



WHUS' SOUNDS OF SUMMER SHOWCASES THREE NORTHEAST BANDS

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Three bands took to the Student Union Terrace to mark the end of the season at WHUS Radio's Sounds of Summer concert on Saturday at the University of Connecticut.

Second Skin, Forever King Clark and Whiplash! and the Weather each performed 20-minute sets as audience members watched from the lawn. The concert was free, and tickets came with a complimentary cup of Dairy Bar ice cream.

Events Director at WHUS, Aliyah Aquino, said that Sounds of Summer gives local bands a chance to shine.

"I'm really excited," Aquino said before the show. "They all seem really excited to be here, which makes me happy, and they have different sounds."

Second Skin, the first band to take the stage, is New London-based and described themselves as experimental, with influences from jazz music and bands like The Velvet Underground. The three-member band is comprised of J.T. Spranklin on lead guitar and vocals, L.B. Wendelin on viola and vocals and drummer Devin Noe.

Their set was composed of originals from their self-titled EP, which featured trance-inducing tracks, coupled with

Wendelin shredding the viola.

Second Skin said they were looking forward to college students hearing their music.

"If, you know, we can open the mind of anybody as a listener or a player — I mean, one person — that'd be cool," Noe said.

Forever King Clark, an indie, surf-rock band from coastal New Jersey, performed a series of originals and covers next.

Bassist Amy Evans noted Mac DeMarco as one of the band's influences, which manifested itself in a cover of his hit "Chamber of Reflection." They also performed songs from their new EP "You're Not There," which was written and arranged by lead singer and guitarist Bobby Kallok.

Forever King Clark began as Kallok's creative project in 2018, before Evans and the rest of the band, Jacob Moore and keyboardist Daniel Baumgarten, officially came together in 2021.

"I hope they like the vibes," Moore said, and by the looks of the crowd bobbing along, they did.

Whiplash! and the Weather, the youngest and most local of the bands, based in Storrs, called themselves "rock-adjacent."



Forever King Clark and Whiplash! And The Weather pose for a photo outside of the Student Union on Saturday, September 19th, 2026. These two bands performed alongside Second Skin at WHUS's Sounds of Summer concert.

MICHAEL JEFFERS / GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER / DAILY CAMPUS

Bassist Evan Dingle said the band's sound is ever-changing, a theme that came through in the band's diverse setlist.

Whiplash! and the Weather performed their powerful, own "Zoocosis," "Don't Let Me Down" by the Beatles and alternative tracks, such as Ween's "Transdermal Celebration."

Lead guitarist C.J. Beach is currently an undergraduate student at UConn, and bandmates Sydney Walker (lead vocals) and Dingle (bass)

both graduated from the university in the last year.

Drummer Kaya Dupee is a former UConn student studying at another school, and rhythm guitarist Liam Hourihan, who performed his first show with the band Saturday, is a student at Central Connecticut University.

Whiplash! and the Weather captivated the audience, receiving cheers and hollers as Walker belted on stage.

Students Talia Krimsky, a first-semester psychol-

ogy major, and Orchid Tejada, a design and tech major, both said Whiplash! and the Weather was their favorite band of the evening.

Krimsky said she appreciated the band's ranging rock picks, and that she really liked Walker's voice. She also said she had fun at the concert.

"I think it's always nice to bring people together, especially with music," Krimsky said. "I think that's such a human thing that everyone can connect to."

UConn RAINBOW CENTER WELCOMES BACK LGBTQIA+ STUDENTS



UConn celebrates pride by lighting up the campus rainbow.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @UConn ON INSTAGRAM.

by **Jaylyn Davis**
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The University of Connecticut Rainbow Center hosted its Welcome Back Bash on Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. Throughout the event, the Center was full of students from diverse backgrounds, gender identities and sexual orientations.

According to Deborah Williams, a fifth-semester political science student who is the Rainbow Center's Programs Team Lead and an Influencing Readiness, Inspiring Success (IRIS) Program mentor, the Welcome Back Bash is meant to provoke a sense of belonging within LGBTQIA+ students.

