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PULSCE:

Combats campus loneliness with 'Friendsgiving' celebration

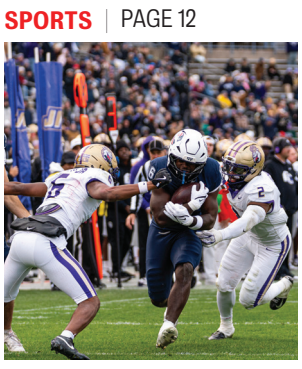
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STUDENT OPINIONS:

Here's how to hear student opinions

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FOOTBALL:

Explosive Huskies pick up signature win over James Madison

SPORTS EVENTS OF THE WEEK

WOMEN'S SWIM
Nov. 17-20 | Iowa City, IA

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Nov. 18 | 9 p.m. | Tuscon, Ariz.

MEN'S HOCKEY
Nov. 19 | 7 p.m. | Storrs, Conn.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Nov. 20 | 6 p.m. | Burlington, VT

WBB
Nov. 20 | 8 p.m. | Hartford, Conn.

MEN'S HOCKEY
Nov. 21 | Durham, N.H.

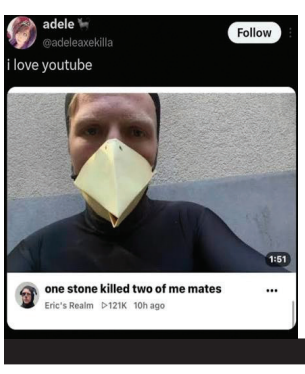
WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Nov. 21 | 3 p.m. | Burlington, VT

FOOTBALL
Nov. 21 | 3:30 p.m. | East Hartford, Conn.

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MEME OF THE DAY



West Hartford Mayor appointed new chair of Board of Trustees

by Mikayla Bunnell
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West Hartford Mayor Shari Cantor has been appointed as the new chair of the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees following the resignation of previous chair Daniel Toscano late last week, Gov. Ned Lamont's office announced Friday.

"Shari Cantor is the right person to lead the board, and her input is going to significantly benefit the university and its mission to develop the graduates who will flourish in today's rapidly evolving, modern economy," Lamont said in the press release.

"Shari bleeds Husky blue, and I look forward to having her serve in this leadership role."

Cantor was already serving as a member of the board prior to being appointed chair. She graduated from UConn in 1981 with a degree in accounting and became the mayor of West Hartford, her native town, in 2016.

"UConn has played an extraordinary role in my life and in the lives of so many Connecticut families," Cantor said in the press release. "Public service has always been a deeply meaningful commitment for me, and I see this opportunity as another way to give back to a university and state that have given me so much."

Toscano, the former chair, resigned on Thursday after serving as chair for the past seven years. He served on the board for a total of 18 years. It's unclear why Toscano resigned from the board, but Lamont, in a statement on Thursday, thanked him for his service to the university.

"Over the past seven years, Dan's leadership of the board has helped strengthen UConn and elevate its reputation as one of the best universities in the country, contributing to a record-breaking surge in applications from aspiring Huskies across the nation," Lamont said. "I applaud Dan for his eighteen years of service on the UConn Board of Trustees and the UConn Foundation Board of Directors, and I am grateful for his commitment and dedication to the university."

According to the press release, Cantor and her husband, another UConn graduate, helped start UConn's BUILD Hartford program, a course that allowed undergraduate and graduate students to work with Hartford start-ups and organizations to create "compelling business stories that capture and highlight the best of what Hartford has to offer," according to the program's website. The program first launched in 2021.

Cantor takes on this role as controversy continues regarding UConn President Radenka Maric and the renewal of her contract, which is set to expire in June 2027. UConn's board of trustees will have to vote to extend Maric's contract or appoint a new president.

In late October, Connecticut Speaker of the House Matt Ritter said he would be interested in taking a role as interim president at the university should Maric's contract not be extended. Last week, Ritter told CT Mirror he was no longer considering the position, as his "understanding is there won't be a vacancy."

Despite this and Maric's dismissal of the rumors at a recent University Senate meeting, the current president spoke at a public forum at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Friday as one of three finalists to be the university's new chancellor.

