Enrichment Programs: Owning One’s Own Education

UConn Leads: Campus Sustainability

Preparing for Purposeful Life Upon Graduation

Arts Come to Life at Jorgensen
Greetings from the UCPA Vice President

I hope you are doing well at this very busy time of year. Hopefully, your UConn student(s) had a good fall semester. (We know that some of you have more than one student at the University.)

Even though the semester flew by quickly I have lasting memories of Family Weekend, held on the Storrs campus in late September. The weather was glorious and the spirit of our families visiting campus was exciting. My husband Alfred and I checked in parents at the Family Weekend table inside the Student Union building, and enjoyed seeing families reunite with students. Alfred and I also had fun at the Family Weekend BBQ and Cultural Explosion. The cultural centers, their staffs, and programs add so much quality to the University. It was great to see them featured during the picnic. And from dance to music, our student talent that day was outstanding. Family Weekend provides such a wonderful opportunity to witness the campus and our students in action. I would like to extend a very special thank you to the UConn Family Weekend committee for making all the events possible. If you did not have an opportunity to attend Family Weekend perhaps you can consider doing so next year. The dates of Family Weekend 2013 will be announced in the spring. Keep tuned into the Parents Association website at parents.uconn.edu.

I know that as proud UConn parents, Alfred and I share a feeling of elation whenever we visit the Storrs campus because of the vast array of exciting events going on year-round. The UConn campus isn’t just for students—it’s for families too. Upcoming winter performances at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts include “Live at Birdland,” featuring the Birdland Big Band from New York City on January 31; “An Evening With Branford Marsalis,” renowned jazz musician, on February 7; and “Celtic Nights,” a celebration of the Celtic experience, on March 8-9. To learn more about the Jorgensen’s schedule, access its website at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Families can also visit the three museums located on or near the Storrs campus. The William Benton Museum of Art and the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History are both located on campus. UConn’s famous Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry is located about a mile away on the UConn Depot Campus. (Did you know that UConn is one of few universities in the nation that has a degree program in puppetry?) You can also visit the Mark E. Freitas Ice Forum for ice skating with the family during one of its general skate sessions; call 860-486-2712 for more info. Then there are our sports teams. As we enter the spring semester we are at the height of the basketball season. And what’s more exciting than watching and cheering on our Husky teams?

Best wishes to all at this holiday season. May the upcoming New Year bring you and your family happiness and good health.

GO HUSKIES!

Eugenie Williams
Vice President, UConn Parents Association
Giving Begins at Home
Rachel Marshall, Assistant Director of Annual Giving

Students give back to UConn for many reasons: they are proud of their education and their University, they are grateful for the significant academic and extracurricular support they receive, they are thankful for aid and scholarship, they want to leave their mark, and more.

Parents who share the importance of giving back to charitable organizations with their children pass along an invaluable legacy. Your gift to UConn sets the stage for your students.

Since 2009, I have had the privilege of advising UConn’s Student Philanthropy Association (SPA), a group of dedicated students who volunteer to educate their peers on the importance of giving back to UConn. Student philanthropy leaders proactively market HuskyDrive, the UConn student giving campaign, soliciting gifts of $5 or more to go towards an area that UConn students are passionate about.

In 2011-2012, the SPA promoted a $50,000 challenge that two alumni, David Barton ’61 and Denis Nayden ’76, ’77, established. The challenge was surpassed, exceeding $60,000 in donations from nearly 600 students. This year’s challenge, Ignite!, is a cause-based giving competition based on number of participants. Through the renewed generosity of Mr. Barton, Ignite! gives students a chance to earn a portion of a $25,000 grant to benefit their UConn organization, academic program, or other University-related cause.

“...I chose to donate because UConn has been a tremendous influence in my life and I have enjoyed my time as a student. My donation, although small, will be used to help two areas that are important to me...I am honored to call myself an alumni of UConn and hope to support the experiences of future students.”

— Taylor Perry ’12, Donor, UConn Foundation and Member, UConn Alumni Association

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The Great Gatsby Selected for UConn Reads 2012-2013

President Susan Herbst once again invites all alumni, faculty, staff, students, and community members to participate in the University’s second common book reading. This year’s book, F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby, was selected from almost 200 book nominations that the University community submitted to the steering committee.

In selecting a common reading book for the 2012-2013 academic year, the steering committee considered each submission’s appeal in terms of the diverse range of program participants. These include UConn students, staff, faculty, and alumni, as well as the wider community, including numerous area high schools that have expressed interest in the program. The Great Gatsby, set on Long Island in the Roaring Twenties, touches on larger thematic issues—from gender and class to American regionalism, racism, anti-Semitism, and the Great War generation.

There will be a series of academic panels held over the course of the year to generate book discussions. Plans are in progress to have a novelist visit campus and speak about the inspiration that Fitzgerald (who died in 1940) provided.

