



## Student Life & Enrollment Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024

### Greetings, SLE Colleagues,

As we near the final stretch of the semester, I want to take a moment to reflect on all we have accomplished together over the past 14 weeks. It has been a period of hard work, challenges, and growth, and through it all, your dedication to UConn's mission has been unwavering. I am sincerely grateful for your continued commitment to putting students first. Your efforts have not only shaped their academic journeys but have had a profound and lasting impact on their success, both inside and outside the classroom. **Your work makes a difference.**

With final exams and reading days just ahead, this is a crucial time for our students. I encourage you to continue offering your invaluable support as they navigate these final weeks. Many will require additional guidance, encouragement, and resources to finish the semester strong. Whether through office hours, emotional support, or simply checking in, your presence during this pivotal time can make all the difference.

As winter approaches, please stay informed about UConn's policies regarding inclement weather. The safety of our students, faculty, and staff remains our top priority, but we also strive to maintain operations when possible. Be sure to sign up for [UConnALERT text notifications](#) to stay updated on cancellations, delays, or schedule changes. For the most reliable information, visit the [UConnALERT page](#) or call the emergency closing number at (860) 486-3768.

I'd also like to remind you that the Annual Student Life and Enrollment Appreciation Event has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the CT Dining Hall. I look forward to this opportunity to celebrate and recognize the hard work of our staff. Additional details, including RSVP information, will be shared in the coming weeks.

As we approach the upcoming holiday break, we are offered a much-needed opportunity to **pause, recharge, and reflect** on all we have accomplished over the past few months. It's been a busy and challenging semester, filled with both triumphs and learning moments, and it's crucial that we take the time to rest, rejuvenate, and reconnect with our loved ones. This break is a chance to step back, reflect on the progress we've made, and prepare ourselves for the journey ahead. The spring semester will be here before we know it, and I look forward to stepping

into it with renewed energy, a fresh perspective, and a continued commitment to our students' success. Together, we will continue to make an impact and inspire those we serve.

Wishing you a peaceful and restful holiday season.

**Go Huskies!**



Nathan Fuerst

Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment

## DIVISIONAL HAPPENINGS

### Student Employment Tours

President Radenka Maric and Vice President Nathan Fuerst have embarked on an important initiative to connect with UConn's student employees and learn about the critical roles they play across campus. The Student Employee Tours highlight how our student employees support university operations and contribute to student success while also developing professional skills for their future careers.

The tours began on December 3, starting with UConn Recreation and the Center for Career Readiness & Life Skills, and will conclude with One Stop on January 28. During each visit, the President and Vice President meet with student employees to hear about their daily tasks, skill development, career goals, and how their work impacts university operations. Each stop showcases the vibrant collaboration between staff and student employees in fostering a supportive campus community.



These interactions recognize our student employees' efforts and enhance our appreciation for their significant impact. Whether helping students navigate essential services or supporting operations behind the scenes, our student workers are integral to campus life!

### Historic Voting Milestone at UConn

For the first time, Mansfield residents—including UConn students—had the opportunity to register and vote at the UConn Bookstore in Storrs. This new polling site saw an impressive

turnout, with over **4,000 new voter registrations** and more than **4,000 votes cast**, the majority from students.

This success was made possible in large part due to the dedicated efforts of the **Undergraduate Student Government**, which worked tirelessly to spread the word among students, as well as the collaboration and teamwork of many units across the university.

### **2025-2026 FAFSA Beta Participation Update**

The Office of Student Financial Aid Services applied to participate in the U.S. Department of Education's beta testing for the 2025-2026 FAFSA, which opened on November 4, 2024. The goal was to provide valuable feedback to the DOE to ensure a successful launch of the 2025-2026 FAFSA.

To encourage UConn students to get involved, we reached out to **16,060** students about this opportunity. As of November 21, **1,182** students had submitted their 2025-2026 FAFSAs before the application became publicly available. The great news is that the 2025-2026 FAFSA is now live, ahead of the December 1 deadline.

### **One Stop Updates: Construction, Study Spaces, and Key Dates**

Construction is underway for the future One Stop space, with the iCenter being removed and significant electrical updates taking place. Noise and disruptions should conclude by the week of December 2, and the official physical move is expected to occur the week of January 6.