Cantor's appointment is effective immediately, according to the press release. She said she is honored to be the new chair.

"I look forward to working collaboratively with President Radenka Maric, my fellow trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni to build on UConn's remarkable momentum, expand opportunities for our students and strengthen the university's impact on Connecticut and beyond," Cantor said.



Shari Cantor poses for her official campaign portrait. She was named the newest UConn Board of Trustees member, and currently serves as the mayor of West Hartford.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @CANTOR4COUNCIL ON INSTAGRAM



Larry McHugh, Dan Toscano and Shari Cantor watch the UConn football team beat James Madison University. Both Larry and Dan have occupied the role of Board of Trustees chair, and now pass the torch on to Mayor Cantor.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @MICHAELACANTOR ON INSTAGRAM

Gampel daughters sue UConn over renaming agreement with M&T Bank

by Hope Melk
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Members of Harry A. Gampel's family are suing the State of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees following its agreement with M&T Bank to rename its basketball facility.

According to the lawsuit document released by NBC Connecticut on Friday, Gampel's three daughters, Debra Gampel Fischman, Margo Gampel Absher and Linda Gampel Abrahamson, alongside their attorney, Richard P. Weinstein, filed the lawsuit Wednesday.

The complaint cited that Gampel provided the university with $1 million in 1989 under the condition that "The pavilion will be known in [perpetuity] as the 'Harry A. Gampel Pavilion.'"

According to the complaint, UConn entered into the naming rights agreement alongside M&T Bank "without prior consent and without prior approval of the Gampel family."

The complaint stated that the family has sought to reach an accommodation with UConn for well over a month but has failed to do so.

According to the complaint, UConn has "engaged in delay tactics and failed to directly resolve this dispute."

In a statement to The Daily Campus, UConn Spokesperson Michael Enright said the university communicated with members of the Gampel family prior to the announcement and that it continues to make efforts to meet with interested family members to discuss their concerns.

Enright said the university's invitations to meet have not yet been accepted.

The facility is currently undergoing dramatic renovation and improvement, Enright said, and with that, the university is expanding its recognition of the Gampel name in several areas.



Construction workers paint the roof of Gampel Pavilion. The renovation of Gampel Pavilion has been a months-long process and has led to the recent unveiling of the M&T Bank sign, which has sparked controversy.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL JEFFERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Enright said the changes intended to honor the name include, but are not limited to, "enhanced back-lit exterior or signage at multiple public entrances to the facility, new interior floor-level signage where none existed before, expanded online recognition and the creation of a physical tribute to Mr. Gampel and the arena's championship history."

Enright said the university is focused on making a renovated Gampel one of the best college basketball facilities in the nation.

"The newest investments in Gampel are supporting the university's efforts to enhance and extend the life of the facility while continuing to recognize Mr. Gampel and his important place in UConn history," he said.

In a letter to the Hartford Courant released on Nov. 7, the Gampel family wrote, "We, Harry's daughters, recognize the value of corporate fundraising. We would have accepted equal name sharing. This would have been approved by the family. However, we were not consulted."

The family voiced their frustration with UConn's decision in the letter.

"This shocking reality is a despicable and disrespectful way to honor the legacy of our father,

Harry A. Gampel," the family wrote to The Courant. "It seems the University of Connecticut forgot that Harry literally initiated the glory days of UConn basketball. His 1989 donation swung the door wide open for future donors, and began UConn basketball's rise to nationally revered teams as well as national champions."

According to the court filing, the family is not requesting any monetary compensation in the lawsuit. Instead, they are seeking "a mandatory injunction requiring restoration of the exterior signage of the pavilion to prominently display the name 'Harry A. Gampel Pavilion' as has existed subsequent to 1989."

UConn has until Dec. 8 to file a response to the lawsuit.



The M&T Bank Center sign was installed on the fencing of Gampel Pavilion on Oct. 26. 2026, in Storrs, CT. Gampel Pavilion will now be called "M&T Bank Center at Gampel Pavilion" following a new naming rights deal.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MADISON HENDRICKS, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS