



## BUDGET PROPOSAL WOULD INCREASE HOUSING CHARGE, FREEZE TUITION



Reka Wrynn, the interim vice president for finance at the University of Connecticut. Wrynn presented the 2026-27 fee proposal for UConn on Wednesday, Nov. 19, and Thursday, Nov. 20.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN.EDU PROFILE PICTURES

by Kevin Guinan  
STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
kcg21003@uconn.edu

A 2.75% increase to the lowest housing rate was proposed alongside a tuition freeze during a budget town hall for the 2026-27 academic year on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

The interim vice president for finance, Reka Wrynn, presented the fee proposal for the University of Connecticut virtually on Wednesday and in-person at the Konover Auditorium on Thursday, Nov. 20. Both meetings had a small turnout of less than 10 students.

"We are not planning to

propose an increase to tuition for the second year in a row, so that we can ensure that UConn remains an economic value for our students and their families," said Wrynn.

The proposal comes with what Wrynn said were minimal increases on other fees.

Mandatory fees, as opposed to tuition, are the rates proposed to increase next academic year, according to the meeting slides. Under this plan, students will pay more for Student Health and Wellness, infrastructure maintenance, transit, technology and student activity fees.

The technology fee is the largest potential increase in

mandatory fees, with an extra \$84 allocated for high-tech technology in classrooms, Blackboard service, Microsoft 365, wireless connectivity across campus and other IT needs, according to Wrynn.

"We have received tremendous feedback about this program," Wrynn said about the technology fee.

Wrynn added that technology ranked highest among students who rated the importance of university operations in a survey sent on Aug. 25.

The infrastructure maintenance fee received the second highest proposed increase of \$68, which Wrynn said will address the current \$1.55 bil-

lion UConn has in deferred maintenance.

The ability of the \$68 raise in the fee to reduce the \$1.55 billion backlog UConn has in deferred maintenance is currently unknown, according to Eric Kruger, the vice president for facility services and university planning.

"[Deferred maintenance] is not an uncommon problem that universities deal with when trying to keep up with aging infrastructure," Kruger said.

Preventative maintenance funded by the fee will help decrease operation expenses, according to the meeting slides.

An increase to the transportation fee comes after the contract between UConn and Windham Regional Transit District was raised by inflation and the rising cost for bus drivers, according to the presentation. Wrynn said regional students will see a less drastic change of \$12 instead of \$42 under the plan because regional campuses receive less service.

Housing was among the largest budget increases with a 2.75% proposed raise to the lowest cost plan, Rate 1, according to the town hall. The cheapest plan will grow \$222 with a final cost of \$8,288 if the budget is passed.

The only change to housing rates included in the proposal was raising the cheapest rate. Changes to the other, more expensive, housing rates are currently unclear, according to Vice President of Student Life and Enrollment Nathan Fuerst. "It's an ongoing process of looking at the rate schedule and

adjusting rates to align with amenities," said Fuerst when asked about other potential housing rate increases.

Wrynn added that the 2.75% adjustment is below the overall inflation surrounding the housing market.

While only one housing plan increase was mentioned during the meeting, all the dining rates are proposed to increase under the budget.

The cheapest "custom plan" is proposed to increase \$176 for a total of \$6,538. The "value plan" in the middle of the three choices has a \$186 increase for a total of \$6,896, according to the meeting slides.

The fee proposal reserved the highest increase of \$194 for the "ultimate plan" which is the most expensive option. If the budget passes, the plan would go from \$7,028 to \$7,222.

The general university fee was the only mandatory fee to remain unchanged according to the fee proposal. It is the largest bill UConn mandates and covers a wide variety of campus services like the marching band, cultural centers, Department of Student Activities and more.

The board of trustees will meet on Dec. 3 to review and approve the budget proposal for the academic year 2026-27. Students can email [budget@uconn.edu](mailto:budget@uconn.edu) with any questions and input that they have about the budget proposal.



A budget proposal for the 2026-27 academic year suggests a tuition freeze but higher housing rates. Reka Wrynn, the interim vice president for finance at the University of Connecticut, presented the proposal on Wednesday, Nov. 19, and Thursday, Nov. 20.

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## News

# Where to eat on campus during Thanksgiving break

by Alex Klancko | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | lvb24001@uconn.edu

With the semester coming to an end at the University of Connecticut, many students will head home for Thanksgiving break, while many will stay on campus.

According to the UConn dining website, not all dining halls will be open throughout break. So where can students eat during Thanksgiving break?

For Friday, Nov. 21, all dining halls will be open for breakfast and lunch. For dinner, only South, North and McMahon will be open from 4 to 7:15 p.m.

From Saturday, Nov. 22, to Saturday, Nov. 29, anyone with a residential meal plan who has signed a meal form will get one breakfast, lunch and dinner swipe on the days they sign up for.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, only South dining hall is open, and from Sunday, Nov. 23, to Wednesday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 28, to Saturday, Nov. 29, only McMahon dining hall is open. For Thursday, Nov. 27, which is Thanksgiving, all dining services will be closed.

For Thanksgiving break, breakfast is from 7 to 9:30 a.m., lunch is from 11 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and dinner is from 4 to 7:15 p.m.

According to the McMahon dining menu, some of the options for most breakfasts are oatmeal, scrambled eggs, hard boiled eggs and options like French toast and chocolate chip pancakes.

For lunch, some of the options are pizza, Nashville hot chicken bowls, grilled lemon pepper chicken and BBQ chicken.

For dinner, options include chicken meuniere, pumpkin spice sweet potato curry with rice and corn and black bean salad.

Also open during Thanksgiving break are the Student Union shops. For Friday, Nov. 21, the Union Street Market and The Coop are open from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Market Café is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Earth, Wok and Fire is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and SAMBAZON is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cafes are all open from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday.

On Nov. 24 and 25, the Union Street Market is open from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. On Nov. 24 through 26, the Market Café is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 29, the Union Street Market is open from 3 to 9 p.m. and the Market Café and SAMBAZON are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Husky Harvest Food Pantry will only be open on Tuesday, Nov. 25, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All meals plans will resume on Sunday, Nov. 30, but from 8 to 10:30 a.m., only South will be open. From 10:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m., brunch will be held at Northwest and South. For dinner, from 4:00 to 7:15 p.m., all the dining halls will be back open, and Northwest and South will be open until 10 p.m.



UConn dining Halls will have altered schedules during Thanksgiving break. Meals plans will resume on Sunday, Nov. 30.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NATHAN GALICINAO, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



## The Daily Campus

Printing since 1896, The Daily Campus is the oldest and largest independent student publication at the University of Connecticut. The Daily Campus circulates 1,500 newspapers daily and strives to serve the student body by delivering accurate, relevant and timely news and content, both in print and online at DailyCampus.com. Our staff is comprised entirely of students, with roughly 200 undergraduates gaining professional development while contributing to the daily production of the paper, with positions including writers, photographers, copy editors, page layout designers, graphic designers, advertisement representatives, receptionists, delivery drivers and digital producers. Thanks for reading.