One Stop has partnered with Dining Services and Residential Life to offer additional study space during finals week. From December 8 to 13, students can use Buckley, North, and Gelfenbien Dining Halls as quiet study areas from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Important dates to keep in mind include:

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has been released ahead of schedule and is now open, as of **December 1**.
- Early Decision notifications will be released around mid-December.
- Fee bills are due January 8, 2025.

### **Res Life: Upcoming Preparations**

**Closing Preparations:** Housing staff are preparing for student departures at the semester's end, including graduations, EGL programs, and transitions off-campus or to other institutions. They will inventory room keys for January arrival and prepare for the midyear room change process, where students move out in December and into new spaces in January. Staff will track vacancies from room changes and cancellations to ensure spaces are ready for newly admitted students and those moving within the building.

**Winter Recess Preparations:** Residence halls will remain open for students requiring housing during the recess, with RAs and Hall Directors on duty. Students planning to stay must register for safety and security reasons. There is no fee for students in apartments; students in suites and traditional halls can stay for the entire break or part of it for varying fees. The application is open now through early December. We typically have over 700 students on campus at a time, with many coming and going. Students whose plans change after the deadline can contact our office for assistance.

**Spring Opening Preparations:** Students can begin returning from winter recess from Saturday, January 18 to Monday, January 20. Newly admitted students and those participating in the midyear room change process can arrive on Sunday, January 19 to receive their room keys. Arrival dates and times are available now, with detailed information for key pick-up provided in early January.

**Spring Housing Numbers:** We anticipate 450-500 new residents (either new to UConn or to on-campus living) and 200-300 students moving into new assignments through the midyear room change process. While there are typically more vacancies in the spring, we expect continued high demand and plan to house over 13,000 students. As we assess weekly applications, cancellations, and the waiting list, we will offer housing to as many students as possible.

## Strategic Planning and Assessment

### Celebrating Our Progress and Accomplishments in Student Life and Enrollment

As we rapidly approach the end of the fall semester, I'm struck by how much progress we've made as a division since becoming Student Life and Enrollment. As is common at this time of year, I find myself reflecting on our journey—both the steps we've taken to get here and where we are headed. For some, it may be difficult to see beyond our specific departments and programs to fully grasp just how far we've come. So, in the spirit of the season, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge some exciting accomplishments within the planning and assessment domain:

- With each department's support, we've established [specific, targeted priorities that align with the University's Strategic Plan](#). Thanks to your participation and feedback, SLE is now modeling the process of translating aspirational goals into action for other units across the University.
- SLE is piloting a reporting process designed to facilitate streamlined, consistent information collection across all departments. This will enhance our ability to share our story and demonstrate our impact within the division and to the broader UConn community.

- Thanks to IT-SLE's leadership and expertise in data management and analysis, we've significantly increased our use of data. It's incredibly exciting to see the dramatic rise in consistent, comprehensive, data-driven decision-making throughout the division!

These highlights reflect just a portion of our growth. I look forward to continuing our work together as we move these initiatives—and many others—forward.

Looking forward to our continued success,

*Liza Boritz*

Director, Planning, Assessment, and Evaluation

## Important Dates, Deadlines & Events

**December 5:** [Gingerbread House Decorating Competition](#)

**December 6:** Last Day of Classes

**December 7, 8, 12:** Reading Days

**December 11:** Board of Trustees Meeting

**December 9-15:** Final Exams

**December 18:** Semester Grades Due at 4pm

**January 15:** Annual Student Life and Enrollment Appreciation Event

**January 21:** Spring Semester Begins

**2024 Religious & Cultural [Important Dates](#)**

**UConn is a great university.**

But it's more than that. A top-ranked Land and Sea Grant research institution, with campuses and staff across Connecticut, built to inspire the global community that is UConn Nation. UConn's talented students exceed expectations. Our expert researchers, faculty, and alumni drive Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (CIE) for a better tomorrow. We fuel the State's economy and are committed to inclusion with emotional intelligence in benefiting the greater good. **This is UConn.**

**STUDENTS FIRST. UCONN ALWAYS. HUSKIES FOREVER.**

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