

# Student Alumni Association

**Students Today.  
Huskies Forever.**

October 2015



## Upcoming Events

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| November 11th             | Philanthropy Day,<br>sponsored with the UConn<br>Foundation |
| November 12th             | Student and Alumni<br>Networking Night                      |
| February 27th<br>and 28th | CASE ASAP District 1<br>Conference: Bentley<br>University   |
| April 23rd                | Spring Weekend: OOzeball                                    |

## Meet Our Members

As a group dedicated to keeping spirit alive, our members this semester, as always, have a wide variety of majors, class standings and outside interests that allow us to successfully represent UConn in the best way possible.

Throughout the semester, members receive points for attending meetings, membership events, or volunteering their time, and they are rewarded upon reaching certain milestones with prizes such as SAA apparel, certificates, gift cards, and at the end of the semester, a pin to represent their official inauguration into the organization. Each month, one outstanding member will also be recognized as "Member of the Month" with one member receiving "Member of the Semester" in December.

Above, our members pose for a group photo outside the Alumni Center among the fall foliage, beaming with UConn and SAA pride.



## Something look different?

After years of discussing a logo change for our organization, executive board members decided that the logo needed some updating. Through collaboration with the UConn Foundation graphic design team, our new logo was created! We think it looks great.



# Leading the Pack

## Student Alumni Association 2015-2016 Executive Board

The Student Alumni Association Executive Board consists of 7 voting members and a staff advisor. Our E-Board is made up of a group of leaders representing different interests and passions and has demonstrated a strong commitment to SAA's success and to UConn.

### **President:**

Erin McMahon, '16  
Nutritional Science Major  
Coventry, Connecticut  
Also involved in Alpha Beta Epsilon.  
Favorite place on campus is the fountain behind the Benton Museum of Art.

### **VP of Communication**

Shannon Wood, '16  
Communication Major  
Madison, Connecticut  
Also involved as an RA and in the Communication Society.  
Favorite place on campus is the student section at Gampel.

### **VP of Membership**

Jackie Slem, '16  
Psychology and Spanish Major  
New Canaan, Connecticut  
Also involved in UConn Connects, Honors Program, Study Abroad Ambassadors and Honors Initiative for Prospective Students.

### **VP of Programming**

Marisa DiMarzio, '16  
Animal Science Major  
Guilderland, New York  
Also involved in Alpha Zeta and UConn Wildlife Society.  
Favorite place on campus is Mirror Lake.

### **VP of Tradition**

Emily Johnson, '16  
Health Care Management Major  
Orleans, Massachusetts  
Also involved in the Honors Program, Interns at Harford HealthCare  
Favorite place on campus is the swings by Mirror Lake.

### **VP of Alumni Relations**

Riley Doherty, '17  
Natural Resources and the Environment Major  
Haddam, Connecticut  
Also involved in the Outing Club, Interns at Medical Web Technologies  
Favorite place on campus is the UConn Forest and One Plate, Two Plates.

### **VP of Finance**

Emily Castagna, '18  
Economics Major  
Milford, Connecticut  
Also involved in Leadership Learning Community, Learning Community Ambassador.  
Favorite place on campus is Horsebarn Hill.

### **Photo:**

Top Row LtoR: Marisa DiMarzio, Emily Johnson, Emily Castagna

Bottom Row LtoR: Shannon Wood, Jackie Slem, Erin McMahon, Riley Doherty





# Semester Snapshots

So far this semester, the Student Alumni Association has been busy following our motto “keeping traditions alive.” Combining a dedicated executive board and a passionate general body, this organization has built a comprehensive UConn bucket list, competed and placed in Homecoming and developed a passionate group of leaders and friends to continue some of UConn’s largest traditions.



## Scavenger Hunt



*Above:* Members paint the Spirit Rock before Huskies Forever Weekend to welcome UConn alumni back to campus.



*Above:* Founding members of SAA discuss SAA in the 1980's and the origination of OOzeball at UConn.

In order to recruit members and help new students embark on their Husky journey, SAA hosted a traditions scavenger hunt to inform incoming first-year students about SAA and some of the most famous spots on campus.

Students began at the Alumni Center and visited spots including the seal outside the library, the Jonathan statue outside Gampel Pavilion, Laurel Hall, and the Student Union. Along their journey, participants were encouraged to tweet using the hashtag #UConn81 to be entered to win prizes such as gift cards.

Once their scavenger hunt was complete, students returned back to the Alumni Center for free food including Sgt. Pep's Pizza, Insomnia Cookies and samples from Think It Drink It and the H.A. Café.

## #UConn81

After SAA noticed a lack of a universal UConn traditions list on campus, the group created a UConn bucket list entitled “81 Things to Do Before You Graduate.” Commemorating the university’s founding in 1881, the bucket list includes everything from sledding on



Horsebarn Hill to meeting the current UConn president. The list was distributed at WOW weekend events and the Senior Kick-Off. UConn basketball student ticketholders will also get the chance to receive the poster this year. We hope to continue spreading the bucket list throughout the student body to keep traditions alive for generations of students to come.