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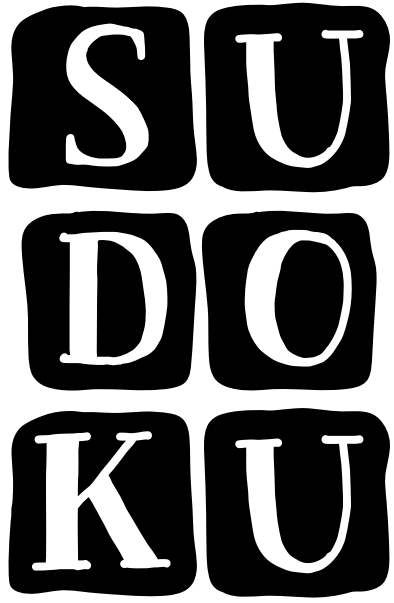
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Solution to Thursday's puzzle

5	4	9	1	6	7	3	8	2
6	7	8	9	3	2	5	1	4
2	1	3	8	4	5	9	7	6
3	8	7	4	5	1	2	6	9
4	6	5	2	9	8	7	3	1
9	2	1	6	7	3	4	5	8
8	5	4	3	1	9	6	2	7
1	3	6	7	2	4	8	9	5
7	9	2	5	8	6	1	4	3



Sudoku By The Mepham Group

Level **1** **2** **3** **4**

	2	3			7			
6	9			1			7	3
				6				
	8					7		
2			1		8			5
		9					6	
				2				
5	7			8			3	1
			9		3	4	2	

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fiddle with
  - 6 Forensic facility
  - 9 Largest isle of the Inner Hebrides
  - 13 Manufacturer "where every mattress is sheep approved"
  - 14 Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko
  - 15 Cosmic span
  - 16 Opening day squad
  - 17 Hidden surprise for an observant gamer
  - 19 Beer endorsed by a British pop star?
  - 21 Germane
  - 22 Currently
  - 23 Hosp. scan
  - 24 Relaxed prankster?
  - 30 Smoked jalapeño
  - 33 Longed for
  - 34 Malek of "Oppenheimer"
  - 35 Cozy spot for a cat
  - 37 Against
  - 38 State on the Chukchi Sea
  - 41 Precedent setter, legally
  - 44 Post-punk sudden death period became extremely exciting?
  - 46 \_\_\_ carte menu
  - 47 Charged particle
  - 48 Baked beans holder
  - 51 Jerk risked growing hangry?
  - 56 Emmy-winning role for Catherine O'Hara
  - 57 Some "Bridgerton" characters
  - 58 Odometer unit
  - 59 Mardi \_\_\_
  - 60 Bite lightly
  - 61 To boot
  - 62 Curvy shape
  - 63 Frock

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

By Emet Ozar

11/21/25

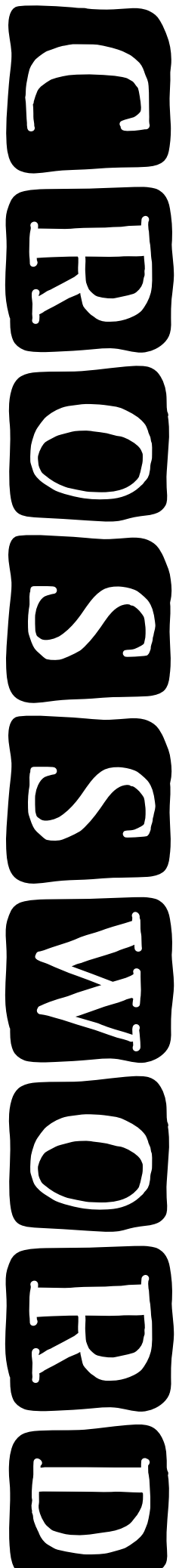
- DOWN**
- 1 Carne \_\_\_
  - 2 Subside
  - 3 "\_\_\_ yourself!"
  - 4 Bibliography abbr.

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

G	O	B	S		F	A	R	S	I		L	S	A	T		
A	B	U	T		O	R	E	O	S		I	N	C	A		
S	I	R	I		S	I	L	A	S		T	O	U	T		
		G	R	A	S	S	Y	P	A	S	T	U	R	E		
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D	A	Y	O		A	D	O	B	O		I	C	E	T		
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		C	A	T	C	H	A	G	R	O	U	N	D	E	R	
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E	D	G	E			E	M	A	I	L		O	I	L	S	
R	I	O	T			P	E	N	N	E		S	N	A	P	
T	O	N	S			A	N	G	S	T		E	G	G	Y	

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- 5 Collide with
- 6 Kryptonite blocker
- 7 Accept without evidence
- 8 Part of a radioactive decay stream
- 9 Wrapped garment
- 10 Care for
- 11 Practice with poses
- 12 Lang. course
- 14 Element of coastal defense
- 18 Upper echelon
- 20 Sonia Sanchez, for one
- 24 Very silly
- 25 Cold War defense gp.
- 26 Make official, in a way
- 27 "Shogun" star
- 29 Related groups
- 29 Nicollette's "Desperate Housewives" role
- 30 Mountain goat's spot
- 31 Beyoncé song with the lyric "I got my angel now"
- 32 "\_\_\_ my wit's end"
- 36 Department store section
- 39 Lethargic marsupial
- 40 On the lam
- 42 "Scram!"
- 43 Incessantly
- 45 Gainesville collegians
- 48 \_\_\_ diem
- 49 Book that's been mapped out?
- 50 Makes preparations during pregnancy
- 51 Work very hard
- 52 Essential \_\_\_
- 53 Cookie since 1912
- 54 Those, in Spanish
- 55 Hideaway
- 56 UFC sport



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## Life

# Wednesday Wood Hall Lectures Wrap up for the Fall Semester

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**  
STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

Dr. Henry Snow gave a talk on the afternoon of Wednesday, Nov. 19, about the significance of Black Americans in dock work prior to the American Revolution and their role in spurning the start of the

war.

Snow's talk, entitled "Posterity Will Curse My Memory: Enslaved Sailors, Terrified Merchants, and the Making of Rhode Island's Revolution," was the third and final of a series of talks given in the basement of Walter Childs Wood Hall during the Fall 2025 semester. The free events were

sponsored by the UConn History Department.

"The goal here basically is to look at the relationship between the Revolution and the abolition of the slave trade and ultimately slavery," said Snow. "What I'm particularly interested in here is the relationship between revolution, abolition, and a mechaniza-

tion, as interconnected labor development."

**"Dr. Henry Snow gave a talk on the afternoon of Wednesday, Nov. 19, about the significance of Black Americans in dock work prior to the American Revolution and their role in spurning the start of the war."**

Snow is an adjunct professor at UConn in the history department who received his Ph.D. from Rutgers. Snow has written two books, both of which are still in the publishing process. The second of those two books that will be released, "Enemies of Order: Labor and Power at the Atlantic Docks," was the focus of the lecture.

While the event was sparsely attended, with about 10 to 15 people in total, those who did show up stayed engaged throughout the entirety of the hour-long presentation.

Snow concisely moved through his information at a rapid pace. Topics that Snow touched on included Black people's roles in revolutionary protesting as members of interracial groups, Black exploitation in dock work and how this impacted the Atlantic Slave Trade. A particular focus was placed on the town of Newport, R.I.

"Colonial Newport was not

so much a space between land and sea as it was a part of the sea that happened to be dry enough for humans to inhabit it," said Snow. He also mentioned the fact that Newport's size meant that many different classes lived in close proximity to one another.

