

A photograph of a building with a central tower and a walkway leading to a double door entrance. The image is overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent rectangle containing text.

2019

UConn
Student Alumni
Association

2019

UConn Student Alumni Association Yearbook

**Students Today.
Huskies Forever.**



@UConnSAA



@UConnSAA



@UConnSAA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

5

A LETTER
FROM...



7

OUR
MEMBERS



16

SAA
EVENTS





What is SAA?

The UConn Student Alumni Association (SAA) holds a great sense of pride and tradition in the University. Established in 1983, SAA's main goals are to generate spirit and tradition through the UConn student body, connect students to alumni, instill leadership and communication skills in all of its members, as well as assist the Foundation and Office of Alumni Relations.



A letter from the President

Bryan Kirby
President

Congratulations on finishing another great year at UConn; this year flew by. I still remember four years ago when I was in the Great Hall attending my first SAA meeting and now this is my last. In the 2018 - 2019 academic year, SAA went through some major changes and I could not be happier with the direction that we are going. From hosting the 2019 CASE ASAP District 1 conference to revamping our constitution, we have done some amazing things this year. Rich also spearheaded a new March Madness event to go along with the March Madness Care Packages. On top of our new endeavors, we took the beloved events that were already in place and expanded them. OOzeball, now in its 36th year has more registered teams than last year, Networking Night had the most SAA involvement ever, and Jonathan's Birthday was bigger and better than ever before. And all of these things were because of you, our e-board and our general members. Without each and every one of you, nothing would get done. It would just be Jess and I discussing pop culture and politics and making extremely complicated spreadsheets.

Congratulations to the new 2019 – 2020 executive board: Aakash, Alexa, Alexis, Damon, Rich, and Jake. You are all amazing and I cannot wait to see all of the great events that happen next year.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention Jess, our fearless leader and advisor. I don't think anything would be possible without her guidance and assistance. It was well known that from 3 - 5:30 on Mondays Jess and I would be in our "meeting", looking up random things on Amazon, discussing campus politics, and talking theater. When 5:30 rolled around, we would then scramble to get everything planned for the E-board meeting that night (or a conference), but it always got done. Those meetings are one of the main highlights of my year. Thank You.

To our new and returning general members, thank you for all of your hard work this year. I loved getting to know each and every one of you. We have made some great memories this year and I look forward to hearing about all of your hard work in the future.

I'll be waiting for a Networking Night invite and an Ignite solicitation.

A letter from the Advisor

**Jessica Sokol
Advisor**



It's hard to believe another year is already ending, as it seems like just yesterday we were bringing the new E-Board together and recruiting members at our Husky WOW scavenger hunt. It's truly an honor to advise SAA, and I love this part of my job. It's the perfect combination of fun and rewarding. We get to laugh a lot while also planning and executing some of UConn's best events.

Marathon one-on-one meetings with Bryan never felt long, whether we were planning a conference or criticizing MoviePass – if one of my chairs is more comfortable, we have Bryan to thank for breaking it in all year. The entire E-Board impressed me with their dedication to our 8 a.m. (!) weekly meetings during fall semester; not only did everyone show up, but you all were ready to work. I was happy we welcomed back outstanding returning members, and that new members whole heartedly jumped in for events like Homecoming, Jonathan's Birthday, and Networking Night.

For our seniors who are graduating, congratulations. It's not easy to earn a college degree. You should be proud of your accomplishments, and I am so proud of you, too. Cullen and Isabella, we've spent many hours together throughout your years on E-Board, and it's been a pleasure to watch you grow this organization and become strong, dedicated leaders. Emily and Grace, I know we didn't spend as much time together this year, but your positive impacts on SAA have not gone unnoticed. Michelle, Megan, Quinn, and Bridget, I'm glad to have met you all through SAA, and you've been wonderful to work with. I hope all of our seniors will keep in touch.

For Bryan, our president who is graduating yet again this year, you will be gone but not forgotten. (Aakash, take time this summer to learn more about musicals.) I don't think I could have asked for a more engaged and thoughtful leader for 2018-2019, and I expect you back at the Alumni Center this fall. (You might be the president that finally inspires me to continue the SAA office "presidents' plaque".)

It's always bittersweet to say goodbye to those who won't be at our first SAA meeting in the fall, but seeing you all grow from your first day in SAA to your last is incredible. It's a privilege to be a part of each of your UConn experiences. Cheers to a fantastic year, and I look forward to seeing where time takes us all. Go Huskies!

