

# The Daily Campus



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## Changes coming to Gampel Pavilion, and Hartford XL Center: How season ticket holders will be affected

by Gianni Salisbury  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
SHE/HER/HERS  
gianni.salisbury@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut Athletics Department announced on Oct. 10, that renovations to Gampel Pavilion's lower-level seating and changes to seating in the XL Center will require season ticket holders to participate in a seat selection process. The process will be based on donation amounts going into the 2025-2026 basketball season.

In an email sent to season ticket holders, the athletics department stated that for the 2025-2026 season, the entire lower-level seating structure and the lower bowl of the arena will be replaced, as it has not been updated since the building opened in 1990.

UConn Assistant Athletic Director of Communications William Peterson explained that some of these renovations will include updating the guard rails to provide a safety component, new seat backings and bigger seats in some areas.

"This is just bringing the arena up in line with what we would consider to be a championship facility. If you've noticed around campus, all of the other facilities have gone through major upgrades over the last five-ish years and we want to bring this facility kind of up to that standard," Peterson said.

For the 2025-2026 season, the XL Center will go through a change, with upgrades to selected seating areas and new premium seating options.

Due to these renovations, the physical structure of the seating will be altered. According to the athletics department it "will be necessary to do a seat selection process in the late spring and early summer of 2025, in advance of the 2025-26 season, for the entirety of the lower and upper levels in both Gampel Pavilion and XL Center."

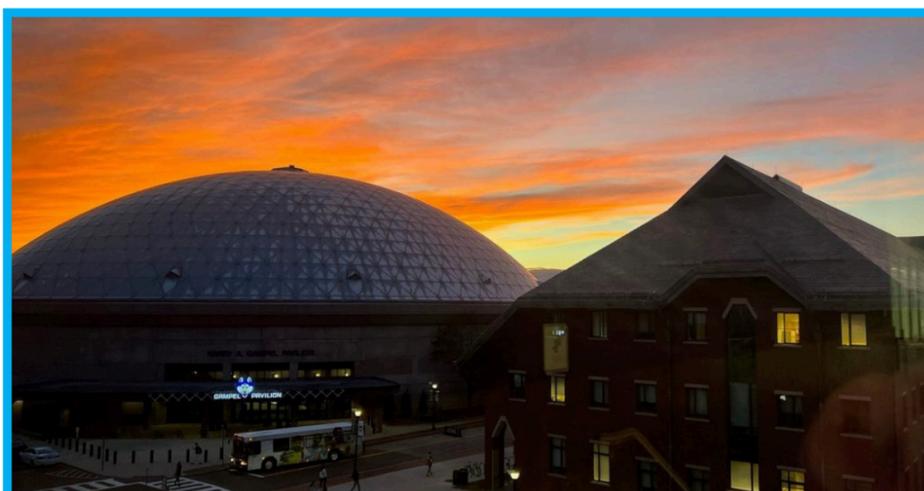
Peterson explained that the athletics department does not have information yet on how specifically the seating space will change or if this will affect the number of seats in the areas being renovated.

"I think obviously it's going to affect the spacing, and it's going to affect how many seats may be in a specific section. There'll be some of those changes, but in terms of specifics, I don't have those yet," Peterson said.

Season ticket holders were informed in the email from the athletics department that they "will be required to participate in the seat selection process to select their desired seats from the available inventory."

This seat selection process will occur before the 2025-2026 season. More information on the seating changes, pricing, priority points rankings and the selection process will be available before the end of the calendar year, according to the email from the athletics department.

According to the athletics department, seat selection time slots will first be given to season ticket holders who are Husky Athletic Fund donors, which are donors who have made lifetime



An aerial shot of Gampel Pavilion. Renovations will be done on the lower level of Gampel.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @UCONNBUSINESS ON INSTAGRAM

cash (not pledged) gifts of \$1 million or more to UConn Athletics. Then time slots will be given based on priority points.

The priority point system is used to "acknowledge both donor loyalty and generosity," according to the UConn Athletics page. Each donor's priority point total will determine their priority ranking and "play a determining factor in how various benefits are allocated," according to the website. Some of these benefits include season tickets, conference and NCAA tournament tickets, bowl game tickets, parking, special events, away game tickets and other benefits.

For those interested in checking their priority point balance, ticket holders can view their UConn Ticket Account.

UConn Athletics stated that cash gifts made prior to March 31, 2025, will be applied to priority points, the seat selection process, and philanthropic; not seat-related and cash gifts made prior to this date will earn double the points.

Peterson stated that once given a time slot, ticket holders will then be able to pick tickets through UConn's ticketing process.

Since this announcement, there has been discourse online over if this decision for the seat-selection process is a good one, especially for those who have "Forever Seats."

In 2019, UConn Athletics announced on their website a process called Forever Seats in

which season ticket holders could pick their seats and keep them "year after year when they renew." This meant that as long as the ticket holder renewed the 2019-2020 season seats every year, the seats could be theirs forever if they paid the associated costs each year.

Due to the renovations, those with "Forever Seats" are not guaranteed their specifically chosen seats anymore.

Andrew Taylor, a UConn alumnus who graduated in 2012, is a current season ticket holder and has been attending UConn basketball games his whole life, he said.

He expressed his frustration as he really likes his current seats and had never planned on changing them.

"My seats are actually in the upper level, in the corner, but I'm right next to the stairway so they're just like really good seats as far as the location and view. I want to take my dad, who is 60, to the games and he doesn't have to walk up a lot of stairs to the current seats we are at. So now I'm worried that I'm going to be put in less desirable seats," Taylor said.

Peterson stated that the Athletic Department understands fans' frustration, but the renovations are a necessity in order to give fans the best possible game experience.

"A person may have had x seat

for x number of years, and they don't want to change, or they're upset. We get it, but we want to work with those people as best we can. We want to work with all of our fans to make sure that they're getting where they want to be and that they're going to have the experience that they want to have. In order for us to keep this building going and keep everything kind of, you know, fresh and new, and keep up with the rest of the facilities on campus this kind of has to happen," Peterson added.

Some fans have expressed that they don't think this process is fair, wishing a different solution had been presented.

Taylor expressed that although he understands why UConn Athletics is enacting this process, he wishes that they had gone about it differently.

"I just don't think they're necessarily going about this the right way. I think it's fair in the sense that, the more money you donate, the better seats you get, but I don't think it should be at the expense of fans who are currently in their seats," Taylor said.

Peterson expressed that UConn Athletics is trying to help fans in any way possible and encourages fans to reach out with questions.

"They can reach out to our ticket staff or our development staff with their thoughts or their concerns, or if they have questions about anything," Peterson said.



Crowds gather to celebrate the fifth National Championship for UConn men's basketball in 2023. The XL Center will require season pass holders to participate in a seat selection process.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @XL\_CENTER ON INSTAGRAM

## USG proposes to rename Koons Hall

by Sara Bedigian  
EDITOR IN CHIEF  
SHE/HER/HERS  
sara.bedigian@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut's Undergraduate Student Government is striving to obtain student support to rename Koons Hall, named after Benjamin Franklin Koons, a professor and the first president of the Storrs Agricultural College.

In recent years, the president's name has become an offensive slur for minority communities, promoting USG to take action to change the name of the building home to the Department of Allied Health Sciences.

USG released a survey on Oct. 15 to gather student opinions on the name, with the hopes of gaining support.

Andy Zhang, the director of communications for USG, said it is important to balance

the changing landscape of words and create an inclusive and equitable college campus.

However, Zhang said the process has been challenging, because the name only affects a small part of the school's population.

"It is hard to really understand or emphasize why it may be a problem or how it feels to have a slur embedded in a building's name, if it doesn't apply to you," he said. It is hard to emphasize when demographically wise, black students make up a small proportion of campus than a lot of other demographics."

Zhang notes there has been some push back against USG's initiative, arguing that changing the name would no longer honor the first president of UConn, who authorized the admission of the first women into the college, among other achievements.

However, he said there can be other ways to honor the president besides a building

name, which a lot of students don't even think about when walking into them.

"But I think, in essence, when we think about building names as current students on campus, a lot of the students don't care, or even know, that a lot of these things are named after people in the first place," Zhang explained, adding that many students don't know who McMahan or McHugh Hall are named after.

66 percent of students believe the university should consider renaming Koons Hall, according to the USG survey totaling 39 responses.

"I would like the university to take into consideration the historical and systemic impact that names like 'Koons' have on marginalized communities," an anonymous survey respondent said.

The survey is still active and can be found on USG's Instagram @usguconn.

In addition to student feedback, Zhang said faculty support is also crucial. He has plans to speak with the Associate Dean of the College of Agricultural, Health and Natural Resources, because the college includes the Allied Health Science department in Koons Hall.

Once USG gathers enough student and faculty support, Zhang and USG plan to draft letters and bring the proposal to the Board of Trustees.

When asked about what the name should be changed to, Zhang said USG has been looking into who else they can honor at the university.

The process for changing a building name is a long process and requires different intermediaries before it is approved and implemented, according to previous reporting by the Daily Campus.

UConn has commonly renamed buildings to recognize important faculty and university leaders

throughout the years. Last year, UConn renamed Oak Hall to Susan V. Herbst Hall, recognizing the first woman to serve as president from 2011 to 2019. In 2017, UConn renamed Laurel Hall to Lawrence D. McHugh Hall to honor the former Board of Trustees chair.



The Department of Allied Health Sciences is found in Koons Hall. USG is proposing to rename the controversial hall.

IMAGE COURTESY OF @UCONNCAHNR ON INSTAGRAM

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THE DAILY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

8 AM BLAST

# News

## Quarter Pounders are off the menu at 20% of McDonald's in US as E. coli cases are investigated



McDonald's Quarter Pounder hamburger is shown in this photograph, purchased on Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024 (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

AP - McDonald's worked Wednesday to reassure customers that its U.S. restaurants are safe as federal investigators tried to pinpoint the cause of a deadly E. coli outbreak linked to the fast-food giant's Quarter Pounder hamburgers.

McDonald's pulled Quarter Pounders from one-fifth of its U.S. stores Tuesday as a result of the outbreak, which the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said had sickened at least 49 people in 10 states. One person died and 10 were hospitalized, according to the CDC.

A preliminary investigation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration suggested fresh sliced onions that are served raw on Quarter Pounder hamburgers were a likely source of the contamination. McDonald's also serves raw, sliced onions on one of its breakfast sandwiches, but that sandwich isn't available at the impacted stores. Other burgers, like the Big Mac, use diced, cooked onions.

McDonald's said it was searching for a new regional supplier for fresh onions. In the meantime, Quarter Pounders were removed from menus in Colorado, Kansas, Utah, Wyoming, and portions of Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

Adriean Madden pulled up outside a McDonald's outside Denver on Wednesday for his usual afternoon snack but then

decided against it. He said he was unsure how E. coli spreads or contaminates other foods, and he thinks McDonald's should be more forthcoming.

"This affects my decision with coming to McDonald's in the future," Madden said. "I feel like the information isn't as widely spread. I didn't see any notices on the door, and then I saw vehicles going through the drive through just as if nothing was going on."

