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BOOKS  
RETURN

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Designed by Brunna T. Louzada

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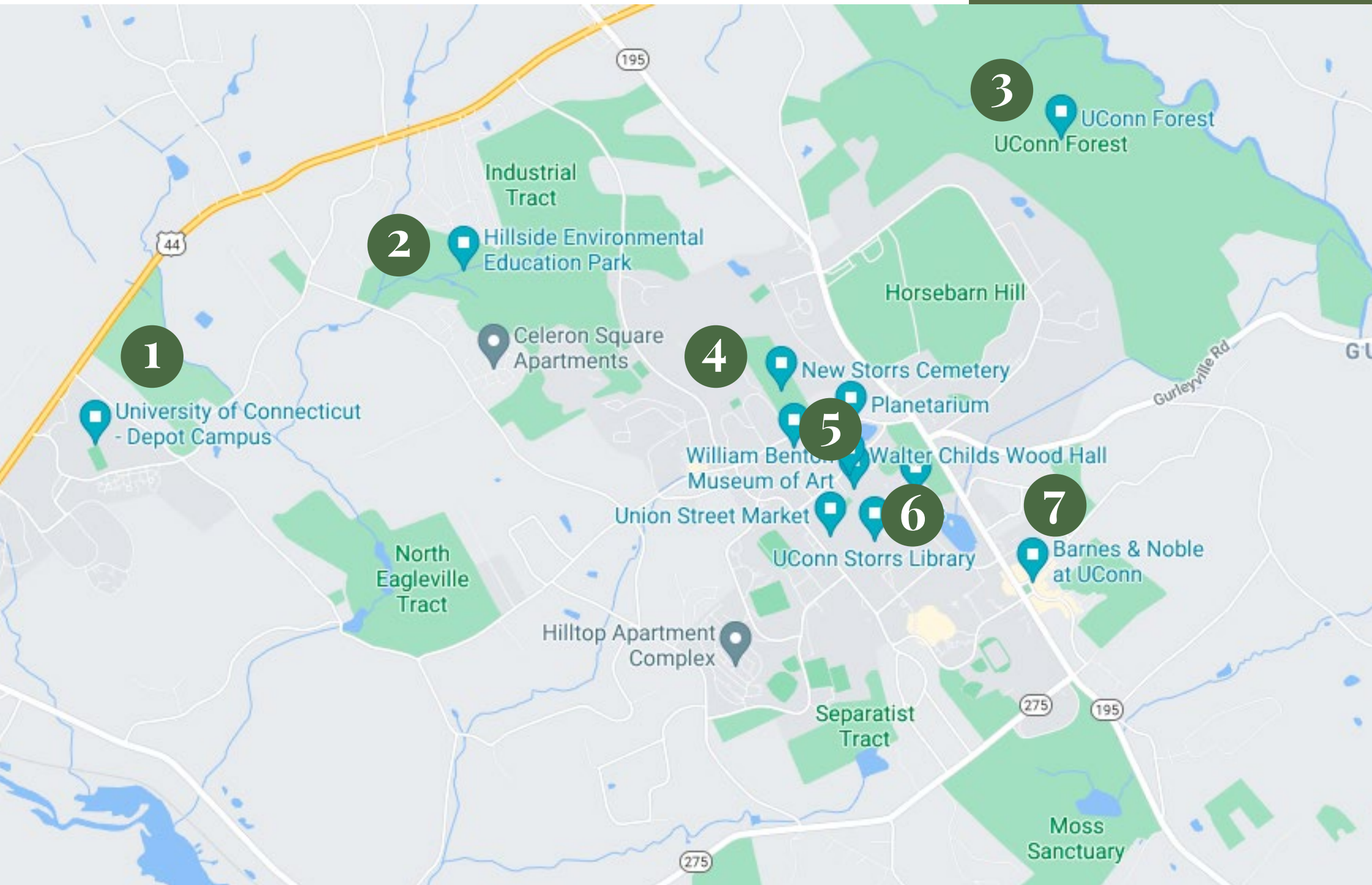
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Aside from Google Maps, we also recommend OpenStreetMap to help you explore.



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# Editor's Note



Have you ever wondered about the history and secrets of UConn campus? Are you looking forward to exploring what the Storrs campus has to offer in the fall? Look no further! This magazine is filled with the best secret spots UConn has to offer, from the infamous Depot Campus to UConn students' favorite study spots—perfect for freshmen looking for something to do on a weekend, or even upperclassmen who want to explore parts of campus they've never heard of before! This magazine also features history on some of the most prominent locations on campus like the Great Lawn and the UConn Graveyard, as well as the history of our mascot, the Husky!

