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Welcome Spring, finally! What a winter it has been! Even with all the months of feet of snow, life on campus, incredibly, continued on. Such an amazing and dedicated staff we have for our students. I have been a UCONN parent for 7 years now and I remain thankful and impressed by their care and professionalism. I know it is part of what makes UConn so special. For many of you this is time for a new transition- your student is graduating this month. Congratulations to each and every one of you. This is a huge accomplishment! Having had a son graduate in 2012 I can promise you that UConn has well-prepared your child academically, socially, professionally and emotionally for this next chapter in all of your lives. I am so excited for you all as you move on. Please remember though, even though your student may be graduating, you will always carry UConn in your hearts and UConn will always welcome you all home. Have a safe and fun summer!

Go Huskies!

Caroline Chapman
President, UConn Parents Association

About the Parents Association

Mission Statement:
The UConn Parents Association will support the University by involving parents in the college experience for the purpose of improving and advancing the University of Connecticut.

Executive Board: Caroline Chapman, President; Bob McMahon, Vice President

About UConn Parent Talk: All parents of Storrs undergraduate students are automatically members of the UConn Parents Association. There is no fee to join because we are funded by the UConn Foundation. UConn Parent Talk is produced by the University of Connecticut Parents Association in conjunction with the Division of Enrollment Planning and Management and the University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. Parent Talk has three online issues located on the Parents Association website (parents.uconn.edu) in August, January, and May. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please direct all correspondence to Maria A. Sedotti, Director of Orientation Services/Liaison UConn Parents Association, at the following address:

Office of Orientation Services
233 Glenbrook Rd., Unit 4239
Storrs, CT 06269-4239
860-486-4866
Email: maria.sedotti@uconn.edu

**This issue was designed and compiled by Garrett Schlichte M.A., Graduate Assistant, Office of Orientation Services & UConn Parents Association
A Family Tradition of Giving Back
Rachel Marshall, Dir. of Development for Parent & Family Giving

Every year the UConn Foundation receives significant financial support from alumni, parents, and friends for scholarships, programmatic enhancements, and other operational needs as well as capital gifts to improve athletic facilities and new classroom buildings. Charitable gifts help bridge the gap between what each student pays and the actual cost of providing a world-class educational experience for our Huskies.

Parents are crucial partners in the success of their children and the University. Every year, UConn parents give to support the Parents Fund, the Deans’ Funds, scholarships, and core University priorities like the University Libraries. Your participation, no matter the size of your gift, makes you a partner in this community committed to helping all Huskies make the most of the opportunities available at UConn. Educating your family on the value of giving shows your dedication to their success.

UConn students have the opportunity to build their character and enrich their own lives as well as others through service projects, cultural experiences, study abroad, and more. Through First Year Experience and Senior Year Experience classes, students learn valuable life skills such as time management, problem solving, and planning for the future. The Division of Student Affairs supports students through innovative programs that promote student learning, personal development, and academic success. Your student has the opportunity to engage in these and many other activities while exploring his or her interests at UConn.

Your child is finding their way at UConn, taking advantage of a top-notch education and cultivating new passions. Encourage them as they take their place in the UConn tradition of giving.

On behalf of the UConn Foundation, congratulations to our May 2015 graduates! You now join the growing family of UConn alumni. Keep in touch as you grow in your careers or further your education. We want to celebrate with you in your successes!

Top 10 List for New Grads
Jessica Sokol, Associate Director, Student and Young Alumni Engagement

Once your student strides out of Gampel with a diploma in hand, they’ll be joining a community of more than 223,000 alumni worldwide. Your student’s pride, memories, and accomplishments will forever tie them to UConn and to their fellow alums. But being a Husky Forever is about more than just nostalgic memories of meeting lifelong friends or being inspired by a favorite professor. It’s about connecting with other Huskies. It’s about supporting current students to make the next generation strong. It’s about uplifting UConn. From mentoring programs to networking events and beyond, there are many ways to stay connected and give back to UConn. Here’s a Top 10 List of how your graduate can do just that:

