

AGENDA

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees

Institutional Advancement Committee Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting

Public Streaming Link (live captioning, upon request): <https://techsupport.uconn.edu/bot>

(A recording of the meeting will be posted on the Board website, <https://boardoftrustees.uconn.edu/>, within seven days of the meeting.)

Call to order at **1:00 p.m.**

1. Public Participation*

*Individuals who wish to speak during the Public Portion of the Wednesday, April 22, 2026, meeting must sign up 24 hours in advance of the meeting's start time (1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026) by emailing BoardCommittees@uconn.edu. Speaking requests must include a name, telephone number, topic, and affiliation with the University (i.e., student, employee, member of the public). The Committee may limit the entirety of public comment to a maximum of 30 minutes. As an alternative, individuals may submit written comments to the Committee via email (BoardCommittees@uconn.edu), and all comments will be transmitted to the Committee.

2. Minutes from February 18, 2026, Meeting
Attachment 1

Dr. Dennis-LaVigne

3. Naming Resolutions
Attachment 2

Ms. Yancey

- Establishment of the George L. Minor Quasi-Endowment Fund
- Renaming of the Judi and Gary Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights
- Naming Recommendation for the Mike Boylan '02 Player Lobby
- Naming Recommendation for the Chase-Bear-Dyer Advanced Triage Unit
- Naming Recommendation for the Chase-Bear-Dyer Family Classroom
- Naming Recommendation for the Norton & Anne Goss II and Family Women's Coaches Locker Room
- Naming Recommendation for the Toplands Meat Science Teaching and Research Laboratory
- Named Gift Opportunities for the Gant Science Complex
- Named Gift Opportunities for the Harry A. Gampel Pavilion
- Named Gift Opportunities for the Practice Football Fields

4. UConn Foundation Update

Ms. Yancey

5. Governmental Relations Update

Ms. Lombardo

6. University Communications Update
Attachment 3

Mr. Kirk

7. University Senate Representative Report

Dr. Timothy Folta

8. Other Business

9. Executive Session (as needed)

10. Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE: *If you are an individual with a disability and require accommodations, please e-mail the Board of Trustees Office at boardoftrustees@uconn.edu prior to the meeting.*

ATTACHMENT 1

DRAFT MINUTES

**University of Connecticut
Board of Trustees**

**Institutional Advancement Committee
February 18, 2026
Virtual Meeting**

Committee Trustees:	Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Charles Bunnell, Shari Cantor, Bryan Pollard, Diane Whitney
University Senate Representative:	Timothy Folta
University Staff:	Radenka Maric, Pamir Alpay, Nicole Gelston, Jonathan Heinlein, Michael Kirk, Joann Lomabrdo, Stephanie Reitz, Reka Wrynn
UConn Foundation Staff:	Becky Chabot, Rachel Marshall, Marinda Reynolds, Daniel Sullivan, Michael Van Sambeck, Amy Yancey
UConn Foundation Board of Directors:	Craig Ashmore, Jonathan Greenblatt

Vice-Chair Dennis-LaVigne called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

1. Public Participation

No members of the public signed up to address the Committee.

2. 2026 Institutional Advancement Meeting Schedule Attachment 1
The 2026 Institutional Advancement Meeting Schedule was shared as informational.

3. Minutes from November 12, 2025, Meeting Attachment 2

On a motion by Trustee Pollard, seconded by Trustee Cantor, the Committee voted to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2025, Meeting with one abstention from Trustee Whitney.

4. Naming Resolutions Attachment 3

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the Committee voted unanimously to approve recommending the Lisa Lavorato '85 Exercise Lab to the Board of Trustees.

On a motion by Trustee Bunnell, seconded by Trustee Cantor, the Committee voted unanimously to approve recommending the Bertie '82 and Jackie Chuong Faculty Office to the Board of Trustees.

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the Committee voted unanimously to approve recommending the Dan DiFiore Class of 1972 Hitting Bay to the Board of Trustees.

On a motion by Trustee Cantor, seconded by Trustee Bunnell, the Committee voted unanimously to approve recommending the Connelly Sleep Lab to the Board of Trustees.

On a motion by Trustee Pollard, seconded by Trustee Cantor, the Committee voted unanimously to approve recommending the Jim and Jane Mitchell Coaches History Wall to the Board of Trustees.

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Bunnell, the Committee voted unanimously to approve recommending the renaming of the Urman Peace Garden to the Board of Trustees.

5. UConn Foundation Update

Ms. Yancey shared the UConn Foundation update with the Committee.

6. Governmental Relations Update

Ms. Lombardo shared updates from the current legislative session with the Committee.

7. University Communications Update

Attachment 4

Mr. Kirk shared an update on work happening in University Communications, including a digital copy of the 2025 Content Report.

8. University Senate Representative Report

Dr. Folta did not have an update for the Committee.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Executive Session

The Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 1:46 p.m. regarding:

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes sections 1-200(6), 1-210 (b) (1) and (10), to discuss preliminary drafts and notes and documents protected by the attorney-client privilege.