In August, 2011 President Herbst launched UConn Reads, designed to strengthen the UConn community through an annual common reading program, creating a statewide intellectual bond by talking and learning together. This new initiative was led by Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Dr. Sally Reis and a steering committee. Book nominations were sought from the UConn community; Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, a nonfiction bestseller by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, was selected. UConn Reads generated discussion and debate during the spring semester with several human rights speakers brought to campus. The capstone event of the program’s very successful first year was a lecture Kristof gave on campus.

Talk to your student about supporting HuskyDrive this year. Get more info at huskydrive.uconn.edu.
With the 2012-13 academic year at its midpoint, many parts of the Storrs campus have been updated. UConn is constantly working to reflect the changes in the online and printed maps that are available to students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

**New Names for a New Year**

The University renamed buildings on the Storrs campus to honor two of its leaders. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Building (CLAS) will now be known as the Philip E. Austin Building, giving recognition to the former president of the University. Austin led UConn from October 1996 to September 2007, and served as interim president from May 2010 to June 2011. The Center for Undergraduate Education (CUE) building was renamed to honor UConn’s 2003-2009 Board of Trustee chairman; it is now the John W. Rowe Center for Undergraduate Education.

The new addition to the School of Nursing, the Carolyn Ladd Widmer Wing, opened this fall. Named after the School of Nursing’s first dean, it has simulation training rooms, a reading room, a 75-seat auditorium, and the Josephine A. Dolan Collection of Nursing History.

The Classroom Building was the newest building on campus in fall 2011. Students returned this fall to find the building renamed Laurel Hall, after the state flower the mountain laurel. Oak Hall opened recently right across the way from Laurel Hall named after the state tree, the white oak. As well as classroom space, Oak Hall holds the linguistics, political science, journalism, economics, and modern and classical languages departments.

**A New Look for Old Favorites**

The newly renovated McMahon Dining Hall opened in fall 2012 and has been serving students using a unique open kitchen style. The facility now holds 530 people in comparison to the pre-renovation capacity of 374, helping McMahon to become the destination dining hall for students, as well as faculty and staff.

The Bousfield Psychology Building is also getting a makeover, including a new atrium to be named after long-time psychology professor and department head Skip Lowe. The work, expected to be completed in 2014, will expand the psychology department’s home by 300,000 square feet to include seminar rooms, research space, and energy efficient updates.

Two other buildings on campus are undergoing renovation: Beach Hall, built in 1929; and the Young Building, built in 1953. Both are undergoing changes to their outside façades and roofs. The Young Building, the home of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, will also be getting all new electrical and mechanical systems and brand new windows.

**New Homes for Campus Services**

Some of the services that are well-known to students found new homes in summer 2012.

- The Department of Student Activities moved to the third floor in the Student Union. This office organizes many major events on campus, such as the Involvement Fair.
- The Department of Dining Services was moved to the Bishop Center, near Buckley and Shippee residence halls.
- The Department of Residential Life has relocated to Rome Commons, just below South Dining Hall.
- Huskytech, now located in the Math Science Building, room 37E, offers students technology support.
- The International Center and Immigration Services recently moved to McMahon Hall.
- Health Education relocated to Wilson Hall in South Campus.
- The Department of Career Services moved to two new locations: the Center for Career Planning and Development moved to Wilbur Cross and the Center for Internships and Employer Relations moved to the Student Union.
Perhaps imagining a vibrant, walkable downtown in the heart of Mansfield was difficult when the Town of Mansfield and UConn formed Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc. over a decade ago. But now, the beginnings of Storrs Center provide a tangible preview of good things to come in this college town!

Construction began on the first phase of Storrs Center with a ceremonial groundbreaking on June 29, 2011. Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Mansfield Mayor Betsy Paterson, and UConn President Susan Herbst celebrated the culmination of many years of planning—a new chapter in the town/gown relationship. Less than a year later, the first businesses opened the doors of their new homes.

Phase 1A, the first phase of Storrs Center (1, 9, & 11 Dog Lane) consists of several residential and commercial addresses and a new parking garage. Storrs Automotive (11 Dog Lane) opened in April 2012, as did Select Physical Therapy. Both 1 and 9 Dog Lane feature commercial uses on the first floors and rental apartments on upper floors. The rental apartments, The Oaks on the Square, were fully leased by the end of April, opening in August 2012.

Businesses have lined up quickly for the new downtown, located steps away from the Town Hall, Mansfield Community Center, E. O. Smith High School, and UConn’s School of Fine Arts. In 1 Dog Lane, visitors will find Dog Lane Café, Froyoworld, Insomnia Cookies, Moe’s Southwest Grill, Mooyah Burger & Fries, and Subway. Businesses located in 9 Dog Lane include Bank of America, Body Language, Head Husky Barber Styling Shop (formerly Skora’s), Husky Pizza, Sweet Emotions Candy, and Travel Planners. Women’s Basketball Coach Geno Auriemma plans to open a new restaurant, Geno’s Grille, in early 2013.

