure what the job entailed, and with no formal design experience, the thought of having to learn Adobe Suite scared me at the time. I was just another biology major with an Apple pencil, an iPad and enthu-

siasm, searching for a creative outlet beyond calligraphing the headers of my anatomy notes. Had I not applied, I wouldn't have been designing for the Life section the following week. The more time I spent at the DC, the more I got to see the dedication being put in to producing a daily newspaper. Everyone played a vital role, and I was excited to be a part of it.

After a year of growing my own design skills, I applied to join the managing editor team and entered the following school year as an associate managing editor. The days were busy, the responsibilities were more demanding, but I loved the job and the people I worked with. Throughout the year, I'd often joke: "This is probably one of the coolest jobs I'll ever

have in my life." It's true — being an associate managing editor was enjoyable and fulfilling, but it also made me think deeper about my future and why I felt that way about my career at the age of 21. It seemed I already mapped out a future in my head that had little room for creativity; too often we ditch the things that make us happy in pursuit of what we think will satisfy us.

Had everything gone as planned as I thought it would during my freshman year, if everything unfolded precisely as anticipated, it's likely that certain aspects would have led me to a completely different path. However, it's the very experiences I've had that form the basis of this column; I've been fortunate to be part of a creative environment that nurtured my growth in various technical skills. I've come to understand the significance of the people you collaborate with, and all of these have instilled in me the confidence to seek out opportunities that embody these qualities in the future. My perspective on my future has evolved alongside my experiences here at UConn and at The Daily Campus — I'm prepared for the unexpected twists and excited to experience it all.

Outgoing Designer  She/Her/Hers

# Senior Column

# SENIOR COLUMN: AN ODE TO UCONN DINING HALLS

by Maddie Archambeau | OUTGOING CIRCULATION MANAGER | SHE/HER/HERS

One of the most normalized experiences for college students is dealing with the dining halls. Why only have the stress of classes? We should also be worried about whether we will be fed edible food every day. Having experienced all the University of Connecticut's dining halls over the past four years, I have formed some opinions and will be sharing them with you whether you like it or not. Just like when it's exam week and every dining hall has manager's choice, you must deal with it.

**MCMAHON**

Thank you for trying to be fancy with the premade plates. When I ask the student worker if I could have the chicken without the purple mash potatoes and get the dirtiest look as if I told them they look like a puppetry major, makes it totally worth it. Special mention for the worker who wouldn't give me more pernil last week. You left my plate emptier than my lectures after we won the natty #backtoback. Also, I hope the guy at the front of the McMahon pizza line knows he is hated when he takes the last three plates of pizza, ensuring the line wrapping around to the front desk must wait 10 minutes for a pizza from the oven.

**NORTHWEST**

I'll say it, Northwest is the most consistently good dining hall. I can't wait to stand in line for 45 minutes for General Tso's chicken - a highlight meal every three weeks on Wednesdays. Extra points for the holiday decorations, meals and desserts. These remind me there is still joy in life.

**PUTNAM**

Thank you for training me to climb a mountain to reach you. Worth it for the Garrigus groundhog sightings. The Monday lunch wing bar made the sprained ankle from sliding down the icy stairs worth it, but I did not appreciate it when the bar turned into employee-served instead of self-serve. I don't need the workers to know how many wings I can put down or the shame that comes with asking for more.

**TOWERS**

Special thanks to the Yellow Line for making this destination somewhat convenient, but still rarely worth it. Towers represents the sunshine-and-rain-bows version of life we tell children for

freshmen. Real life hits when you move from the hill and realize nothing compares to the

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stir-fry bar but don't have time to wait for the Yellow Line on Tuesday nights.

**SOUTH**

You're mid. I love you Soop Doop, have a blessed day.

**BUCKLEY**

What is there really to say about you besides knowing why they're closing you after this semester. It really sucked walking from Hilltop Halls when it was the only quarantine dining hall in 2020 and my floor was under quarantine for the third time that semester (shout out to the sorority girl on my floor for being the reason we were in quarantine, I definitely didn't rejoice when the cops came to your door because someone had notified them you had weed).