Colorado has had the most reported cases of any state so far, and it's where the one death involving an older adult occurred.

McDonald's said it has worked closely with federal food safety regulators since late last week, when it was alerted to the potential outbreak. The company said the scope of the problem and the popularity of its products have complicated efforts to identify the contamination source.

McDonald's has more than 14,000 U.S. stores and serves 1 million Quarter Pounders every two weeks in the affected 12-state area.

McDonald's is known for its stringent food safety guidelines and protocols, said Chris Gaulke, a professor of food and beverage management at Cornell University's Nolan School of Hotel Administration. The company said Wednesday that the supplier regularly tested its onions for E. coli, for example.

"Given the volume of food that they go through, how infrequently this happens to McDonald's is a testament to the

effort that they take," Gaulke said.

But some experts questioned why McDonald's simply stopped selling one sandwich and didn't close restaurants for further investigation.

"Good practice would have been to close all the restaurants," said Bill Marler, a Seattle lawyer who has sued companies over food poisoning outbreaks. "Until we know definitively what the product was that made people sick, consumers should be aware."

Marler said cross-contamination remains a potential possibility at the affected restaurants until they are thoroughly cleaned.

Asked why it didn't close any restaurants, McDonald's said nothing in the government's investigation indicated there were issues with its food preparation practices. In an interview on the "Today" show Wednesday, McDonald's U.S. President Joe Erlinger also said it's likely that whatever product was contaminated has already passed through the company's supply chain.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported the outbreak late Tuesday. It said infections were reported between Sept. 27 and Oct. 11 in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

State and local public health officials were interviewing people about the foods they ate in the week before they got sick.

Of the 18 people interviewed as of Tuesday, all reported eating at McDonald's, and 16 people reported eating a beef hamburger. Twelve reported eating a Quarter Pounder.

McDonald's said it's unlikely the beef in the Quarter Pounder was the source, since it comes from multiple suppliers and is cooked at a high enough temperature to kill E. coli.

McDonald's said its initial findings suggest that some of the reported illnesses were linked to onions from a single supplier, which the company didn't name. McDonald's said the onions are cleaned and sliced by the supplier and then packaged for use on individual Quarter Pounders.

The incubation period for E. coli is only a couple of days, so illness would be quickly apparent to anyone affected, said Donald Schaffner, a food safety expert at Rutgers University. "If you ate these burgers in September and now it's the middle of October and you didn't get sick, you're probably OK," he said.

E. coli bacteria are harbored in the guts of animals and found in the environment. Infections can cause severe illness, including fever, stomach cramps and bloody diarrhea. People who develop symptoms of E. coli poisoning should seek health care immediately and tell the provider what they ate.

The type of bacteria implicated in the McDonald's case causes about 74,000 infections in the U.S. annually, leading to more

than 2,000 hospitalizations and 61 deaths each year, according to the CDC. In general, E. coli infections were lower in 2023 than in recent years and cases of severe kidney injury caused by the bacteria remained stable, according to latest federal data.

Outbreaks at restaurant chains are rare, but they do happen.

In 2020, Chipotle agreed to pay a record \$25 million fine to resolve criminal charges that it served tainted food that sickened more than 1,100 people with E. coli between 2015 and 2018. In that case, poor safety practices, such as not keeping food at proper temperatures to prevent pathogen growth, were to blame.

In 2006, Taco Bell ordered the removal of green onions from its restaurants nationwide after samples taken by investigators appeared to contain a harsh strain of E. coli. The outbreak sickened at least 71 people.

"The worst thing you can have at a restaurant is a food safety problem. It's the equivalent of an airline losing the plane," said Aaron Allen, a restaurant consultant and founder of Aaron Allen and Associates.

But Allen said McDonald's has enough experience and safety protocols in place that it won't suffer long-term damage from the outbreak.

"No one would be better equipped to mitigate and respond to this than McDonald's," he said.

McDonald's shares fell 5% Wednesday.

# The Daily Campus

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# THE DAILY CAMPUS CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

- 1 Chunk of fairway
- 6 All-\_\_ pots and pans
- 10 Exactly suitable
- 13 "Parting is such sweet sorrow, mon ami"
- 14 Classroom helper
- 15 Qatari ruler
- 16 \*Smack-dab in the middle
- 18 Tree with needles and cones
- 19 Continuing ed course
- 20 Mixology verb
- 21 Dukes
- 22 \*Appetizer with lots of toppings
- 25 Birds with blue eggs
- 28 "I'm all \_\_!"
- 29 Casserole appliance
- 30 Off
- 32 The "Gras" of "Mardi Gras"
- 35 \*Solving the Sunday crossword, for one
- 39 Soon-to-be alumni: Abbr.
- 40 Window part
- 41 Sound imitated by hitting coconut halves together
- 42 Cor anglais kin
- 43 Abrasion
- 45 \*Some design transfers
- 50 Update, as a library card
- 51 Tomato paste tomato
- 52 Bird that can weigh more than a baby hippo
- 55 Rae of "Insecure"
- 56 Moonwalk, running man, floss, et al., and what can be found in the answers to the starred clues?
- 59 Mushroom part
- 60 As well
- 61 Amazon option
- 62 FDR successor
- 63 Prerelease software version
- 64 Tennis star Monica

**DOWN**

- 1 Miami-\_\_ County
- 2 Midmonth day

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By Renee Thomason

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- 6 Cat : felid :: dog : \_\_
- 7 Bath water volume
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- 24 Political cartoonist Thomas
- 25 Takes the oars
- 26 No longer hung up on
- 27 Crucial pollinators
- 30 Included more
- 31 Short periodical?
- 32 Hoka rival

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

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10/24/24

- 33 Sitting upon
- 34 Blood category
- 36 Pasta salad pasta shape
- 37 Colorless gas that makes colorful signs
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- 43 Equal
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- 52 Really rotten
- 53 Social media share
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- 58 Mine find

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## Life

## Lewberger: Not your typical comedy troupe

by Nicholas Sorokobi

HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
nicholas.sorokobi@uconn.edu

On Oct. 22, at the University of Connecticut's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, a crowd of students filled the 2,600-seat auditorium to watch Lewberger — a musical comedy group consisting of entertainers Keith Habersberger, Alex Lewis and Hughie Stone Fish — take the stage. The event was a roaring success, with the group receiving rapturous cheers from the audience from start to finish.

The event was organized by the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) Comedy Committee, which is headed by seventh semester digital media and design major Sarah Kavarnos. "I had been trying to get Lewberger since Weekend of Welcome, but we ran into a few scheduling conflicts along the way. So, when we finally found a date that worked for them to come I was ecstatic," Kavarnos said. "I've been watching Keith on YouTube since middle school, and I saw Lewberger audition for 'America's Got Talent,' so it was a dream come true to bring them to UConn."

You might know Keith Habersberger as one of The Try Guys, another wacky group of middle-aged, 30-something guys whose videos have also received considerable attention online. Alex Lewis is an actor and comedian whose roles include appearances on TV shows like "Dexter," "This is Us" and "The Lincoln Lawyer." Hughie Stone Fish is an Emmy-award-winning songwriter and music producer who also volunteers with The Arts Project, a nonprofit based in his hometown of Syracuse, New York.

Based in Los Angeles, the



Lewberger performing at the University of Wyoming. Lewberger performed at the University of Connecticut as part of SUBOG's Homecoming events. PHOTO COURTESY OF @LEWBERGER ON INSTAGRAM

comedy trio has performed at numerous clubs and colleges throughout the country, and many of their songs (most of which can be found on YouTube) have gone viral, receiving millions of views from people around the world. In 2019, they appeared on the NBC competition series "Bring the Funny," where they competed in the open mic, comedy clash and finale rounds. They also secured a standing ovation on "America's Got Talent" in 2021 with their song parodying host Terry Crews. They have been described in the media as "the illegitimate love child of Lonely Island and Flight of

the Conchords."

The show's musical set-up consisted of all three men on vocals, with Stone Fish playing the piano. Lewis also played the guitar during a few of the songs, and Habersberger demonstrated his trumpet skills to the crowd in the songs "Depression" and "When a Man Takes a Bath."

The show began with the opening act featuring a set by stand-up comedian Brian Wohl, also from Los Angeles. Wohl, who has been friends with Habersberger since college, expressed his awe and admiration at the fall scenery here in Connecticut, some-

thing he's relatively foreign to as a West Coast native. "It's like Pleasantville over there," Wohl joked. "Everywhere you go, it's always the same."

Lewberger then proceeded to dance their way onto the stage to perform their opening number, which was a song detailing their long journey to UConn that included a three-hour car ride, which featured a pit stop in New Haven, where they indulged in the city's iconic pizza. This was followed by the hit song "Disney Princess," in which they sang humorously about wanting to be Cinderella, Jasmine and Ariel, just to name a few.

The group also performed

another one of their most popular songs, "White People Taco Night," which pokes fun at an American take on a Mexican cuisine staple. "White People Taco Night" also served as the basis for a social media trend on TikTok back in 2020, with users posting their own versions on the dish with the song playing in the background. During the performance, Wohl came back on stage and threw dozens of soft taco shells into the audience. After the song, Habersberger told the audience that this was the first time this was ever done whilst performing the number.

Other songs performed included "Wicked Waltz", a satirical take on spooky Halloween-themed songs like "The Monster Mash," and "Four Sexy Boys", which featured an impromptu choreographed dance led by a student selected from the audience.

The show concluded with "The Vagina Song," which, as it sounds, is a comical ditty on the female reproductive organ. Students were clapping and singing along throughout the duration of the number, especially during the final verses, which were sung to the tune of "Hey Jude" by The Beatles. After the show, audience members were invited to line up at the front of the auditorium to purchase signed posters, as well as Lewberger-themed t-shirts, hoodies and stickers. They were even given the opportunity of getting to know Habersberger, Lewis and Stone Fish personally.

Overall, the event was a smashing success, reflecting a fun and memorable night of lots of fun, laughs and most of all, musical comedy.

## Masterpieces, memorials and memory at the Benton Museum

by Samantha Brody

SHE/HER/HERS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
samantha.brody@uconn.edu

Attendants of the "Art Encounters: The Residue of Memory" event create cyanotypes out of fallen leaves at the William Benton Museum of Art in Storrs, Connecticut. PHOTO BY SAMANTHA BRODY, CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT/THE DAILY CAMPUS

**Content Warning:** This article contains discussions of the Holocaust and the Cambodian Genocide.

The William Benton Museum of Art at the University of Connecticut hosted an "Art Encounters" workshop on Oct. 18 titled "The Residue of Memory." This two-part workshop was focused on art that has a connection to the past, and specifically involved the work of prominent artists Yishai Jusidman and Binh Danh. After the attendants learned about the work of these two artists, they had the opportunity to create a specialized print known as a cyanotype.

The workshop was led by museum curator Amanda

Douberley and UConn student Remi Benton, an art history major and museum gallery guard. Benton also interned at the museum this past summer.