Meanwhile, construction of the next phase is well underway. Phase 1B includes the Nash-Zimmer Intermodal Transportation Center and another mixed-use building, featuring commercial spaces and additional apartments from The Oaks on the Square. Both of these buildings are being constructed adjacent to the parking garage, which opened to the public in September 2012. The Oaks on the Square began accepting applications for the apartments in September; information about the apartments is available on The Oaks’ website: theoaksonthesquare.com.

The commercial spaces for Phase 1B will complement those in Phase 1A. The UConn Co-op will open a new satellite location facing the Town Square while maintaining its existing location across the street from Gampel Pavillion. The UConn Co-op @ Storrs Center will feature general books, a children’s section, a café, and much more. UConn Health Center will open medical offices, including urgent care, orthopedics, cardiology, dermatology, occupational medicine, family medicine, OB/GYN, and psychiatry services. Negotiations for the remaining spaces in Phase 1B are on-going.

Market-rate housing. The town square. Businesses that appeal to all ages. With all these amenities within walking distance of UConn and key civic facilities, Storrs Center will be the community hub that the town has long awaited. Mansfield residents, visitors, and UConn students, faculty, and staff now have a space to gather, to meet new friends, to celebrate life’s milestones, and to build a true, inclusive community.

For more info, please visit either mansfield.org/mdp or storrscenter.com.
Now is the time to complete a 2013-2014 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov. The student and the parent of a dependent student must each use their own Federal Student Aid PIN (pin.ed.gov) to sign the FAFSA electronically. Completing the FAFSA is easier and more accurate when applicants utilize the IRS Data Retrieval tool. This tool allows parents and students to transfer tax return information directly from the IRS onto the FAFSA, once the tax return has been submitted and processed by the IRS.

**Important Reminders**
- Meet the on-time application deadline.  
  Most forms of financial assistance are awarded only to eligible students whose FAFSA is received and logged in by the federal processor on or before March 1, 2013. If necessary, estimated tax figures may be used to meet the deadline.
- Encourage students to regularly check University email. All requests for information and communications regarding a student’s financial aid award are sent via University email.
- Promptly provide documentation. If the student’s FAFSA is selected by the federal processor for verification, additional documentation will be required. Visit financialaid.uconn.edu/verification for details.

**NOTE:** Continuing students are awarded financial aid AFTER all requested information is received. Funding is limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. If documentation is not promptly submitted, students may miss the opportunity for financial aid funds that become depleted as the awarding cycle continues.

Students can access the View Financial Aid link in the Student Administration System (www.studentadmin.uconn.edu) to complete the following tasks:
- review and/or complete required documentation;
- review and/or update student status;
- accept/decline awards;
- report outside awards; and/or
- review changes to awards.

**Upcoming Changes**
Financial aid recipients are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to retain eligibility for most forms of aid. New federal regulations require the University to evaluate academic performance on a per term basis for financial aid recipients who are not maintaining SAP. Visit financialaid.uconn.edu/sap for details.
Your Guide to On-Campus Housing

Pamela Schipani, Associate Director of Housing Services, Department of Residential Life

The Department of Residential Life at the University of Connecticut currently houses over 12,400 undergraduate and graduate students attending the Storrs campus. The process to house current students for 2013-2014 began in December 2012 when the 2013-2014 housing application became available, and concludes in the spring of 2013 with an online housing selection process and payment of the Room Reservation Fee. The questions and answers below will help parents become familiar with the housing application and selection process.

What should current residents do to obtain on campus housing for the 2013-2014 academic year?

2. Submit verification of receipt of the meningitis vaccination to Student Health Services by January 25, 2013. Spring 2013 residents who submit a housing application by January 25, 2013, but are missing meningitis vaccination verification, will be placed on the waiting list for 2013-2014 housing. Students can view the vaccination information from Student Health Services has on file by following the directions below.
   a) Log-in to myhealth.uconn.edu.
   b) Hover over My Profile—a menu will drop down.
   c) Select Immunization History.
   d) The report can be saved/printed by using the appropriate icons.
3. If eligible, participate in the 2013-2014 Online Housing Selection Process during the spring 2013 semester. More details about housing selection will be available in February/March 2013.
4. Submit the $300 non-refundable Room Reservation Fee. This is payable after a room assignment has been made and can be submitted through reslife.uconn.edu or at the Storrs campus Bursar’s Office.
5. Pay all student fees, including room and board fees, on time.

Who is eligible to participate in Housing Selection?

1. Continuing residents who submit a housing application by the deadline of January 25, 2013 and who have lived on campus less than 8 semesters.
2. Change of Campus students who meet both the housing application and campus change approval deadlines, and who have not previously lived on the Storrs campus.
3. Students studying abroad who submit a housing application by the deadline of January 25, 2013, and who have lived on campus less than 8 semesters.

How are medical needs considered in determining housing assignments?

