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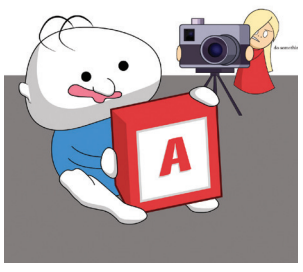
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Stop using your children for content

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UConn hosts UMass Amherst in historic rivalry matchup at The Rent

SPORTS EVENTS OF THE WEEK

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Oct. 19 | Hartford, Conn.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Oct. 20 | East Lansing, Mich.

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 21 | Omaha, NE

MEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 22 | Boston, MA

VOLLEYBALL
Oct. 22 | Omaha, NE

FIELD HOCKEY
Oct. 23 | Norfolk, VA

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 23 | Storrs, Conn.

FOOTBALL
Oct. 23 | East Hartford, Conn

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 24 | Storrs, Conn.

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 24 | Milwaukee, Wicsc.

MEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 24 | Storrs, Conn.

MEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 24 | Boston, MA.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Oct. 25 | Providence, RI

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Oct. 25 | Storrs, Conn.

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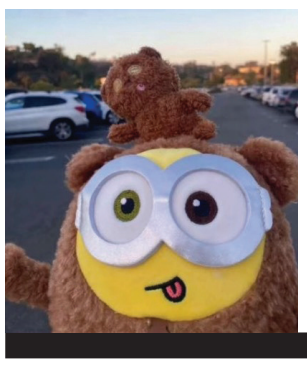
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MEME OF THE DAY



HuskyTHON Fall Fest happening today



HuskyTHON will hold its annual Fall Fest today from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Fairfield Way. Brendan Duhamel, director of special events, said the event will include fall-themed games for students to participate in such as pumpkin painting.

PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



A Chick-fil-A truck at HuskyTHON Fall Fest on Oct. 17, 2025. Last year, the organization raised more than $2 million for Connecticut Children's Hospital.

PHOTO BY HANNAH GRIMES, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Ariana Mohamed
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HuskyTHON is holding its annual Fall Fest today from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Fairfield Way.

HuskyTHON is an organization of students at the University of Connecticut who fundraise year-long for Connecticut Children's Hospital, a Children's Miracle Network Hospital. The organization hosts many events during the school year, which culminate in an 18-hour dance marathon that takes place in the spring semester. Last year, the organization fundraised over $2 million for the children's hospital.

Nora Broderick, vice president of internal relations for HuskyTHON 2027 and seventh semester English and communications major, said that this event is meant to bring the UConn community together.

"Getting to celebrate our community [and] bring everybody together through events like this is one of the most meaningful aspects of our organization," she said.

The event will feature food trucks such as Chick-Fil-A and Donuts with a Twist, Broderick said. Merchandise such as jewelry, stuffed animals and succulents will be available for purchase.

A portion of the money students use to pay for food truck items will go back to HuskyTHON, Broderick said.

Some student clubs and organizations that will be at the event include UConn Baile and Encore.

Other cultural organizations on campus will be at the event selling goods as well, Broderick said.

Everyone has a reason why they dance in the marathon, she said.

"Whether it's looking for community on campus, this is one of the most welcoming and special communities I found honestly in my entire life," Broderick said.

She said there are lots of way students can get involved in HuskyTHON due to the large capacity of the organization.

These events are the building block towards the dance marathon, Broderick said. Merchandise such as jewelry, stuffed animals and succulents will be available for purchase.

Brendan Duhamel, director of special events for HuskyTHON 2027 and seventh semester civil engineering major, said there will also be fall-themed games for students to participate in such as pumpkin painting.

"One of the cool things about Fall Fest is that it gives opportunities to members in HuskyTHON to sell their products and raise money for themselves," he said.

Other treats for students to enjoy include apple cider donuts, Duhamel said.

His role for the event was working with the 13 student vendors who will be at the event, he said.

Duhamel has been involved with HuskyTHON since his freshman year. He was a part of the HuskyTHON Rising Leader Program.

"That really helped me gauge an understanding of the organization and how it works," he said.