The only interruption came when a low power notification appeared on his slideshow. Minutes later, the computer that they were borrowing to display the slides ran out of battery.

**"While the event was sparsely attended, with about 10 to 15 people in total, those who did show up stayed engaged throughout the entirety of the hour-long presentation."**

"It said your battery is low, but I figured usually you have a little bit of time after that," said Snow in a humorous tone as he and the organizers of the talk worked quickly to correct the problem.

It was smooth sailing after that, with Snow closing out his presentation with no further interruptions and proceeding to open the floor to questions.

"The important body of work on Black Americans' presence in the revolution needs to be a foundation for new work analyzing their causal significance in it," Snow said.



Dr. Henry Snow, an adjunct professor at UConn in the history department, recently wrapped up the Wood Hall lecture series on Wednesday, Nov. 19. Snow gave a lecture on the significance of Black Americans in dock work prior to the American Revolution.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WANDAFISON61 ON INSTAGRAM.

## UCHI FELLOW'S TALK: THE UNDERREPRESENTED MIGRATORY DREAMS OF GHANAIAAN STUDENTS

by **Elijah Polance**  
STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/THEY/THEM  
elijah.polance@uconn.edu

When you think about immigrants traveling to western nations, you might assume that it is to permanently resettle amidst conflict in their home countries and to find economic stability. But Fumilayo Showers, an assistant professor of sociology and Africana studies at the University of Connecticut, believes these conceptions overlook critical parts of the migrant experience.

Showers gave a talk on her research about migrant aspirations as part of the UConn Humanities Institute (UCHI) Fellow's Talk program on Wednesday, Nov. 19. Her presentation was followed by a response by Anna Mae Duane, the director of UCHI and an English professor.

Showers' research focused on work she did in Ghana in 2018, where she interviewed 38 medical students with the inclination to travel outside the country. By

hearing their stories, she found trends about their goals and reasons for wanting to migrate.

"These imagined futures entailed dreams of migrating to countries like the United States only temporarily, to develop their human and social capital, enact cosmopolitan desires and to return to Ghana," Showers said. "[It is] contrary to popular understandings of African migrants as feverishly leaving at all costs in search of a better life."

When it comes to underlying factors driving migration, Showers focused on the idea of Afropolitanism. Showers described this concept as "cosmopolitanism with African roots" and

"the many ways in which Africans or people of African origin understand themselves as being part of the world rather than being apart."

Showers built on the idea with her own concept of the "Afropolitan Imaginary." She said the term refers to the migratory and Afropolitan desires of students in Africa who are interested in traveling outside the continent, even if they do not have the resources to do so.

"The Afropolitan Imaginary therefore references the constellation of ideas, images, messages, mediascapes, belief systems, material objects and actions that celebrate unfettered physical movement, social mobility [and] cultural equity as integral to a modern global African identity and that shape individual desires and aspirations regardless of capability," Showers said.

Showers shared specific quotes from the interviews, breaking down what these students said and how it connects to her research. One of the points she made was that the students she focused on had goals for temporary travel, not permanent residence in their desired destination.

"Evident in this statement is the recurring theme that going abroad was essential to develop human and social capital," she said about a particular interview quote. "In the words of this informant, not only will his migration be temporary, but it will pave the way for repeated travel as well."

Duane followed the talk with a response that commended Showers for the talk and how her research examines and reveals global connectivity.

"You're showing us really how powerfully media escapes," Duane said. "Hip-hop, internet searches, friend stories, social media, create what you call a constellation of ideas, images, messages

[and] belief systems that make global mobility feel simultaneously close and essential."

Duane also presented a few questions for Showers, which kicked off the Q&A session. One of Duane's questions focused on whether Showers was able to follow up with the students she worked with and migration they might have done.

Showers said she has not been able to follow up with the Ghanaian students she worked with. She said she is working on a book about this research and her 2018 findings are more preliminary. She plans on a more thorough exploration that will follow one group of Ghanaian students in their first stage of clinicals and another group of students in their final stage of clinicals, focusing on their migratory goals.

Afterwards, Shower responded to a mix of different questions at

tendees in the room, which went deeper into her research findings and how things have changed from 2018 to 2025.

Laura Wagner, a first-semester pursuing a dual degree in economics of sustainable development and management, along with art history, said she came to the talk to learn more about immigration. She said she liked getting to learn more about Afropolitanism and migrant culture, since they are newer topics for her.

"I'm half Vietnamese and my mom has always lived in the US, but she definitely has some of that... idea like, 'Oh it's good to go abroad and it's good to come back and further your knowledge and then come back to the country and do your most work,'" Wagner said. "[The talk] framed the knowledge like migration and brain drain, it deepened my knowledge."



Dr. Fumilayo Showers, an assistant professor of sociology and Africana studies at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Showers gave a lecture as part of the UCHI Fellow's Talk on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UCONN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY WEBSITE.



Anna Mae Duane, the director of the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute (UCHI). Dr. Fumilayo Showers gave a lecture as part of the UCHI Fellow's Talk on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE UCONN DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH WEBSITE.

# Birdbrained Science: Just Leave It

Welcome back to Bird-brained Science! After discussing odd animal-derived substances last week (for now), we're going back to natural phenomena for this edition.

A few weeks ago, we talked about what's going on when leaves don't fall. Today, I'm going to talk about what happens after they do.

If you grew up with a substantial yard in New England, you might have memories of your parents raking up leaves into large piles and then jumping into them (or, in my case, jumping in and then being disappointed that it was kind of just cold and slimy and not as fun as you'd thought it'd be). You also might have memories of your parents putting all those lovely leaves into black garage bags and then tossing them out. And you probably didn't think anything of it — after all, they're just dead leaves, right?

And yeah, they kind of are — in the same way that your house might just be dead wood. Lots of little critters make their homes in what's referred to as "leaf litter" — a layer of fallen leaves, twigs and other organic bits and bobs. Leaf litter, especially during the winter, is a hotspot of activity and holds an important ecological role for lots of organisms. There

are lots of different kinds of little guys that spend time in leaf litter, such as bacteria and fungi. There are also lots of invertebrates (meaning that they have no spine) in the litter, such as firefly larvae, spiders, earthworms, snails, millipedes, beetles, bees and moths. These creatures hang out in the leaves, taking on various different forms. For instance, the Luna moth spends its winters in cocoons hiding among the leaf piles. Lots of other different butterflies and moths lay their eggs in the litter. Tardigrades (also known as water bears) take the form of eggs and cysts (a tough outer shell) when living in leaf litter.

Different creatures in the litter also partake in different activities. For example, worms, snails and millipedes actually eat some of the litter, which breaks it down into smaller pieces. Smaller pieces of leaf litter are easier for bacteria and fungi to break down into chemicals and minerals like nitrogen, calcium and sulfur, which are used to nourish trees and other plants.

On the larger side of things, bigger animals (with backbones) also have uses for leaf litter. Salamanders, mice, snakes, turtles and toads rely on litter to both hide from predators and to find food. Even larger animals, like

birds and larger mammals, will visit leaf litter to eat the smaller vertebrates in return. So, leaf piles are pretty much entire circles of life, taking place right in your backyard. Nearly every kind of organism you can think of — vertebrates, invertebrates, trees, fungi, bacteria and more — benefits from leaf litter.