Students who have documented disabilities that may impact their living environment are encouraged to request a housing accommodation with the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). Students who request a housing accommodation must meet all Residential Life deadlines, request a housing accommodation with the CSD, and provide appropriate documentation regarding the disability. The CSD staff will determine if an accommodation is necessary and, if so, make a recommendation to the Department of Residential Life. For more information, please visit csd.uconn.edu. Students are encouraged to request an accommodation as soon as possible, and no later than March 1, 2013.

What is the Housing Waiting List and who is on it?

Each year, Residential Life receives more housing applications than there are beds available on campus. To house guaranteed students, some applicants are placed on the waiting list for housing, and not guaranteed housing. The following students are placed on the waiting list if they submit a housing application:

- commuter students;
- late applicants;
- students who have previously lived on campus and are Change of Campus students, or do not meet the housing application/Change of Campus approval deadlines;
- readmitted students;
- students who have lived on campus for 8 or more semesters; and/or
- students who do not pay the Room Reservation Fee.

Is there a Housing Deposit/Reservation Fee?

Yes, a $300 non-refundable Room Reservation Fee is required to retain 2013-2014 housing, and is payable after a student selects a room. Students are emailed payment instructions after an assignment is made.

Are there penalties for cancelling housing during the summer?

Yes, there is a cancellation fee for cancelling housing. Specific information can be found in the On-Campus Housing Contract at reslife.uconn.edu.
The Registrar sends out an information memo every semester regarding grades and grading to all faculty. For the fall 2012 semester, there are some procedural guidelines that might interest you:

**Grades are to be submitted no later than 72 hours after the completion of the (final) exam.**

All grades should be submitted by 4 p.m. Wednesday, December 19.

Within 24 hours of a final grade being submitted to the Registrar, it is posted to the student’s transcript. Once posted, a student can access their transcript and witness the grades showing up. In fact, during exams, this often becomes something of an obsession with students accessing their transcripts more often than Facebook, to ascertain their final grades in their courses.

Every grade should be posted to student transcripts by December 22; it is an oddity for this to not be true. If you inquire as to your student’s academic performance for the fall semester, he or she should be able to show you all the grades by this date. This gives everyone time to celebrate the successes and plan strategies to make improvements where necessary.

“**You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else.”** —Albert Einstein

**Discuss the fit of your student’s major**

Low grades may be an indicator of a lack of fundamental motivation due to students being in a major that, while making sense, holds no passion for them. Talking with professors and staff advisors can help students clarify if they are in the right major. Some resources that also can help are:

- CLAS Academic Services Center, services.clas.uconn.edu
- Academic Center for Exploratory Students, aces.uconn.edu
- Career Services, career.uconn.edu

Determine which resources need to be used

New students often are simply unaware of all the help available to them. Taking advantage of the resources listed below can help your student engage more successfully with their course work.

- Professor and Teaching Assistant (TA) office hours (weekly time designated for professors and TAs to be available in their offices to help students with questions and concerns).
- University Writing Center, writingcenter.uconn.edu.
- Q (quantitative) Center, qcenter.uconn.edu.
- Academic Achievement Center (study skills, time management, coaching). uconn.edu/uconnconnects/AAC.
- Any of the department-specific tutoring resources, uconn.edu/uconnconnects/tutor.

**Help for students on academic probation or subject to dismissal**

UConn Connects, uconn.edu/uconnconnects/program_info, will match up these students with a staff or peer facilitator. Students meet with the facilitator one-on-one weekly or bi-weekly over the course of the semester. Goal-setting, time management, study skills, stress management, campus resources, and motivation are just some of the areas that facilitators cover with students.

Does your son or daughter need to “Learn to play UConn?”

Often a student is in the right major, has the requisite level of motivation, and is working hard, but simply does not know how to be an effective UConn student. While students can access content tutoring in many subjects, the Academic Achievement Center, uconn.edu/uconnconnects/AAC, is dedicated to increasing student success. The AAC is staffed by highly trained undergraduates who have learned to use effective techniques to produce their own consistent academic performance. In addition, the student staff is trained to coach their peers in the intentional strategies and techniques that produce the grades and quality of life that UConn students want and are capable of achieving. Students are coached to:

- discover more efficient ways to both take and study class notes;
- read textbooks, journal articles, and other course material effectively;
- employ more effective and efficient techniques to store the material that they understand; and
- discover better ways to self-manage themselves, their goals, and their lives.

Failure is an important part of the learning process. The University of Connecticut is ready to help students transform academic struggles into experiences that will positively impact the rest of their lives.

“My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure.” —Abraham Lincoln
Now I hope you and your student(s) enjoyed a wonderful, academically successful fall 2012 semester. Each year when the students come back to UConn in the fall I am filled with an excitement; call it hope, for what the coming academic year will hold. These days, I am also filled with excitement about the academic and financial opportunities available to students and their families in summer. “Summer?” you ask. Yes, summer!