Douberley opened the workshop by discussing the relationship between memorials and art before leading the group into the "Prussian Blue" exhibit in the museum, with works by Yishai Jusidman. "Prussian Blue" is a series of paintings by Jusidman that depict various scenes of concentration camps from the Holocaust.

The primary painting by Jusidman that Douberley focused on was his 2011 painting "Auschwitz," a work of art that depicts the open door

to a gas chamber in the titular concentration camp. This painting is done entirely in Prussian blue — including the crushing darkness inside the chamber itself.

Remi Benton touched upon the meaning of the color itself, which Jusidman used in every painting in the exhibit. The Nazis of World War II had "used a cyanide-based pesticide," Benton explained, which would "release Prussian blue on the walls." The inner walls of gas chambers would thus be coated in the same color, which Jusidman had captured in his work.

"There would be trails of Prussian blue going down the walls," Benton said. "It was the last thing people would

see inside the chambers."

Yishai Jusidman is "a Mexican artist of Jewish heritage currently based in Los Angeles," according to a press release from the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education. "While the challenges of dealing with the Holocaust's legacy were mostly eschewed by post-war painters, Jusidman proposes that painting might in fact reflect, and not only reflect on the Holocaust," the press release explains. "The imagery submitted by his brush captures—or rather recaptures—both excruciating presences and overwhelming desolation, plunging us into the labyrinths of historical and common memory."

Douberley and Benton then took the group to the work of a different artist, an American of Vietnamese descent known as Binh Danh. Danh invented the artistic process of chlorophyll printing, according to the New York Times, which he achieved by "baking his images onto natural canvases with wild grasses and leaves."

The two pieces of Danh's located at the Benton Museum are "Found Portrait #195 from the Human/Nature Series" and "Ancestral Altar #9," both of which were created in 2005. These two works of art are separate portraits that have been printed onto large Nasturtium leaves through Danh's chlorophyll printing technique.

"Ancestral Altar #9" is a piece of one of Danh's larger projects known as the "Ancestral Altars" — each piece of work in this series is a chlorophyll print of someone who had died in a security prison during the Cambodian genocide, according to Danh's website.

This schoolhouse-turned-prison, known by the names S-21 and Tuol Sleng, had confined the Khmer Rouge's prisoners according to the

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The museum estimates between 14,000 and 17,000 prisoners had been kept inside, but only 12 are believed to have survived. The jailers at the prison had kept records while it was operating, including mugshots of each individual prisoner.

As these photographs are still available, Danh turned a select few into prints. "To honor these lives, I made altars of the dead—a place where we can meditate on history, the present moment, and our own mortality," Danh's website reads. "I believe that even when faced with the truth that we will die someday, we can live a good life and do good for others."

After the attendants of the event had had the chance to learn about the work of Danh and Jusidman, Douberley and Benton led the group in the creation of their own works of art in the form of cyanotypes. These specialized prints involve using the sun to print a white image onto a Prussian blue background — a perfect mix between the work of Danh and Jusidman. The event's attendants printed images of leaves and sticks onto paper, which they could then take home and rinse to get the full piece.

Yishai Jusidman's "Prussian Blue" exhibit will be available for viewing at the Benton until Dec. 15, 2024. The gallery that includes Danh's work, known as "Encounters with the Collection: Art and Human Rights," will be available at the Benton until July 28, 2025.

The next event at the Benton is their upcoming open house on Nov. 7. The next "Art Encounters" event, titled "Art Encounters: The Culture of Collage" will focus on the work of Melvin Edwards, Paul Scott and Sukanya Rahman, and will take place on Nov. 15.

# Daily Campus Life section: “What we do in the Shadows” roundtable review



ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF CREAZILLA

In only a week the eeriness of Halloween will be upon us. For the Life section, that means that media releases take a darker twist to fit the season, and this week several writers review the first episode of “What We Do in the Shadows,” returning for a highly anticipated Season 6. Does the show match the vibe? Does it hold up to previous standards? Let’s hear what the Life section has to say!

**Noa Climor, Campus Correspondent (she/her/hers)**

As an avid fan of “What We Do in the Shadows,” I was excited to see what they’d do to make this season memorable. Nowadays, it’s tough for a show to make it past its first season, so a sixth is practically unheard of. But “What We Do in the Shadows” proved that with

a dazzling cast and hilarious dialogue, anything is possible.

In the first episode, “The Return of Jerry,” we get to meet, well, Jerry (played by Mike O’Brien)! He’s a “vampire with a plan-pire,” as Nadja, one of the vampires, describes. Whatever happened to Jerry, you might ask? Well ... he went into a so-called “super slumber” (as described in the show: when a vampire goes to sleep for a very long time and can only be woken up by their fellow vampires), and they forgot to wake him up. Asleep since 1976, Jerry’s return reminded the vampires of their original plan to “conquer the new world.”

The first three episodes are charming, and I’m excited to see where this final season takes us. So far, there are many crazy moments, including a new plan to conquer the world featuring the vampires you likely know

and love (and, well ... Jerry).  
**Rating: 4.5 / 5**

**Jenna Outcalt, Associate News Editor (she/her/hers)**

When it comes to the vampire mockumentary “What We Do in the Shadows,” I don’t always agree with every choice the writers make, but I do always have faith that I’ll be able to relax and enjoy some light-hearted laughs. In that regard, the first three episodes of Season 6 did not disappoint.

This final season introduces the vampires’ forgotten roommate Jerry, who reminds them of their long-abandoned plan to conquer America. Although the new addition disrupted the group dynamic for me at first, the characters themselves were quick to realize this and found Jerry his own place to stay where he could plot his overthrow of America. This creates potential for an interesting antagonist later this season, especially for a show that does so well utilizing repeating characters outside of the main cast.

I’ll admit that these first three episodes were a little short on the laugh-out-loud moments I’ve come to expect from this show, but I had plenty of smaller laughs throughout. I’m happy to see they haven’t abandoned their classic gimmicks: The first over-the-top pronunciation from Laszlo (Matt Berry) came less than two minutes into the first episode. Despite a few jokes falling flat for me, the characters were endlessly enjoyable and the supernatural twists on classic sitcom situations kept me engaged and enjoying the watch. The show kept the campy and irreverent energy that made me love it in the first place, so I’m excited to

see where the rest of this season goes.

**Rating: 4/5**

**Michelle Pawlos, Campus Correspondent (she/her/hers)**

“What We Do in the Shadows”: it’s witty, quirky, unique and everything you could need in a show. The first three episodes of Season 6 were released on Monday, Oct. 21, and before that, I had never watched the show before, so I was very excited to see what it would bring.

The first episode focuses on the return of Jerry, one of the vampires who had been asleep for five decades rather than the two decades he had requested his friends to wake him up after. The first thing I noticed was how similar its filming style looked to “Modern Family.” It includes “interview” sections with the characters and breaks the fourth wall, which I appreciate in a show as it often creates a deeper connection to the characters.

The characters were diverse, and my particular favorite was Nadja’s ghost doll (she was a pleasant surprise and — having never watched the show — an unexpected addition). It was effortlessly humorous, which I appreciate. Shows can make unnecessary jokes that either don’t fit or make you cringe, but from what I watched, there weren’t any problems with that.

My one issue is that I am a long-episode kind of girl; I like details and longer storylines, so I believe that was missing from the show. I can’t fully get attached to the show without that. I am, however, tempted to go back to the beginning and watch more. Overall, Season 6

looks like a success so far!  
**Rating: 4/5**

**Maleena Muzio, Campus Correspondent (she/her/hers)**

A fan of classic comedy shows, I was ecstatic to watch “What We Do in the Shadows.” I had never seen the show before, so jumping into Season 6 was definitely interesting. Despite not having any context for the show, it was not extremely difficult to catch on. Based on what I have seen so far, I can confidently say that the show won me over, and I will be going back to Season 1 to watch the series from the start.

Episode 1, “The Return of Jerry” is probably my favorite of the three new episodes released this week. “The Return of Jerry” is ridiculously funny and is enough to make you feel like you have personal connections to the characters, almost becoming a part of their story arc. The latter two episodes, “Headhunting,” which is a play on a traditional Frankenstein tale, and “Sleep Hypnosis,” delving more into the household dynamic again — with a clever allusion to “Scary Movie” (which I really appreciated) — unfortunately fell short of the season’s premiere. However, they were still quite enjoyable and brought me more than a few laughs.

“What We Do in the Shadows” is “The Office” meets “Modern Family,” which meets “Dracula.” As odd as that pairing may seem, it is incredibly well done. I highly recommend watching this show if you are a fan of over-the-top comedy, especially in time for spooky season!

**Rating: 4/5**

# How to excel your pasta night with classic Bolognese

by **Oliver Power**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
oliver.power@uconn.edu

With temperatures starting to dip onto the lower side and fall hitting its arc, nothing else tastes better than a carb-filled, hearty plate of pasta. For this week of “I Made It So You Don’t Have To,” we are going to win over every guest at your pasta night with this simple but absolutely delicious Bolognese recipe.

As per usual, we consult TikTok for this. I have seen a fair share of impressive Bolognese recipes and I’m sure they have crossed your “For You” pages as well. But I think simplicity is a virtue, especially for us college students. I am going to give a shoutout to one of my absolute favorite food TikTokers, @Sad\_papi who showcases some of the most creative cooking techniques and flavor combinations I have seen.

As with most recipe finds, it is better to stop admiring; just dive right in!

In making this, I will reveal that I messed up the order of steps that was suggested in the walk-through, but in cooking, it is essential that you are able to withstand making mistakes. Although the recipe suggests cooking the meat first, I cut up the vegetables and added them to the pan, but quickly realized my error and took them out and added in the meat instead.

First, add in the meat to a boiling pot; I used one pound of ground pork and one pound of ground beef (85/15 — which refers to the leanness and fat content of the meat). I typically like a touch more fat to it because it renders off and creates an oil base to cook the meat without using too much olive oil. Cook at medium high

temperature until the meat turns slightly brown. If the meat sticks to the bottom do not freak out!

This recipe gives you the chance to practice your knife skills and perfect the “big three” of vegetables in red sauce (celery, carrots and onion). But, if you want to save time and avoid chopping for 15 minutes, then you can add them to a blender. Blend them until the chopped vegetables are about the size of a pea. Once the meat is finished remove it from the pan, but keep the burnt bits in there. Add the chopped vegetables and tomato paste and stir it all together. Let them sit for about four to five minutes at medium heat. Now here’s where the fun comes in. Add about half a cup of red wine, and let it boil and pick up all of those burnt bits at the bottom of the pan. Also, add in your thyme.

Now it is time to add in the bulk elements of the sauce: crushed tomatoes and milk. First, add in your 28-ounce can of crushed tomatoes. Then, as demonstrated in the video, you can pour one cup of milk into the can to get the remaining tomatoes out before pouring that into your pot. Throw in your meat, then add three bay leaves and a slice of parmesan (or if using grated, you can add about three tablespoons). Add about one-third cup of water, cover with the lid and lower the heat to let it simmer for about 35-40 minutes.