The following Committee members were in attendance: Dennis-LaVigne, Bunnell, Cantor, Pollard, and Whitney.

The following University staff were in attendance for the entire Executive Session: Maric, Alpay, Gelston, and Heinlein.

The Executive Session ended at 2:01 p.m., and the Committee returned to Open Session at 2:01 p.m.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Cote
Secretary to the Committee

ATTACHMENT 2

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Reka Wrynn *Reka Wrynn*
Interim Vice President for Finance

RE: Establishment of the George L. Minor Quasi-Endowment Fund

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees establish a quasi-endowment fund to be known as the George L. Minor Fund, with a principal of \$3,000,000 to be managed and administered according to applicable policy pertaining to University endowments; and

That the Board further direct that distributions from the George L. Minor Fund be made for benefit of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources ("CAHNR") at the discretion of the Dean of CAHNR, subject to the control and oversight of the President and/or his/her designee.

RESOLUTION:

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees establish a quasi-endowment fund to be known as the George L. Minor Fund, with the principal sum of \$3,000,000 received as a bequest from the late Mr. Minor; and

Be it further resolved that distributions from the George L. Minor Fund be made for benefit of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, at the discretion of the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, subject to the control and oversight of the President and/or his/her designee."

BACKGROUND:

Alumnus George Leigh Minor grew up on his family's farm and began helping at a young age. He graduated from Bristol High School and later earned a degree from the UConn School of Agriculture, dedicating his entire life to a career in farming.

The University recently received a distribution from Mr. Minor's estate in the amount of \$6,273,964.95. Mr. Minor's bequest, which conveyed that "... *all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, real, personal, and mixed, of whatsoever the same may consist of and wheresoever situated, I give, devise and bequeath to the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, said bequest to be used for the benefit of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources*, was distributed directly to the University and deposited into a University gift account.

By endowing \$3,000,000 of Mr. Minor's bequest and depositing the remaining balance in a separate spendable account, the University hopes to honor Mr. Minor's legacy and his desire to support CAHNR.

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric *Radenka Maric*

RE: Renaming of the Judi and Gary Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees authorize renaming the "Judi and Gary Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights", previously approved by the Board of Trustees on August 2, 2005, as the "Gladstein Family Distinguished Chair in Human Rights."

BACKGROUND:

The Gladsteins have a long history of philanthropy and involvement with the University of Connecticut and have provided funds for the human rights programs since its inception. In 2023, the Trustees honored the family with renaming this Institute the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute. Mr. Gladstein is also a former member of the UConn Foundation Board of Directors (1998-2008). He received a BA in Economics from the University of Connecticut's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1966.

In 2005, Judi and Gary Gladstein established the Judi and Gary Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights to support the University by providing financial support for an endowed faculty position in the University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The donor has requested the name change to the "Gladstein Family Distinguished Chair in Human Rights" to reflect the family's ongoing philanthropy to the University. The individual appointed to this endowed faculty position will continue to be an internationally recognized researcher, scholar, and teacher and would have made significant contributions to the field of human rights.

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric 
RE: Naming Recommendation for Mike Boylan '02 Player Lobby

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees authorize naming the L1B1 player lobby in the Toscano Family Ice Forum located on the Storrs campus in recognition of Mike Boylan '02.


BACKGROUND:

The Toscano Family Ice Forum is a state-of-the-art 2,600-seat ice hockey arena on the Storrs campus, home of UConn men's and women's ice hockey teams. The arena opened in January 2023. The facility presently includes full Division I training and support for the women's and men's ice hockey teams; team lounges, dry locker area and locker rooms with video displays; locker rooms for visiting teams; training space with a hydrotherapy area; strength and conditioning room; and other areas such as coaches' offices, a press box, and a large center-hung display scoreboard with perimeter ribbon boards designed to create an outstanding experience for fans. L1B1 player lobby area is the area where both the men and women enter their hallway for their locker rooms, strength and conditioning, and their athletic training it is approximately 150 square feet.

Mr. Michael Boylan is a principal and Co-Manager of BBH Capital Partners (BBHCP) Private Equity at BBH Capital Partners. He received his bachelor's degree in finance from the School of Business in 2002 as Summa Cum Laude, and an Honors Scholar. Mr. Boylan was a student athlete on the Men's Ice Hockey team. His first gift was in 1999 and he has continued to support UConn Athletics. Signage will be posted in the player entry area acknowledging Mike Boylan '02.

Mr. Boylan has pledged a gift amount consistent with the amount recommended under the University's *Named Gift Guidelines*.

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric 
RE: Naming Recommendation for The Chase-Bear-Dyer Advanced Triage Unit at John Dempsey Hospital

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the naming of the UConn Health Emergency Department's Advanced Triage Unit located within the clinical space on the UConn Health Campus in Farmington as "The Chase-Bear-Dyer Advanced Triage Unit."