Have fun exploring,  
**Meira Tompkins**





# Ice Skating Great Lawn History

Photos by Erin Wu | Written by Sydney Fournier | Designed by Leyla Arici

UConn's Great Lawn has been the pride of the university since its humble beginnings as part of the original Storrs Agricultural School of 1881. Located along Storrs Road, the land was developed by previous university President Charles L. Beach as a way to join in with the American park movement. Over the years, the school has transformed the area into one of the most beautiful parts of campus. The lawn is decorated with dogwood trees, long walking paths, and gothic buildings with the scenic Mirror Lake located close by. On campus tours or on the university website, the Great Lawn is often featured with the Wilbur Cross building standing tall behind it.

Over the years, many events have taken place on the Great Lawn, including the annual freshman picture, ice skating, and various demonstrations. Students look forward to many of these events, and the Great Lawn is often used for gatherings of students from all over campus. For example, the UConn Skydiving Club has used the Great Lawn as a landing spot, touch football teams have gathered to play, and this year's Torch Lighting Convocation was broadcasted live from the area.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the university decided to build an ice skating rink on the Great Lawn to encourage students to get outside while still practicing social distancing during the winter months. It was met with praise and excitement from students living on campus. Due to the reduced on-campus resident population, many students felt isolated in the fall. While the university was able to hold some in-person events for students, many were concerned about the spring semester. With temperatures dropping, it seemed unlikely the university would offer outdoor events. The ice skating rink, however, was a surprising and innovative solution for the cold weather. It welcomed its first skaters only a few weeks after classes started, giving students an escape from their cramped dorms. Skating was available by sign-ups only to help control the number of students on the ice. Ice skates were also offered free of charge to all students.

The Great Lawn serves as a reminder of our beginnings and our hopes for the future. This year's ice skating rink brought some light to a rather dark and hopeless semester. It gave students the opportunity to get out of their rooms and interact with others in a safe way. The Great Lawn has a long and rich history on our campus, and the UConn community will continue to create memorable memories on its grass.

www.nutmeg.uconn.edu/magazine/



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# Favorite Study Spots

Photos by Chloe Parsell    Written by Eileen Sholomicky    Designed by Leyla Arici

When high schoolers dream of going off to college, often the first thing that comes to mind is tailgating before football games, going to parties on the weekend, and for many students, having their first taste of real freedom. But college is still school, and with school comes studying. Luckily, UConn Storrs' sprawling campus hosts a variety of locations perfect for studying so that you aren't trapped in your dorm all day.

## **Storrs Center Barnes & Noble**

Sixth-semester illustration major Wesley Poirier is a huge fan of the off-campus Barnes & Noble in Storrs Center, nestled among other popular locales such as Insomnia Cookies, Mooyah, and the Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry. Prior to COVID-19, this Barnes & Noble location had small couches and tables set up for students to study.

"This is my favorite place to study because it's cozy and sort of hidden away. I love hanging out there with my friends to do work and look at the books when we need a break. It's also close enough to campus to still reach the UConn Wi-Fi," said Poirier.

## **William Benton Museum of Art Courtyard**

For those who would rather be on campus, sixth-semester history major Kaitlynn Styles suggests the courtyard behind the William Benton Museum of Art.

"It's so relaxing!" said Styles, who enjoys the courtyard for the shade, its proximity to the Wilbur Cross and Beanery cafés, and the friendly squirrels.

The courtyard features low stone walls and a handful of benches for students to sit and work in the great outdoors, as well as several art installations that give the area added artistic charm.





### Wood Hall

Just a short walk from the courtyard is one of Storrs' "hidden gems," according to sixth-semester geography major Nigel Mills. He references Wood Hall, home to UConn's history department.

"[It's] chronically overlooked; most people don't even know where it is, let alone that it exists at all. I almost always have the room to myself when I'm there," said Mills. Located on Glenbrook Road between the Neag School of Education and the School of Nursing, Wood Hall is "rustic and charming, extremely cozy, and low-traffic." Wood Hall holds faculty offices and meeting rooms, but no classrooms, making it liable to be overlooked by most students.

"I'm almost scared to expose it like this," joked Mills.

### Student Union

As for not-so-secret study spaces, some students prefer the Student Union to get work done.

"[I love] the commuter lounge in the Student Union . . . because of its central location on campus," said fourth-semester computer science and engineering major David de Siqueira Campos McLaughlin. "It also has a refrigerator and microwave because commuters tend to bring lunch from home, so that's a definite plus over other lounges. There are also couches and computer charging booths so you can be comfortable while studying."

Others, though, prefer the louder locations in the Student Union, such as eighth-semester chemistry major Ethan Brown. "As a student who doesn't need absolute silence to study . . . the hustle and bustle of the U is nice background noise," said Brown.

### Homer Babbidge Library

Of course, for some, there is no greater study space than the UConn classic: the Homer Babbidge Library at the heart of Fairfield Way. The library hosts seven floors with a variety of spaces for students to study in, including dedicated study spaces and the Bookworms Café.

Most students prefer Homer Babbidge for its cozy atmosphere and the large study spaces.

"I [can] get away from my dorm . . . and I can also get coffee or dinner in the café," said Chris Engborg, a sixth-semester molecular and cell biology major.

If being indoors isn't for you, the library also has an outdoor plaza with plenty of tables to choose from.

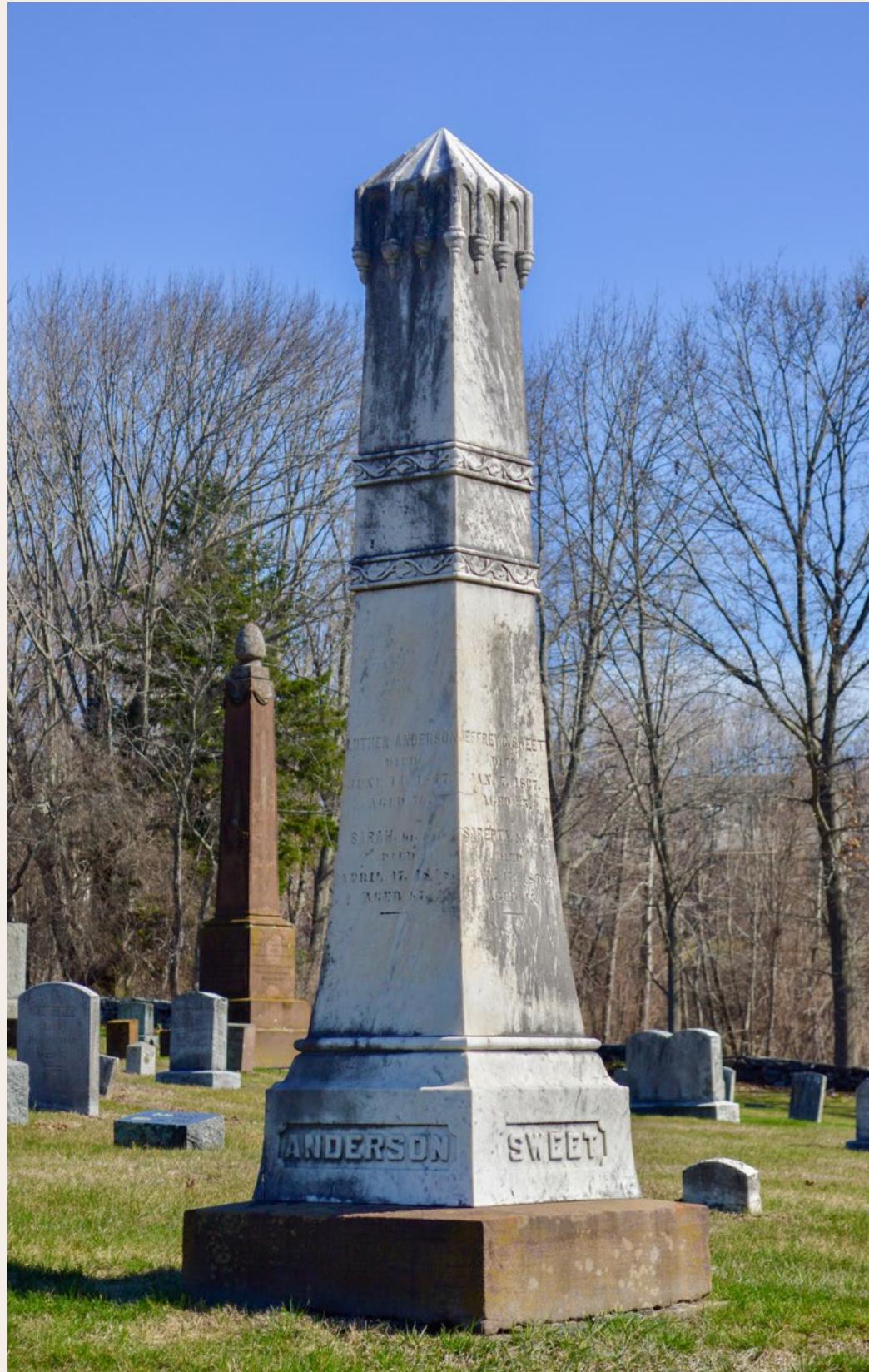
"[I like the tables outside of the library because] you have a comfortable place [to work] with plenty of space, you can eat and drink whatever you [want], and there's light chatter and people walking by," said Jody Kung, a sixth-semester management information systems major.