I find that this is a perfect time to wash used dishes, boil the pasta or even enjoy a glass of wine if you are of age. When you have about 15 minutes remaining, get your pasta ready. You can get creative with what kind of pasta you use but I thought that orecchiette was great since it cups and holds some of the sauce more when you pick it up.



ILLUSTRATION BY AH REUM KINDNESS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Add about a tablespoon of salt and a teaspoon of pepper. If you want the sauce to be dense, add a splash of heavy cream. Although this is not required, I like a thicker sauce. If you overdo it, you can always add pasta water. Taste and adjust seasoning to your preferences. My general rule of thumb: If you want it sharper, add red pepper flakes and salt; if you want it denser, add heavy cream or milk and parmesan cheese. Regardless, add in about an eighth cup of pasta water, drain out the pasta and mix everything in.

If you are hosting a pasta

night this is certainly the showstopper, and if you are attending one, bringing this will make everyone else wish they stepped up their game. This comfortably makes food for four people, so it is perfect for meal prepping for the week.

This is one of those dishes that once you master the basics of it you can get very creative with some of the ingredients and make it your own. Once you find this dish on TikTok, before chopping the vegetables, make sure you have watched it several times before proceeding any steps.



**Ingredients:**

- One Large yellow onion (diced)
- Two Celery sprigs (diced)
- Two-to-Three Carrots (diced)
- One 28oz can of crushed tomatoes
- One bay leaf
- One lb of 85/15 ground pork
- One lb of 85/15 ground beef
- One-half cup red wine (I used Malbec) \*\* Not required
- One cup whole milk
- One Tsp Thyme
- Salt
- Pepper
- Three Tbsp tomato paste
- One lb Orecchiette Pasta

Ingredient Price (not including salt/pepper): ~ \$39.50

Recipe Rank: 4.75/5





# Life

@dailycampuslife

## JOY: Julia Kaliszewski and what it means to love music

by Samantha Brody

SHE/HER/HERS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
samantha.brody@uconn.edu

University of Connecticut student Julia Kaliszewski put on a show-stopping performance in a solo saxophone recital (titled “JOY”) at von der Mehden Recital Hall this week. Starting at 8 p.m. on Oct. 22 and lasting for about an hour and a half, Kaliszewski soloed her way through four different pieces, each more spellbinding than the last.

Kaliszewski kicked off the recital with a performance of “Solace: A Lyric Concerto” by Joel Love. “Solace” consists of five separate movements, titled “Joy,” “Besieged,” “Gratitude,” “Hiding” and “Work.” Accompanied by pianist Elisabeth Tomczyk — who is described as a “sought-after collaborator and chamber musician” by the event’s program, having learned the piano at just three years old — Kaliszewski took the audience through a journey of mood and moment, each individual movement having its own characteristic sound.

It’s clear to anyone watching that Kaliszewski is easily having the best time out of anyone in the room. In her deep blue suit, alto saxophone in hand, Kaliszewski moves and sways to the music, each note punching exactly as it should. She uses a foot pedal to flip through pages of sheet music on an iPad, yet her music remains fluid and emotional.

“That’s probably one of, if not the hardest piece that I’ve ever played,” Kaliszewski said when discussing “Solace,” which she had named her favorite out of the four pieces she performed. “Just each movement had a different challenge to it, that was really hard. And it was so fun.”

“Solace” was followed by the unique and striking “Grab It!” by Jacob Ter Veldhuis, also known as JacobTV. Performing with the lower-voiced tenor saxophone, Kaliszewski was accompanied not by Tomczyk’s piano, but instead by JacobTV’s arrangement of audio clips from the voices of life-sentenced prisoners. It’s ultimately a battle between the tenor and the human voice, which complement one another perfectly.

After a brief intermission, Kaliszewski returned to the alto saxo-

phone to play “Lou Cabridan,” the fifth movement of Paule Maurice’s “Tableaux de Provence.” Originating from France, it’s meant to musically depict the great Cabridan bumblebee creature as he shuffles through Provence before fleeing.

Notably, “Lou Cabridan” was a part of Kaliszewski’s very first jury in her freshman year — a jury being a performance for faculty that essentially functions as an exam or an evaluation of skill. “I like to think I have completely transformed as a player in these last five years,” Kaliszewski had written in the program, “and I hope now I can do the piece justice.”

Finally, Kaliszewski landed on “Concerto for the Alto Saxophone” by Paul Creston, with movements “Energetic,” “Meditative” and “Rhythmic.” Each movement sounded exactly as Creston had described when naming them. Upon finishing the piece, Kaliszewski bowed, and the night ended.

Kaliszewski is in her ninth semester at UConn, having added the extra year to finally fulfill the long list of requirements that come with being a communication and music performance double major. She specializes in saxophone, performing as a soprano saxophone for UConn’s saxophone quartet. She also is the saxophone section leader for the UConn Wind Ensemble, student manager for the UConn Pep Band and coach for UConn’s Rhombus Saxophone Quartet.

Kaliszewski began playing the saxophone in the fourth grade. “I actually didn’t love it until high school,” she said in an interview with The Daily Campus. “I wanted to quit band before I got to high school, but I stuck with it, thank God. Now it’s my favorite thing that I do. I’m probably going to go get my master’s in music performance when I graduate.”

However, a master’s in music performance originally wasn’t in Kaliszewski’s plans. Even when she wrote the program for the event, she noted that she anticipated getting a job in the communications field. “This is the last year I really get to focus on music,” she had written. However, her attitude would soon change.

“I still might do that,” Kaliszewski said. “But right now, my plan is to get a master’s in music before I do that because I’ve realized —

because of doing this recital and preparing this, and knowing this is my last year here, that, like ... I love it too much to stop it now.”

Although this wasn’t her first solo performance, Kaliszewski felt a special connection to “JOY” in particular. “One of my biggest struggles with music, since I’ve been a freshman — it’s something I’ve worked on a lot — is nerves, and the mental side of it,” she admitted. “Because I could be so prepared, but a couple of years ago, my nerves totally got to me. And I wouldn’t be able to perform at my best, and I couldn’t enjoy performances because I was just terrified of messing up the entire time.”

“But last night ... I wasn’t nervous. I was having the time of my life. I was very, very proud of myself for being able to do that.”

Kaliszewski also took note of the incredible work of her saxophone instructor, Greg Case. According to his page on the UConn website, he teaches applied study in both classical and jazz saxophone, as well as teaching UConn’s saxophone quartet. He recently retired as co-principal saxophonist of the United States Coast Guard Band, after about 20 years of membership.

“Greg, he’s ... it’s hard to even describe how good of a teacher he is,” Kaliszewski said. She took note of Case’s positivity and support as her teacher, as well as ability to adapt to the way students learn. “He is so positive; he never makes me feel bad for making a mistake or anything. It’s the most uplifting teaching style without being too unrealistic. And he has very high expectations, but in the best way.”

Kaliszewski has an hour-long lesson with Case every week, but her studies are far from over. Kaliszewski estimated she practices around five hours per day, between preparing for her recital, practicing fundamentals and working with UConn’s saxophone quartet.

“It’s a way of releasing my emotions that I don’t get from anything else,” Kaliszewski said when discussing her relationship with the saxophone. “I mean, only so many things can be put into words. And so, playing music, and being really emotive with it, is a release that personally, I don’t feel from anything else besides playing saxophone. And it’s — it’s the best feeling.”

During the recital itself, between

pieces, Kaliszewski had taken the time to talk about how “music is meant to be shared with other people.” When asked to elaborate, she noted how a lot of her practice time is spent by herself. “But it’s so much more meaningful to be able to share that with other people,” she said. “I knew a lot of people there — a lot of my family, friends from home, friends from here. There’s literally nothing like being able to share all that hard work, and all the energy and time and emotions that went into preparing all that music.”

Although “JOY” is Kaliszewski’s only planned recital for the year, she will be returning to von der Mehden Recital Hall very soon as the soprano saxophone player for the UConn Saxophone Quartet. Their performance begins at 8 p.m. on Nov. 7. Tickets are free for seniors, military, UConn students, faculty and staff and \$10 for all other attendants.



ILLUSTRATION BY AH REUM KINDESS, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



LOGO BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Dinner in America



by Isaac Grad

HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
email@uconn.edu

Welcome back to another issue of Your Movie Mage, where I discuss underrated films across genres. Last week we talked about the rom-com, “Silver Linings Playbook” and this week we’ll be discussing another romance, but the much more unorthodox, “Dinner in America.”

“Dinner in America” follows Patty (Emily Skeggs), a 20-year-old woman living in her parents’ midwestern home and working minimum-wage jobs that treat her poorly. She’s obsessed with a band called Psypops, which is seemingly the only way she’s able to express herself. Everybody around her treats her as though she’s incapable and unable to think for herself. After being let go from her job at a pet shop, she encounters an old classmate-turned-arsonist running from the cops. This is Simon (Kyle Gallner), a rude, judgmental and cynical musician who decides to use Patty for

a place to stay.

This romance is very atypical, as you may be able to tell from the short synopsis above. Simon is not a normal fellow, as his main hobbies are arson and music, though we don’t know he’s a musician until later in the movie. Patty isn’t a dream girl version of a love interest or main character. Rather, she is a realistic depiction of someone who’s an outcast and treated differently from everyone else. She isn’t perfect or made up of quirky interests; instead, she likes music and basketball. She’s awkward and doesn’t stand out.

Regardless, Patty is still a very interesting main character, and as she and Simon spend more time together it becomes clear how great they complement each other. Simon sees something in her that nobody else does, even though Patty struggles with this affection as she is used to being treated like she’s uninteresting and useless. She’s used to being treated like a child, but Simon treats her like an adult.

Patty accepts Simon as he is too. She doesn’t judge him for his goals and interests. She isn’t scared of him, and she truly appreciates, loves and understands his music, something he is clearly very passionate about. We learn that Patty had been sending John Q. — Simon’s musical alter ego — love letters. Simon saved them all, amazed by the poems and lyrics.

Up until that point, there was no indication that Patty had any interest or ability in music, but we find out that she’s incredibly talented at writing and singing when given the chance to show it. This is crucial because when treated like a human being, as opposed to somebody who’s incapable of doing anything of value, Patty was able to communicate things she wasn’t able to any other way.

Along with the original story and positive outlook on love — being able to find it no matter who you are — there is a great soundtrack, as well. Considering that music is a focus of the film, one would have relative-

ly high expectations that the soundtrack would be good. My only complaint is that I wish there were more original songs, as the three that were showcased were great.

“Watermelon” is my personal favorite, and I’d recommend it to those that haven’t watched the movie as well. The scene where they write this song together is one of my favorite scenes in the movie. We’re able to see the love and connection they have as well as their ability to truly communicate and understand one another in ways that nobody else can.

I also greatly appreciated the ending as it wasn’t unrealistically positive or happy. It’s realistic in that the two characters who are great for each other stay together, but Simon, who committed a crime, does have to go to jail for a period of time. This makes sense and is realistic in the story, but it isn’t negative or treated as such.