BACKGROUND:

UConn Health is renovating a portion of its existing emergency department waiting and administrative area to create the Advanced Triage Unit: seven specialized evaluation bays designed for "vertical" patients – those who can be safely assessed in chairs or recliners. This initiative will enhance surge capacity when patient volumes are high; improve flow and efficiency; and improve patient experience.

Ms. Cheryl Chase is a well-known and highly respected businesswoman and graduate of the UConn School of Law, Class of 1978. She is a principal, co-president and general counsel of Chase Enterprises, based in Hartford. She is vice-chair of the Board of Directors at UConn Health and chairs the Clinical Affairs Subcommittee. She is a former trustee of the UConn School of Law Foundation and a former member of the Law School Advisory Council. Ms. Chase's daughter, Mrs. Dara Chase Dyer, is a graduate of the UConn School of Law School, Class of 2010. The Chase family has a longstanding history of philanthropic support for the University of Connecticut, with contributions focusing on the School of Law and UConn Health.

The Chase family has pledged a gift amount consistent with the amount recommended under the University's *Named Gift Guidelines*.

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric 

RE: Naming Recommendation for the Chase-Bear-Dyer Family Classroom

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees authorizes naming the classroom located in Room 110 on the first floor in Cheryl A. Chase Hall on the campus of the UConn School of Law as the "Chase-Bear-Dyer Family Classroom."

BACKGROUND:


Cheryl A. Chase Hall (Chase Hall) was named by the Board of Trustees in recognition of a major gift from the Chase Family in June 2005. Chase Hall houses the Law School Dean's Office, several administrative and faculty offices, and two large classrooms, one on each of the first and second floors. The classroom in Room 110 comprises 1,376 square feet on the first floor of Chase Hall.

Ms. Cheryl Chase is a well-known and highly respected businesswoman and graduate of the UConn School of Law, Class of 1978. She is a principal, co-president and general counsel of Chase Enterprises, based in Hartford. She is vice-chair of the Board of Directors at UConn Health and chairs the Clinical Affairs Subcommittee. She is a former trustee of the UConn School of Law Foundation and a former member of the Law School Advisory Council. Ms. Chase's daughter, Mrs. Dara Chase Dyer, is a graduate of the UConn School of Law School, Class of 2010. The Chase family has a longstanding history of philanthropic support for the University of Connecticut, with contributions focusing on the School of Law and UConn Health.

The Chase family has pledged a gift amount consistent with the amount recommended under the University's *Named Gift Guidelines*.

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric 

RE: Naming Recommendation for the Norton and Anne Goss II and Family Women's Coaches Locker Room

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees authorize naming the Women's Coaches Locker Room in the Bailey Student-Athlete Success Center on the Storrs campus as the "Norton and Anne Goss II and Family Women's Coaches Locker Room."


BACKGROUND:

The Bailey Student-Athlete Success Center is expected to be a state-of-the-art student-athlete performance and academic support center on the Storrs campus. The proposed locker room will be located on the first floor in the Field Hockey, Tennis, Coaches, and Support Suite of the Bailey Center. The locker room will total approximately 421 square feet.

Mr. and Mrs. Goss are 1974 graduates of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Mr. Goss served as Senior Vice President and General Auditor at Webster Bank before retiring in 2012. He made his first gift to UConn in 1997, and the Goss family has continued to provide consistent philanthropic support for UConn Athletics. They are avid supporters and hold season tickets for football, men's and women's basketball, and men's ice hockey.

The Goss family has pledged a gift totaling an amount consistent with the recommended amount for under the University's *Named Gift Guidelines*.

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Dr. Radenka Maric 
RE: Naming Recommendation for the Toplands Meat Science Teaching and Research Laboratory

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees authorize the naming of the laboratory space located in the Ratcliffe Hicks building on the Storrs campus as the "Toplands Meat Science Teaching and Research Laboratory."

BACKGROUND:

The Meat Science Teaching and Research Laboratory is expected to be a 2,850 square foot laboratory space in the Ratcliffe Hicks building located on Storrs campus, designed for teaching, research, and extension. Recently, both students and industry have demonstrated an increased demand for a local meat science program, and this new lab will meet demand for the meat science program, future butchers hoping to study in New England, and help a thriving local industry facing an oncoming wave of retirements.

Growing up on Toplands Farm, Dudley Diebold is a lifelong 4-H supporter and advocate of the local agricultural community. In 2024, Dudley Diebold expressed interest in advancing the region's farm-to-table market by supporting the development of a university meats laboratory—an essential resource for teaching, research, and workforce training that helps support high-quality, locally raised products reaching New England tables. Gifts from Dudley Diebold and the Diebold Foundation will be used to rebuild the only university meats lab in New England.

The Diebolds' deep commitment to strengthening local farms has inspired both their personal philanthropy and their family foundation's giving to this newly renovated meats lab.

The Diebold Foundation has pledged gift amount consistent with the amount recommended under the *University's Named Gift Guidelines*.