More and more, college students and their families are thinking differently about how to complete a bachelor’s degree. Increasingly, students are veering away from the standard “15 credits in the fall, 15 credits in the spring, for four years” model, choosing a less traditional degree completion timeline. In short, they are taking a strategic approach to planning their enrollment. Today, it is likely that students enroll in summer and winter sessions as a means to graduate early.

“Icreasingly, students are veering away from the standard ‘15 credits in the fall, 15 credits in the spring, for four years’ model.”

Have you and your student considered the opportunity to complete a semester’s worth of credits during the summer and graduate a semester early? Did you know that all students pay in-state fees in the summer? Did you know that housing at the Storrs campus is half-price during the summer? How much would that save your student as an in-state or as an out-of-state resident? As the variety of summer courses increases annually, so does the opportunity to graduate early and save money by maintaining the residential experience during the summer.

Don’t forget online courses and the regional campuses! For many reasons, some students are not able to take advantage of our reduced price housing option at Storrs. These students can select from the numerous summer courses offered at our five regional campuses. If in-person courses are not an option, we have a rapidly increasing selection of online courses available. The number of online courses offered in the summer session increased 117 percent from 2010 to 2012. At UConn we are focusing on general education requirements. “Gen Eds” fall into 4 content areas, and are part of the core requirements that a student needs to earn a baccalaureate degree. In summer 2012, 16 additional general education courses were taught online for the first time, with the goal of an additional 15 being added for summer 2013. Perhaps a mix of online and in-person summer classes will be the right formula for your student to graduate early.

As we turn our focus to the new opportunities available through summer attendance, we would be remiss if we neglected to mention the more traditional benefits of summer enrollment. As always, summer attendance is a great option. The ability to increase the cumulative grade point average has long been, and continues to be, a strong motivator to take a summer course.

Equally important as these numerous benefits, taking a summer course at UConn means being taught by the best—UConn faculty and instructors. There is no substitute for quality, and students are assured of obtaining the appropriate course content and foundation for future learning. With UConn courses, there are no worries about credits and grades transferring in, and no hassles working with other institutions to obtain course descriptions and appropriate approvals.

So how does this all work? During the spring semester, when students meet with their advisors to plan their upcoming fall enrollment, they should discuss what courses they could take during the upcoming summer session. Courses will be available to view online in mid-February. Beginning February 19, 2013 students can register just like during the academic year, via the flexible, simple Student Administration System.
**Enrichment Programs: Owning One’s Own Education**

*Cheryl Cranick, Honors Program*

**Enrichment** is a term used often in education, but for the University of Connecticut it is more than just a word. It is a collection of opportunities and experiences designed to enhance the academic, professional, and cultural life of all UConn undergraduate students. The five major enrichment programs offer expert advisors who encourage undergraduate students to explore opportunities outside the traditional undergraduate curriculum. “These offices are key elements to UConn’s continued evolution as one of the nation’s best research universities,” notes Assistant Vice Provost for Enrichment Programs and Director of the Honors Program Dr. Jennifer Lease Butts. “Our students are motivated leaders who take ownership of their education. The services we provide build upon classroom learning. Students in our programs conduct research, compete in scholarship programs, create specialized majors, and find a community of scholars.”

**Office of Undergraduate Research [OUR]** (ugradresearch.uconn.edu)

Undergraduates can put theory into practice through undergraduate research. Advisors educate undergraduates about the value, process, and types of research opportunities available at UConn through OUR workshops. Staff members facilitate connections with faculty to tailor on and off campus opportunities to students’ interests. The OUR also oversees research funds available to students at any UConn campus, supporting undergraduate research year-round. Research and creative activities are vital to every field: scientists, writers, historians, artists, educators, social scientists, business majors, and beyond are encouraged to participate. Every spring, the OUR shares student research findings and creative products at its poster exposition, Frontiers in Undergraduate Research.

**Office of National Scholarships [ONS]** (ons.uconn.edu)

Since the development of ONS, UConn now boasts even greater numbers of finalists and winners for some of the most prestigious scholarship competitions. These awards are not given casually; they require mentoring and advice from professionals knowledgeable about the application process and what it takes to succeed. Students learn to develop goals and articulate how they plan to make a difference, which benefits them regardless of the competition outcome. In recent years, UConn students have been finalists in the Rhodes and Gates Cambridge competitions, and have won Marshall, Truman, Goldwater, and Udall scholarships, among others.

**Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies Program [IISP]** (iisp.uconn.edu)

Higher education can inspire creativity and support challenging goals. The IISP takes over where the standard academic catalog ends. When a traditional major doesn’t fit a student’s interests, the IISP gives that undergraduate an opportunity to design an individualized major built from courses and academic experiences across UConn’s diverse academic fields. A structured application process includes one-on-one meetings with a professional advisor, faculty input, and student planning. The result is a strong, coherent, and feasible interdisciplinary plan of study. Past individualized majors include international relations, consumer behavior, health care and social inequality, and sports promotion. Students’ options are only limited by their imaginations.