We finally see Patty stand up for herself as Simon helps to show her that she is valuable

and she deserves to be treated like a human. We also see that she will pursue music further, something she clearly shows interest in, but never seemed to think was a viable option for her since everyone treated her as though she was only capable of holding crappy minimum-wage jobs.

I give this movie an underratedness score of 4/5 as I haven’t heard anything about this movie and the only reason I watched it was because my sister watched it. I’ve found it to be a really fun watch that gives viewers a sense of hope and realism that romance movies often don’t portray.

4/5



# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

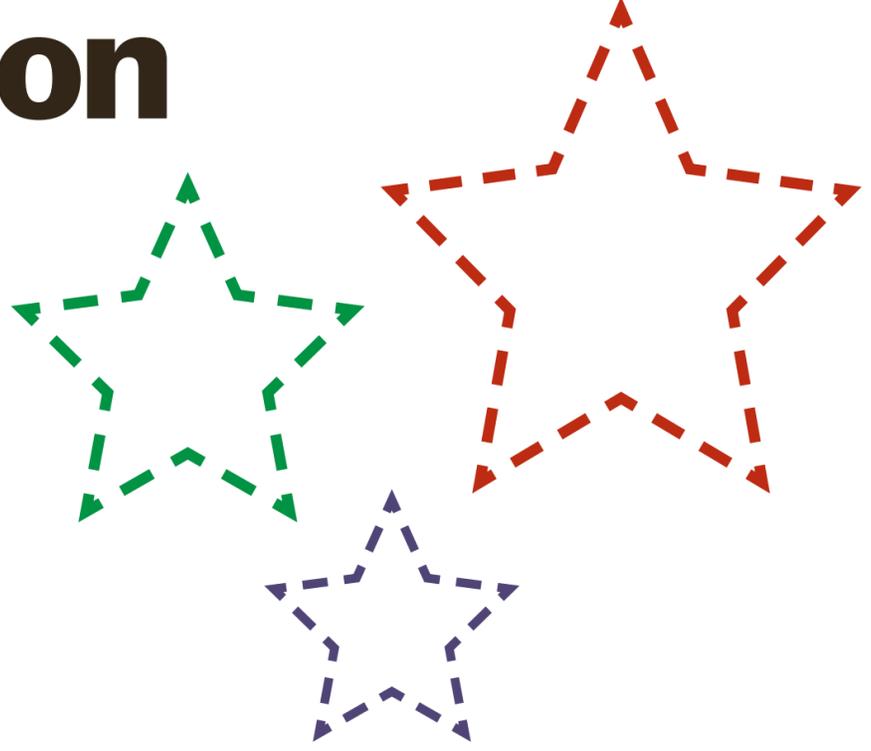
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UConn recently announced that they are reviewing 70 majors reaching the evaluation threshold of low enrollment or graduation rates. Out of these, 15 majors were part of UConn's Neag School of Education, including English, History, Biology and Music Education. If UConn were to cut some or all of these education programs, a vital pipeline for aspiring teachers to earn a degree in their field would be severely diminished or severed entirely, exacerbating Connecticut's current teacher shortage.

It is first worth mentioning what exactly the education program and others at UConn face with this new evaluation. The review does not necessarily mean that these programs will be cut or closed, although a May 14 memo to deans noted "It is anticipated that the end result for the review of low-completion programs will result in the closure [of some of them]." In addition to potential closures, programs could also combine with other initiatives, update their curriculum, or make efforts to increase enrollment. But the threat of programs being shut down still hangs over the majors now subject to review, and the field of education is one of the most important to UConn and Connecticut as a whole.

The Neag School of Education is currently ranked in the top 25 of public graduate schools in America by U.S. News and World Report for the ninth consecutive year,

representing its important standing as an example for other colleges and universities. In the school year of 2022-23, it had 348 undergraduate students and 757 graduate students. Out of this population, 158 bachelor's degrees were awarded and 401 graduate degrees and certificates were given. Important

necticut's state schools, such as that of CCSU, it provides school districts with teachers they desperately need.

The elimination of education programs at colleges and universities is far from unprecedented. In 2020, the University of South Florida, a public state school like UConn, closed its entire College of Educa-

cuts" for colleges' education programs. UConn's review might very well spell yet another cut that causes the field of education to bleed further.

Connecticut has long been dealing with a scarcity of available teachers. According to CT Insider, "for several years, numerous Connecticut school districts have struggled to fill

Districts," according to a 2022 report from the Office of Legislative Research. The term refers to districts that have the lowest-performing school systems in the state, comprising about 44 percent of all Connecticut students. As of 2024, the school district of New Haven has 77 position openings, while Waterbury has 63 and Hartford

has 58. Connecticut also released subject areas of particular concern when it comes to teacher shortages, including the categories of History and Social Studies, Science and World Languages. Many of these subjects' majors at the Neag School of Education are up for review, presenting a serious issue of how districts would try to fill positions if the majors were cut or removed, bringing up the potential for a slowed hiring environment in a sector where hiring is already drastically low for several school systems.

Therefore, for UConn to remove some or all of these education majors would be unwise. Instead, they should work to increase enrollment - something the Neag School is already committed to. According to Neag's 2023-24 annual report, the "Advising and Certification Office continued to engage in targeted recruitment efforts to increase student enrollment in low-enrollment teacher

education disciplinary areas and critical teacher shortage areas." Through this shortage, Neag needs support to maintain its work in getting more teachers to school districts, not the chilling effect of program closures.

With Education majors potentially on the chopping block, UConn risks worsening the teacher shortage

by Patrick Minnerly | HE/HIM/HIS | CONTRIBUTOR | patrick.minnerly@uconn.edu

GRAPHIC BY COLBI LORANGER, ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

alumni include Connecticut's 2024 Teacher and Superintendent of the Year, showing that the Neag School holds considerable weight in the state. Along with other education programs at the rest of Con-

tion, leaving only an unmoored graduate program intact. Francyne Huckaby, professor of Curriculum Studies at Texas Christian University, called that closure at the time "another" in a "death of a thousand

vacancies." This problem, since wealthier districts are still able to attract hires, has disproportionately affected poorer areas with less access to resources; 71 percent of teaching vacancies in Connecticut are in "Alliance

## Op-ed: Sukkot shenanigans and celebrating in the hut

by Jessica Nirschel | SHE/HER/HERS | CONTRIBUTOR | jessica.nirschel@uconn.edu

Sukkot is a weeklong Jewish holiday celebrated just five days after the end of Yom Kippur. This joyous holiday acts as a turning point from reflection to celebration. It marks the start of the harvest season and is a way to express gratitude. It is also one of the three major Jewish festivals each year.

This holiday is observed by building a hut called a sukkah, a temporary dwelling with branches for a roof, leaving spaces to see the stars at night. Its purpose is to represent both physical and spiritual protection. It is customary to dwell in the sukkah; eating, praying, relaxing, or even sleeping in it, if weather permits. Another commandment of this holiday is to wave four species of plants. At Gelfenbein (Towers) dining hall, you may have noticed the pop-up hut on the patio and people shaking a long stick-like plant; it's called a lulav and is held next to a large lemon-like fruit, called an etrog.

In the Torah, it states "Take a goodly citrus fruit", to perform the commandment of Sukkot. All it says is to take a nice fruit and hold it together with the lulav. What does an etrog and the citron mean spe-

cifically? The etrog is the only fruit that can have fruits, buds and flowers at the same time, representing our past, present and future all linked together. We as a people are all linked to our past and our future destiny.

Hag ha-sukkot, "The Festival of Booths", refers to God protecting the Israelites in the wilderness after their Exodus from Egypt when they dwelled in temporary structures. Dwelling in the sukkah can be seen as symbolic of how fragile one's life is and of faith in protection from God.

The four species, the citron/etrog, lulav, myrtle and willow are held together and waved in every

direction to symbolize how the Divine is everywhere.

These plants symbolize different types of people in a community. Each species represents a person with certain characteristics or levels of spirituality. When these different types of plants are brought together, it conveys a sense of unity and its importance along with the mission of everyone contributing to the full picture of fulfilling a communal purpose.

As the world evolves, so do the traditions of Sukkot. Some creative minds have taken the commandment of dwelling in a sukkah to the next level. In 2009, a 16-year-old decided that it would be a good idea to create a mobile sukkah by pulling a sukkah on the back

of his bike, allowing all in his city the opportunity to fulfill the commandment. Today, sukkahs are seen on the back of trucks, on sidewalks of big cities, on scooters, you name it.

Here at UConn, Hillel and Chabad on Campus hosted unique events in honor of Sukkot this past week. Hillel celebrated with a "Shakshuka in the Sukkah" cooking event, whipping up a traditional Middle Eastern dish of poached eggs in a cooked tomato sauce. Chabad had their annual, all-you-can-eat, "Sushi in the Sukkah" fest, bringing together students to experience the holiday and its joys.

Sukkot is a time when one is reminded of the need for both physical and spiritual sustenance. Through its rituals, the holiday embodies gratitude, unity, faith, and trust which are at the core of Judaism and all religions. Even though these wonderful events and holidays have passed, there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved over the next few weeks. Stay tuned for future events to gather with the community and experience Jewish traditions. Don't miss out on Shabbat this Friday and every upcoming Friday!



CLIPART COURTESY OF WANNAPIK

# Opinion

Photo of the Day | Big East Media Day



The Daily Campus sports section visits Big East Media Day on Oct. 23, 2024. The section spent the day interviewing players and coaches to get an idea of what the upcoming season may hold. PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

COMICS



COMIC BY VAN NGUYEN, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



COMICS BY SARAH CHANTRES, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Tyler's Take: Breaking down NFL Trades

by Tyler Pruneau  
HE/HIM  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
Tyler.Pruneau@uconn.edu

From the start of free agency to the beginning of the NFL season, establishing a backup plan is necessary for every team. A franchise's season could go south for many reasons. One of the biggest is that long-term injuries pressure owners to go out and fill the position for the time being. Another situation is when there is a missing piece to the puzzle, either on the offense or defense. Several teams are experiencing these reoccurring issues this season and as trading expires on Nov. 5 at 4 p.m., things will start to ramp up.

The market for receivers is at large this season, as that is where teams are hurting the most. Starting the domino effect, the New York Jets reunited Aaron Rodgers and Davante Adams, followed by the New York Buffalo Bills acquiring Amari Cooper. Getting in on the action, the Kansas City Chiefs added Deandre Hopkins to their receiver room. This is just the beginning of the effect.

Impacted by injuries, the San Francisco 49ers' weapons continue to deplete week after week. Losing their wide receiver duo Deebo Samuel and Brandon Aiyuk this past weekend, the franchise is walking on a thin line. Samuel is dealing with pneumonia while Aiyuk's season was cut short after suffering a torn ACL during last Sunday's game. Stepping up in their absence has been Jauan Jennings, but he is recovering from a hip injury suffered in week six against the Seattle Seahawks. Not to mention George Kittle endured a sprained foot in the Chiefs contest and is considered day-to-day. It is safe to say that the team needs help, so seeing a trade from them would be no surprise.