Whatever your preferred method of study—outdoors, indoors, high-traffic, silent—UConn Storrs has the perfect spot for everyone. It's just a matter of finding it.





# UConn Graveyard



— fourteen

Photos by Tyler Washington    Written by Eileen Sholomicky    Designed by Emily Karam

In 2016, it had been the site of unfounded rumors about lurking clowns but, for the most part, New Storrs Cemetery is quiet. Located on North Eagleville Road between the North Quadrangle and UConn Hillel, the cemetery is thin but long, stretching all the way up a hill to the back of the Busby Suites.

New Storrs Cemetery is older than the university itself, the property having been deeded to the Town of Mansfield in 1864 by university founders Charles and Augustus Storrs. It is the second addition of the Storrs Cemetery, while Old Storrs Cemetery lies in the churchyard of the Storrs Congregational Church. Additionally, New Storrs Cemetery is one of seven cemeteries in Mansfield that remains active.

Many prominent members of the UConn community have been buried in the New Storrs Cemetery, foremost of which are the Storrs brothers themselves. They are buried in the northwest section of the cemetery in the Storrs family plot. Near the top of the hill, this plot is marked by an obelisk dedicated to the Storrs family, which gazes out over the rest of campus. It can be seen by onlookers from the front gates of the cemetery.

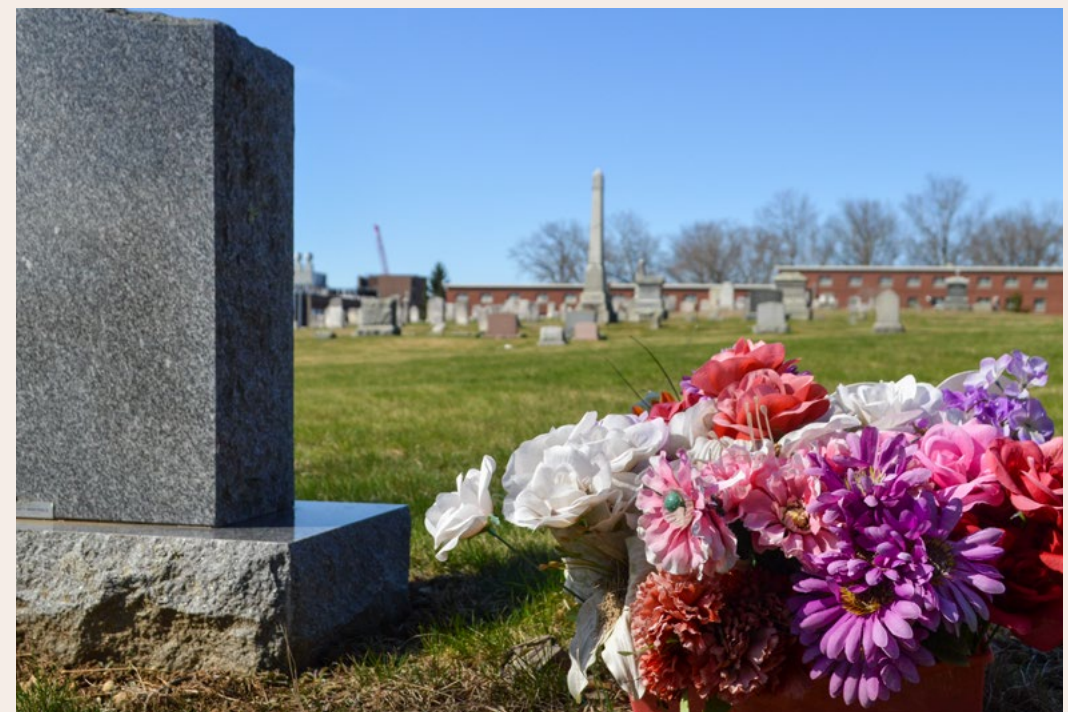
The Storrs brothers came from a farming family. They founded the university in 1881 as the Storrs Agricultural School. Under the 1862 Federal Land Grant Act, Yale had been Connecticut's land grant institution, but very few Yale graduates actually participated in agriculture. In 1893, land grant institution status was transferred to the renamed Storrs Agricultural College. The college aimed to teach more practical skills, such as business and farming, instead of the classical educations offered by private institutions like Yale.