**NORTH**

No, it's okay North. I would for sure much rather go to you than the totally not much better and accessible Northwest. My favorite meal is totally white rice with soy sauce and pizza that somehow looks worse than a \$15 11-inch frozen pizza from Price Chopper. You being the only dining hall I was allowed in during the two weeks of quarantine before the semester started in August 2020 definitely did not cause me to lose enough weight for my family to be concerned.

**WHITNEY**

Something about you, Whitney, is just so intimidating. Like, I can't wear sweatpants and have dirty hair, you're just too bougie. I need the art students to know I'm cool and not a STEM major infiltrating their curated vibes and miniature menu. I have to admit I feel cool in the back, pretending I am in a little café with important things to complete - not the New York Times games.

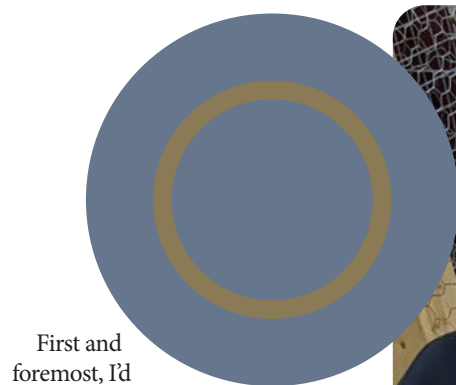
Clearly the UConn dining halls had a hold on me, as a senior living in an apartment, I spent the money to access these glorified cafeterias. I just couldn't get enough of those medium-cooked, pink-centered chicken thighs and red, white and blue cookies (crasins in cookies; best idea since combining the two weekend loops into one bus).

And if anyone would like a swipe, my name is Maddie Archambeau and I'll be here until May 4. I hope Super South provides false hope for the incoming freshman for what is to come once the dining halls stop caring after the first four weeks.

# RYAN WESTERVELT

## OUTGOING DIGITAL PRODUCER

HE/HIM/HIS



First and foremost, I'd like to thank the executive board for the countless hours they put into managing and organizing this entire operation for this year. I'd like to thank the writers and editors from all sections who curated the content that we got the honor of putting out in the paper. I'd like to thank all the copy editors and designers who make sure the paper gets out every single weekday. I'd like to thank the artists and photographers, without whom we'd lack amazingly consistent and quality illustrations and photos for articles and comics. And of course, I'd like to thank my fellow digital producers who make sure that the website gets updated, and all the content gets the attention it deserves. Without any one of those groups, The Daily Campus would not be the amazing place that it is.

I joined The Daily Campus in my sophomore year. For me and much of this graduating class, that was the first year I was in person here at the University of Connecticut. I originally thought that digital production for The Daily Campus was just an easy job that used a skill set I was already familiar with. I thought



that I would coast through each shift, get paid for my work and clock out. Within the first few weeks, I was already talking to coworkers — now friends of mine — outside of work, volunteering to cover shifts and help out where I could. I quickly found myself caring deeply about the organization. I believe that for the majority of the production workers, this is the quintessential DC experience.

Spending three years working at The Daily Campus has taught me a lot. Sure, I've learned a lot about how newspaper production works and a lot about maintaining the website — but I've learned a lot of life skills, too. I've learned to let go of what I can't control. I've learned to value the time I have doing what I love to do. Perhaps most importantly, I've learned to appreciate what can be accomplished by a team of just a few students each night with a little bit of organization. I'm very glad that many more will walk away with similarly fulfilling experiences, and it has been an absolute pleasure to be a small part of something greater than myself.

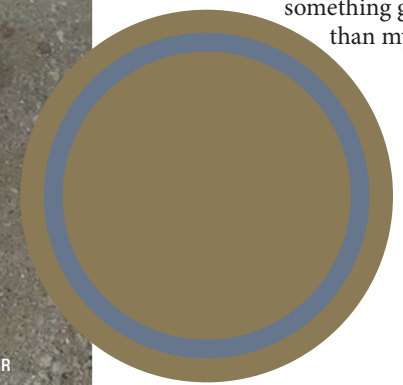


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

# Emilia Kwasniak

## Outgoing Photo Producer

she/her/hers

I've lived my entire life rooted in a few core beliefs: Everything happens for a reason, step outside of your comfort zone and don't spend too much time worrying about things out of your control. Throughout the last year, I learned my most valuable belief of all: To the best of your ability, never say no.