Jessica Sokol



Our Members

Executive Board





Bryan Kirby '18 '19
President

Major: Curriculum & Instruction, Gifted and Talented Education

Semesters Active in SAA: 7

Other Organizations: Spoon University (Writer)

Favorite SAA Event: WOW Scavenger Hunt



Aakash Parikh '20
Vice President of Tradition

Major: Molecular and Cell Biology

Semesters Active in SAA: 4

Other Organizations: Huskies for Health

Favorite SAA Event: OOzeball



Monika Krah '21
Vice President of Communications

Major: Psychology and German Studies

Semesters Active in SAA: 4

Other Organizations: CLAS Student Leadership Board, German Club, Sheya Cognitive Developmental Psychology Lab, Alpha

Lambda Delta, Eurotech Learning Community

Favorite SAA Event: OOzeball



Rich Garcia '20
Vice President of Finance

Major: Political Science and Human Rights

Semesters Active in SAA: 3

Other Organizations: Residential Life, UConn Pre-Law

Favorite SAA Event: OOzeball



Cullen Farragher '19
Vice President of Programming

Major: Physiology & Neurobiology and Spanish

Semesters Active in SAA: 8

Other Organizations: National Society of Leadership and Success, Premedical Society, Alpha Lambda Delta

Favorite SAA Event: OOzeball



Kevin Li '20
Vice President of Membership

Major: Physiology and Neurobiology

Semesters Active in SAA: 6

Other Organizations: Public Health Learning Community, FYE Mentor, Resident Assistant, Tour Guide

Favorite SAA Event: OOzeball



Jessica Sokol '12
Advisor

Associate Director, Student Engagement

SAA Advisor since 2012

Favorite SAA Event: Jonathan's Birthday



Isabella Bachman '19
**Vice President of Alumni Relations
and Philanthropy**

Other Organizations: USG, Sport Business Association, HuskyTHON

Favorite SAA Event: All of them

General Members





Alexis Abbotts

Year: Junior

Organizations: Alpha Lambda Delta, Husky Ambassador Program, UConn Student Activities

Favorite SAA Event: Homecoming



Sarah Anderson

Year: Senior

Organizations: Kickline, Husky Tech, Husky Ambassadors, Alpha Omicron Pi, Gaming Club

Favorite SAA Event: OOzeball



Landon Bassett

Year: First Year Graduate Student

Organizations: UConn CHEGSA

Favorite SAA Event: Homecoming



Colleen Bradley

Year: Senior

Organizations: Student Health Outreach Team (SHOT)

Favorite SAA Event: Homecoming



Brooke Chao

Year: Sophomore

Organizations: SUBOG Special Events

Favorite SAA Event: Oozeball



Sydney Hyde

Year: Freshman

Organizations: Alpha Phi Omega

Favorite SAA Event: Finals Care Packages



Megan Llewellyn

Year: Senior

Organizations: Phi Sigma Pi, Ex-Dancers

Favorite SAA Event: Senior Send-Off



Rebecka Nilsen

Year: Freshman

Organizations: Alpha Lambda Delta, Outing Club, Disney Club

Favorite SAA Event: March Madness



William Raccio

Year: Freshman

Organizations: SUBOG, USG

Favorite SAA Event: OOzeball



Alexa Sentementes

Year: Sophomore

Organizations: West Hall Association

Favorite SAA Event: Pinning



Kristen Shubert

Year: Sophomore

Organizations: Sigma Theta Alpha,
Learning Community Council,
MEDLife

Favorite SAA Event: Meet and Sweet



Bridget Smith

Year: Senior

Organizations: Alpha Phi Omega,
Honors Program, Husky Ambassadors

Favorite SAA Event: OOzeball
Mudmaking



Michelle Zhang

Year: Senior

Organizations: Business Management Society, Chinese Language and Culture Club, Chinese Undergraduate Student Association, League of Legends Club, UConn Late Night

Favorite SAA Event: Networking Night





EVENTS





SPRING
2018

PINNING CEREMONY

Cullen's first pinning ceremony as VP of Programming was a huge success. Riley Doherty '17 returned from traveling the world to share her wisdom with the members. The 2018 - 2019 Executive Board was revealed by Emily Castagna '18, president for the 2017 - 2018 academic year. Mo Cotton Kelly delivered opening remarks.





WEEKEND OF WELCOME

SCAVENGER HUNT

On August 25, 2018, SAA kicked off the year with the annual WOW Scavenger Hunt for incoming first-year students. Run by Aakash & Kevin, this event featured a scavenger hunt that challenged students to figure out where to go on campus, all based on creative riddles crafted by Jess. Not only was there free SAA SWAG, but Pizza Mike, Kind, Insomnia and Dairy Bar gave out free food. WHUS played some great music and some returning members joined the E-Board for this fun welcome event!