Erin and Shannon after their OOzeball presentation



Jess, Shannon and Erin in front of the White House



Maybe one of our amazing student leaders will live here someday?

## Bleeding blue in the home of the red, white and blue... SAA takes on Washington

Each year SAA attends the CASE ASAP District I Conference that brings together student alumni associations and foundation groups from across the Northeast to collaborate on programming ideas, leadership opportunities, and present awards to recognize the best and the brightest of student groups within the area.

When CASE ASAP announced that the 2015 National Convention would be held in Washington, D.C. this year, UConn SAA decided that the proximity and investment of two of its senior executive board members lent itself to the opportunity of a lifetime, a trip to D.C. to hear from student organizations from across the country.

President Erin McMahon and Vice President of Communication Shannon Wood, alongside advisor Jess Sokol, traveled to our nation's capital for a four day long convention. Earlier in the spring semester of 2015, Erin and Shannon submitted a presentation proposal entitled, "Gettin' Down and Dirty: Mud Volleyball for the Masses," a guide to teach other student organizations from across the country how to implement UConn's largest annual tradition, OOzeball, on their campuses. From hundreds of submissions, their presentation was selected by a panel of judges to be exhibited at the conference.

Throughout the conference, Erin, Shannon and Jess heard presentations from other student organizations on topics ranging from recruitment and retention to programming. They specifically focused on presentations from student philanthropy groups; the 2015-2016 school year also marked SAA's integration with the Student Philanthropy Association, as the Alumni Association dissolved and alumni relations became part of the UConn Foundation.

On the last day, Erin and Shannon presented on OOzeball to approximately 75 eager students from across the country.

The conference also allowed opportunities for networking between schools. UConn SAA especially bonded with the SAA of Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT, a fellow District I member. During breaks from the conference, Erin, Jess and Shannon also were given the opportunity to sightsee around Washington, D.C., stopping at places such as the Washington and Lincoln monuments, the White House, and a tour of the Pentagon complete with a high security screening and viewing of the 9/11 memorial.

Invigorated and energized from great presentations and new ideas, Erin, Shannon and Jess returned home to Connecticut ready to prepare this year's SAA for great success and new ideas that focus on





## “It’s Going Down for Reel”: Homecoming 2015

This year’s Homecoming theme, “It’s Going Down for Reel,” encouraged student groups to choose movie sagas to base their floats and performances on.

SAA’s selected theme was Batman and our organization embodied the themes of the movie series as we collaboratively worked to create a banner and float, both of which placed second in their respected categories!

Our members worked tirelessly on our banner, which featured our beloved Jonathan dressed as Batman protecting Wilbur Cross and campus while a skylight featuring SAA’s name and the Batman signal rose above him.

On Parade Day, members of SAA pumped and painted a fantastic float featuring a Batman skylight and Gotham City. Members dressed as characters from the movie saga and handed out candy

and giveaways to parade viewers en route.

Our President, Erin McMahon, competed in Royalty. After passing through a competitive round of voting and an intense interview process, Erin made it to the Royalty Pageant where she competed in formal wear, a spirit and talent section, and a question and answer segment. She came in fourth place overall and was given the opportunity to be on the field during the Homecoming game.





## Join Us: Student and Alumni Networking Night

On Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, SAA and the CLAS Student Leadership Board will be sponsoring our annual fall Networking Night to expose UConn students to the world of professional networking. Join us at the Alumni Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. to engage in conversation and connection all revolving around a love for our school!

Business casual attire requested; appetizers provided.

*Register online for this free event:*

[Student Details & RSVP Link](#)

[Alumni Details & RSVP Link](#)



### *A Note from the VP of Finance*

I am in charge of two major projects from which SAA receives commissions: the linens and care package programs. The linens program is run over the summer, as students move into campus. It is especially hard for international students to come to UConn and then go out and buy a comforter, sheet sets, fan, etc. So, we've made some improvements to the program so they have all of these materials when they check in. The program is very successful, and we get continuous orders year after year.

We run Welcome Care Packages at the beginning of the fall semester, Final Exams Packages at the end of both semesters, and other holiday-themed packages throughout the year. From Fall 2014 to Fall 2015, we more than doubled the amount of care packages purchased allowing us to not only have more money for our club to host new events and projects, but it also allowed us to get the word out about our club. This year, we included a flyer in all of the packages informing students of the events that SAA puts on and when our meeting time is. Overall, I see our program continuing to grow!

*Stay up to date  
with SAA!*

Facebook: "UConn Student  
Alumni Association"

Twitter: @UConnSAA

Website: [saa.rso.uconn.edu](http://saa.rso.uconn.edu)