The bottom line for today: pay attention to where you step. You never know what worlds could be hiding right underneath your feet.

Also, consider doing your neighborhood crawlies a favor and leaving the leaves out. You don't have to leave them exactly where they fell — you can rake them into big piles onto the edges of your lawn, but please don't throw them out. Because, really, what are lawn aesthetics against the potential of life?



CLIPART COURTESY OF CREAZILLA



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



ILLUSTRATION BY COSETTE ELLIS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS



A leaf rests on the ground. Leaf litter is a hotspot of activity and holds an important ecological role for lots of organisms.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF @BLOOMINGJON ON INSTAGRAM.

by **Gabrielle Wincherhern**  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
THEY/SHE  
gabrielle.wincherhern@uconn.edu



Leaves resting on the ground. Leaf litter is a hotspot of activity and holds an important ecological role for lots of organisms.

LVMANDM9ONPRIME VIA INSTAGRAM



# Life

## “HIGH HORSE: THE BLACK COWBOY” GETS A HIGH RATING

by **Thaddeus Sawyer**

STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
thaddeus.sawyer@uconn.edu

The Jordan Peele docuseries “High Horse: The Black Cowboy” was released on Thursday, Nov. 20, with all three episodes of the series now available for streaming on Peacock. The main focus of the series is uncovering the truth behind the famed American cowboy image that has been whitewashed for over half a century.

**“The main focus of the series is uncovering the truth behind the famed American cowboy image that has been whitewashed for over half a century.”**

“The proper term for the white cowhand was ‘cowhand,’” said rapper Bun B, who appeared in the show. “The proper term for the Black cowhand was ‘cowboy’ because boy obviously meant lesser.” Early origins discussed include the connection in slaves being brought from Senegal specifically for their skills as horsemen.

It was later “White America”

that adopted the idea of a cowboy into the masculine symbol of a sharpshooting white man on a horse, completely erasing the existence of Black cowboys from popular culture.

One example is Clayton Moore’s Lone Ranger. That character was based on Bass Reeves, the first Black deputy U.S. Marshal. According to the show, legend has it that Reeves arrested over 3,000 outlaws and shot and killed 14 without ever sustaining a gun wound.

The Marlboro Man, created by British company Phillip Morris & Co., is another example given in the show of a character meant to symbolize American masculine culture adopted from the whitewashing of the American cowboy. Peele has a sit-down in front of a camera, where he discussed how his critically acclaimed horror film “Nope” was meant to talk about the illusion that Hollywood has created about America’s past. Peele also talks about how the first series of photographs put together to make a film was a two-second video of an unknown Black jockey on a horse.

“This is the first movie star and we don’t know who he is,” said Peele. “That to me was the horror story at the center of ‘Nope.’”

One part of episode one that hits especially close to home is when Peele shifts his focus to the urban setting of Hartford, Conn.

“One day, two little boys ran up to us and said, ‘Lady, is that

a horse? Is that a real horse?’” said Patricia Kelly, the CEO of Ebony Horsewoman in Hartford. “I was like, ‘Oh my god, we have to do something about this.’” Kelly said that the Black youth that she works with don’t know about their own history due to the image of the white cowboy that protrudes on American pop culture.

**“One part of episode one that hits especially close to home is when Peele shifts his focus to the urban setting of Hartford, Conn.”**

“They have to be erased,” said Kelly of the image of white cowboys in the heads of the youth. Episode one is a detailed collection of factually based arguments that describe how the Black cowboy was erased from American culture through appropriation in Hollywood.

Episodes two and three cover the topics of stolen land in the west and the appropriation of country and western music by white artists such as Elvis Presley. Overall, episode one is an entertaining presentation of hard-hitting information while also serving as a basis for the rest of the series.

**4.2/5 Stars**



A poster of “High Horse: The Black Cowboy”. The docuseries, produced by Jordan Peele, aired on Thursday, Nov. 20.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MOVIE.MAGICWITHBRIAN ON INSTAGRAM.

**4.2/5 STARS**

## ‘The Mighty Nein’ Tells D&D-Inspired Tale

by **Alex Klancko**

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
lvb24001@uconn.edu

“The Mighty Nein” is an Amazon Prime TV show released on Wednesday, Nov. 19, by animating company Titmouse (whose credits include “Haunted Hotel” and “Everybody Still Hates Chris”). The show follows seven very powerful adventurers trying to stop a war from breaking out between the Dwendalian Empire and the Kryns Dynasty.

“The Mighty Nein” is an action-packed fantasy animated series based on the second Dungeons and Dragons campaign run by the web series “Critical Role.” “Critical Role” also made another animated series on its first D&D campaign called “The Legend of Vox Machina.”

“Critical Role’s” web series has hosted four different campaigns in total, with the fourth still ongoing. The first three campaigns were led by Dun-

geon Master Matthew Mercer and played by Ashley Johnson, Travis Willingham, Marisha Ray, Taliesin Jaffe, Sam Riegel, Liam O’Brien and Laura Bailey. The fourth campaign is being led by “Dropouts” star Brennan Lee Mulligan. Bailey, Jaffe, Johnson, Mercer, O’Brien, Ray, Riegel and Willingham all voice their own characters in the show.

Episode one of “The Mighty Nein” revolves around the Kryns Luxon beacon being stolen by mysterious thieves. The stolen beacon is the reason the Kryns Queen, Empress Leylas Koryn, wants to start a war with King Bertrand and the Dwendalian Empire.

Episode one is action-packed at the start, engaging the watcher with a major fight and chase scene. The rest of the episode isn’t as loaded as the first couple of minutes, but the plot is very easy to follow. The pace for episode one is also good, not mov-

ing too fast or too slow through the scenes and giving time for viewers to take in each detail. The characters are also really fun and show a lot of depth from the start.

“The Mighty Nein” gives enough information about the characters to get a slight grasp of their shtick but not enough to know everything about them, leaving room for viewers to grow with the characters.

Episode two introduces Fjord Stone and Jester Lavorre into the plot. It has a great plot and balances introducing the new characters and checking back in on the old characters. The opening scene of episode two is really fun, specifically the scene where Marion Lavorre, Jester’s mom, performs on stage while Jester keeps the rest of the show together. Just like episode one, the animation style is very pleasing to the eyes and the storytelling makes sense. It doesn’t give too much detail so

that viewers are confused while providing enough detail where you aren’t wondering what is going on.

The pace in episode three is a little bit faster than the previous two episodes but is still done in a way that’s not too fast to keep up with. The storytelling, just like the previous episodes, is high-quality. From the backstories of characters to the events so far, everything makes sense. The storytelling makes it so you get everyone’s point of view and backstory in simple bite-sized pieces. The scenes for certain characters aren’t too long and aren’t too short. Just like the first two episodes, the animation is superb, as the characters and background have a lot of detail, making it an engaging watch.

The first three episodes of “The Mighty Nein” are an enjoyable viewing experience. The storytelling is well assembled and provides a lot of informa-

tion, but not enough to make watching the show daunting or confusing. The animation style is really nice thanks to the inclusion of a lot of detail in the background and characters and is very pleasing to the eyes. The pace is really well done, with there not being many dull moments in the show.