Homecoming

SUBOG's Homecoming Week took place on October 21 - 27, 2018. This year the theme was Big City Storrs, with each organization representing a city in the United States. SAA got its first choice of New York City. Cullen and Monika represented SAA as our Homecoming King and Queen, while Bryan, Jess, and Cullen stuffed 12 over-sized letter balloons in their cars (only popping one in the process!).





Jonathan's 5th Birthday

After a successful birthday party last year, SAA decided to throw another party for our lovable mascot. Complete with a fully decorated sheet cake, 200+ customized birthday hats, the UConn Conn-Men (an all-male a capella group), and an appearance by the birthday boy himself, this event has risen to one of SAA's favorite new traditions. Brooke was a master cake-cutter, while Hanaisha took (and posed for) some great photos. Kristen helped to hand out free stuff to the crowd of over 500 people.



FALL NETWORKING NIGHT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018

SAA came back strong in the fall with our bi-annual Student and Alumni Networking Night. This was our last Networking Night with its traditional format, and all-star alumni like Patrick Adams, Bill Salvatore, and Chad Fagan joined the fun.





MEMBER RETREATS

For the fall member retreat, Kevin took members to the Big E! They pet llamas, ate a ton of food, and enjoyed the exhibits.

For the spring member retreat, SAA members piled in Landon's minivan and drove to Manchester for half-priced tokens at Dave & Busters.

Ice skating on campus was also a big hit!





CASE ASAP D1 Conference

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Held annually at different schools, the conference brings together District 1 students to share ideas, network, cheer loudly, and celebrate their accomplishments. UConn SAA was selected to host "From Challenge to Champion", the 2019 conference. Over 150 students from 15 schools attended. Mo Cotton Kelly kicked off the day, and an impromptu dance session ended it. Jamelle Elliott gave the keynote address at lunch. Jess and Bryan received awards for Outstanding Advisor and Student Leader, respectively, and everyone enjoyed some awesome socks.







SPRING NETWORKING NIGHT

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019

Held for the first time on a Tuesday, the Spring Networking Night was a huge hit. This semester premiered a completely new format that involved breakout sessions and Dairy Bar ice cream. Each alum was handpicked so that our students were networking with the best of the best!





Pinning Ceremony

April 13, 2019

Three past presidents joined SAA to celebrate the end of another year. The 2019 - 2020 Executive Board was announced. Rebecka took home the Rising Star Award, Quinn got the new Spirit Award, and Colleen was Member of the Year.





MUDVENGERS: OOZEGAME

April 27, 2019

North Campus Fields

This year's OOzeball theme was Marvel's Avengers, since the final movie, *Endgame*, was released two days before the event. Over 2000 students on over 250 teams took part in the day. *The Groot of All Evil* won the tournament overall, while *Kung Fooze Pandas* won the costume contest. This 12 hour event also included support from Pizza Mike's, WHUS Radio, Kind, Monster, DP Dough, and the UConn Bookstore.

For the All-Star Team, Bryan and the Tier III leaders took on Cullen, Isabella, Jess, Tom Baccaro '18, Erin McMahon '16, and two Rec Staff Members. The SAA team took home the gold two games to zero.





14 30 1

EVENTS

**ACTIVE
MEMBERS**

ORGANIZATION

Alexis Abbotts¹, Grace Alexander¹, Sarah Anderson¹, Isabella Bachman¹, Landon Bassett¹, Colleen Bradley¹, Taylor Caruso¹, Brooke Chao¹, Tazhana Charles, Alexandra Corcoran¹, Jack Corcoran, Fay Decker, Cullen Farragher^{1 2}, Richard Garcia¹, Sydney Hyde, Janae James, Bryan Kirby^{1 2}, Monika Krahl¹, Hanaisha Lewis^{1 2}, Kevin Li¹, Megan Llewellyn¹, Jency Mejia, Jonathan Milovic, Dylan Nenadal, Rebecka Nilsen¹, Aakash Parikh¹, Nick Peixoto, Shamell Pinkney¹, Will Raccio¹, Julie Reidy¹, Damon Reynolds¹, Emily Roberts^{1 2}, Alexa Sentementes^{1 2}, Quinn Shields¹, Kristen Shubert^{1 2}, Bridget Smith, Jake Stark¹, Michelle Zhang¹, Gillian Zimmerman¹

¹ denotes active membership status

² denotes CASE ASAP D1 Conference Committee member



Thank

YOU

