



## Student Life & Enrollment Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2025

### **Greetings, SLE Colleagues,**

Welcome back! I hope you were able to find time for rest and renewal this summer. As we step into a new academic year, our commitment remains clear: student success is our top priority. Guided by the Strategic Plan and Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, every decision we make, every program we offer, and every resource we dedicate is focused on ensuring our students have the tools, guidance, and opportunities they need to thrive.

This year brings both opportunities and challenges. Like many institutions across the country, we are navigating budget constraints that require us to be both resourceful and strategic. While these challenges are real, they also spark innovation and collaboration as we seek new ways to do more with less—without losing sight of our mission.

At the heart of our work is our people. We are proud to focus not only on our students, but also on the faculty and staff who dedicate themselves to teaching, mentoring, and supporting our community every single day. Together, we create an environment where learning and growth are possible for all.

We will soon be unveiling a new DEI plan for Student Life & Enrollment—one that emphasizes not only a strong sense of belonging for students, but also for you. Our commitment to you goes beyond admiration and appreciation for all that you contribute. It recognizes that when you feel authentically connected to UConn—through your work, your colleagues, and our shared purpose—we are positioned to deliver one of the best student experiences in the nation. A sincere thank you to our committee, led by Stacey Murdock and Terrence Abney, for their thoughtful leadership and dedication in shaping this plan.

And there is much to celebrate. This fall, we welcomed record enrollment—the largest in our institution's history. This milestone reflects not only the trust that students and families place in us, but also the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff who make UConn a place where students want to learn and belong. It reaffirms the value of the education and experiences we provide.

As we begin this year, let's embrace our shared purpose: supporting one another, facing challenges with creativity and determination, and celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of our students and colleagues. Together, we have the opportunity to make this year one of our most meaningful and successful yet.

Let's make it a year to remember—*together*.

**Go Huskies!**



Nathan Fuerst

Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment

## DIVISIONAL HAPPENINGS

### Admissions Update: Class of 2029 & Beyond

Each fall, a new class of Huskies arrives with fresh energy, ideas, and aspirations. This year, more than 7,500 students joined UConn Nation as part of the Class of 2029—one of the most diverse and motivated groups in our history. They bring perspectives from across Connecticut, the nation, and the world, and we are proud to welcome them into our community.

As we celebrate the arrival of this outstanding class, our attention is already turning to the next. Our application for Fall 2026 opened on August 1, and early interest has been strong. Inquiries from prospective students suggest continued enthusiasm for UConn, and we expect that momentum to grow as deadlines approach.

In the months ahead, our office will be busy with application reviews, campus visits, and admissions events. We know the college search can be both exciting and stressful, so we continue to provide resources such as live Q&A sessions, one-on-one advising, and an updated admissions website to make the process more transparent and accessible. Faculty, staff, and current students remain vital partners in this work, and we are grateful for the many ways they help future Huskies feel welcomed and supported.

To serve a growing and diverse applicant pool, we are leveraging technology to improve efficiency and accuracy while giving staff more time to focus on students. Our implementation of Slate has already reduced administrative work, allowing staff to devote more energy to counseling students, engaging with communities, and assisting families through the admissions journey. We will continue exploring innovations that make our work more efficient, equitable, and effective.

Looking ahead, the implementation of UConn's SEM Plan will guide our university-wide efforts to attract, enroll, and retain a student body that reflects our mission and responds to

the evolving needs of society. Within this broader effort, the Admissions Office will play a central role in advancing the plan.

With your continued partnership, we are energized for the year ahead and committed to shaping another outstanding incoming class.

### **Campus Housing Update**

As the fall semester kicks off, Campus Housing is proud to welcome thousands of Huskies into their on-campus homes. Here's a snapshot of our housing numbers as of **August 25**:

- **Hartford:** 50 beds, 36 assigned
- **Stamford:** 781 beds, 758 assigned
- **Storrs:** 13,886 beds, 13,347 assigned

Beyond the numbers, our residential communities continue to reflect the rich diversity of our student body:

- **First-generation students:**
  - Storrs: 3,784
  - Stamford: 378
  - Hartford: 21
- **International students:** 591 total, including 273 first-time students
- **Campus change students:** 496 total, with 364 approved for Fall 2025

As we welcome this diverse group of students, one of our key priorities has been creating spaces where first-year Huskies can feel at home from day one. A priority this year was to develop more first-year areas where students can live with their classmates and acclimate together. The Learning Community (LC) areas, along with a few others, have traditionally been oriented toward first-year students. This year, we added additional spaces, including North and Northwest. These areas are:

- Alumni (LCs)
- Buckley/Shippee (Honors), Hicks, and Grange (East)
- North
- Northwest
- Towers
- Werth (LCs)

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of our community during move-in. A heartfelt thank-you to all the **Husky Helpers** who gave their time and energy to welcome new and returning students. Your commitment makes a lasting difference for our students and their families.

## Welcoming the Newest Members of UConn Nation

This summer, our five campuses came alive with excitement as we hosted 60 orientation sessions for incoming students. Orientation Leaders introduced new Huskies to campus life, from exploring campus resources and amenities to learning beloved gameday chants and the fight song. Students also connected with campus offices and finalized their class schedules for the fall semester.

The experience wasn't just for students—families joined in, too! More than 3,400 guests attended Family Orientation sessions, spending the day on campus to discover all that UConn has to offer. Our regional campuses expanded these opportunities with an in-person welcome event and eight virtual webinars, each highlighting campus-specific topics and resources designed to support families throughout the transition.

The Office of Orientation Services was thrilled to welcome our newest Huskies and their supporters this summer. We look forward to watching them thrive and make their mark at UConn in the year ahead!







### **SHaW Announces Director of Sports Medicine and Head Team Physician**

Student Health and Wellness (SHaW) is pleased to announce that **Allison Schafer, DO**, has been appointed Director of Sports Medicine and Head Team Physician at the University of Connecticut, effective July 25, 2025.

Dr. Schafer brings more than seven years of experience in orthopedics and sports medicine. She has served as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Orthopedics at UConn, Medical Director of the Women's Center for Motion and Performance at UConn Health, and Core Faculty for the Family Medicine Non-Operative Sports Medicine Fellowship. She has also been an Assistant Team Physician for several UConn athletic teams. Over the past year, Dr. Schafer served as Interim Director of Sports Medicine and Head Team Physician, leading a dedicated team in providing exceptional care to UConn's student-athletes.

Reporting to the Executive Director of SHaW and working in close collaboration with the Department of Athletics, the Director of Sports Medicine and Head Team Physician is primarily responsible for directing, coordinating, and administering a comprehensive sports medicine program. This includes clinical leadership for the prevention, evaluation, treatment, and rehabilitation of student-athletes.

Please join SHaW in welcoming Dr. Allison Schafer to her new role as Director of Sports Medicine and Head Team Physician.

**Digital Accessibility Tip: Use Descriptive Alt Text for Images**

One of the simplest and most impactful ways to improve website and document accessibility is to add meaningful alternative text (alt text) to images. Alt text allows screen readers to describe images to users who are blind or have low vision. Without it, these users miss out on important visual information.

ALT Text should describe the content and function. For example:

✗ “Image of a chart”

✓ “Bar chart showing enrollment growth from 2020 to 2024”

This small step helps ensure your digital content is inclusive and compliant with federal, state, and local accessibility guidelines.

Learn More: [How to add ALT text in Microsoft 365 documents](#)

## Professional Development Opportunities

### LinkedIn Learning Now Available to UConn Staff

All UConn staff on the Storrs campus now have free access to **LinkedIn Learning**, an e-learning platform with a library of more than 6,000 courses in technical, business, software, and creative topics.

You can access LinkedIn Learning anytime, on desktop or mobile:

1. Go to <https://myapps.microsoft.com/>
2. Select the **LinkedIn Learning** application to activate your license
3. If prompted, sign in with your UConn credentials

### Academic Impressions Professional Development Resources

Academic Impressions provides professional development specifically designed for higher education professionals. Offerings include both skills-based and leadership trainings on topics such as supervision, personal effectiveness, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. All programs are created *by* higher education professionals, *for* higher education professionals.

For more information, visit the Organizational and Staff Development (OSD) team [website](#).

## Strategic Planning and Assessment

### Advancing Planning, Assessment, and Evaluation to Support Holistic Student Success

This summer, we launched a series of strategic improvements to our Planning, Assessment, and Evaluation practices to better support student-centered decision-making and organizational effectiveness.

We're introducing updated data analysis and dashboarding software to improve data collection, sharing, and real-time analysis across units. This system will help us more clearly communicate outcomes and align our work with strategic goals at the unit, division, and institutional levels.

In preparation for the upcoming [SERU survey](#) this spring, we've also initiated new partnerships and survey strategies to increase response rates and streamline the collection of critical student experience data, especially around belonging, value, and satisfaction.

These enhancements reflect SLE's commitment to continuous improvement and our shared goal of cultivating a thriving student body. If you're interested in learning more or supporting SERU distribution, please reach out!

I am looking forward to a groundbreaking and productive year in partnership with all of you!

In Partnership,

*Liza Boritz*

Director, Planning, Assessment, and Evaluation

## Important Dates, Deadlines & Events

**August 25:** Fall Semester Begins

**August 27:** Student Employment Job Fair, *Storrs Campus*

**September 1:** Labor Day – No Classes

**September 26-28:** [Family Weekend](#), *Storrs Campus*

**2025 Religious & Cultural [Important Dates](#)**

[UConn Events Calendar](#)

**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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