In addition to its new show, “Critical Role” is currently airing its fourth campaign for Dungeons and Dragons on Twitch, YouTube and Beacon on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Pacific Time. “Critical Role” also has a life show called “Echoes of Exandria” and it has shows upcoming in Atlanta, Berlin, Edinburgh, London and Fort Worth.

“The Mighty Nein” is releasing one episode a week for the next five weeks, for a total of eight episodes ending on Dec. 24. The show will release these episodes every Wednesday on Amazon Prime Video.



“The Mighty Nein” is a fantasy animated series based on the second Dungeons and Dragons campaign run by the web series “Critical Role”. The show’s first three episodes released on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LVMANDM9ONPRIME ON INSTAGRAM.



ILLUSTRATION BY SAMANTHA HASS, ARTIST EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Opinion

## The Daily Campus

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COMIC BY ASLAN HOFFMAN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

### ► Editorial

# Journalism shouldn't normalize AI

by The Editorial Board  
opinion@dailycampus.com

Over the past couple of years, as the use of artificial intelligence (AI) has become more prevalent in society, the journalism industry has been trying to shift toward this change. Vaunted publications like The New York Times and The Washington Post have disclosed use of AI technology, which includes drafting initial headlines and making summaries of articles. This acceptance of AI, especially the generative side of the technology, may seem relatively innocuous, but it is the Editorial Board's position that the field of journalism should seek to limit its AI use as much as possible and prevent its normalization.

The first caution against AI use that news organizations should think about is the massive environmental impact. The training of new generative AI models requires a huge amount of computational power, putting strain on the electric grid and increasing carbon emissions. The action of drawing on this power by then using the technology also eats up large amounts of energy. According to an article by MIT News, "researchers have estimated that a ChatGPT query consumes about five times more electricity than a simple Google search." In addition to electricity, the process of training and using AI models also drains supplies of water, an already heavily overused resource as it is. The computing hardware in data centers needs to be cooled by water, and since the energy demands from AI are much higher than other uses, more water must be used as well. These data centers can evaporate anywhere from one to nine liters per kWh of energy to cool the systems. Given these facts, the use of AI to carry out simple tasks related to journalism becomes much less innocent. When an AI model spits out a generated summary, it has a much larger environmental effect than having a human simply type one out themselves.

Another reason to be wary of AI is the ethical concerns of stolen data and information. AI models require vast amounts of data to train on to form the basis for their usage. This data is drawn from books, movies, TV shows, art and journalistic articles themselves. All the companies competing to make the best generative AI models scrape data from the world's creatives in this way – and the practice is illegal theft. In fact, The New York Times is suing OpenAI, one of the pioneers of generative AI, and Microsoft for copyright infringement. It does not make sense for news outlets to take legal action against AI companies for stealing their work for training purposes and in the next breath use the technology those companies built to streamline the journalistic process.

The most detrimental impact of AI use in journalism may be the simplest – the human element is at risk of fading away. Letting AI creep into newsrooms through even the small, mundane tasks ignores the fact that someone working in the office could just as easily do so. It's true that news outlets have real people check AI-created elements, but it's not the same as just writing those elements with one's own brain. And outlets from across the journalistic sphere are doing more than just using AI to make summaries or think of headlines. For instance, the editor of Suncoast Searchlight, a nonprofit newsroom based in Florida, was caught by her reporters for using generative AI to edit their work. Meanwhile, Business Insider, a major publication focused on finance, has gone "all-in on AI," according to a May 2025 memo to its employees. In the process, it laid off 21% of its staff and boasted that its goal was to have every employee use ChatGPT. The effects of journalism's acquiescence to the AI revolution are clear: while newsroom staff face layoffs, AI will continue to spread in the field, whether through a rogue editor or a company-wide decision.

Journalism is an inherently human practice. No matter how much machines may try, they cannot fully replace the skill of the written word or the reporting that underpins the stories. Letting AI into journalism and normalizing it is deeply harmful to both the people who call the news industry home and a worldwide audience that depends on reliable information. The press must rethink its shift towards AI and consider the damage this technology poses for our future. Keep the human-driven journalistic endeavor 100% human.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEXIA PAPPAS, STAFF ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Now more than ever, celebrate Thanksgiving — you deserve it

by Alexander Renzulli | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | HE/HIM/HIS | alexander.renzulli@uconn.edu

On these brisk November days, when it is far too cold out to want to leave the dorm and the wind has whittled any smile off my face, I often find myself laying face up on my mattress and thinking about our upcoming Thanksgiving break that is feeling more and more necessary by the hour.

*Do not just rest to rest, but enjoy the rest, Huskies. We may not be running countries or fighting wars, but this world is as much yours as anyone else's.*

It's the paradoxical feeling of lethargy and laziness from the monsoon of work that can drown us on a weekly basis. More often than not, it feels like it would be easier to evaporate into thin air and refuse to do the given tasks at hand. And in all my thinking that has been done while looking at blank Google Docs and half-annotated books, it is vitally important to know that you deserve this break. Furthermore it is important that we celebrate it, together, as a country.

Thanksgiving itself has not always been celebrated. In October 1863, 16th president Abraham Lincoln was frail and tired. It was during the height of the American Civil War and a time of political polarization never seen in the new-yet-divided country. America, the supposed guinea pig of democracy, looked to be crumbling in front of the president's eyes, and 50,000 American civilians had just died in the Battle of Gettysburg three months prior. Although a "national day of thanksgiving" had

been called by President George Washington 78 years earlier, President Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for the last Thursday of November to be set aside as a day of "Thanksgiving and Praise" on Oct. 3rd, 1863. It was time for the fractured union to sit down and remember that it is "we the people" that should be most important.

We cannot sugarcoat history and cannot gloss over parts, either. Thanksgiving, to many, is a tricky holiday to celebrate. Although colloquially communicated as a holiday based in gratitude, giving back and the start of the holiday season, it's also important to acknowledge that it's a holiday that marks the start of an American era of colonization and the Native American genocide. Looking back at "the first Thanksgiving" in 1621, we know not all is as it seems, and it is critical that we as a society are not naive to our own history. But alas, as I sit here writing now, with final assignments and the overtly depressing article by The New York Times piling up in my inbox, I really do think we need Thanksgiving more than ever.

*Enjoy your break because you studied until the deep hours of the night. Because you advocated for what you thought was correct. Because you are proud of the work you did.*

While no civil war is currently bludgeoning our union, the political divide and unrest is

at an absolute fever pitch. Never since the Civil War has it seemed like both sides of the political aisle have wanted to rip each other's throat out, and never in any American's lifetime has it seemed so evident that no one wants to get along. It feels like America got 250 years in and decided to self-destruct. I do not like to feed into pessimism, nihilism or any belief that nothing's worth saving, but truth be told: I am stressed, scared and, if anything, tired.

*Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.*

If you feel this way too, it is justifiable and a further reason why we need to celebrate Thanksgiving. This year, use the holiday to reflect. Reflect on our country's history: ugly, flawed and yet hopeful. Be a historian. Understand the shortcomings of the nation but also perhaps of your own self.