Many other important figures from the university's history are also buried in the New Storrs Cemetery. There is a red stone obelisk monument for Edwin Whitney, who provided the land for the first building on the school's property, which he also built. As Whitney was a schoolteacher, the building was intended to be a private school for boys. However, with the Civil War raging, it was given to the state in 1865 as a home for orphans of the war. In 1878, the building was sold to the Storrs brothers.





Whitney's daughter, Edwina Whitney, is also buried in the New Storrs Cemetery in a grave next to the obelisk, and she became even more influential on the school than her father. She grew up in Storrs and, though she left Connecticut for college and for her early professional career, she returned and became UConn's librarian in 1900, and she remained so until 1934. During her time at UConn, Whitney also taught courses in German or American literature, as well as a handful of others, including a course on Connecticut geography about which she knew nothing. Today, the Edwina Whitney Residence Hall stands in her honor. Another notable member of the UConn community interred in the cemetery is Benjamin F. Koons, the second principal of Storrs Agricultural School and the first to hold the title of "president" when the university's name became Storrs Agricultural College. He was one of the founding faculty members at SAS and was a professor of natural history, and then was appointed president in 1883. His tenure in office as president lasted until 1898. Under his leadership, the university became a coeducational institution in 1893. He had a relaxed approach to leadership, and upon being eased out by a dissatisfied board of trustees, he returned to the faculty as a professor. Benjamin F. Koons Hall, which was originally built as a men's dorm, was constructed and named after him in 1913. A more recent member of the community to be buried in the cemetery is Xiangzhong "Jerry" Yang, who joined the UConn faculty in 1996 as an associate professor of animal science. In 2000, he became a professor of animal science and, in 2001, he was appointed the founding director of UConn's new Center for Regenerative Biology. In 1999, Yang created the first cloned farm animal in the United States: a cow named Amy, who was born at the university in June of that same year. He died in February 2009 after a 13-year-long battle with cancer. In 2017, the university renamed the street that leads to the Dairy Bar and houses the Agricultural Biotechnology Laboratory to Jerry Yang Road in his honor. There are many other members of the UConn community who have chosen the New Storrs Cemetery as their final resting place. Locals as well can and do choose to be interred there, in one of the most scenic and historic locations at the University of Connecticut. Though these people may be gone, their memory lives on in the legacies they've left behind.



Photos by Tyler Washington | Written by Eileen Sholomicky | Designed by Emily Karam



# Why a Husky?



## History of Our Mascot

Photos by Peter Morenus/UConn Photo Written by Rachel Grella Designed by Leyla Arici

Jonathan the Husky is an adored icon to students, staff, and fans of UConn. In 1933, the University of Connecticut released a poll to the student body to choose the official mascot of UConn, and thus, the tradition of the husky mascot was born. The name Jonathan pays homage to Jonathan Trumbull, the first state governor and last colonial governor of Connecticut. In 1935, Jonathan I was brought to campus and adored by students there and at athletic events. Throughout UConn's history, the Jonathans were known to intimidate opposing mascots, particularly Yale's bulldog mascot, Handsome Dan. Due to the noise and sometimes overwhelming crowd presence, Homer the Husky – represented by a student in a husky costume – was added to school events. In 1965, the University of Alaska gave Jonathan VII to UConn, and he was the first white husky mascot to represent the school. Since 1970, the UConn chapter of Alpha Phi Omega has taken care of the Jonathans. In 1989, Jonathan became the official mascot

of UConn athletics. Since 1970, the Jonathans have been taken care of by the UConn chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, and in 1989, Jonathan became the official mascot of UConn athletics. Prior to Jonathan VII, the Jonathans were either Eskimo Huskies or Siberian Huskies, but over the years, the UConn logo has shifted to incorporate many different husky dog breeds – in 2013, UConn changed their logo to a black and white husky rather than a purely white husky. After Jonathan XIII's retirement in 2014, Jonathan XIV – a black and white husky – was chosen as the new and current mascot.