Another team sitting in a tough position after this past weekend is the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who also lost their pair of wide receivers, Mike Evans and Chris Godwin. Dealing with a hamstring strain prior to Monday

Night Football, Evans sits on the IR after leaving the matchup early, reinjuring the hamstring. A couple of quarters later, Godwin was carted off the field after dislocating his ankle. With Evans and Godwin as the main targets, the organization is forced

to look around the league. A perfect option for replacing Godwin is Cooper Kupp. Both play the position similarly, thriving from the slot. In addition, Kupp is familiar with the schemes that new offensive coordinator Liam Coen runs, as the two worked

together while Coen coached the offense for the Los Angeles Rams.

Showing interest in a few players in the last several months, the Pittsburgh Steelers are rumored to make a move. While searching for a new wide receiver after trad-



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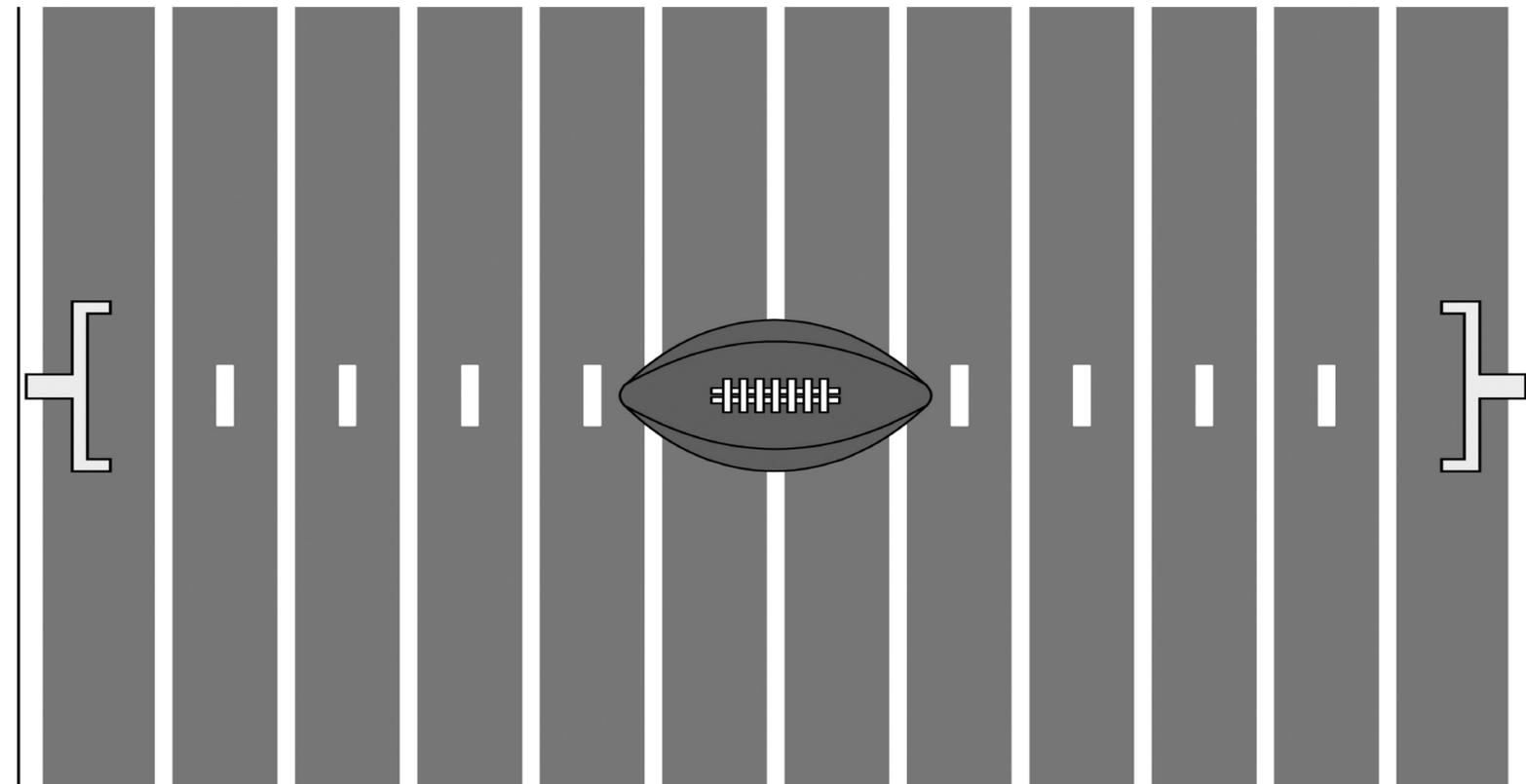
LOGO BY LILLIAN LAFEMINA, ASSOCIATE ARTIST  
EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

ing Diontae Johnson at the beginning of the 2024 offseason, the team's interest in Aiyuk spiked. In recent weeks, before making the final decision to go to the Jets, the Steelers put their name in the hat, attempting to get Adams. Trading for a player is still up in the air as the team is succeeding with the third-year receiver George Pickens.

Looking at the defensive side of teams, the Minnesota Vikings need to add depth to their cornerback position. After securing the veteran corner Stephon Gilmore through the 2024 free agency market, the position struggles to stay constant. Going out to get the New England Patriots corner, Jonathan Jones is a match made in heaven. Defensive coordinator Brian Flores brought creative schemes to the Vikings' defense and the 31-year-old is a great fit for that. Proceeding with this trade guarantees a win for both franchises. Starting out on the wrong foot in the new era in New England, getting value out of Jones now is the best decision, knowing that he is an older player.

Looking at other possible trades, rumors sprung out of the Carolina Panthers' Facility. Wide receiver Johnson and running back Miles Sanders could see themselves with another team by the deadline. Getting weapons for quarterback Bryce Young was a must, but that fell through as he is no longer starting. Ever since leaving the Philadelphia Eagles in 2023, Sanders' production decreased tremendously.

Seeing a change in teams is always fun to watch, as trading can either benefit a team or keep it the same, we will just have to wait and see.



CLIPART COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Sports

## Photo of the Day |



UConn women's volleyball versus St. John's at the UConn Volleyball Center on Oct. 20, 2024. The Huskies played well and ended up winning 3 sets to 2 in a thriller of a match.  
PHOTO BY BLAKE SYKES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Women's Soccer: UConn's push to the playoffs continues with a home fixture against DePaul

by Nahum Valiente

HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
Nahum.valiente@uconn.edu

The Connecticut women's soccer team (8-4-4, 2-3-3) looks to pull away from the competition and secure a berth in the Big East Tournament with a win against DePaul (4-6-5, 2-2-3).

With only two games left in the season and UConn tied for sixth in the standings, the pressure is surely on the Huskies to secure their postseason aspirations. After defeating Butler at home and a scoreless draw at Villanova days ago, UConn needs to lock up as many points as they can. This match could be the de-

terminating factor on where they stand since UConn and DePaul are tied in the rankings, alongside Providence. With the final game of the regular season just days away, the Huskies are hoping to relieve some pressure ahead of their senior night.

DePaul's recent match saw their first loss since September. However, out of the six games played since, three resulted in draws. DePaul had many opportunities to secure crucial wins in Big East play. The Blue Demons also had little success on the road, only having one win this season. As much as this is a crucial game for UConn, the same can

be said about DePaul, which makes this a more daunting task for Blue Demons.

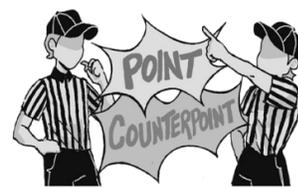
If UConn is hoping to bury the Blue Demons' defense, they must have more accuracy from their goal scorers. In their game against Villanova, UConn recorded 25 shots compared to Wildcat's seven. However, it all comes down to accuracy. Only five of those 25 shots were on target, while for Villanova, only four were. Players such as Chioma Okafor, Anaya Johnson and Alayna Taylor had stellar performances and set up many creative plays, however being able to execute is what will make or break the result.

The key for DePaul will be in their ability to halt any momentum UConn can get going. As seen in their recent match against Creighton, once momentum is seen from the opposing team, they lose their ability to get their offense going again. For them, it is about shutting out the opposing offense and trying to overwhelm the UConn defense. Once DePaul is on the attack and finds their rhythm, they are difficult to stop, as seen in their 3-1 win against Seton Hall. The DePaul frontline will look for Freya Jupp to accomplish this, who is the leading goal scorer this season.

UConn has dominated the series, with only one loss to DePaul in the ten times the teams have met. The sole loss came during the 2021 season. Not only has UConn dominated in wins, but also in goals scored. In fact, in their most recent matchup, the Huskies defeated the Blue Demons five to zero. Connecticut is hoping to bring that same force to tomorrow's meeting.

The Connecticut Huskies showdown against the Blue Demons is set for kick-off at 7 p.m. tonight at Morrone Stadium for Mental Health Awareness Night. The matchup is available for streaming on FloSports.

## Point-Counterpoint: Will the Yankees or the Dodgers win the World Series?



FILE LOGO/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Gavin Friedman and Trevor Coughlin

HE/HIM/HIS, HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT, CAMPUS  
CORRESPONDENT  
gavin.friedman@uconn.edu, trevor.coughlin@uconn.edu

The stage for the 2024 World Series is set with the New York Yankees slated to face the Los Angeles Dodgers in what promises to be a star-studded clash between two of the MLB's most talented teams. The Yankees defeated the Cleveland Guardians in the ALCS in a tense five game series with the help of Juan Soto's tenth-inning home run in game five, while the Dodgers took care of the New York Mets with a convincing 10-5 win in game six of the NLCS. Who will win it all in the World Series? Campus Correspondents Gavin Friedman and Trevor Coughlin give their predictions in this edition of Point-Counterpoint.

### Gavin

There are plenty of stars on both sides of this matchup, but I'll take the Yankees to win their first World Series since 2009.

Their offense has been productive during the postseason, especially with the emergence of Juan Soto, Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton,

who as a trio have been devastating opposing pitchers. All three of them have come through with great plays this postseason, including home runs from Judge and Stanton. In game three of the ALCS, Judge's home run took the lead in the eighth inning and Soto's three run shot took the lead in game five.

New York has gotten solid contributions in other parts of the lineup as well with Anthony Rizzo, Gleyber Torres and Anthony Volpe all posting a batting average over .295 in the playoffs. Additionally, the Yankees should have an advantage in the pitching department, as they have a solid four-starter rotation led by Carlos Rodon and 2023 AL Cy Young Award winner Gerrit Cole. They also have a strong bullpen that has seen key contributions from several pitchers including Tim Lincecum, Clayton Kershaw and Tommy Kahnle.

Of course, we can't forget about the Yankees new closer Luke Weaver. He has proven that he can provide the lights-out pitching the Yankees need to end games. Weaver has been dominant on the mound, as he has just three earned runs this postseason. If we exclude his blown save from game three of the ALCS

for a moment, he's allowed just one run in nine innings of play. If New York can get a lead early in the game, it will be difficult for the Dodgers to make a comeback against this Yankee bullpen.