1. Update contact information with the UConn Foundation. This way, your student will always have the most up-to-date information about great events and opportunities in their area as well as exciting campus news.
2. Meet fellow Huskies through an affinity group, school/college society, or regional alumni network. Whether they move to a new state or stay in Connecticut, there are several groups ready to welcome new alumni. These groups host all sorts of events from game watches to networking nights to cultural events.
3. Tap into the power of our alumni network and connect with Huskies worldwide through networking events, personal connections, and online resources. Graduates can also sign up for free career webinars.
4. Stay connected via social media. UConn alumni are active on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Flickr.
5. Cheer for the Huskies at Rentschler Field for this year’s Homecoming football game on Oct. 17, 2015.
6. Get involved through volunteering. Alumni can be mentors, Workplace Ambassadors, career fair representatives, Admissions representatives, international ambassadors, and much more.
7. Participate in our global alumni book club, A Novel Group of Huskies. This virtual club allows graduates to participate whenever they can, from wherever they are.
8. Make a gift to help the next generation of UConn students. Graduates can make a general donation or choose to support a specific program that holds a special place in their heart.
9. Travel to exotic places with fellow Huskies. From the spectacular beauty of the Mediterranean to the historically rich island of Cuba to a river cruise on the Rhine and beyond, several tours each year offer the chance to experience different cultures firsthand alongside UConn alumni and friends.
10. Come back home to UConn for Huskies Forever Weekend. Join us Oct. 9 – 11, 2015 for campus tours, a 5K race, a beer and wine tasting, the annual Homecoming parade and carnival, and many more alumni activities.

Questions? Email us at ucaa@uconn.edu or call us toll-free at 888-822-5861.
In the fall of 2009, the Center for Students with Disabilities launched a series of student support programs called Beyond Access programs. These programs go beyond the core mission of the Center of providing accessible accommodations, as guided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The Beyond Access programs were conceived in response to a growing need to provide a continuum of services that extend the scope of support, while addressing individual student needs.

Beyond Access (BA) provides an opportunity for students to work smarter, not harder, in a competitive academic environment while also preparing for life beyond college. Students enrolled in BA work closely with a trained Strategy Instructor (SI) to design and customize their program based on their individual goals and learning profile. Students can choose to meet with their SI for three hours a week (Track I) or one hour per week (Track II) to work on developing skills such as: time management and organization, study skills, stress management, self-advocacy, memory and concentration, social skills, career preparation, health and wellness, and reading and writing strategies. Students create new goals and objectives each semester, and have the ability to choose to participate for one semester or throughout their entire tenure at the University.

“My Strategy Instructor not only helped me with organizing my school work, but she helped me organize my life. It truly is about the whole student.” –Junior, Engineering

Who Is our Beyond Access Team?
Our Beyond Access team is made up of professional staff members who supervise the program and graduate students who serve as Strategy Instructors (SIs). These graduate students come from a wide variety of disciplines including, but not limited to: Neag School of Education (Special Education, School Psychology, Adult Learning, etc.), School of Social Work, Department of Communication, and Department of Psychology.

The graduate students who make up the Beyond Access team are all working towards their master’s and/or doctoral degrees and have had experience working with students with disabilities either in a classroom or one-on-one setting. They attend a comprehensive training during the summer where they are provided pertinent information on the following topics: CSD policies and procedures, campus resources that are available to students, and training related to working with students in Beyond Access.

Throughout the semester, SIs are required to submit weekly meeting notes to their supervisor, as well as attend regularly scheduled meetings. These meetings are used to discuss student cases, specific strategies that may be of assistance for individual students, and suggestions for continued work with their student case loads.

The Center makes every effort to provide a positive experience for students in our Beyond Access program and is dedicated to hiring a team that shares a passion for working with students and helping them to realize and work towards achieving their goals.