After participating in the dance marathon as a freshman, he wanted to get more involved, Duhamel said.

If students want to register for HuskyTHON at Fall Fest, there will be members to help do that, Broderick said.

"Connecticut Children's is such an amazing medical healthcare system, and getting to learn more about what they do and be able to support them and any children fighting these unimaginable battles is honestly really selfless work," she said.

The next HuskyTHON event is goat yoga this Sunday at the Founders Green. The link to register is in its Linktree on its Instagram.

AccessFlora wins Wolff New Venture Competition

by Gwendolyn Leonard
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University of Connecticut startup AccessFlora won the Wolff New Venture Competition, held on Oct. 13. The win came with a $40,000 check and $5,000 in pro bono services according to Wolff Venture website.

AcessFlora was founded by UConn graduate student Keegan Jalbert, who told UConn Today that the win made him emotional.

"When they announced that I had won the top prize, I was calm at first and then I was crying. And I'm not a crier. The recognition is so powerful," Jalbert said.

Jalbert created AccessFlora to produce Omega-3 aquafeed to increase the quality of the oysters he sells. These oysters are "safe, rich in Omega-3s, and fully controlled in flavor – meaning year-round consistency," according to AccessFlora's website.

The company's SureSweet oysters will ensure that chefs, restaurants buyers and distributors have a steady year-round supply of the proprietary stock, according to the AccessFlora website.

"We want to be the Angus of Oysters, "Jalbert told UConn Today.

This innovation is one of the newest to break into the $327 million aquaculture oyster industry in the United States, not including the $240.5 million wild harvest market as well as around $200 million for imported oysters, according to NOAA.

AccessFlora was one of the five UConn-affiliated startups that competed in the Wolff New Venture Competition. The competition is hosted by the Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

According to the center's website, the competition began in March when 10 startups were selected to join its Summer Accelerator.

During this eight-week summer program, these ventures "refine their business models, validate their markets and build real traction," according to the center's website. The "most promising" companies are chosen to compete in the Wolff New Venture Competition, according to the website.

Other startups that competed in the Wolff competition include Build-A-Brush, started by UConn alumnus Dr. Dante Paolino and his business partner Dr. Zachary Gelber.

At the competition, Build-A-Brush won second-place and a $15,000 award in addition to winning the Audience Choice Award with an additional $5,000, according to UConn Today.



AccessFlora founder Keegan Jalbert at the Wolff New Venture Competition. AccessFlora took home the grand prize at the competition for its innovative approach to sustainable oyster farming.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN

UConn will not host First Night due to ongoing Gampel renovations

by Thaddeus Sawyer
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For the second straight year, there will be no First Night event at Gampel Pavilion.

With major renovations still underway at the newly renamed M&T Bank Center at Gampel Pavilion, the men's and women's basketball programs will not hold the traditional season-opening event, a UConn spokesperson said.

The event also did not happen in 2025 due to construction and last took place prior to the 2024-25 season. "Due to ongoing construction at Gampel Pavilion, there is no event planned for this year," the UConn spokesperson said in an email. "We are always looking for opportunities to showcase our programs and drive fan engagement, and we will continue to do so in future planning."

The first phase of the multi-phase renovations is expected to conclude in November, with the second phase set to begin in March 2027, according to the university's March 2026 announcement. Phase one is expected to include a fully replaced roof, grab-and-go food options and improved facility amenities for players and coaches, according to the announcement.

Marking the beginning of the basketball season, First Night has previously included player introductions, scrimmages and three-point and dunk contests. The event has also previously included a block party on Jim Calhoun Way and giveaways for fans.

Both basketball programs have participated in an increased number of preseason exhibition games this season. The women's team hosted No. 6 Texas at PeoplesBank Arena in an 83-61 victory on Monday. The men's team took down No. 6 Michigan State on the road on Tuesday, a 78-70 win.

The women's team also held an open practice at Sacred Heart University on Sept. 20. The Huskies are scheduled to christen the newly renovated Gampel Pavilion on Sunday when they play their final exhibition game of the fall, hosting Army.