April 22, 2026

TO: Members of the Institutional Advancement Committee
FROM: Amy Yancey, President and Chief Executive Officer
RE: Named Gift Opportunities for the Gant Science Complex

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Institutional Advancement Committee endorses the proposed gift opportunities to be offered in the Gant Science Complex renovation project. Individual opportunities will be submitted for approval in accordance with the University's naming procedures.

BACKGROUND:

The Gant Science Complex is one of UConn's largest and most visible academic facilities, serving as a cornerstone for STEM teaching, research, and student support on the Storrs, Connecticut campus. Constructed between 1970 and 1974, the U-shaped complex fronts North Eagleville and Auditorium Roads and originally comprised approximately 285,000 gross square feet.

Across its South, West, and North wings and central areas, the Gant Science Complex houses high-enrollment classrooms and lecture halls; teaching and research laboratories across multiple scientific disciplines; faculty and administrative offices; multidisciplinary instructional labs; CLAS advising and student support space; specialized facilities including central storage and a UITS data center; and shared collaboration spaces supporting interdisciplinary teaching and research.

Since 2018, the building has undergone a comprehensive, multi-phase renovation and expansion to modernize outdated systems, enhance laboratory and learning environments, and support UConn's growth in interdisciplinary science education and research. The final phase expected to be completed in 2027 focuses on the North Wing, including new and future-ready research space and a fourth-floor addition. When complete, the renewed complex will total roughly 302,412 square feet and continue its long-standing role as a core engine of scientific discovery, instruction, and collaboration at the University

Named Space	Sq. Ft.	Room Number	Amount
Ground Floor			
Light Court, Ground	5,876	N/A	\$2,000,000
Lecture Hall	3,846	W002	\$1,500,000
Lecture Hall	1,997	W001	\$500,000
Lecture Hall	2,235	N027	\$500,000
CLAS Tutoring	1,121	N024	\$100,000
Level 1			
Physics Scale-Up Lab 1	1,538	P116	\$250,000
Physics Scale-Up Lab 2	1,523	P110	\$250,000
Physics Scale-Up Lab 3	1,465	P113	\$250,000
Physics Scale-Up Lab 4	1,529	P107	\$250,000
Physics Scale-Up Lab 5	1,469	P104	\$250,000
Seminar Room	1,034	S119	\$200,000
Classroom	500	N118	\$100,000
Meeting Room	177	N117	\$25,000
Level 2			
Teaching Lab 1	782	S221	\$100,000

Teaching Lab 2	811	S220	\$100,000
Teaching Lab 3	817	S219	\$100,000
Student Lounge	360	N/A	\$50,000
Student Lounge	453	N/A	\$50,000
Meeting Room	108	N220	\$15,000
Level 3			
Teaching Lab 4	775	S321	\$100,000
Teaching Lab 5	794	S320	\$100,000
Student Lounge	378	N/A	\$50,000
Student Lounge	448	N/A	\$50,000
Meeting Room	112	N321	\$15,000
Meeting Room	116	N324	\$15,000
Level 4			
Student Lounge	394	N/A	\$50,000
Student Lounge	454	N/A	\$50,000
Meeting Room	502	N422	\$50,000
Meeting Room	112	N421	\$15,000



April 22, 2026

TO: Members of the Institutional Advancement Committee
FROM: Amy Yancey, President and Chief Executive Officer
RE: Named Gift Opportunities for the Harry A. Gampel Pavilion

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Institutional Advancement Committee endorses the proposed gift opportunities to be offered in the University of Connecticut Division of Athletics for the Harry A. Gampel Pavilion renovation project. Individual opportunities will be submitted for approval in accordance with the University's naming procedures.

BACKGROUND:

Harry A. Gampel Pavilion, UConn's on-campus domed facility serves as the home court of the men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball program.

Gampel Pavilion opened in January of 1990 and totals more than 171,000 square feet in the domed area. An additional 39,000 square feet comprise the attached Wolff-Zackin Natatorium including a 50 meter Olympic size swimming pool. The renovations will extend the functional life of the iconic domed roof and ceiling while improving internal acoustics; add new grab-and-go food locations to alleviate congestion on the concourse level; and update other non-public administrative and player spaces. Other work inside Gampel will include changes on some areas to allow for premium spaces and other philanthropy-focused spaces.