On the other hand, Los Angeles has mostly used a three-starter rotation combined with bullpen games to fill in the gaps this postseason. While this strategy has been effective so far, it could be a matter of time until the bullpen's workload becomes an issue. The Dodgers' relievers have had the most work this postseason and they will probably be relied upon heavily in the World Series as well. If the heavy workload catches up to them, the Yankees offense will be able to take advantage, especially at the end of games when it matters most. In what should be a long, tense and exciting series, give me the Yankees in seven.

### Trevor

While New York may have their "big three" hitters and Gerrit Cole on the mound, they lack the depth to match the Dodgers, which is why I'm betting on LA to take home the 2024 World Series trophy.

Starting with their aggres-

sive offense, the Dodgers have consistently topped the league all season, finishing with a preseason batting average of .258 and .251 in the postseason, compared to the Yankees' .237. This success is largely due to key players like Mookie Betts, who boasts a postseason slugging percentage of .659, Tommy Edman with a .341 postseason batting average and LA's star DH Shohei Ohtani, who hit 57 home runs this season. These three, along with contributions from Enrique Hernández, Max Muncy and Andy Pages make LA the more consistent offensive team.

The Dodgers averaged 6.36 runs per game compared to New York's 4.77, showing that Soto, Judge and Stanton alone cannot carry the Yankees to outscore the Dodgers. If the Dodgers can use their versatile offense to get past Cole in game one, then they should easily be able to cake-walk game two as the Yanks have Carlos Rodon pitching in the second. This may be a risky decision considering how well LA has done against left-handed pitchers this season, with batting averages ranging from .269 and 66 home runs, the most in the league.

Moving on from their in-

timidating offense, the Dodgers bullpen looks very promising as well. Even though the Yankees have shown more promising statistics pitching wise, the Dodgers are a competing factor with their big three Blake Trienen, Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Jack Flaherty, all with a total of 30 strikeouts and averages ranging from .226 to .254 this postseason.

While Flaherty may not be seen as the favorite in game one, he has proven how lethal he can be on the mound when at his best by pitching a no-hitter against the Mets for seven innings and eight strikeouts during game one. In addition, we have Yamamoto as the superior man on the mound for game two against Rodon, as he had previously played the Yanks in a no-hitter for seven innings back in June. And with the help of Trienen with 11 strikeouts postseason, these three pitchers have proved to be hot on their journey through the playoffs, proving a great opposition to the Yanks "flashy" hitters. Overall, with a 2-1 record in the 2024 season and showing incredible depth in both areas in the field will help the Los Angeles Dodgers take back the trophy they won four years ago.

# Brayden's Breakdown: Three World Series MVP candidates for both teams

by **Brayden Gorski**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
brayden.gorski@uconn.edu

The 2024 World Series is set for a showdown between two of the heavyweights of the sport, the New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers. Both teams know what to expect from each other and will bring the big bats, the high-powered arms and the highest paid players to the field. Without further ado, here are three players from each team who could hoist the World Series MVP.

**New York Yankees**  
**An obvious choice: Juan Soto**

After blasting the series, winning three run home run against the Guardians, Juan Soto is looking to carry this momentum into the fall classic. Soto is batting .333 this postseason with three homers and an OPS over 1.000 to boot. The superstar is no newcomer to the spotlight. Who could forget when he shuffled after a Justin Verlander ball and then took the future first ballot hall of famer deep in game six of the 2019 World Series? Soto batted .277 during that run with the Nationals, including his iconic double against the Brewers in the NL Wild Card game. With all of his experience in the postseason, along with being one of the best hitters in baseball, it would be no surprise to see Soto take home some hardware if the Yankees are victorious.

**A more obscure choice: Anthony Rizzo**  
You always need an old re-

liable veteran on your team come October. Looking back at Steve Pearce in 2018, Howie Kendrick in 2019 and Ben Zobrist with both the Royals and Cubs, these players can turn it up at the right time and even win MVP. This is why 2016 World Series champion Anthony Rizzo is a perfect choice for World Series MVP. Rizzo returned to the lineup for the ALCS after getting injured right before the playoffs. He had at least one hit in four of the five games, including two multi-hit games. Rizzo's time in pinstripes has not been all that was imagined when they traded for him. If Rizzo can put the injuries and the troubles at the plate of the few previous seasons behind him, he can help lead this Yankees team to the top.

**A wildcard: Luke Weaver**  
Who would have thought that Luke Weaver would be the closer for a pennant winning team after his previous two seasons? Weaver spent time on five teams during the 2022 and 2023 seasons, even making 21 starts for the Reds last year. Batters were having their way with Weaver, as he posted a 6.87 ERA with Cincinnati. Things changed when he arrived in New York. In 84 innings out of the bullpen this year, Weaver was as sharp as nails with a 2.89 ERA and a WHIP under one for the first time in his career. The righty took over the closer role in September and was four for four on save opportunities heading into postseason play. When the clock struck October, Weaver responded as well.

Apart from his blown save on a game tying home run from Jhonkensy Noel, Weaver has converted on four of five save opportunities in the playoffs. Weaver has only allowed one walk through all seven of his appearances, while striking out 12 batters in that span. If Weaver can keep these numbers up and close out some crucial games for the Yankees, he can be the first pitcher to take home World Series MVP since Stephen Strasburg for the 2019 Nationals.

**Los Angeles Dodgers**  
**An obvious choice: Shohei Ohtani**

Although the runaway NL MVP has had some big moments this postseason, he has not exceeded the expectations that were perhaps set too high for his first playoffs. Nonetheless, the Japanese megastar has one last series to right the ship and earn MVP honors by leading the Dodgers to a championship. Ohtani is batting .286 with three homers and 10 RBI's during his first go-around in October. He has not been a factor on the basepaths, however. After his historic 50 home run 50 stolen base season where he swiped 59 bags, Ohtani is 0-1 on steal attempts in October. The Yankees catchers Austin Wells and Luis Trevino are in the lower half of the league in throwing out would be base stealers according to StatCast. So, if Ohtani gets on, he could create chaos on the basepaths. Ohtani is already one of the greatest players in baseball history and a World Series MVP would solidify

his legacy amongst the greats of the game.

**A more obscure choice: Enrique Hernandez**

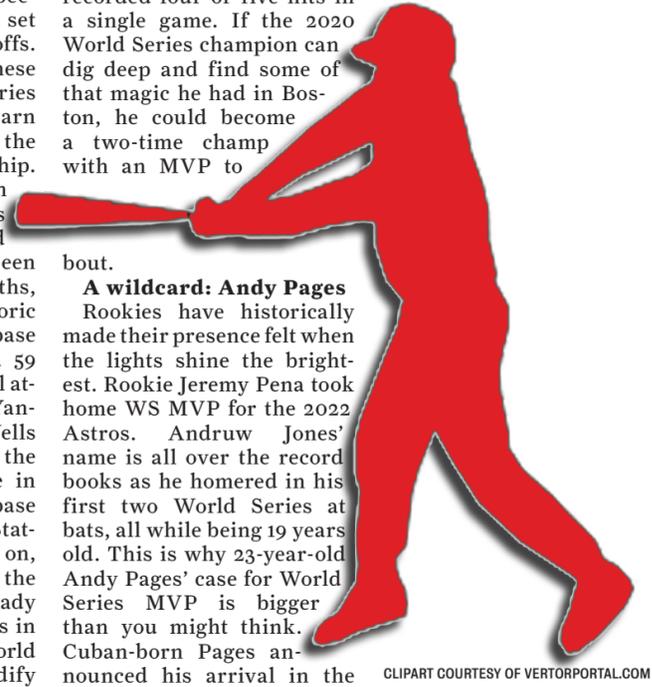
The story has always been the same with Kiké Hernandez: just get him to the playoffs. In 2024, he began a new chapter in his October heroics. Always the flare

for the dramatic, Hernandez broke the tie in a scoreless game five of the NLDS with a solo shot off Yu Darvish. Hernandez also had an insurance bomb in the pivotal NLCS game three route of the Mets. Everyone remembers Hernandez's historic 2021 playoff run with the Red Sox. He went nuclear, hitting .408 with five home runs and recorded four or five hits in a single game. If the 2020 World Series champion can dig deep and find some of that magic he had in Boston, he could become a two-time champ with an MVP to

boot.

**A wildcard: Andy Pages**  
Rookies have historically made their presence felt when the lights shine the brightest. Rookie Jeremy Pena took home WS MVP for the 2022 Astros. Andruw Jones' name is all over the record books as he homered in his first two World Series at bats, all while being 19 years old. This is why 23-year-old Andy Pages' case for World Series MVP is bigger than you might think. Cuban-born Pages announced his arrival in the

playoffs with a two-homer game in the Dodgers game five loss against the Mets. The rookie had a league average season batting .248 with 13 longballs and sporting a WRC+ of 100 (exactly league average). No stats show that Pages is prone to breakout over the course of the next series, but rookies can get hot, and Pages name can be etched into baseball history forever.



CLIPART COURTESY OF VERTORPORTAL.COM

# Huskies in the pros: Nine Huskies making their mark in the NBA this year

by **Ryan Lombardi**  
HE/HIM/HIS  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
ryan.lombardi@uconn.edu

This year, nine former Huskies are rostered on NBA teams, highlighting the program's growing prominence in the sport. Even more impressive, seven of these players have come from the past two years. UConn's ability to produce NBA-level talent has reached new heights, warranting a closer look at each player's expectations for the season.

**Andre Drummond, Philadelphia 76ers**

In his 13th NBA season, Andre Drummond is listed as the backup center for the Sixers. However, with star center Joel Embiid missing some time, he may see an increased workload this year. Embiid is nursing his left knee after a torn meniscus last season, which caused him to miss significant time. He returned for the playoffs and the Olympics in the offseason, but it seems the injury has resurfaced. In the meantime, Drummond should be the next in line after a strong preseason, capped off by a 20-rebound game against the Magic. Averaging 12.4 rebounds and 1.3 blocks per game in his career, Drummond could be an interior anchor for Philadelphia when Embiid isn't in the lineup.

**Tyrese Martin, Brooklyn Nets**

On his third team in as many seasons, the Nets recently announced that Tyrese Martin secured the team's third and final two-way contract. He will likely spend a good amount of the year in the G-League, though the Nets may see potential in his contributions to the team. His positional versatility at 6-foot-6, for example, may make him a valuable depth piece when called up to the NBA squad. Although he may not be a regular for the Nets, Martin will get the opportunity to solidify his place in the league.

**Jordan Hawkins, New Orleans Pelicans**

Drafted No. 14 in the 2023 NBA draft, Jordan Hawkins is entering his second year with the Pelicans. In his rookie season, he contributed mostly off the bench, appearing in 67 games with ten starts. Hawkins has already shown that he can be an offensive spark, averaging 7.8 points per game and shooting 37% from three. He also looked impressive throughout the preseason, coming off a 20-point game before the regular season began. Hawkins has proven to be an effective scorer off the bench for New Orleans and is hoping to expand his role with the team in his second year. If given the opportunity, he could be set for a breakout year.