**Pre-Medical/Dental Center (premed.uconn.edu), and Pre-Law Center (prelaw.uconn.edu)**

Careers within the medical, dental, physician assistant, and law fields demand further education once a student completes an undergraduate degree. However, acceptance into professional programs is a highly involved process that is made easier with specialized guidance. In fact, some medical schools require this type of support. UConn understands that its students have the academic wherewithal to be successful, and offers the expertise to help its students prepare for and thrive in the process. And these centers are not just for current students. All UConn alumni, no matter their graduation year, are encouraged to seek advice from these centers.

**Honors Program** (honors.uconn.edu)

Approximately 10 percent of undergraduates are part of this competitive program, a tight-knit community of peers. An invitation to apply (incoming first-year students) or an application (transfer students and rising sophomores and juniors) is required for admission to Honors. Honors students are members of every school and college, in all class years. Since 1964, the Honors Program’s annual enrollment has risen from a handful of undergraduates to almost 1,800. Honors students have advisors in their fields of study and for their thesis, smaller classes, Honors housing, events, and special programs, graduate library privileges, priority registration, and enrollment flexibility. National and international Honors Program alumni, having completed prestigious graduate programs, are increasingly working in such diverse, blue chip organizations as Aetna, Pfizer, GE, United Technologies, and the White House.
UConn Takes Leadership Role in Campus Sustainability

UConn Office of Environmental Policy

In late summer, the Sierra Club ranked UConn 5th overall in its annual Sierra Club Cool Schools survey for our excellence in sustainability initiatives and campus goals. UConn’s rank recognizes the efforts of students, faculty, and staff to incorporate environmental stewardship into all facets of the curriculum, student life, and infrastructure.

During the fall semester, several residence halls participated in a competition called “EcoMadness” that encouraged students to reduce energy and water consumption. EcoMadness raises students’ awareness of resources used and ways to cut back. The pre-competition rate of water usage was about 42 gallons per student per day! Last year’s winners reduced their use by 20.2%, winning them a Dairy Bar ice cream party.

Another way for students to get involved in hands-on environmental awareness projects is through Green Game Days. On September 8, 50 volunteers attended the UConn football game at Rentschler Field, walking through the parking lot’s tailgaters to promote recycling. They collected nearly half a ton of bottles and cans from Husky fans, diverting them from litter or the many trash dumpsters around the stadium. The Office of Environmental Policy, EcoHusky student group, and EcoHouse Learning Community also hosted a popular booth in the FanFest section, attracting students and alumni with recycling games and giveaways.

A new event for UConn this past year, Campus Sustainability Day, is a nationwide event on October 24. The Office of Environmental Policy (OEP) collaborated with Spring Valley Student Farm and other environmental groups on campus to showcase ways students can make a difference. Efforts focused on communicating the initiatives and successes of these organizations, and collecting student feedback to share with policy makers on the University’s Climate Action Plan.

One priority initiative at the main campus this fall has been water conservation outreach. Because of a hot, dry summer, UConn had issued voluntary and then mandatory water conservation advisories during the late-summer. These advisories remained in effect when students returned to Storrs for the academic year. In response, OEP interns created displays for the Student Union and residence halls to encourage water use reduction. Fortunately, the CT Water Company reported that there was a 7 percent drop in water used this September compared to last September, and the advisory was lifted in October.

UConn recognizes significant achievements in sustainability with the biennial Environmental Leadership Awards in November. These awards showcased outstanding efforts throughout the UConn community including faculty, staff, students, alumni, and outside parties who supported groundbreaking projects that helped make UConn a national campus sustainability leader. Nominees included the teams that: started EcoHouse Learning Community; developed the state-of-the-art agricultural waste compost facility; and created the new 400 kW clean energy fuel cell powering Depot Campus.

For more information visit ecohusky.uconn.edu or call 860-486-5773.
Are you employable? That is the question we ask each student at the University of Connecticut. We recognize that earning a degree from UConn is an achievement in and of itself; coursework is difficult, research projects are demanding, tests can be challenging. However, upon graduation, every student has to have a destination—a place to go. For some, it is graduate school. For others, it is a career, or service to one’s community or country. Regardless of his or her next step, Career Services continues to be a part of your student’s life.

The Department of Career Services has a number of systems in place to work with students, ranging from selecting a major to determining the right career. A student’s first point of contact is the Center for Career Planning and Development, which offers résumé and cover letter critiques. Located on the second floor of the Wilbur Cross Building, the Center welcomes walk-ins; career planning appointments are available.

Another helpful student destination is the Center for Internships and Employer Relations, located on the second level of the Student Union.

In addition to these options, Career Services runs a practice interview program. Whether your student is interviewing for an internship, full-time job, or graduate school enrollment, this program provides valuable insight to the process. We encourage each student to sign up for an appointment with a peer interviewer, for a practice session tailored to the student’s specific résumé and area of interest. Once comfortable with their interview skills, we hope students will take advantage of On-Campus Interviewing, a program that welcomes dozens of employers to campus to interview students for existing positions.

