

University of Connecticut

# Alumni Newsletter

Student Alumni Association

Fall 2014 Edition

Students Today. Huskies Forever.™

**KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE**

Continued on page 2

# Leading the Way:

## Meet the 2014-2015 Executive Board

**Jennifer Benson**  
President

**Major:** Communication, Human Development and Family Studies  
**Year of Graduation:** 2015  
**Hometown:** Durham, CT  
**Career Interests:** Public Relations, Higher Education  
**Favorite Spot on Campus:** Gampel  
**Fun Fact:** Elephants are her favorite animal.

**Brittany Larkin**  
VP of Programming

**Major:** Sports Management, Business Minor  
**Year of Graduation:** 2015  
**Hometown:** South Amboy, NJ  
**Career Interests:** Event/Game Day Management & Operations  
**Favorite Spot on Campus:** The Alumni Center  
**Fun Fact:** She used to chop and saw wood competitively as a member of the UConn Woodsmen.

**Husein Becirovic**  
VP of Membership

**Major:** Chemistry  
**Year of Graduation:** 2015  
**Hometown:** New Britain, CT  
**Career Interests:** Professor and Researcher, Environmental Consultant, Work with the EPA  
**Favorite Spot on Campus:** The Chem Cafe  
**Fun Fact:** He moved to America from Bosnia when he was four.

**Shannon Wood**  
VP of Communication

**Major:** Communication  
**Year of Graduation:** 2016  
**Hometown:** Madison, CT  
**Career Interests:** Public Relations, Retail Marketing and Management  
**Favorite Spot on Campus:** Gampel  
**Fun Fact:** She was the captain of the golf team in high school.

**Morgan Hall**  
VP of Alumni Relations

**Major:** Psychology, Neuroscience  
**Year of Graduation:** 2015  
**Hometown:** Sloatsburg, NY  
**Career Interests:** Research in Behavioral Neuroscience, Professor  
**Favorite Spot on Campus:** Library, Horsebarn Hill, Her apartment  
**Fun Fact:** She has a huge family: 4 siblings and 34 first cousins.

**Michelle Heyder**  
VP of Finance

**Major:** Secondary Math Education, Math  
**Year of Graduation:** 2016  
**Hometown:** Trumbull, CT  
**Career Interests:** High School Math Teacher  
**Favorite Spot on Campus:** The first floor of the Union  
**Fun Fact:** She loves roller coasters.

**Erin McMahon**  
OOzeball Coordinator

**Major:** Nutritional Sciences  
**Year of Graduation:** 2016  
**Hometown:** Coventry, CT  
**Career Interests:** Community Nutrition and Public Health  
**Favorite Spot on Campus:** Horsebarn Hill  
**Fun Fact:** She planted a tree in the rainforest.



From Left to Right: Shannon Wood, Husein Becirovic, Michelle Heyder, Brittany Larkin, Jen Benson, Morgan Hall & Erin McMahon

# Semester Spotlights

## Homecoming 2014:

This year's Homecoming theme was "Tune into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!" and our selected television show was Grey's Anatomy. Leading up to Homecoming week, we prepared our banner that featured an injured football player and a consoling Jonathan - placing 3<sup>rd</sup> for non-fee funded organizations! We also participated in car chalking to generate spirit and attended the lip sync competition in Gampel as a group. Our VP of Programming, Brittany Larkin, and VP of Membership, Husein Becirovic, ran for royalty and both made it through to the second round. On the Sunday before the Homecoming football game, we met at 7 a.m. to construct our float for the annual Homecoming parade through campus. The float came out great, and we had a blast acting out ER scenes of patients "bleeding blue." Overall, we finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Homecoming for non-fee funded organizations and are already looking forward to next year's festivities.

**Student and Alumni Networking Night:** Wednesday, November 12 brought our annual fall Networking Night. After attending Networking Training sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, SAA members practiced their skills with alumni of all different career paths while sharing Husky pride. Our members looked sharp sporting business casual attire and enjoyed a delicious catered meal by Salute of Hartford while furthering their professional endeavors.

## Membership Retreats:

In September, several members joined us for apple picking at Wright's Orchard in nearby Tolland. Complete with apple cider, Dairy Bar ice cream, and the beautiful fall foliage, we enjoyed a warm but perfect fall afternoon together as a group.

## Finance:

Care package distribution was the first week of the semester. This year the boxes featured SAA branded goodies such as sunglasses as well as the usual treats to welcome students back to Storrs. SAA also held a MOOYAH fundraiser (a local burger and fries chain) on Wednesday, November 19. We also will be sponsoring holiday gifts for two local children through the Holiday Bear program.