"It's something that the Rainbow Center does every year to welcome people back to the center and allow them to explore the space," Williams said.

Suzonna Shackford, a seventh-semester psychological sciences student who is an IRIS coordinator, said the Welcome Back Bash helps familiarize people with the Rainbow Center by educating them about their programs, events, support services and resources.

"It's a way for people to meet other people in the community and around campus," Shackford said.

Soda, free candy and catering from Moe's Southwest Grill were provided. In the catering, attendees created burritos from scratch. There were two protein options: chicken and steak. There were also numerous topping choices, including beans, seasoned rice, salsa, sour cream, guacamole, pico de gallo, lettuce, shredded cheese and pickled jalapeños. Attendees also had the option of adding tortilla chips to their meal.

Besides free food, the

Rainbow Center had sofas and armchairs for attendees to chill and talk to their peers. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in a raffle and visit one of three stations: Jackbox games, bracelet making and Just Dance.

Most of the attendees visited the Jackbox Games station, which took place in the Rainbow Center's main lounge. For the first half of the Welcome Back Bash, students played "Monster Seeking Monster," a dating-themed videogame where players spend a round sending secret text messages to set up dates. At the end of the round, some of the secret messages are revealed on the television screen while players find out whether their characters found a date or not.

After playing a few rounds of "Monster Seeking Monster," the players switched to "Quiplash," an amusing game where players comprise an answer to a prompt. After everyone creates an answer, the responses are shown on the screen, and players have to decide which one is the best.

A good number of students participated in the bracelet-making station. Bracelet making took place in the conference room, which had a serene environment. Relaxing music filled the room while students talked amongst themselves and designed bracelets using colorful beads and jewels.

A few attendees played "Just Dance," which took place in the program's room. Those who participated

danced to a variety of songs. One was Boney M's "Rasputin." Every performance was outstanding; all the students' moves flawlessly matched the "Just Dance" characters. At the conclusion of each song, everyone smiled.

At the end of the Welcome Back Bash, Vergil Hart and Poorna Choudhuri gave a presentation. Hart is a fifth semester structural biology and biophysics student, and Choudhuri is a fifth semester student studying legal and business studies. Both work in the Rainbow Center's Programs Team.

The first element in the presentation was the Rainbow Center's mission and history. According to Hart and Choudhuri, the center was founded in 1998 and was moved to the Student Union in 2006. The center's original location was not specified.

After sharing the Rainbow Center's mission and history, Hart and Choudhuri mentioned its IRIS Program, a service where first-year, second-year and transfer students pair up with a mentor and immerse themselves into the LGBTQIA+ community with them.

Other things Hart and Choudhuri presented were the Rainbow Center's events and services. Some services are mental health representatives, free menstrual products and a gender-neutral bathroom. A few of the Rainbow Center's upcoming events are Fan Fiction Night on Sept. 22 from 5 to

7 p.m. and the Caring Community Pop-Up on Sept. 24 and Sept. 25 from 9 a.m to 3 p.m.

At the event's conclusion, eight raffle tickets were drawn. Those who had a winning ticket received a Bluetooth speaker with the Rainbow Center's logo.

Marianne Rampertab, a seventh-semester English and history major and an IRIS coordinator, said she feels proud of her coworkers for pulling off this event, which went incredibly well.

"As a 'behind-the-scenes' staff member at the Rainbow Center, the turnout was amazing," Rampertab said. "What really made it shine, though, was the quality of conversations and bonds formed because of this event. Your patronage makes events at any of the cultural centers possible and gives value to our programming teams' work."

Rampertab mentioned that she spent most of her time at the bracelet-making center, where she conversed with her peers.

"We joked about Internet culture while I made a bracelet of trans icon Kirara from the anime Jujutsu Kaisen," Rampertab said.

Rampertab also said that the Rainbow Center is a very welcoming environment for her and everyone else that goes there.

"Overall, the Rainbow Center is a whimsical and cozy little home for me and so many other people," Rampertab said. "I love seeing familiar and new faces alike find themselves here literally and metaphorically."