This fall, we hosted organizations such as: GE, Citi, Travelers, PepsiCo, UTC, and United Health. We anticipate more organizations of equal caliber will participate in the spring semester.

We also hold a number of career fairs throughout the academic year, which attract hundreds of small and large-sized employers. The fair scheduled for March/April is just for those seniors who have not yet secured employment.

For seniors preparing to graduate in May or August, we know the final semester can be a time of both anxiety and excitement. As they begin their final term in college, reality often hits with a bang. When students are ready to face their future, Career Services has resources and staff members to ease that process. We guide each student in choosing a career industry, and help the student position themselves as the right candidate for whatever comes next in their plan.

Whether you have a student in the first year of college or last, please encourage him or her to utilize the resources offered by the Department of Career Services! Please visit our website for updates regarding on-campus interviews, career fairs, and professional development sessions.

Please remember: UConn Parent Talk May issue online only!

The May 2013 issue of UConn Parent Talk will only be available online at the Parents Association website. Parents who are on the Parents Association LISTSERV will be notified when the May online issue is available. If you have not signed up for the LISTSERV, which is for announcements only, go to the top of the Parents Association web page at parents.uconn.edu, and click “Join our Mailing List” to sign up. You can sign up for, and sign off of, this LISTSERV when you no longer wish to receive messages from the UConn Parents Association.

Please visit career.uconn.edu for info on ways you can help your student plan for life after UConn.
Opened in December 1955, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season, Jorgensen events attract more than 70,000 students, faculty, and staff from the University of Connecticut, as well as residents from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Jorgensen seasonally presents 25-30 nationally and internationally acclaimed performances, ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and the finest contemporary entertainment.

Presentation, education, and outreach are at the center of the Jorgensen mission. In addition to performances, visiting artists augment the formal educational process with Convocation and master classes for UConn’s Department of Music, and informal Q&A’s and panel discussions for general audiences. Similarly, I teach classes in UConn’s First Year Experience Program.

The Jorgensen Outreach for Youth (JOY!) program provides over 1,000 free tickets to select cultural events at the Jorgensen for disadvantaged youth in Eastern Connecticut. The award-winning JOY! Conservatory Program provides 12 to 15 annual scholarships to area youth for the comprehensive study of music history and theory, as well as private lessons.

To produce topical events and presentations that enhance students’ UConn experiences, I work in conjunction with the Jorgensen Student Programming Advisory Board, Student Activities, campus cultural centers, and academic departments.

The Jorgensen enjoys significant private financial support from members of the University and surrounding communities, major corporations, and private foundations. Through annual and ongoing initiatives, the Jorgensen provides opportunities for patrons of Connecticut’s arts to support their passion at the Jorgensen and at the University in meaningful and important ways.

Grammy-winner, Esperanza Spalding, will be part of the the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts 2012-13 Season.

For more information, check out the website at jorgensen.uconn.edu.
Winter/Spring Sports Schedule

HOME GAMES
For complete schedules access the Division of Athletics website at uconnhuskies.com.
(The schedules below are the Winter/Spring dates available as this newsletter went to print.)

Women’s Basketball
Location: Harry A. Gampel Pavilion
Jan. 5 Notre Dame 4:00p
Jan. 21 Duke 7:00p
Feb. 5 Marquette 7:00p
Feb. 10 DePaul 3:30p
Feb. 23 Seton Hall 4:00p
Location: XL Center, Hartford, CT
Jan. 15 Louisville 9:00p
Jan. 19 Syracuse 4:00p
Jan. 29 Villanova 7:00p
Feb. 18 Baylor 9:00p
Feb. 26 Pittsburgh 7:00p

Men’s Basketball
Location: Harry A. Gampel Pavilion
Jan. 8 DePaul 7:00p
Feb. 3 USF 2:00p
Feb. 27 Georgetown 7:00p
Mar. 9 Providence 12:00p
Location: XL Center, Hartford, CT
Jan. 14 Louisville 7:00p
Jan. 27 Rutgers 2:00p
Feb. 13 Syracuse 7:00p
Feb. 16 Villanova 12:00p
Feb. 21 Cincinnati 7:00p

Women’s Lacrosse*

Women’s Ice Hockey
Location: Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum
Jan. 2 Princeton 7:00p
Jan. 3 Princeton 7:00p
Jan. 8 Boston University 7:00p
Jan. 19 New Hampshire 1:00p
Jan. 20 New Hampshire 1:00p
Jan. 26 Maine 1:00p
Feb. 1 Providence 7:00p
Feb. 9 Northeastern 1:00p
Feb. 17 Boston College 2:00p
Feb. 24 Boston University 2:00p
Mar. 19 Sacred Heart 2:30p
Mar. 24 Fairfield 12:00p
Fairfield 2:00p
Mar. 27 Quinnipiac 3:30p
Apr. 2 Massachusetts 4:00p
Apr. 6 Providence 12:00p
Providence 2:00p
Apr. 7 Providence 12:00p
Apr. 10 Georgetown 1:00p
Georgetown 3:00p
Apr. 18 Bryant University 4:00p
Apr. 20 St. John’s 12:00p
St. John’s 2:00p
Apr. 21 St. John’s 12:00p
Apr. 25 Albany 2:30p
Albany 4:30p
Apr. 30 Boston College 3:30p
May 4 DePaul 12:00p
DePaul 2:00p
May 5 DePaul 12:00p