**Photos 1, 4:** General members posing on our float dressed as doctors for our Grey's Anatomy theme for this year's Homecoming parade.  
**Photo 2:** Jen Benson and Erin Holden pose while constructing our float.  
**Photo 3:** Our homecoming trophies.  
**Photo 5:** Fall Membership Retreat: apple picking and Dairy Bar

1 2  
4 5

3



2014-2015

## General Members

Back L to R: Krishna Patel, Eric Giudice, Sarah Wrabel, Emily Johnson, Shannon Wood, Erin McMahon, Jessica Sokol, Michelle Heyder, Jackie Slem, Rebecca Andrade, Emily Castagna, Marisa DiMarzio  
Front L to R: Jennifer Benson, Erin Holden, Brittany Larkin, Morgan Hall, Husein Becirovic

## General Member of the Semester: Marisa DiMarzio

Animal Science, Class of 2016

“I have always been involved on campus but decided I wanted to become more involved. Because I had heard that SAA participates in a lot of the events that are around campus such as Homecoming and running OOzeball, I thought I would go to the first meeting and see if it was something I wanted to be a part of. After listening to some of the events that would be held this year, such as Networking Nights, I immediately knew this was something I wanted to join. I thought that SAA would be a great way to meet new friends and even help me later on in life. So far, I have been right. SAA is definitely one of the clubs on campus that you get from it what you put into it. The more involved I got in the club, the more I enjoyed it. Being able to participate in and help out at Alumni Association events also provides many advantages that others may not have. You get to talk to people you never would have expected to meet and hear some great stories from alumni. SAA is a great way to be involved on campus and show pride in the university. It also provides us with a great way to start meeting alumni and networking for the future. While I have enjoyed all the events we have had this year, the thing I have enjoyed the most about being a member is meeting new people. I never would have gotten the pleasure to know the people in the club or some of our alumni, had I not joined SAA. I am excited for the upcoming events that are planned and especially seeing the behind-the-scenes working of OOzeball.”



*We applaud Marisa for all her hard work this semester!*

*Thank you!*

# Upcoming Events

## -OOzeball

Our biggest event of the year is in the works. As it has in past years, OOzeball will take place during Spring Weekend- this year on Saturday, April 25. Under the direction of our OOzeball coordinator, Erin McMahon, the coming spring semester will include finding a perfect location, choosing a theme and logo, registration for 384 teams, and managing all the day-of logistics. We can't wait for this year's event!

## -Spring Networking Night

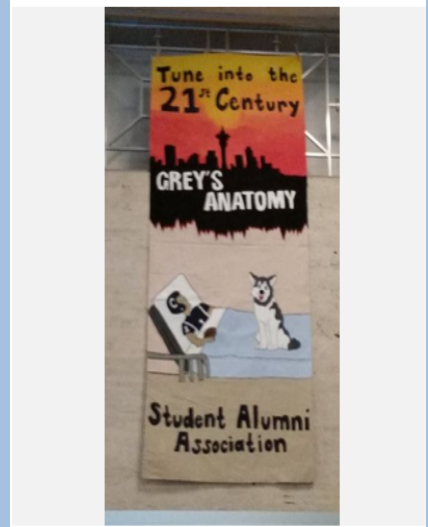
Each year, we host two Student and Alumni Networking Nights that allow students to practice their professional networking skills with alumni that may have career interests similar to them. This year, our Spring Networking Night will take place on Wednesday, March 11. We are always looking for alumni volunteers to participate; if you're interested in attending, please contact our advisor, Jessica Sokol, at [jessica.sokol@uconn.edu](mailto:jessica.sokol@uconn.edu) or 860.486.2607.

## -CASE ASAP District Conference

Each year, our group attends the annual CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) ASAP (Affiliated Student Advancement Programs) District Conference. As part of District 1, we meet with other Student Alumni Associations from across the Northeast to discuss programming, marketing, and membership and hear presentations on how to make our organization better as a whole. This year, we will travel to Fairfield University from Friday, February 27 through Sunday, March 1 to attend CASE ASAP.

*Be on the lookout for other special SAA events that alumni can participate in including basketball game watches, our pinning recognition ceremony, and much more. Check your email for events for the upcoming spring semester!*

## Social Media Updates:



Want to know what UConn SAA is doing year-round?

Like us on Facebook at "UConn Student Alumni Association" or follow us on Twitter @UConnSAA

Check out our website at [www.saa.uconn.edu](http://www.saa.uconn.edu)

Email us with questions at [uconnsaa@gmail.com](mailto:uconnsaa@gmail.com)