Space	Proposed Gift Levels	sf	Term Over 5 Years	Perpetuity	Qty
Arena			\$5,000,000.00	\$20,000,000.00	1
Locker Suite		4,768	\$5,000,000.00	\$10,000,000.00	1
Locker Room		1,340	\$2,500,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	1
Sports Medicine		459	\$500,000.00	\$2,000,000.00	1
Coaches Lounge		530	\$500,000.00	\$2,000,000.00	1
Recruiting Lounge		530	\$500,000.00	\$2,000,000.00	1
Coach's Conference Room		360	\$250,000.00	\$500,000.00	1
<u>Clubs</u>					
Champion Club/Training Table		5,483	\$2,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	1
Courtside Club		3,731	\$1,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	1
All-American Club		2,321	\$500,000.00	\$2,000,000.00	1
Upper Level Fan Amenity Club	\$500,000	2,436			1
Market Place	\$250,000	759			1
Grab & Go Northwest	\$150,000	755			1
Grab & Go Southwest	\$150,000	658			1
Beverage Grab N Go South	\$150,000	509			1
Grab & Go Southeast	\$150,000	783			1
Grab & Go Northeast	\$150,000	789			1
<u>Exterior Entries</u>					
Home Bench		n/a	\$1,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	1
Scoreboards			\$1,000,000.00	\$2,500,000.00	2
North Entrance Canopy		5,325	\$1,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	1
VIP Entry North		n/a	\$1,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	1
Parking Entry South		n/a	\$1,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	1
Student Entry East		n/a	\$1,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	1
West Entry		n/a	\$1,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	1
History Boards	\$750,000	n/a			4
AD Suite	\$500,000	3,277			1
Student Section	\$300,000	n/a			1
Office Suite	\$300,000	2,992			1
AD Office	\$250,000	n/a			1
Seating Sections	\$200,000	n/a			18
Media Section	\$150,000	n/a			1
Visiting Locker Room	\$75,000	270			2
AD Conference Room	\$50,000	630			1
Lockers	\$25,000				
Student Section Seat	\$1,000				

UConn FOUNDATION

April 22, 2026

TO: Members of the Institutional Advancement Committee
FROM: Amy Yancey, President and Chief Executive Officer
RE: Named Gift Opportunities for the Practice Football Fields

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee on Institutional Advancement approves a \$5,000,000 proposed gift level to be offered in the University of Connecticut Division of Athletics to name the practice football fields on the University of Connecticut Storrs, Connecticut campus. The individual naming opportunity will be submitted for approval in accordance with the University's naming procedures.

BACKGROUND:

The outdoor grass fields, located near the D Lot on University of Connecticut's Storrs, Connecticut campus, serves as the primary outdoor practice field for the football program, totaling approximately 175,500 square feet.

ATTACHMENT 3

MEMORANDUM

To: Institutional Advancement Committee
From: Mike Kirk, Vice President for Communications
Date: April 22, 2026
Subject: UConn in the media

[Connecticut's First 'Course in a Box' Focuses on Music History](#)

February 13, 2026 – The Associated Press

University of Connecticut education policy professor Casey Cobb said his initial reaction to the course is positive. “I’m very interested to see the other courses (that the department develops). I’m impressed by this first course just because it’s an elective. It ties into music, which kids would be engaged in, ties into history and culture ... I think it has real potential to be a good course,” Cobb said.

[Connecticut Education Department Experiments with Music-Based History Course](#)

February 13, 2026 – The Times of India

University of Connecticut education policy professor Casey Cobb called the course a “valuable, rich set of materials” rather than a simple canned curriculum. He highlighted the use of primary sources, including music, which allow students to actively engage with history. Cobb also noted that the initiative may signal a broader shift in the state’s education approach—from strict compliance with testing requirements to providing meaningful resources for teachers and students.

[The Desert is Getting Too Hot for Joshua Trees. Can We Just ... Move Them?](#)

February 13, 2026 – National Geographic

While sequencing these genes is still underway, scientists are already learning more about how these plants survive in such harsh conditions. Last September, for instance, a paper led by Karolina Heyduk, assistant professor at the University of Connecticut, showed that Joshua trees have a unique form of photosynthesis in which they take up carbon dioxide at night to reduce water loss. “I’m hopeful it means that they, especially the older plants, are able to handle some of this heat and drought,” Heyduk said. “What it means for future generations is still a little less clear.”

[What We’re Reading](#)

February 14, 2026 – Maria Shriver’s Sunday Paper

Recommendation of Professor of Social and Critical Inquiry Laura Mauldin’s new book, “In Sickness and in Health”: “Through conversations with couples across the country, she reveals heartbreaking stories of love strained not because it isn’t strong enough, but because our society has quietly shifted the responsibility of care from the state onto spouses and partners.”

[How to Change Your Mind – and the Minds of the People Around You](#)

February 15, 2026 – The Independent (UK)

“Changing our minds is probably one of the hardest things to do,” says University of Connecticut professor of human development Keith Bellizzi, “and it’s not necessarily because people are stubborn or irrational. It’s because there are these biological, psychological and social mechanisms that are really in place to protect our identity.”

[These Mysterious Sounds in a CT Town Inspired a Lovecraft Novella](#)

February 16, 2026 – Excellent Towns via MSN

Robert Thorson, an earth sciences professor at the University of Connecticut, put it plainly: “There is something about Moodus that is tectonic that is creating these noises. And then there is something acoustic that is amplifying or modifying the noises. We don’t really have a good answer for the cause of either.”

[Biting, Kicking, Wandering the Classroom: Teachers Say There’s a Rise in Misbehavior Among Even the Littlest Kids](#)

February 17, 2026 – The Hechinger Report

“There has been — in research for decades — very clear, established connections between kids’ academic skills and kids’ behavioral skills,” said Brandi Simonsen, a professor of special education at the University of Connecticut and co-director of the university’s Center for Behavioral Education and Research. A child may act up in class to avoid lessons that are too hard for them or get kicked out of class because of their behavior and then miss academic time. “Then you get into this vicious cycle where both skills are struggling,” Simonsen added.