And of course, remember to be Lincoln. Out of breath and overcome by fear, don't forget that in this time of chaos, it is ok to sit down and rest. And do not just rest to rest, but enjoy the rest, Huskies. We may not be running countries or fighting wars, but this world is as much yours as anyone else's. Enjoy your break because you studied until the deep hours of the night. Because you advocated for what you thought was correct. Because you are proud of the work you did. Come together with family and friends during this sandwich between now and finals, know what we can do better in the new year ahead and know for certain that you deserve this break.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

# Opinion

Photo of the Day | Holiday sales



A UConn student browses the merchandise at the UConn Bookstore in Storrs, Conn. on Nov. 20, 2025. The bookstore announced several holiday sales on clearance items, tech accessories and more. PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# How I found my place at UConn

by Sam Garifalos  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
bnw25003@uconn.edu

I graduated high school in June 2023 and it almost didn't happen. Due to a combination of mental health struggles which reached a fever pitch in my senior year, I failed most of my classes that year. In the end, I graduated with a GPA of 2.15 after two weeks of sleepless nights making up just enough work to pass my required classes.

For my entire

academic career up to that point, school was a constant struggle. Not for lack of comprehension, but because every facet of my personality and the way my brain functioned were incompatible with a K-12 learning environment. OCD, ADHD and a general struggle to fit in socially all made what should've been an opportunity to learn and develop as a person a constant struggle. All the way until I finally stepped up onto the stage to receive my diploma, some part of me refused to believe I could do it. All of this is to say, graduating was a massive relief. Even with this relief, however, I still felt the weight of my academic challenges. I knew that, come spring 2024, I

would be back in an academic environment at my local community college. At that time, I thought that meant I would be facing the same struggles I did in high school, but I couldn't have been more wrong.

When I started at community college, for the first time in my life, I felt like I could sustain success. The simple assignments that once felt impossible to motivate myself to complete were now easy and routine. The constant fight to stay caught up with work disappeared, and I was finally able to work on self-improvement rather than just survival. I completed that first semester with A's in both classes I took. Soon, though, I began to feel that this was not enough. Although I was much happier than before, I lacked opportunities to make friends in a community college environment. For the most part, I saw my classmates in class only, never having the opportunity to interact with them outside of a classroom. I further realized this fact when I visited my friend at UMass. Just as community college had shown me what I could achieve academically, this visit showed me what I could achieve socially in the right environment. By the time I arrived home from UMass, I had decided I wanted to

go to a four-year college.

Over the winter break, I worked with advisors to choose my spring semester classes and prepare myself as best I could to begin applying to colleges. Though I kept working towards my goal, some of the familiar problems of high school began to reappear. With my closest friend several states away and my newfound awareness of just how much social interaction I was missing out on, I started to feel demotivated and feared that my previous two semesters may have been anomalies and that the depression that I had dealt with in high school was returning. By the end of the Spring 2025 semester, I had dropped two classes and failed two classes, only passing one. Despite this, however, I managed to get accepted to several of the schools I applied to, and after touring Storrs, I chose UConn.

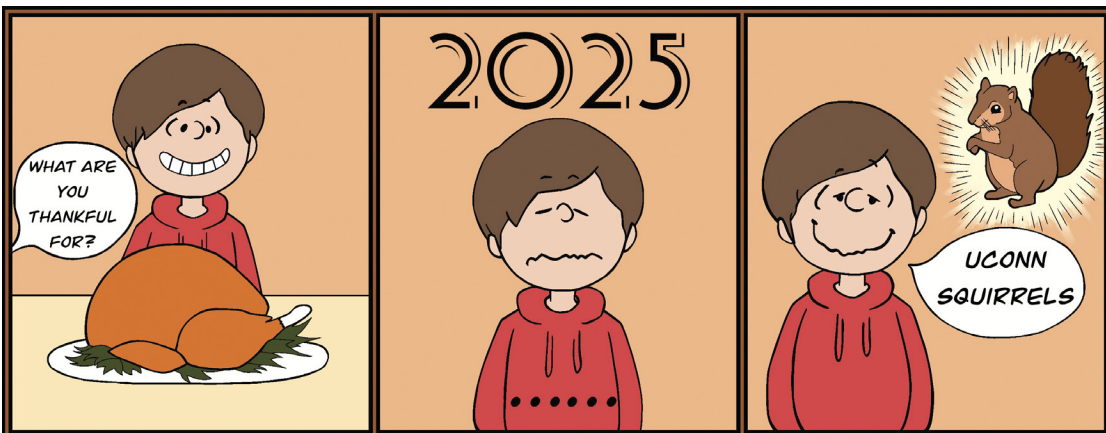
When I arrived here in August, I had no idea where to begin. Though I had spent almost the past year thinking of nothing but what I would do once I finally arrived at college, I had somehow failed to actually plan for it. I had a general idea of how to handle the academic aspect, but living on campus for the first time, I was lost when it came to actually making the friends I had come here to make. Fortunately, I had a few ideas for where to start. In the freshman issue of The Daily Campus, one of the articles offering advice for incoming students recommended writing for the newspaper. So, I decided that would be my first goal. I went to the first opinion pitch meeting of the year, and for the first time

at UConn, I found a place where I felt comfortable interacting with other people. Slowly, I became more comfortable where I was, and though I still wasn't entirely where I wanted to be socially, I now had a path forward and an idea of how to make friends and find community. I found even further opportunities to develop friendships after joining the Formula SAE team. It was a place where I could meet people who shared my interest in motorsports and engineering, and it proved to be the perfect place for me. I was able to explore topics that I had long wanted to explore with people who could offer helpful feedback and perspective on my designs and ideas. I've since made some amazing friends there, and it's become my favorite part of my college experience.

There's so much more I'd like to write about and so many experiences that have made this semester one of the most amazing times in my life, but for now, I'll end with this: we all feel lost sometimes. Most of my life, I've had no clue where I'm going or what to do next. In these situations, it's easy to feel like the lack of a clear destination means doom, but that's simply not the case. What matters isn't having a foolproof plan or a certain fate, but a path forward — somewhere to plant the next footstep. You won't find your friends or your success instantly, but you can always find a place to go that will help you achieve your goals if you look for it. So, my advice to anyone who feels lost like I did (and often still do): find your place.



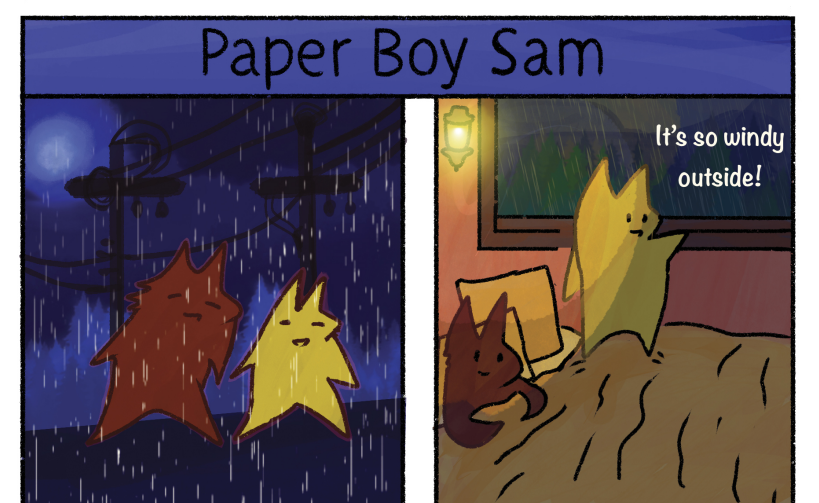
PHOTO BY CONNOR SHARP, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS



BY RAYFORD BROMLEY  
CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

# The Daily Campus

BY JASON J. SAMPSON  
ASSOCIATE ARTIST EDITOR



# Comics



## Women's Hockey: Huskies look to get back in the win column vs. Vermont

by Kaden Knapp  
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT  
HE/HIM/HIS  
jwr25002@uconn.edu

Fresh off a loss to Boston College, the No. 9 UConn women's hockey team is set to host Vermont on Friday, Nov. 21, and Saturday, Nov. 22, at Toscano Family Ice Forum.

