Daily

LIFE





UConn students attend the fall career fair on Sept. 22, 2026 at the Student Union. The fair was an opportunity for students to meet potential employers and practice their networking skills.

PHOTO BY NORA MARIANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Students sample potential employers at All-Majors Career Fair

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Surrounded by tall banners displaying images of smiling employees operating heavy machinery and brightly colored corporate logos, hundreds of UConn students broke out their suit jackets and ties for Tuesday's All-Majors Career Fair.

Among those students was fifth-semester computer science and engineering student Owen Lyders, who came to the fair looking for a summer 2027 internship in computer science.

"I've actually gone to the UConn student help center," Lyders said. "I met with some advisors. I was practicing my interview skills. I had a lot of the resume builder tools that UConn supplied."

The fair, which was put on by the UConn Center for Career Readiness, featured over 100 scheduled employers, many actively looking to fill job openings and internships.

Jon Wilcox, a regional vice president at flooring company Shaw Contract, said that he and his coworkers came to the fair looking to come away with multiple candidates for roles within Connecticut.

"In a perfect world, we'd walk out of here with two candidates to kind of fill those positions," Wilcox said.

Taking over the third floor of the UConn Student Union, the fair flooded out of the Student Union Ballroom into rooms both across and down the hall. Some businesses, such as Lockheed Martin, brought displays multiple times larger than others.

A resume printing station, an area for students to store backpacks and a sensory room with dim lighting and noise restrictions were among the services offered.

Inside the different rooms, employers utilized a multitude of tactics to draw students' attention, including plenty of free merch. The offerings included a seemingly infinite number of free pens and an abundance of miniature hand sanitizer dispensers.

While some companies gave away stress balls with their logo printed on the surface, other businesses got more elaborate with their foam creations. The more outlandish giveaways included foam tractors (Farm Credit East), pumpkins (Justice Resource Institute) and construction helmets (Herc Rentals).

There was also enough candy at the various tables to go trick-or-treating. Sherwin-Williams upped their presentation of sweets by filling one of their paint cans with Kit Kats and Reese's.

Wilcox said that employers have to be assertive when trying to draw attention to their business.

"I think if you see somebody you think might be a good candidate, you have to be proactive and reach out to them and just grab them and introduce yourself real quick," Wilcox

said. "Don't let them come to you, you kinda gotta go to them."

Though some students at the fair were upperclassmen looking to beef up their resume with an internship or secure a post-grad opportunity, Center for Career Readiness Senior Director Nancy Blimes said that the fair was also an opportunity for younger students to get their feet wet with talking to potential employers.

"We do encourage first year students to come," Blimes said. "Even if they're not ready to look for an internship, it's great to come and just see what this is all about so the first time you come where you're actually wanting to connect with employers isn't your first time. It can be intimidating to be here."

Blimes said that the fair usually sees between 1,500 and 1,800 student attendees. Even more students were invited to participate in Wednesday's STEM Career Fair.

"It's a great opportunity for students to come and try to make connections with employers," Blimes said.

FANFIC NIGHT: A HUGE SUCCESS

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The University of Connecticut Rainbow Center hosted Fanfic Night on Sept. 22, inviting good vibes and creativity to the space. The center, located on the fourth floor of the student union, was created to promote equity and provide a welcoming community for LGBTQ+ people at UConn.

Fanfic Night was advertised on the Rainbow Center's Instagram as a place to "Learn about history of fandom, play fanfic games, and write your own (fan fiction) while chatting with like-minded people!"

One of the event organizers, Poorna Choudhuri, a fifth semester law, rights and business major, expanded more on what inspired the event.

"When we were talking with a lot of people who come by the center... they were in homes where they couldn't outright find queer media." Choudhuri said. "I think a lot of people turned to fan fiction to find queer media, and I saw that there was a huge correlation between queer people and finding comfort in fandoms and fan fiction because they felt understood there."

Co-event organizer Vergil Hart, a fifth-semester structural biology and biophysics major, was amazed by the turnout.

"I'm very excited about the turnout." Hart said, "I knew that it was going to be popular because so many people are passionate about fan fiction, but I had no idea that we were almost going to run out of room in our space."

After introductions, there was a brief overview of the history of fan fiction writing — like how the origins of fan fiction writing date back to Star Trek and the "shipping" of Captain Kirk and Spock. Fans of the show, taking inspiration from scenes they believe have homoerotic undertones, would write their own stories expanding on these dynamics. The genre became popular on the internet with the rise of platforms like Wattpad, Tumblr and Archive of our own.

The writing workshop began shortly after. They played a game called "Trope Exchange," sharing many commons plot points in the fan fiction genre. Each person wrote three tropes, put them into a hat then took turns drawing a trop from the hat. They then had 45 minutes to write a fan fiction piece using their chosen trope.

I talked to Ella Figlar, a first-semester speech, language and hearing sciences major, about her writing ideas and gave a brief overview of the "Omegaverse" trope. The omega-verse is described as a hierarchy of dominance akin to wolves.

"It's like a set of second genders, essentially. There's alpha, omega, and betas. alphas are strong sigma males." Figlar explained. "Then there's betas who are just normal people as they make up most of the population. Omegas are — the only different thing about them is that they can get pregnant."

We also discussed her piece that focused on the band One Direction and a couple of its members.

"We decided to do Larry Stylson: Harry Styles and Louis Tomlinson." said Figlar. Very fun stuff, I say.

The event concluded with those who were comfortable sharing aloud the stories they drafted. A good time, that was very accommodating to those who participated.

Events like this with a topic that is not referred to much on campus are a good way for those interested to talk about the interest.

"I found it was really niche," Alexa Malerba, a seventh-semester communications major, said. She also added the importance of events like this on campus.

"I feel like they bring community together," Malerba said. They bring a lot of people together, and it helps to meet new people, make new friends, potentially form long lasting friendships."

I highly recommend checking out The Rainbow Center for fun, inclusive events that may tailor to your niche.



The Rainbow Center holds an event that brings together people of all different fandoms, whether shows, animations or games. They came here to share their love of their favorite media and pairings of favorite characters on Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026.

PHOTO BY ALI BOKHARI, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



CARTOON BY CAMERON COHAN, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST/THE DAILY CAMPUS

"I think a lot of people turned to fan fiction to find queer media... they felt understood there."

POORNA CHOUDHURI
EVENT ORGANIZER