[Here’s What Went Down with Onewith Swimsuits After Shark Tank](#)

February 17, 2026 – Women Magazine

Hayley Segar intrigued audiences across the country after introducing her brand, Onewith Swimsuits, to viewers on Season 16 of ABC’s Shark Tank. The brand intended to provide swimsuits for women of different body types and sizes based on Segar’s personal experience of not being able to find swimwear that felt comfortable on her. Her degree and entrepreneurial support through programs from The University of Connecticut helped lay the foundation for her career as a business owner before her appearance on Shark Tank.

[The Political World of Caregiving](#)

February 19, 2026 – Mother Jones

In her new book, *In Sickness and in Health: Love Stories from the Front Lines of America’s Caregiving Crisis*, University of Connecticut professor Laura Mauldin explores the relationships between caregivers and their disabled and sick spouses, and the underlying lack of structural support in the US that makes unpaid care an inescapable feature of most such relationships.

[In Sickness and In Health: What No One Tells You About Caring for a Loved One](#)

February 19, 2026 – Apple News in Conversation

Interview with Laura Mauldin, Professor in the Department of Social and Critical Inquiry.

[Scientists Building AI System to Predict Storm Outages](#)

February 22, 2026 – The Albany Times Union

The project is known as the North American Forecasting Weather, Outage, Load & Damage Initiative, and it is the latest collaboration between UAlbany and the University of Connecticut through the Joint Center for Weather Innovation and Smart Energy and Resilience.

[UConn Team Has Developed Bovine Embryonic Stem Cells to Support Cultivated Meat and Biomedical Research](#)

February 23, 2026 – Labmate Online

Researchers at the University of Connecticut have reported a novel bovine embryonic stem cell line with improved pluripotency and broader translational potential. The platform has opened routes to cultivated meat production, reproductive biology research and large-animal disease modelling.

[Why So Many High Schoolers Take College Courses – and Their Warnings for Others](#)

February 23, 2026 – The Washington Post

Williams encourages students to take a look at the credit transfer database sponsored by the University of Connecticut's Office of Early College Programs. The database tracks the likelihood of credit acceptance at nearly 1,000 colleges and universities, with links to each institution's policy. Although the database focuses on the transferability of credits earned through U-Conn.'s dual enrollment program, Williams said it is a good tool for students to learn about the credit transfer landscape.

[She Loved Her Partner. But Was That Enough to Stay Through Cancer Care?](#)

February 24, 2026 – USA Today

Laura Mauldin was 27 when she met the love of her life in 2005. Less than a year into their relationship, her partner's cancer returned. "It was simple, really," Mauldin, a sociologist and disability scholar at the University of Connecticut, wrote in her new book, "In Sickness and in Health," where she chronicles her own caregiving love story and those of others. "I was in love with her. I squeezed her hands and told her, 'We will get through it.'"

[The Hidden Health Crisis Tied to America's Nuclear Arsenal](#)

February 25, 2026 – The Daily Mail (UK)

Doug Brugge, the chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, said Kravin and Katherine's conditions cannot be definitively tied to uranium exposure. But he didn't dismiss the possibility either. "The thing that has long bothered me is many people told us they didn't know. They had no idea there was anything hazardous associated with this mining," he said. "A lot of them didn't speak English. They had a limited education level. Their access to news and media was fairly limited."

[A Rising Percentage of US Teens Aren't Getting Enough Sleep](#)

March 2, 2026 – Science News

U.S. medical societies recommend that teens sleep eight to 10 hours each night. But in 2023, 77 percent of high school students reported slumbering fewer hours than that, up from 69 percent of those surveyed in 2007. The overall rise was due to a jump in those reporting five hours of sleep or less, University of Connecticut researchers report March 2 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

[American Teens Are Sleeping Less: Study](#)

March 3, 2026 – The Epoch Times

The percentage of people sleeping that long increased from 15.8 percent in 2007 to 23 percent in 2023, Taeho Greg Rhee, an associate professor in psychiatry at the UConn School of Medicine, and co-authors said.

[Teenagers Are Getting Less Sleep Than Ever Before](#)

March 7, 2026 – Earth.com

Examining that long record, Taeho Greg Rhee of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine (UConn) documented how the decline unfolded across successive survey waves. By 2023, barely one in four teenagers reported reaching eight hours of sleep on a typical school night. This steady decline in nightly rest now defines a generation-wide pattern that demands closer examination.

[Most U.S. Teens Have a Sleep Deficit. Why It Matters](#)

March 10, 2026 – The Deseret News

The researchers, from the University of Connecticut, said the issue appears to be societal. It is bad news that's based on analysis of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The researchers, led by UConn School of Medicine psychiatric epidemiologist T. Greg Rhee, looked at data and trend lines from the 2007 to 2023 annual surveys.

