



WHUS Battle of the Bands concert this Saturday



Band The Jawns performing at the Battle of the Bands on Feb. 2, 2024. They performed in the Student Union.

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WHUS Radio will be hosting their annual Battle of the Bands event this Saturday at 6 p.m. in Rome Ballroom. The event will feature four local bands facing off in a bracket-style tournament. This year the bands are Elizabory, Part of the Problem, Vices Inc. and West of the Gate. University of Connecticut students must bring their student ID for free admission. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. WHUS Events Director Sire-Lawrence Brock, an eighth-semester psychological sciences and economics major, talked about why the bands were selected. “What we sort of discussed when doing the selection process was that they all brought something very interesting and different in terms of their sound,” Brock said. “We just thought, why not highlight them and bring them to the Storrs campus and show them off to the community.” For the first round of the competition, the four bands will go head-to-head two at a time with 20-minute sets. The winners will be decided based on which

band gets louder cheers. The final round will consist of a 30-minute set from each band. The winner will get the opportunity to open at WHUS’ Spring Fling concert. “[The Battle of the Bands] an opportunity to find new connections,” Brock said. “This isn’t really like an event that you see on campus at all. I feel like a lot of events that do occur just in general don’t really highlight the local music scene... I think students are able to find connection and community if they were interested in this, but they weren’t aware of [it].” Brock said that they “often like to highlight students who have bands at UConn,” but any local bands are allowed to apply. “It’s great that we’re able to highlight any local bands that aren’t just specifically UConn students,” Brock said. West of the Gate is an alternative jam band that was formed in Storrs. This will be their first concert and their “first impression as a band,” according to vocalist Jack Lombardo. “We’ve written more original music in the last month than we have ever before,” Lombardo wrote in an email. “We’re excited to bring out our

best and show everyone what makes us unique as a group!” Elizabory is an experimental metal band from Worcester, Mass. They played in the Battle of the Bands in 2025 and have also performed at local DIY music venue The Dog Pound. “We pour all hopelessness, hurt, and horrors we face into our music. We are no one genre except for pain,” Elizabory member Frozt wrote in an email. “Listen to us on any platform and you’ll understand our pain and suffering.” Vices Inc. is a female-fronted alternative and pop punk band based out of Portland, Maine. Part of the Problem plays “riot grrrl” music, a feminist subgenre of punk music, according to Brock. The local music scene is important because it can help bring the community together, Brock said. “It’s important to sort of bridge that connection... and then bring us all together,” Brock said. “This does bring in a lot of students just in general who don’t happen to know us who want to check it out, and then they end up checking out these bands and getting involved in the local music scene.”



Students perform with their bands at the battle of the bands on Feb. 2, 2024. They performed in the Student Union.

WOW leader applications due March 1

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Students enthusiastic about the University of Connecticut’s Storrs campus are encouraged to apply to be a Week of Welcome (WOW) leader by March 1. Erin O’Keefe, a program coordinator at UConn Student Activities, said previous WOW leaders spoke highly of the opportunities the job opened for them. “We have WOW leaders employed across the UConn campus, and the experience they gain is a great addition to any resume,” O’Keefe said. “They were able to use their WOW experiences as talking points in job interviews after commencement.” While applicants of all sorts of personality types are considered, O’Keefe said students who are fond

Captains also work events beyond WOW like Spring Weekend and Mega Weekend, according to O’Keefe. Fourth-semester psychology major Giovanni Lavado, a WOW captain for 2026, said when he was a leader last year, one of the captains inspired him. After students lost interest in an activity, the captain took it upon herself to be innovative and re-engage students. “One of the WOW captains was able to think outside the box and she combined... three groups together and we had this big ice breaker game,” Lavado said, describing how the decision helped more people get to know each other. “That moment represented what it meant to be a WOW captain.” One benefit of being a part of WOW that both O’Keefe and Lavado mentioned was feeling more familiar on campus. “You get to meet a lot more



Student wearing WOW t-shirts posing together for a photo outside the Student Union.

of the Storrs campus have higher chances to be hired. “I look for students who truly love the UConn campus. Someone who walks in the room knowing that they are about to make a positive impact on our incoming class of first year students,” O’Keefe said. “[T]hat doesn’t always mean that each student needs to be the most outgoing or loud.” WOW leader applicants are facing more competition than previous years after an increase in student participation, according to O’Keefe. One of O’Keefe’s favorite parts of coordinating the program was seeing how many siblings and family members become part of WOW. She mentioned how two captains of the upcoming Fall 2026 team are siblings of former captains. WOW captains assist in the WOW leader hiring, recruiting and interview process.

people, they have big events there,” Lavado said, pointing out one of the activities where students watched a movie by a bonfire. “If you’re an introvert, it’s good for coming out of your shell and connecting with people at the school.” As UConn experiences enrollment increases, Student Activities Associate Director Jess Gerum said she expects events to get bigger, which might make accommodating everyone difficult. “Finding space on our campus is a consistent challenge between construction and the increased number of students attending WOW,” Gerum said. One way WOW works around this challenge is by holding events outdoors to accommodate large numbers of students, Gerum said, but weather remains an unpredictable variable for outdoor venues.



Student wearing WOW t-shirts posing together for a photo outside the Student Union.