Although retired, Jonathan XIII is often seen walking through campus with his handlers and current mascot, Jonathan XIV. Having an actual husky on campus has been beneficial to student morale and is iconic to the UConn experience.

"I think having Jonathan around is really great for morale because, put simply, he's simply a good boy," Barrett Fellers, a sixth-semester geography major, said. As evidenced by Fellers and other members of the community, Jonathan brings great joy to campus and will continue the legacy for many years to come.



# HEEP

Photos by Erin Wu | Written by Christie Wang | Designed by Leyla Arici

While some may consider the University of Connecticut to be located in the middle of nowhere in Storrs, CT. However, its vast forests and miles of hiking trails within a short walking distance from campus provide the perfect weekend activity for students looking to take a break from studying and get outdoors. With 165 acres of preserved land and a network of hiking trails and parks, the Hillside Environmental Education Park (HEEP) on UConn's North Campus serves as an educational and recreational resource for the UConn and Town of Mansfield community.

HEEP is located alongside Discovery Drive and runs across Cedar Swamp Brook to Mansfield's Pink Ravine, with several hiking trails branching off into the deep woods that offer many different routes to explore. Interpretive signs featuring the preserve's birds, mammals, amphibians, and more showcase the diverse ecosystems that thrive on the university's land.

Two significant UConn projects led to HEEP's construction: the remediation of the 1980's former UConn landfill, and the North Hillside Road extension that later became Discovery Drive. In efforts to mitigate extensive pollution caused by the landfill, the university established several conservation areas. In 2008, the school transformed the abandoned landfill into a nature preserve which functions as a "recreation area and outdoor classroom for UConn and the general public," according to the HEEP website.

Through an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, UConn actively manages HEEP by carefully monitoring its vegetation, soil moisture levels, and wildlife. A number of innovations were added to Discovery Drive to ensure the safety of animals, including wildlife underpasses that provide enough space for large animals to cross safely under roads, as well as reduced salt zones to minimize habitat damage during winter.

With three miles of blue-blazed trails in Mansfield and Willington, hikers have the opportunity to trek through uplands, meadows, woodlands, and more. Some trails even showcase evidence of the area's glacial past, with stone walls deposited by glaciers 25,000 years ago and unearthed in the 19th century.

HEEP is a prime example of the university's efforts to preserve open space, or undeveloped land left in a natural state. The preservation of open space provides both ecological and human health benefits by protecting habitats and developing local tourism and agriculture. According to the Office of Sustainability, "the landfill closure, wetlands restoration, invasive species control, public access, and educational opportunities are important components of the University's open space plan."

Detailed HEEP trail maps can be found on UConn's sustainability website for any student looking for their next adventure.



## UConn Hiking Trails

UConn Hiking Trails

UConn Hiking Trails



## UConn Hiking Trails

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# Greenhouse

## EEB Conservatory

The UConn Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Conservatory is a greenhouse located in the Torrey Life Sciences building and is home to 3,000 species of plants from all over the world. The greenhouse is used for hands-on teaching and research for both undergraduate and graduate students. The greenhouse also provides a beautiful escape from the Storrs winters and serves as an area of general enjoyment. Some courses, such as developmental plant morphology and systematic botany, rely heavily on greenhouse specimens to enhance students' learning.

"Having the greenhouse immensely enhances my learning, especially as an EEB major interested in plants," Lindsey Kollmer, a seventh-semester ecology and evolutionary biology and molecular and cell biology double major, said. "Particularly, it allows me to practice plant identification skills, witness first-hand the life stages of plants, and compare developmental and morphology characteristics of living specimens."

According to the UConn Foundation, the EEB Biodiversity Greenhouse "contains the largest diversity of plants under glass at a public institution in the Northeast." The conservatory features 14 special collections including carnivorous plants, such as venus flytraps native to a small region in North and South Carolina; edible plants, such as starfruit and grapefruits; and medicinal plants, such as the Madagascar Periwinkle compounds, which are derived to help treat specific types of cancers. Additionally, the greenhouse features many specimens with unique habits, such as *Welwitschia mirabilis*, a low growing plant that can live up to 1,500 years.