['Black Rain' in Iran Prompts WHO Health Warning](#)

March 10, 2026 – The Hill

The WHO is also monitoring the "massive release" of toxic hydrocarbons, sulfur oxides and nitrogen compounds in the air. Each of these compounds are dangerous for humans, with the inhalation or consumption of hydrocarbons possibly resulting in serious injury or death, according to UConn Health, an affiliate of the University of Connecticut.

[Erosion of Iceberg A23-A Sparks a Surge of Microscopic Life](#)

March 10, 2026 – Astrobiology.com

The primary factors that limit phytoplankton in this region are access to light and nutrients, explained Heidi Dierssen, an oceanographer at the University of Connecticut. Light can be limiting even in the summer because phytoplankton are often mixed too deeply in the water column due to high winds and turbulence.

[WHO Warns of Respiratory Risks as 'Black Rain' Hits Tehran](#)

March 13, 2026 – Tempo English (Indonesia)

WHO is also monitoring the massive release of toxic hydrocarbons, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen compounds into the air. Each of these compounds is hazardous to humans; if inhaled, they have the potential to cause serious injury or death, according to UConn Health, an affiliate of the University of Connecticut.

[Scientists Make Game-Changing Discovery in Crustacean Shells](#)

March 13, 2026 – The Cool Down

As detailed by Anthropocene, researchers found a way to extract an organic polymer known as chitin from crushed crustacean shells without harsh chemicals by using a viscous solvent. They believe their cost-efficient method could result in valuable plastic-free products such as biodegradable packaging. "We are hoping that we can turn this trash into a treasure — or at least into value-added products," Yangchao Luo, one of the researchers, [said](#) in a release by the University of Connecticut.

[23 Mice Launched to Orbit in 2023. What Happened to Their Bodies Could Help Humans Better Survive in Space](#)

March 13, 2026 – Scientific American

The results clearly show the effect of different levels of gravity on muscle structure and function, says Se-Jin Lee, a geneticist at the University of Connecticut, who also studies the effect of spaceflight on health but was not involved in the new study.

"A key question will be the extent to which these findings will translate to humans during space travel, specifically with respect to the threshold for seeing significant effects on muscle health in humans," he says.

Note: Lee's quote was repeated in a [Smithsonian Magazine](#) article based on the research.

['Waste Management Should be Approached as a Public Health Protection Strategy'](#)

March 15, 2026 – Business Day (Nigeria)

Interview with environmental engineering Ph.D. candidate Oluwaseun Akinola, who says of UConn: "The University of Connecticut stood out because of the strength of its Environmental Engineering programme, particularly in atmospheric modelling, environmental risk assessment, and climate pollution interactions ... Beyond research excellence, UConn fosters a strong support ecosystem. Communities such as the John Lof Leadership Academy and the Graduate Black STEM Society have been instrumental in my development not only as a scholar but also as a leader."

Week of March 16: Academic Minute (NPR)

From March 16 through March 20, NPR's Academic Minute each day was devoted to a different UConn faculty member doing research in athletics: [Julie Burland](#), [Jennifer Fields](#), [Dimitris Xygalatas](#), [Rebecca Stearns](#), and [Robert Huggins](#).

[Researchers Find ‘Phubbing’ May Damage Romantic Relationships](#)

March 16, 2026 – Tech Explorist

Researchers at the University of Connecticut and Columbia University labeled this tendency “phubbing” (as in phone snubbing), which has been shown to create emotional distance between partners. They reported their findings in the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*. Led by communication researcher Amanda Denes, the study examined how couples’ phone habits shaped their relationship dynamics during COVID-19.

[‘Unbelievably Cruel’: Advocates Decry Threat to Home Care Program](#)

March 16, 2026 – The Associated Press

Two of the attendants are biomedical students at the University of Connecticut who study speech and language, making them deeply interested in Alexi’s progress with the tool. Even more important, according to Lorra, they are a good match for her son’s joyful, bubbly personality.

[How to Thaw Chicken Fast – and the Mistakes Food Safety Experts Warn About](#)

March 16, 2026 – Martha Stewart Living

When thawing chicken, avoid the danger zone. That is the name given to the ideal temperature for most bacteria to flourish, says Mary Anne Amalaradjou, associate professor of food microbiology at the University of Connecticut. At this temperature, bacteria can grow rapidly, increasing the risk of food poisoning and spoilage.

[What Are ‘Irish Twins’? The Term Has an Offensive Back Story](#)

March 17, 2026 – Parade Magazine

University of Connecticut English Professor Mary M. Burke tells *Parade* that the “Irish twins” term “evolved in reference to the stigmatized 1845 Irish famine refugee wave.”

“Previous Irish immigrant waves had been predominantly Irish Protestant (for instance, the cohort who became known as the Scots-Irish in America), but the mid-19th century immigrant wave was predominantly Catholic and generally very poor,” Burke, the author of *Race, Politics, and Irish America*, says. “They tended to have large families, so this fecundity became a negative stereotype of the supposed lack of discipline of Irish Catholics.”