“The BA program is just what we were looking for and will provide precisely the types of services our son needs in college. We are very grateful for the work done by you and your colleagues.” –Parent

Who Can Apply & How?
Beyond Access is open to any University of Connecticut student who is interested in working with a SI to meet his/her academic and personal goals. Students do not need to have a disability to apply. Please note: Students must first be admitted to UConn or be a current student in order to apply. As this program goes beyond the legislative mandates, in order to provide the necessary materials and resources, participation in this program includes a rate of $3,600 per semester for Track I and $1,800, per semester for Track II. Students interested in participating should complete the Beyond Access Application found http://csd.uconn.edu/beyond-access-application/.

Applications are also available at the Center for Students with Disabilities (Wilbur Cross Building, Room 204). Once the application is completed and returned, a Beyond Access representative will contact your student to discuss the next steps.

If you have questions regarding the Beyond Access program, please contact Christine Wenzel, Assistant Director, at (860) 486-2020 or csdbeyondaccess@uconn.edu.
What is there to do in Storrs Over the Summer?
Kyle Neary, Program Coordinator, Student Activities Programs Office

From the first week of June through August, the Department of Student Activities provides students who are on campus over the summer opportunities to participate in many fun and exciting events. While each year incorporates a different summer theme many of UConn’s traditional summer events continue to make their appearance.

One of our most popular events is “Tons of Fun Tuesday!” This event, is held every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m until 1:30 p.m. Students can purchase a 32 oz. ice cream bucket, and fill it with their desired flavors and toppings!

For undergraduate UConn students the buckets cost $1.00 while non UConn students pay $3.00. What a deal! During “Tons of Fun Tuesday” Summer Activities sponsors an activity, ranging from live music, to making custom hats and other free, customizable gear.

The Student Activities, department plans four excursions each summer, known as “Tours from Storrs.” These road trips offer students an opportunity to get off campus and explore the surrounding area attractions. Some past trips have brought students to Boston, New York City, the Roger William’s zoo, or they can participate in zip-lining, rock climbing, and swimming. Students are also able to purchase discounted Six Flags New England admissions tickets, to use on their own. A variety of events are offered throughout the week, some during the afternoon, and others in the evening to ensure that all students, regardless of class schedule can participate.

Barbecues, a variety of competitions, arts and crafts, relaxation evenings and free food are just a few examples of what events are offered – each week is a new experience and always a good time! For more information, please check out summer.studentactivities.uconn.edu.

You’ll want to bookmark this.

Stay connected with UConn at magazine.uconn.edu.
Preparing for a career takes an investment of time and effort. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), there was a difference in median salary of almost $6,000 between students who did not use the career center on their college campuses and those who went four or more times per semester. UConn students are able to take advantage of our technology resources 24/7 for assistance with choosing a career or major, preparing résumés and cover letters, as well as planning for internships, job searches, and interviews.

At career.uconn.edu, busy and motivated Huskies can start to:

Huskies can begin their major and career decision making through evaluating interests, skills, and values. Those who haven’t yet chosen a major can explore majors and careers by learning about the world of work. See the Explore Majors & Careers section of our website at career.uconn.edu for tips on gathering information and talking to people.

Other ways to measure interests is through the HuskyCareerPrep portal where students can take assessments on interests, personality, temperament, industry preferences, and entrepreneurial attitude. HuskyCareerPrep is a full-serviced career portal exclusive to UConn students that is designed to provide all the resources and steps necessary to guide individuals from the strategic search process to getting hired. By logging in and using HuskyCareerPrep. uconn.edu, students take control of their career development by determining an individual career path. HuskyCareerPrep does not list jobs, it provides information. Information is the key to a successful job search.

Evisors [uconn.evisors.com] is like YouTube for career development with a comprehensive and up-to-date library of industry-specific career insights from dynamic thought leaders and leading practitioners.

Whether seeking an internship or full-time employment, the best advice is to start early. When is early? It depends on the nature of the pursued position. Vault (found under Research Tools on HuskyCareerPrep) provides in-depth industry and company information including company and internship ratings and reviews. Its award-winning Career Guides give comprehensive industry insights and job search advice.

HuskyCareerLink (career.uconn.edu/huskycareerlink) is a web-based recruiting system which allows the Center for Career Development to manage many of the recruiting related activities we offer to students. Students interested in participating in on-campus interviews and/or viewing electronic job postings MUST register in HuskyCareerLink and utilize the system to view job openings, apply for positions, and sign up for interview times.