These matchups will be the 61st and 62nd editions of this rivalry. Connecticut leads the series 36-16-8 and has won each of the last three matchups.

The Huskies currently hold an 8-3-1 overall record and have won or tied eight of their last nine games. They possess a 3-1 Hockey East record. Connecticut split its most recent series against Boston College, with each team winning on the road.

The Catamounts possess an overall record of 5-7-2 (Conf: 2-3-1) and have lost three of their last four games. Last time out, they defeated New Hampshire 4-0. Four different Catamounts put the puck in the net in that contest, including senior forward Julia Mesplède.

Senior goaltender Tia Chan has been fantastic at defending the net this season, allowing 17 goals and five in three conference games. Nationally, she is ranked third in save percentage at 95.1%.

Offensively, senior forward Kyla Josifovic currently leads the charge for the navy blue and white. She has netted the puck a team-high of six times and has six assists to add to her stat line. Senior defender Meghane Duchesne-Chalifoux leads the team in assists with seven.

Oona Havana, Vermont sophomore forward, leads the Catamounts in goals scored with five. She has scored in two of the last three games. Junior forward Rose-Marie Brochu has a team-high six assists. There has been a committee of goaltenders in front of the net for Vermont. Freshman goaltender Zoe Cliche started most recently against New Hampshire, allowing no scores.

Red shirt junior Ellie Simmons has started eight games this season. Simmons' most recent start came against the Wildcats on Friday, where she allowed four goals. First year, Lily Prendergast is also in the mix, starting in two games.

This season, Vermont has scored 28 goals, while allowing 35. The team has been inconsistent this season and boasts a 1-2-1 road record. UConn has heavily relied on its defense this season, allowing just 20 goals to its 27 goals scored.

Friday's game is set for a 6 p.m. puck drop, while Saturday's is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Both games will be available to watch on ESPN+.



The UConn women's hockey team takes on Boston College at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Saturday, Nov. 8. The Huskies will face Vermont on Friday, Nov. 21.  
PHOTO BY PARKER MEYERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Sports

## Photo of the Day |



The UConn Huskies take on the Arizona Wildcats on Nov. 19, 2025 at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, CT. The game was highly anticipated as it was the first top five game on UConn's campus in the last 19 years.

PHOTO BY EMMA MEIDINGER, ASSOCIATE PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

## Football: UConn seeks back-to-back 9-3 records versus Florida Atlantic

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

The UConn football team (8-3) will travel south to face the Florida Atlantic Owls (4-6) for its 2025 regular-season finale on Saturday, Nov. 22.

Heading into the match, the Huskies are favored to win as they own an undefeated 2-0 record against the Owls, dating back to 2002. In the pair of meetings, the Huskies blew FAU out.

The last time the programs met was last September, when Connecticut handed Florida Atlantic a 48-14 loss. Throughout its history, this is the smallest

margin of victory for UConn.

Last year, quarterback Nick Evers took the snaps and completed nine of 14 (64.3%) passes for 88 yards and a touchdown. With slightly under 10 minutes left in the battle, backup shot-caller Joe Fagnano took the field and did not disappoint.

On his lone drive, Fagnano connected with wide receiver Shamar Porter for a 33-yard endzone appearance. Outside of Porter, star wideout Skyler Bell was the only other weapon to gain 30-plus receiving yards. In total, the Owls' defense held Bell to 43 yards and zero goal-line crossings.

In the backfield, running backs Mel Brown and former

Husky Durell Robinson powered Connecticut's offense. The duo collectively rushed for 312 yards, with Robinson punching in two touchdowns. As for Cam Edwards, the junior struggled and finished with 33 rushing yards.

With Brown most likely not returning to action from a broken collarbone on Saturday, Edwards will need to step up for UConn. However, seeing him exceed expectations should come as no surprise, as the powerful runner is performing at an all-time high this year. Currently, the Connecticut native has earned 1,031 rushing yards and 12 house calls.

Defensively, stopping the

run game is something that Florida Atlantic has faced challenges with throughout the 2025 campaign. Within 10 matchups, the program has conceded nearly 214 rushing yards per meeting. This ranks the Owls as the seventh-worst team when it comes to average rushing yards allowed per outing.

Turning to Florida Atlantic's offense, the squad thrives in the air, as they accumulate almost 329 yards per contest. In the pocket for the Owls, gunslinger Caden Veltkamp has thrown 2,971 passing yards for 22 touchdowns and 14 interceptions. Additionally, the junior places No. 6 nationally with about 296.5 yards per match.

"Offensively, they present completely different challenges than what we just faced," said head coach Jim Mora. "This team throws it around. They're outstanding, throwing the ball and they're balanced."

When it comes to the deep ball, watching out for receiver Easton Messer is a must. In the past two games, Messer has hauled in 14 catches for 216 yards and broken the plane four times.

As the Owls look to bounce back from a 35-24 loss to the Tulane Green Wave, the Huskies plan on ending the 2025 regular season on a good note. Fans can tune into the clash on ESPN+ with kickoff scheduled for 3 p.m.



The UConn football team takes on Air Force at Rentschler Field. The Huskies ended up taking down the Falcons with a score of 26-16.

PHOTO BY MORGAN BLANCHARD, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

# Men's Hockey: No. 11 UConn to face New Hampshire for two-game series

by **Ava Inesta**  
STAFF WRITER  
SHE/HER/HERS  
ava.inesta@uconn.edu

Coming off its first clean sweep of the season over Northeastern, the UConn men's hockey team is set to get right back into Hockey East action against New Hampshire this weekend.

The two-game home and home series will begin with the Huskies traveling to Durham, N.H., to open the series on Friday, Nov. 21, then coming back down to Storrs to wrap up the series at Toscano Family Ice Forum on Saturday, Nov. 22.

"It's always a tough game when you play up at New Hampshire - it's a tough building to play in," said head coach Mike Cavanaugh. "There are no easy weekends in this league. New Hampshire's going to pose another really tough opponent for us come Friday night."

UConn will come into this series with a 6-4-2 overall record and 4-2-1 in conference action fol-

lowing two wins last weekend. Against Northeastern, the Huskies earned the 4-2 win in Storrs and came from behind to seal the 4-3 overtime victory on Saturday night in Boston. A known strength of the Ice Bus is their veteran experience, as they have seven seniors on their roster. These cultured players are no strangers to close Hockey East games and have played key roles in multiple tight games the Huskies have battled this season.