Note: Story also quotes Professor of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages Brendan Kane and Professor of English Tom Shea.

[Novel Test Detects Bacteria in Milk with 98 Percent Accuracy Using AI, Sensor Technology](#)

March 17, 2026 – Food Safety Magazine

Researchers at the University of Connecticut (UConn) have developed low-cost, artificial intelligence-based methods that can quickly and easily detect microbial contamination and spoilage in milk and meat. Notably, the method for detecting bacteria in milk was able to successfully identify eight pathogenic and spoilage microorganisms with greater than 98 percent accuracy, within two hours. The findings were published in *Food Chemistry*.

[Why Some Birds Seem to Be Developing a Cigarette Habit](#)

March 18, 2026 – The New York Times

Lorraine Pérez-Beauchamp, a master's student at the University of Connecticut studying cigarette use in the nests of Darwin's finches in Galápagos, agreed. There, nests are plagued by an invasive, bloodsucking vampire fly. Her research offered evidence that flies exposed to cigarette tobacco in a lab had reduced survival. But in studying Darwin finch nests, she found the birds hadn't learned to add enough butts to ward off the pests.

[Could An Anti-Aging Therapy Worsen Myelin Loss? Findings Raise Caution and MS Clues](#)

March 18, 2026 – Medical Xpress

A two-drug combination frequently used in anti-aging research causes brain damage in mice, report University of Connecticut researchers in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The findings, titled "Senolytic treatment induces oligodendrocyte dysfunction and demyelination in the corpus callosum," should make doctors cautious about prescribing the drug combo prophylactically, but also suggest new ways to understand multiple sclerosis.

Note: Also covered in [Bioengineer](#), [Gene Online](#), [SciTech Daily](#), [Multiple Sclerosis News Today](#), and [ScienceBlog](#).

[The Best Decongestant for High Blood Pressure: Doctors Warn Some Can Spike Your BP](#)

March 18, 2026 – Woman's World

When you're using an oral decongestant or nasal version, what exactly do these meds consist of? Most of them are actually combinations of antihistamines and decongestants, with the exception of plain pseudoephedrine, says William B. White, MD, a cardiologist and Professor Emeritus of Medicine at the University of Connecticut Health Center. These agents work by activating the sympathetic nervous system, which opens up the nasal passages by constricting small blood vessels in the lining of the nasal tissue. "They can raise heart rate and cause some tightening of the blood vessels," continues Dr. White.

[Should Tennessee Expect Cicadas This Summer?](#)

March 18, 2026 – The Nashville Tennessean

Are cicadas blind? No. Cicadas actually have excellent vision, according to the University of Connecticut biodiversity research collections. Cicadas' supposed blindness is a myth because periodical cicadas don't care about where they land.

[How to Use Trichoderma to Protect Home Plants from Root Disease and Promote Better Growth](#)

March 19, 2026 – The Times of India

Transforming your indoor garden into a resilient ecosystem starts with understanding 'The Green Guard.' The efficient use of Trichoderma will serve as a biological shield against the destructive soil-borne pathogens in home plants. The research conducted by the University of Connecticut (UConn) has shown that Trichoderma, particularly *Trichoderma harzianum*, colonise the rhizosphere and inhibits disease such as root rot through mycoparasitism and induces systemic resistance. In addition to their protective functions, research published in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* indicates that Trichoderma can also function as an effective biostimulant to increase both nutrient uptake and physiological plant transitions in ornamental species.

[A Horse's Neigh May Be Unique in the Animal Kingdom. Now Scientists Know How They Do It](#)

March 19, 2026 – Asharq Al-Awsat

"I'd never imagined that there was a whistling component. It's really interesting, and I can hear that now," said Jenifer Nadeau, who studies horses at the University of Connecticut. Nadeau was not involved with the study, which was published Monday in the journal Current Biology.

[GLP-1s May Improve Mood for People with Anxiety and Depression, Study Finds](#)

March 20, 2026 – Everyday Health

"Most of my patients are pretty pleased with how the [GLP-1] medication and weight loss has impacted their lives," says Sherry Pagoto, PhD, a licensed clinical psychologist, researcher, and professor at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. "People with obesity experience an invisible daily battle with appetite, not to mention weight stigma. To be freed from these things releases them from a huge burden," says Dr. Pagoto.

['No Kings' Protests Held Across US](#)

March 29, 2026 – The Epoch Times

Manisha Sinha, American History chair at the University of Connecticut, said she believes the last two No Kings protests were among the largest protests in U.S. history.

"I'm not sure what the turnout will be on March 28 but certainly their last two attempts have been extremely successful and were nationwide, in big cities as well as small towns and hamlets," Sinha said.

[Feeling Low? It Could Just Be Dehydration](#)

March 31, 2026 – Health and Me

According to researchers at the University of Connecticut, even mild dehydration could be responsible for mood changes in women. Not only that, even 1.36 per cent dehydration can affect your mood, ability to think and energy levels.