I started off my college career with absolutely no idea what I wanted to do with my life. First, I was a political science major. Then I loved my microeconomics elective class and next thing I knew, I added economics as a double major. This then led to my decision to pursue business. But through what major? Accounting was too hard. Management seemed too "creative," but finance was just right. I applied to the School of Business and once I got in, I thought I was exactly where I needed to be.

I couldn't have been more wrong. At the end of my junior year, I faced a pivotal choice in my college career. After working under the director of media for HuskyTHON 2023, I was asked if I would be interested in

taking over the role. As much as I wanted to, my gut response was no. The position consisted of photography, videography, video production, WordPress management and TikTok — all things that I was extremely interested in, but didn't have much experience in. I truly felt that someone else could do a better job. But here came the biggest plot twist of all: I don't know what overcame me, but by the end of the day, I agreed to apply for the position and got my offer email a few days later.

Flash forward to today. My HuskyTHON 2024 experience was filled with smashed video viewing records and a photography portfolio greater than I ever could've imagined. I was a photo producer for The Daily Campus. I've created videos for a pending LLC through the University of Connecticut.

A year ago today, I was so sure that I was going to pursue finance for the rest of my life, but now, there is nothing I want to do less. As I graduate from college, I am confident that I want to pursue media and marketing for the rest of my life.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Often, you may be inclined to say no to things because they are intimidating or because you don't think you are capable. Don't let that voice take over. I am so beyond grateful that I pushed myself to say "yes" to my first media position, and I have no doubt that my life would be entirely different today if I didn't. I am forever thankful for pushing myself to accomplish things I never thought I could.

"I don't know where I'm go-

ing from here, but I promise it won't be boring." — David Bowie

My high school yearbook quote stands true as I graduate college as well. Except in high school, I truly had no idea what I was going to do with my life. As I graduate college, I have complete confidence in what I am pursuing and my passion for it. I may still have a lot to figure out as I continue on my job hunt; but at least now I will never say no to an enticing opportunity.

Senior Column



# Photo

## Senior Photo Gallery



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR

## OUTGOING PHOTO EDITOR Skyler Kim

HE/HIM/HIS



UConn men's soccer loses their match against No.11 Georgetown on Nov. 2, 2022. The loss concluded the Huskies' season with a record of 7-7-3.



Clouds illuminate the last bits of light emitted from the sunset on Horsebarn Hill in Storrs, Conn. on Nov. 17, 2022.



UConn suffers a shocking loss to Florida International University with a score of 17-24 on Sept. 16, 2023 at the Rentschler Field in East Hartford, Conn. The Huskies have returned to a losing streak seen many times before in recent years, aside from the success they achieved last season.



Students rally in front of the Student Union building at the University of Connecticut on Nov. 4, 2022, four days before midterm elections. Students demanded that the university would become a fossil fuel free campus by 2030.



UConn women's volleyball libero Karly Berkland (8) successfully "pancakes" the ball during their match against Lindenwood University at the Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn. The Huskies won the match in three sets, with Berkland averaging 6.3 digs per set.



A UConn football fan stares into the distance during its match against Florida International University on Sept. 16, 2023.

# SENIOR PHOTO GALLERY



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUTHOR

# JORDAN ARNOLD



The tennis team up bright and early for practice in the preseason. Captured here is Isabella Asenov getting ready to serve.



The House of Barretti models some of their latest clothing designs during New York Fashion Week.



Jordan Hawkins goes for a lay up against Seton Hall.



Donovan Clingan holds up a newspaper that says "Champions!" after winning the national championship game in Phoenix, Ariz. This win makes UConn the national champion for the second-consecutive year.



Jordan Hawkins shows off his jersey after their win in the Sweet Sixteen in 2023. UConn later went on to be the national champions for the 2022-23 year.

# OUTGOING ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR

# HE/HIM/HIS



# Artists

## Outgoing Artist Editor Van Nguyen



ILLUSTRATION BY VAN NGUYEN, OUTGOING ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS





**Thank you for all of the incredible memories. We can't wait to see all that you accomplish!**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACHARY WISNEFSKY

**With love,  
The Daily Campus**