"They're very experienced and they don't panic when we get behind in a game," said Cavanaugh. "And it's been evident this year. We've been able to come back and tie a game or even win some games coming from behind."

UConn had goals from each of their lines in their comeback win over Northeastern. Sophomores Ethan Gardula and Kaden Shahan, senior Jake Percival and

junior Joey Muldowney all found the net in Boston. A part of the Huskies' offense flow comes from their defensemen, who add components to offense as well. Cavanaugh has prided himself on having developed all of his lines to be effective and have each player on the ice make an impact on the game regardless of their position.

"We want to have an attack that brings all five people into it," he said. "One of the things I think that is really unique about our team is, you know, our leading scorer has eight points, but we have 15 players within four points of that. So that's a lot of balanced scoring and that's the type of team I want to coach."

As for New Hampshire, the team is entering this series with a 5-6 overall record and is tied for No. 9 in the Hockey

East rankings. Notable players for the Wildcats are freshman Ryan Philbrick and seniors Cy LeClerc and Morgan Winters.

This week, Philbrick earned his first career Hockey East weekly honor, being named the Army ROTC Hockey East Defender of the Week. The defenseman scored the game-winning goal over RPI last Friday, while also adding an assist for two points. For the week, Philbrick led the Wildcats with five blocks; three against RPI and two at Union. This season, the freshman defenseman is tied for second on the team with four goals and is tied for third with six points. Philbrick leads the team and is fifth in Hockey East with 22 blocks, while also leading the team with two game-winning goals.

In all-time matchups, the Huskies have the advantage with a 17-10-1 record over the Wildcats. The last time the two teams battled was last January, where UConn defeated New Hampshire at Toscano Family Ice Forum to go 2-0 in their season series.

UConn will open up the series against New Hampshire this Friday, Nov. 21. Puck drop is set for 7 p.m. at the Whittemore Center at Key Auto Group Complex in Durham, N.H. The Huskies will then close the series back at home on Saturday, Nov. 22, at Toscano Family Ice Forum in Storrs. Puck drop is at 6:30 p.m. Both games are available to stream on ESPN+.



UConn men's hockey battles Northeastern at the Toscano Family Ice Forum on Nov. 14, 2025. The Huskies finished off the night with a 4-2 win.  
PHOTO BY ELLA GORHAM, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



# Sports

## Women's Basketball: Top-ranked Huskies to be tested by No. 6 Michigan

by Jake McCreven  
STAFF WRITER  
HE/HIM/HIS  
jpm23012@uconn.edu

There's nothing better than a top 10 matchup in college basketball.

Wait, yes there is. A top 10 matchup in November – between two teams who have never met before – at a neutral site.

The top-ranked UConn women's basketball team (4-0) squares off with No. 6 Michigan (4-0) at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21.

Below are two storylines to watch for the Huskies and an opponent scout of the Wolverines.

Storylines to Watch for No. 1 Connecticut (4-0)

Three-point shooting: It was better against the Buckeyes (12-for-27 from behind the arc, 36% of the team's shots), but the Huskies still rank 111th in three-point percentage nationally (.333) and average only 22.5 attempts per game from deep (124th).

Head coach Geno Auriemma knows it, and he wants to fix it.

"I thought we would be a little bit ahead of where we are now in how many threes we would take and how many we would make," Auriemma said. "[We need to be] taking more of them and making more of them."

As it usually does, the Huskies' three-point shooting will start with Azzi Fudd. The graduate wing is 12-of-26 (.462) from deep this season, with no other player having even half as many makes as Fudd from behind the line.

"That's a good question," Fudd said when asked about the team's inconsistency from deep. "I don't know, but I would love to take and make more threes, I like the sound of that."

As would the rest of the team, who has combined for 18 makes from deep on 64 attempts.

An improvement – or a stabilization, rather – of

the team's three-point shooting would elevate the Husky offense to unparalleled heights. Look for an effort in that category against Michigan.

Clean and composed basketball: It's tough. Playing with a clear mind is

tough when tens of thousands of fans are screaming at you to do one thing while your coach is pointing at you to do another. It's even tougher when that happens in your first game in the Basketball Capital of the World.

Add in the accelerated tempo the Huskies play at, and it's understandable why the transition from Wisconsin to Con-

necticut hasn't been without turbulence for Serah Williams.

"It's a different game," Williams admitted. "The flow of the game is just different."

But the true senior has begun to look more and more comfortable on the block for the Huskies, even if the stat sheet doesn't show it.

Williams played with noticeably more composure against Ohio State, finishing on five of her seven field goal attempts for a season-high 12 points in 14 minutes.

"She has this overactive personality that wants to please and wants to do so well and make a huge statement," Auriemma said with a laugh. "Blanca (Quiñonez) is the same way. They want to earn their checks on every possession. Relax, dude – just play."

Just play. It's something that Williams has internalized as well.

"I think being aggressive – but really aggressive sometimes – makes me come off a little quicker than I intend to be."

Catch, gather and go up. Simple in philosophy, difficult to replicate.

Opponent Scout: No. 6 Michigan Wolverines (4-0) Auriemma didn't mince any words about the Wolverines after the Huskies' win over Ohio State last Sunday. "Based on

the little bit I've seen of Michigan, they will be for sure the best team we play this year – by a long shot – at this time in the season. They're talented, they're smart, they're well balanced, they play exceptionally well together, they're really well coached."

He's had four days to ruminate about Kim Barnes Arico's squad – to study its movement, its ball screen defense and its terrifyingly efficient guard play – and he still feels the same way.

"There's a reason they are where they are," Auriemma said. "They're a really, really good team. They've got a lot of really good young players and they've got a style of play that's really fun for their kids to play."

That "style of play" he mentioned refers to Michigan's break-neck offensive tempo, which ranks in the 87th percentile nationally. The Wolverines average 76.8 possessions per 40 minutes and have ran by – and oftentimes through – opponents in transition.

"You've got to be ready to play fast," Fudd said. "Fast, but to our tempo. Don't let them speed us up but still play quick how we'd like to."

The Wolverines stomped on then-No. 18 Notre Dame last Saturday, beating the Irish 93-54 at Wayne State Field House. Michigan forced seven Hannah Hidalgo turnovers, held the Irish to a 28% mark from the field (and 9% from behind the arc) and erupted for 16 straight points in the fourth quarter.

They've also hung 100 points on Canisus and 120 on Binghamton. Michigan's offense currently ranks fourth in the nation in points per game (99.2) and sixth in offensive rating (127.1).

And it all stems from the backcourt. The starting guard trio of Olivia Olson, Mila Holloway and Syla Swords all average over 12 points per game and have combined for 44.5% of the Wolverines' 397 points thus far.

But the frontcourt isn't terrible either, especially considering the Wolverines' penchant for transition offense. Six-foot-two Ashley Sofilkanich is the fourth of five double-digit scorers littered across the Michigan roster and is the most consistent piece down low.

She'll battle with the Strong and Williams combination – as well as any other lineups Auriemma throws out there.



UConn women's basketball plays Ohio State University at PeoplesBank Arena in Hartford, Conn. on Nov. 16, 2025. The Huskies dominated, and won with a final score of 100-68.

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