**Andre Jackson Jr., Milwaukee Bucks**

Selected in the second round of the 2023 draft, Andre Jackson Jr. also looks like he will carve out a larger role with the Bucks after returning from a finger fracture sustained in the summer league. He should expect a similar role to last year, serving as a backup with several veterans ahead of him in the Bucks lineup. Jackson has shown flashes of his potential, especially on the defensive end, and consistently brings the same energy he showed during UConn's 2023 title run. In

his second year in the league, Jackson aims to develop as a player and establish himself as a consistent part of the Bucks.

**Adama Sanogo, Chicago Bulls**

Adama Sanogo recently re-signed a two-way contract with the Bulls after a promising first year spent mostly in the G-League, where he averaged 22 points per game and 12.7 rebounds. Sanogo, another key figure in the Huskies' 2023 championship run, has made an impression in his limited NBA appearances, and a strong preseason performance has further solidified him as a candidate for more playing time going forward. With the Bulls potentially looking to reshape their roster, Sanogo could see

more opportunities later in the season if he maintains this kind of performance.

As the No. 4 pick in the 2024 draft, Stephon Castle enters the league with high expectations. At just 19 years old, the Spurs see him as a key piece of their developing young core, along with Victor Wembanyama. He may not be an everyday starter early on, with veterans like Tre Jones on the roster ahead of him, but Castle will get plenty of opportunities to adjust to the next level. His offensive potential and disciplined defensive abilities make him a well-rounded prospect for the Spurs. If he adjusts quickly, he could move up on the depth chart sooner rather than later.

**Stephon Castle, San Antonio Spurs**

The seventh overall pick this year, Donovan Clingan, joins a fully rebuilt Portland team this year. The 7-foot-2 center is currently listed as the backup center for Portland behind Deandre Ayton. However, with his towering presence and shot-blocking ability, Clingan could prove to be an immediate upgrade defensively. His rim protection and rebounding will be hard to ignore, and he may force himself into more consistent playing time as a result. As Portland continues to foster young talent, Clingan has a clear

**Donovan Clingan, Portland Trailblazers**

path to becoming a key piece of their core going forward.

**Tristen Newton, Indiana Pacers**

Tristen Newton, drafted in the second round after earning the NCAA tournament Most Outstanding Player honors, begins his NBA career on a two-way contract with the Indiana Pacers. Newton's basketball IQ and versatility on the court make him an intriguing prospect for Indiana going forward. With the Pacers boasting a strong backcourt with the likes of Tyrese Haliburton and T.J. McConnell, however, it will be challenging to break into the rotation. Newton will have time to develop in the G-League until opportunities arise in the future. While immediate playing time in the NBA may be limited, Newton has the skills to become a solid part of the Pacers' future.

**Cam Spencer, Memphis Grizzlies**

Cam Spencer will have to wait a little longer to make his professional debut as he recovers from an ankle injury sustained in the summer league. Drafted in the second round and signed to a two-way deal with Memphis, Spencer's shooting ability, showcased by a 44 percent three-point percentage at UConn last year, makes him a promising prospect for the Grizzlies. Once healthy, we can expect him to start in the G-League, where, like other Huskies right now, he will work to get a shot at the NBA level.



UConn men's basketball takes on Mississippi Valley State for their first ever showdown in the XL Center in Hartford, CT. Clingan is now one of nine Huskies in the NBA.  
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

As the NBA season is finally underway, the Huskies continue to leave their mark across the league. With young talent like Castle and Clingan alongside veterans like Drummond, UConn basketball has proven its ability to prepare players for the pros, especially under head coach Dan Hurley. As these nine players progress through the season, they carry forward the winning culture that has become synonymous with UConn basketball.



# Sports

## Women's basketball: The Big East reflects on what it means to play at UConn

by Jake McCreven  
HE/HIM/HIS  
STAFF WRITER  
Jpm23012@uconn.edu

Since rejoining the Big East prior to the start of the 2020-2021 season, the UConn women's basketball team has lost just three times in conference play; once to Villanova during an early February game in 2021, and Marquette and St. John's in 2022. Its combined win-loss conference record of 70-3 over the course of the last four seasons is the best in Big East play by 19 wins and its run of four consecutive conference championships is the most since UConn won five straight from 2008-2012 -- dominance would be an understatement.

UConn opens 2024 as the nation's No. 2 team in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll, marking the sixth time in school history the Huskies have opened as the national runner-up. The Huskies also claimed the top spot -- unanimously -- in the pre-season Big East poll, with the additional vote going to Creighton, who finished nine total points behind UConn at 91.

All eleven teams gathered inside Madison Square Garden to answer questions from the media at the 45th annual Big East Media Day on Wednesday. While crowds four rows deep formed around Husky stars Azzi Fudd and Sarah Strong, Creighton standouts Morgan Maly and Molly Mogensen reflected on what it's like getting a shot at the powerful Huskies every year.

"I feel like we have respect, but not as much as we deserve or command," said Maly. "Part of that is because we haven't knocked off UConn yet, like you said, we beat a few good non-conference teams, we take care of most of the Big East opponents, but UConn is still that 'to do.'"

The Blue Jays have never beaten the Huskies in a series spanning nine games and lasting over a decade. Last January's 94-50 victory in Omaha was the largest in the Big East

when UConn escaped with a two-point victory.

"Who isn't looking forward to playing UConn?" said Butler transfer guard Kilyn McGuff, "That's always fun." The Belmont transfer was one of the most consistent players at the mid-major level last season and adds another level of weaponry to a Butler squad amped to compete in

only met once in 2023, when then-freshman Ashlynn Shade scored 22 points while shooting 9/15 from the field in an 88-62 Connecticut victory. Likewise, Butler has also

ing in our way of the NCAA Tournament." The Hoyas most recently met the Huskies in the 2024 Big East Championship Game, when Connecticut ran away early in a decisive 78-42 victory and held Georgetown to under 15 points in every quarter. Connecticut leads the all-time series history 50-2, dating back to 1988.

Georgetown, along with Creighton and Butler, have conjured rosters capable of competing with the Huskies in 2024 (albeit the three teams resorted to different methods of building their respective roster). The playing field has somewhat leveled in the Big East over the span of the last few years, allowing all eleven teams to compete with one another on a nightly basis.

From the ranks of Creighton and its No. 21 rank nationally, to the bottom of the Big East pre-season poll in last-ranked Xavier, every player had the same message: "I think those teams get a lot of exposure, and I think that's great for us. I mean, we took a huge step from last year and we are a completely different team," said Xavier forward Loren Christie.

Starting to see a pattern? Connecticut has a huge, swelling flamboyant bulls-eye on its back heading into 2024 -- a bullseye every other team in the Big East wants to hit dead-center. "I think a lot of people are going to be shocked [by] the way we're going to be able to compete with a lot of teams in this conference," said Christie.

Connecticut's 987-209 all-time record in the Big East is nearly 200-wins ahead of second place Villanova (750-500). Its 22 Big East Tournament titles are the most out of any school in the conference, and its record-setting eleven National Championships put the Huskies on a pedestal the rest of the Big East is eager to knock over.

Coaches and players from the Big East gather at Madison Square Garden for Big East Media Day on Oct. 23, 2024. The event showcases the upcoming season, with interviews, photo sessions, and

margin of victory for the Huskies in a game dominated by Paige Bueckers' 24 points and 4/5 effort from three. Creighton has come close to upending the Huskies, most notably in 2023

the upper half of the Big East. "They're very talented, so there's obviously a level of respect, but, you know, I think we can compete with them."

The Bulldogs and Huskies

never beaten UConn, as the Huskies hold a six to zero series lead dating back to 2021.

"We don't care who you are," said Georgetown junior guard Victoria Rivera, "If you're stand-



## Growing in the shade: Ashlynn Shade's unique path to Storrs

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

NEW YORK - "You have to take time to reflect and be like 'Wow, this is where I am. I am able to represent something that means so much bigger than myself,'" Ashlynn Shade, a sophomore guard of the UConn Women's Basketball team said to media personnel during Big East Media Day.

With the 40-year legacy that head coach Geno Auriemma has built, young girls who played Basketball growing up dreamt of playing in the Basketball Capital of the World. This was no different for Shade.

Shade grew up idolizing UConn legends like Maya Moore, Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi, but emphasizes that you can learn something from every player that has played on UConn's court.

Last year in her freshman campaign, Shade had the chance to finally fulfill her dream and play for the UConn

Huskies and Auriemma.

When asked about what it's like to play for the hall-of-fame coach, Shade says it's like Forrest Gump said: it's a box of chocolates and you never know what you will get.

"You know what to expect a little bit more. You know what to expect, but it's still unexpected. Every day is a new coach, every day is a new Geno. You take it all in and learn every day," Shade said, but she appreciates how he holds everyone on his team accountable and knows what they are capable of because of how much of the game he's been exposed to.

During her freshman season under Auriemma, Shade had the chance to reach her fullest potential.

She appeared in every game Connecticut played last season, starting in 33 of them. To name a few things off her resume, she averaged 11 points per game, notched 395 points on the season, was honored as the Big East Freshman of the

Year and made the 2024 Big East All-Freshman team.

That's just scratching the surface.

Even though Shade is a sophomore, she feels that she brings a veteran presence to the very young team this year and there is no doubt that presence is felt throughout the team.

"[Shade] is such a great teammate. She is an incredible person," Azzi Fudd, a red-shirt junior said, "You know that you can rely on her to do whatever you need and know [Shade] is gonna be there. She always wants to do whatever she can for the team and that's what I love about her."

Fudd touched on how whenever she goes to the gym, she pairs up with Shade because she'll push her to be better and work harder.

"I'm so excited to get to play with her again. Practicing with her has been so much fun. You can always just count on her for whatever you need. She's got it," Fudd finished.

Shade said that in her freshman year, she looked up to all the seniors on the team.

"You could take any of the seniors we had last year, and they had some sort of impact on me and still do," Shade said, "It's still incredible how their impact transgresses as you move up in your years."

One of those seniors was Paige Bueckers, who had equally as high praise for her.

"She brings great energy, a great smile. When she's playing, she plays with so much joy and so much passion," Bueckers said, "She's looking to continue that [this upcoming season] and continue to get better every single day at practice."

In terms of this new season, Husky fans can expect to see the same player as last year, but more evolved. In the most recent practices, she's looking for a quicker release on her shot and a quicker defensive game, with the same energy she works to bring to every game.

Shade spoke on how wearing

Connecticut across her chest is a dream come true and she's excited for this upcoming season, especially their matchup in Indianapolis in February, as that is close to her hometown of Noblesville, Ind.

"It's just the reason I am playing basketball. It's given me so much and the greatest opportunity to continue to play the sport that I love," Shade said about what UConn means to her, "From being a senior in high school to now, it's literally insane. It's truly something I'm grateful to be a part of and it's an unreal experience."

Shade expressed that when you arrive on campus and experience the day to day, being a student athlete becomes normal, but it's important to remember the reason you're there.

"It's just being able to represent like all the great players that came before us and hopefully do them proud and win and be successful," Shade finished.