LIFE

UCONN STUDENTS SHOOT FOR GOLD AT 'HEATED RIVALRY' TRIVIA

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The University of Connecticut Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) hosted a thrilling round of "Heated Rivalry" trivia in the Student Union theater on Monday, Nov. 9.

78 students competed for a chance to win a Shane Hollander jersey, an Ilya Rozanov jersey, a pink American flag with Hollander and Rozanov's pictures, the complete "Game Changer" book series, book copies of "Heated Rivalry" and "The Long Game," an imitation of Scott Hunter's socks, "Heated Rivalry" socks, hockey flags, keychains and pins.

The top 15 fifteen winners could choose from any of these prizes.

Everyone was hyped about the event. Chatter filled the theater as students played. Some questions received cheers while others sat focused and quiet.

Sophie Coyle, a fifth-semester business management student, as well as SUBOG's sports chair, was proud of the turnout.

"It was a huge success, I think, in my book," Coyle said.

Coyle said everyone was excited to be at the event. She also said it was "a very welcoming and warm space for everyone."

SUBOG hosted the event because "Heated Rivalry" is very popular and has a huge fan base, Coyle said. They also wanted to expand its sports committee to reach many different groups of people.

Before the event began, students checked in outside the theater, where glowsticks and "Heated Rivalry" stickers were provided. The line reached the Native American Cultural Programs' door, demonstrating significant interest.

The game was played on Wayground, an online platform for making gameshow-like quizzes. It consisted of 102 questions spanning across multiple subjects.

The first 32 questions were multiple choice, covering basic topics of the show, including who the characters are, Hollander and Rozanov's teams, Hollander's favorite drink, who hospitalized Hollander and whether Hollander or Rozanov said "I love you" first. One unique question from the batch asked for the Russian translation of "I love you."

The next five questions were fill-in-the-blank. They covered the show's episode names.

After question 38, the format became a blend of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank. Questions 39 through 50 addressed memorable quotes and songs. There was also a question about the show's director.

Questions 51 through 63 were mainly more specific multiple choice. They were mostly about side characters, such as Hayden Pike and Svetlana Vetrova.

From question 64 onward, the game put a special emphasis on the books. Some questions asked about quotes from the books, and others addressed characters and events from "Game Changer" and "The Long Game." One even asked for the correct order of the "Game Changer" series.



Shane Hollander (Hudson Williams) and Ilya Rosanov (Connor Storrie) share an intimate moment in the first episode of "Heated Rivalry." The first season was released on Nov. 23, 2025 on Crave and HBO Max.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @HEATEDRIVALRYCRAVE ON INSTAGRAM

While many of the remaining questions were about characters from other books, a few were about Hollander and Rozanov. Two were about Hollander and Rosanov's birthdays. Another was about Rosanov's favorite fast-food restaurant. Other questions inquired about Hollander and Rosanov's actors' names and the location of the cottage in the sixth episode.

As students played the game, podium positions fluctuated. Players named Maria, Emma M and Katerina frequently fought for second, third and fourth place. Meanwhile, Shae Farago, a third-semester digital and technical theatre major, held on to the number one spot.

When the game ended, Farago won and claimed the Rozanov jersey. Second place was Emma M, who picked the Hollander jersey. Third place was Katrina, who chose a pin. Some of the remaining 12 winners were Milani Williams, Francesca Moriello and a player named Storm, who received the other prizes.

Farago was thrilled about being the champion. They said it was "really funny."

"I just know way too much about this," Farago said.

Farago had a lot of fun at the event and said that while it was a very stressful time, it was an enjoyable experience.

"I think [SUBOG] should do more of this stuff," Farago said.

Hidden treasures: Your favorite artists you've never heard

by Dylan Bonanno
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There is something so scintillating yet simple about someone playing guitar while singing. In a world crowded with copious amounts of sound pollution labeled as music, it can be difficult to sift through to the hard-hitting stuff.

Gone are the days when talent alone makes you heard. Newer artists have taken to social media apps like Instagram to promote their sound and all too often, they are not rewarded aptly. But Instagram's algorithm can be a beautiful invention when it comes to sweeping sweet hidden sounds from the source all the way to your device. Since we all love to hear good music, I am here to share some of the brilliance that's drifted into my hands on the app, and the artists who so desperately deserve your attention.

Jasper Hartman

Australian creator @jib_music gained traction for his song "rain / weary eyes," which was inspired by the Nepal floods.

He has an extremely similar singing style and sound to Nick Drake and bears a strong resemblance to Anthony Kiedis. His forte is incorporating clever twiddly runs on the guitar with a very apparent appreciation for harmonics.

Todd Crozier

Similarly poetic in sound is @toddsantlers, a 16-year-old singer-songwriter who shows astounding maturity in his musical decision making.

He strings together unique chord progressions and lays brilliant drawn-out vocals over them to create music that sounds as if Thom Yorke of Radiohead possessed the vocal inflection and lyrical genius of Joni Mitchell. He combines a passive fingerpicking style of guitar that is complemented beautifully by a small and lilting voice.

Joseph Weightman

In another corner of Instagram Reels, @josephweightman draws comparisons to Paul Simon mixed with Post Malone. He uses a classical style of guitar with nylon strings that gives his playing a pluckier and gentler feel.

His track "Weight of This Worry" debuted in late January of this year and was followed shortly by a full-length album titled "Seven Hills."

Zara Dalvi

Also worth notice is @zaradalvi, a singer and guitar player who has released her own songs on streaming platforms but is most known for her covers.

She fully produces both guitar and vocal tracks separately on her videos for a glassier and more polished sound and has vocal similarities to Tate McCrae. She sings her own renditions of hit pop and indie songs, most notably her mashup of "The Dress" by Dijon and "In Your Atmosphere" by John Mayer.

She has since released several originals on streaming services.

Tom Abisgold

Finally and fantastically, @tomabisgold is something out of another world. He is another artist who likes to put a spin on popular songs and mashups. His ability to play the guitar and sing as two separate entities is incredible, which is why it is so impressive to see the two work simultaneously.

His renditions of Justin Timberlake's "Mirrors" and Michael Jackson's "Human Nature" are among his most viewed videos, and he uploads new covers almost bi-monthly.



Jib, an emerging musician, playing the guitar in a recording studio. Jib is known for his song "rain / weary eyes," which was inspired by themes of maintaining hope through climate challenges.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIB_MUSIC ON INSTAGRAM

There is so much talent teeming from only a few artists local to your Instagram Reels page and it's all free! Give them a listen and you may find the song you have been waiting to hear, but you just didn't know.