In addition to HuskyCareerLink, students can browse the national search engines on our internship page at interncoop. uconn.edu to assist in searching for an internship or co-op. Students can also search by specialized categories including specific industry, find international internships, or post-graduate opportunities.

Does your Husky have a big job interview lined up? InterviewStream is a great way to get feedback on interviewing techniques. Similar to a practice interview held at our office, InterviewStream will ask questions students choose and record themselves answering them. UConn students can set up an account today and begin strengthening their interviewing skills! It’s as easy as signing in with a UConn email address at interviewstream.com.

Have we mentioned the importance of meeting with a career professional? Students are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of our walk-in career counseling appointments; Monday-Friday from 12 pm - 4 pm in Suite 202 of the Wilbur Cross Building. We hope you will direct your Husky to our website at career.uconn.edu to start taking advantage of these resources and more!
Evergreen onions, purple potatoes, spaghetti squash, husk cherries and 7 different kinds of peppers are just a few of the new items that are going into the ground this planting season on Spring Valley Student Farm at the University of Connecticut.

These new crops - along with the other 45 varieties of vegetables and herbs – will be grown on two-thirds of an acre just four and a half miles from Storrs main campus and together will provide between 2,000 and 4,000 lbs. of produce for Dining Services this year. “Chuck & Augie’s is the primary recipient, about 75 percent of the food that we grow goes there” Julia Cartabiano, the farm manager at UConn Spring Valley Farm said. “We send mostly vegetables, herbs and edible flowers as well as flowers for their tables in the summer. Food starts going to Chuck and Augie’s April through November.”

Chuck & Augie’s is UConn Dining Services’ on-campus, full-service restaurant located within the Student Union that is included on the student meal plan. The restaurant is open year-round excluding winter and spring breaks.

One Plate, Two Plates – the new healthy fast food option that replaced Wendy’s this past fall – also receives a large percentage of the foods grown on the student farm.

“The 11 students who live and work on the farm and I work directly with the chefs,” Cartabiano said. “All the farmers sit down with the chefs and discuss what we grew last year and what they want to see this year. Students give presentations on different crops that we can grow, and provide chefs with ideas for recipes that they could use these new crops in.”

The designing – where, how many of each crop and a schedule - begins in the spring semester and planting starts in April. The planning includes reallocation of existing crops and decisions about which ones to cut back on in order to include the new additions.

“We are not a monoculture. We are a diversified farm,” Cartabiano said. “This is better for the environment.”

During the winter months (December through March) Chuck & Augie’s keeps up their buy local, eat local theme by purchasing foods from Fresh Point, a wholesaler that sources from local farms. Much of the produce that comes from the Spring Valley Student Farm in the summer is also frozen or pickled so it is available to the chefs even when over two feet of snow cover the fields.

Although Spring Valley Student Farm has been in operation for many years – continuously providing fresh, local produce for all student’s consumption, it is anything but stagnant.

“We have 2 new projects in the works right now,” Cartabiano said. “The first is working with a group of senior electrical engineers on a feasibility study for putting solar panels at Spring Valley Student Farm.”

The solar panels would provide all the electricity for the two houses where students live located on the farm. This is a large scale and expensive project, but as soon as funding is secured the panels will go up. However, a solar thermal system to heat the green houses, is likely to go in this year.

The second project – which is still waiting for final approval – is an aquaponic system. In other words, a closed system where fish and plants work together. The system would make it possible for the farm to produce fresh vegetables throughout the winter months.

Although only 11 or 12 students live on the farm, any student can be involved in the planting or harvesting of the crops through groups like EcoHouse or simply going on Fridays during volunteer hours. In this way all Huskies can not only enjoy the taste of local foods, but they can actually be a part of the process that brings the farm to their fork.
The academic year is ending and although it may feel like you just loaded all those belongings to bring your student to UConn, it’s time to pack them up and move them out. Did you know that students move out up to 40% more belongings than they moved in? Planning the move-out process can cut down on time and stress. Below are some suggestions to help make the process go smoothly.

When Do Your Students Need To Be Out of Their Rooms?
Students must vacate the residence halls no later than 24 hours after their last final exam. Those students participating in the undergraduate graduation ceremonies must move out by Monday, May 11.

Follow Check-Out Procedures
Residence hall staff will instruct students on how to vacate their rooms properly. Please be sure that your student follows proper instructions when moving out, such as cleaning the room, assembling furniture correctly, and handing in the key. Checking out with a staff member also allows them the opportunity to discuss any damages and who is responsible.

Consider Renting a Moving Van or Truck
Depending upon the quantity of items your student has at school, it may be convenient to rent a moving van or truck. If you are thinking about doing this, arrange to do so early. The month of May can be a busy time to rent a truck since many colleges are closing at the same time.

Bring Moving Supplies
Start saving those boxes! Boxes, tape and even Ziploc bags are very helpful on move-out day. Large garbage bags are one of the best ways to get clothes and blankets home. You may also want to consider packing items that your student needs for school into separate boxes. Label these boxes and put them aside for storage. Hand trucks are a great way to move boxes so be sure to bring one along if you have one.

Does Your Student Have Unwanted Items?
As students begin packing, they often come across items they no longer want, or that you cannot fit into your car to take home. The “Give & Go Program” encourages students to take action by donating their unwanted books, clothing, electronics, kitchen utensils. In the past the program has collected over 10,000 lbs. of goods and coordinated their delivery to homeless shelters, food pantries, and men’s/women’s support organizations throughout the state. As always, we love the support of our awesome parents! As the car is being loaded, and that bag cannot fit, we will gladly take it and find it a home!

If your student is in need of storage for the summer, please visit the Shopping & Convenience Guide available at parents.uconn.edu
As summer winds down, the Office of Student Financial Aid Services (OSFAS) is preparing to welcome new and continuing students as they arrive in Storrs. In an effort to provide a smooth transition, we urge all students and families to ensure that financial aid awards have been processed and fee bill arrangements have been finalized with the University prior to their arrival.

**STUDENT TO-DO LIST**

* Log into the Student Administration System to determine financial aid status and take action on awards

**Financial Aid Recipients**

* Verify status of any outstanding required items and submit all required documents.
* Accept or decline awards
* Enter anticipated credits per semester
* Enter information on any awards, such as scholarships, tuition waivers, etc., expected from outside sources

**UConn Scholarship Recipients**

* Review the type and amount of scholarship(s) awarded and accept the applicable terms and conditions.

**First-Time Federal Direct Stafford Loan Borrowers**

* Complete required Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note (MPN) for Federal Direct Stafford Loans at http://studentloans.gov.

**Federal Perkins Loan Borrowers**

* Ensure you have completed required Master Promissory Note for Federal Perkins Loans via ECSI, UConn’s Perkins Loan servicer http://bursar.uconn.edu/perkins-loan-office/.
* Maintain compliance with the University’s Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. Details regarding the SAP policy can be found at financialaid.uconn.edu/sap

All Financial Aid and UConn Scholarship Recipients

Continuing students who are not in compliance with the University’s Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy are ineligible for the aid programs governed by the guidelines. Details regarding the SAP policy can be found at financialaid.uconn.edu/sap.

If you want the OSFAS to discuss your financial aid with a parent/guardian, please ensure you have assigned them as a designee via the Online FERPA Privacy Waiver in the SA System. Our office will not be able to speak with parents/guardians about their student’s financial aid record without this access code.

**PARENT TO-DO LIST**

* If you are interested in applying for a Federal Direct PLUS Loan to help pay for your student’s education, obtain additional information at financialaid.uconn.edu/plus

* Remind your student to check both his/her University email account and the Student Administration (SA) System regularly. Whenever a change is made to a student’s financial aid award, or if action is required on their part, students are notified via University email accounts.

* Encourage your student to respond promptly to all requests for required documentation. If the student’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is selected by the federal processor for verification, the final value of the financial aid award package is contingent upon the verification of his/her financial aid application. Visit http://financialaid.uconn.edu/verification for details.