Baseball*

Women’s Track and Field
Location: Storrs, CT
Apr. 6 UConn Invite All Day

Men’s Track and Field
Location: Storrs, CT
Jan. 5 Winter Opener All Day
Mar. 30 UConn Spring Invite All Day
Apr. 4 UConn Decathlon All Day
Apr. 5 UConn Decathlon All Day
Apr. 6 Dog Fight All Day
Apr. 20 UConn Classic All Day

Women’s Swimming and Diving
Location: Wolff-Zackin Natatorium, Storrs, CT
Jan. 26 Seton Hall 1:00p
Feb. 16 UConn Open TBA

Men’s Swimming and Diving
Location: Wolff-Zackin Natatorium, Storrs, CT
Jan. 26 Seton Hall 1:00p
Feb. 16 UConn Open TBA

Ticket Information
Tickets for Men’s Ice Hockey and Men’s and Women’s Basketball can be purchased online at:

uconnhuskies.com
You can also contact the UConn Ticket Office at 860-486-2724.

*For complete schedules & ticket information access the Division of Athletics website at uconnhuskies.com.
Dining Services Presents ‘Sain’, a New Line of Raw Foods

Gail Merrill, Publicity/Marketing Manager, Department of Dining Services

The University of Connecticut Department of Dining Services is pleased to present to the UConn community our newest retail offering, “Sain, a Raw Food Line.” Offered exclusively at Bookworm’s Café and Wilbur’s Café, the four new healthy food options are: Cranberry Nut Compote Wrap (vegetarian item offered on Mondays); Cashew Cheese Ravioli (vegetarian item offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays); Caribbean Pasta Salad (vegan item offered on Wednesdays); and Cucumber Flying Discs (vegan item offered on Fridays).

Sain items are made fresh every day. With an increasing awareness of eating healthier foods, students at UConn are excited about the new alternatives. “I love that the University provides such healthy options,” says one student. “I know there are already so many and I’m just excited that with new dishes like Sain, UConn continues to grow and expand the choices available.”

UCONN CALENDAR

Winter/Spring 2013

Tuesday, January 8
University fee bill due

Sunday, January 20
Residence halls open for the spring semester

Monday, January 21
Advising/class registration for students new to Storrs who have not registered for classes

Tuesday, January 22
Spring semester classes begin

Friday, January 25
Deadline to apply for fall 2013 housing

Mid-February through Mid-March
Midterms

Friday, March 1
FAFSA due for financial aid
Note: It’s a good practice to file the FAFSA by Valentine’s Day—February 14—so it will be received on time, as March 1 is the absolute deadline.

Sunday, March 17 - Saturday, March 23
Spring recess (residence halls will stay open)

Friday, May 3
Last day of spring semester classes

Note: Early May
Check your email for your May issue of UConn Parent Talk, available online only to those who sign up for the UConn Parent Association LISTSERV and join our mailing list.

Monday, May 6 - Saturday, May 11
Final examinations

Saturday, May 11 & Sunday, May 12
Undergraduate Commencement

May through August
Summer sessions
Whether your student is a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or anywhere in-between, being active and involved with UConn’s campus community is important. Students make connections outside of the classroom whether they lead or become a member of some of UConn’s 500+ clubs and organizations. There is always something going on; simply by attending any of the hundreds of events clubs host each semester your student engages, learns, and has fun.

Clubs and organizations are gearing up for spring semester’s start, and that means the beginning of some outstanding and exciting events. Some are brand new to campus, while others are old favorites. Three long-standing traditional events that have a big impact on campus are coming up: the Involvement Fair, Winter Weekend, and Huskython.

Meet at the Involvement Fair – January 30
Taking place both in the spring and the fall, this event allows students to meet their peers—students who are leaders of various clubs—and perhaps become members themselves. This past fall, 380 groups and 5,000 attendees participated in the Involvement Fair, and we expect a similar participation rate this semester.

Eat at Winter Weekend – February 1-3
Hosted by SUBOG (Student Union Board of Governors) each year, Winter Weekend is a beloved tradition at UConn. From comedians to concerts, this three day event has entertainment that changes each year. One thing that’s always a big attraction: “One Ton Sundae,” now in its 32nd year.

Dance at Huskython – February 16
For this year-long fundraising effort that benefits the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center students are asked to form teams, raise money, and then dance for 18 hours. While that might seem tiresome (18 hours is a lot of dancing) it’s also a lot of fun, and FTK—“for the kids.”