* The preferred method of submitting documents to the OSFAS is through fax to 860-486-6629. Information regarding alternative methods of submitting documentation is available at http://financialaid.uconn.edu/guidelines/. Please include your student’s name and student ID number on each page to ensure timely processing.

* Before calling on behalf of a student, please ensure that the student has identified you as a designee via the Online FERPA Privacy Waiver in the SA System, and that you have your assigned access code available. Our office will not be able to speak with parents about their student’s financial aid record without this access code.

* University policy requires that financial aid and scholarships be based on a fixed enrollment date (the tenth day of classes) each semester. The fixed enrollment date for the Fall 2015 semester is Monday, September 14, 2015. The appeal deadline for anyone that finalizes their enrollment after the tenth day of classes is September 28, 2015

**Questions?** Please visit the OSFAS website at financialaid.uconn.edu, or contact our client services staff at financialaid@uconn.edu or (860) 486-2819.
Family Weekend 2015 - Save the Date!

Eric Bouchard, Program Coordinator, Student Activities Programs Office

Friday October 2, 2015 to Sunday October 4, 2015

While summer is just beginning, soon it will be time to send your student off to Storrs once again! Often times seeing a loved one go can be a hard transition, both for the family and the student.

No matter what year your student is, brand new to campus, or beginning their 7th semester with us, it is always nice to get a visit from their family, to connect, and be able to show off how they are living, learning, and succeeding as a part of the UConn community.

The Family Weekend Committee is already hard at work, getting prepared to host an amazing weekend packed with fun, education, and community building events for all to enjoy!

Friday evening, October 2, 2015, join your student for dinner followed by some free fun at Late Night, or a movie in the Student Union Theatre. Saturday we will have the traditional outdoor BBQ, along with our annual “Cultural Explosion”, a celebration of the diversity on campus, showcasing just a few of UConn’s many student organizations. Finish up your day at the Family Weekend Dinner, and then a show at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, or head out to one of the many restaurants around campus; then join us for another movie and Late Night in the Student Union. Finish off your weekend with Sunday brunch, and then visit “Cornucopia” and the “Festival on the Green.”

If getting outdoors and exploring is more your style, take a Campus Tour, check out what downtown Storrs has to offer, or head over to Horse Barn Hill for a hike. This is just a sampling of the amazing activities and programs we have in Storrs for you. There really is something for everyone! We hope to see you in the fall!

A detailed program of events for each day of Family Weekend will be on the Family Weekend website in June. www.familyweekend.uconn.edu

UCPA Listserv

Parent Talk is now exclusively digital!
You will be notified of its publication via The UConn Parents Association LISTSERV.
If there are other important messages that need to be communicated to parents and guardians, you will be notified through the LISTSERV as well.
Parents/Guardians can sign up at parents.uconn.edu.
It is a self-serve listerv which means that parents sign up and remove their email addresses from it when they no longer wish to receive messages.

Important: UConn e-mail

Please remind your student to check their UConn e-mail over the summer frequently.
UConn’s offices and departments correspond with students by e-mail only.

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UConn Calendar

Fall 2015/Winter 2016

Saturday, August 1
Fall semester undergraduate fee bill deadline.
For more information visit bursar.uconn.edu or financialaid.uconn.edu

Friday, August 28
Freshman and Transfer students move into residence halls. Check reslife.uconn.edu for updated information!

Saturday, August 29 through Sunday, August 30
Continuing and Campus Change students move into residence halls

Monday, August 31
Fall classes begin

Monday, September 7
Labor Day (No Classes)

Friday, October 2 through Sunday, October 4
Family Weekend

Sunday, November 22 through Saturday, November 28
Thanksgiving Recess

Friday, December 11
Last day of fall semester classes

Monday, December 14 through Sunday, December 20
Final Exams

Friday, January 8, 2016
Spring semester undergraduate fee bill deadline.
For more information visit bursar.uconn.edu or financialaid.uconn.edu

Sunday, January 17, 2016
Anticipated re-opening of residence halls

Tuesday, January 19, 2016
Spring Classes Begin