"My favorite plant in the greenhouse is Lithops, more commonly known as living stones," said Kollmer. "These are my favorite because to me, they stretch the usual definition of what a plant looks like and they are so camouflaged in their natural habitat."

The conservatory often hosts plant giveaways, and each plant is labeled with a short description of its ecological characteristics.

"The greenhouse is a real treasure at UConn with a rare and complete collection of living teaching materials, and I am very grateful I get to use this resource," said Kollmer.

Photos by Skyler Kim | Written by Rachel Grella | Designed by Brunna T. Louzada





Photos by Skyler Kim | Designed by Brunna T. Louzada



twenty-five



# Stumbled Depot Campus



Photos by Brandon Chain Written by Colin Sullivan Designed by Leyla Arici

For years, the UConn Depot Campus has been a mostly forgotten area of legend among students. The 350 acre property is haunting; Much of the campus has been reclaimed by nature. Most buildings are covered in ivy and other undergrowth, and many have been splattered with graffiti from decades of trespassers. Broken, boarded-up windows and rusted fire escapes accentuate the creepy feeling surrounding the campus.

The Depot Campus was acquired by UConn in 1993 following the closing of the Mansfield Training School and Hospital. Originally opened in 1860 as the “School for Imbeciles” in Lakeville, the training school was a state facility meant to house and provide therapy for the mentally handicapped. Such facilities were common in the 19th and 20th centuries, and there are several other well-known abandoned schools in Connecticut, such as the Fairfield Hills Hospital in Newtown. The student population at the Mansfield Training School ranged from several hundred to almost 2000 during the height of operation in the mid-1900s.

The training school featured over 50 buildings as well as a student-staffed farm— scientific thought at the time was that working in a farm would help with epileptic seizures. There were also several other programs intended to provide students with work including print, industrial, and woodworking shops. The goal of the school was to rehabilitate all students, whose handicaps had a large range in severity, and all indications are that the school was fairly successful. Unfortunately, as was the case at many such schools for the mentally handicapped, there were several allegations of abuse against students. A multitude of lawsuits against the school raised concerns over the quality of care, which, coupled with declining enrollment, forced the school

to close in 1993. Most buildings were then acquired by the University of Connecticut. Currently, despite plans from UConn to refurbish the campus, most of the buildings lie abandoned and will likely remain that way for the foreseeable future. Not all buildings go unused, however; the main educational attraction at the campus is the Puppet Arts Complex. This building features high-tech, recently renovated labs, classrooms, and a library to be used by both undergraduate and graduate students of UConn’s well-known puppetry program. Additionally, the Center for Clean Energy Engineering (C2E2) resides in several of the still functioning buildings on the Depot Campus. Despite small parts of campus actually in use, the mysterious abandoned parts of campus are what lure the majority of students. We sat down with one such student, Owen Spangler, to learn more about the history of Depot Campus and its impact on students today.

**Nutmeg Magazine:** What seems to be the general feeling about the Depot Campus among students?

**Owen Spangler:** I think a good portion of UConn’s student body has heard of Depot Campus, but I don’t think that many have actually seen it, despite the short distance from campus. There’s no good walking path and the one bus that goes there only runs if you schedule ahead of time. It’s one of those things where students laugh at the previous names for the complex, most notably “Connecticut School for Imbeciles” or the “Connecticut Training School for the Feebleminded,” but that’s about it. It doesn’t have a big presence at campus beyond being a conversation starter.

**NM:** When did you visit?

**OS:** I hate going to the gym to work out so, as long as the temperature outside is above 20



degrees, I bike in the area surrounding UConn. I have a couple different loops I do, some of which involve Depot Campus, so I usually bike there every week as part of a ride. There's always something to explore when I visit, motivating me to get outside even when the weather may not be as encouraging as I'd like it to be.

**NM:** What was your experience like?

**OS:** The buildings, albeit for a few that are currently occupied by UConn for office space, are in a general state of disrepair. The roofs are collapsing, windows are broken, and some buildings are enveloped in a layer of overgrowth. I've never personally been inside the buildings because I don't want to get a respiratory disability from breathing in asbestos, lead paint dust, and mold. From the photos I've seen, along with the shots from my drone, the buildings have definitely seen better days.

## 4 Major Highlights

**OS:** There's the iconic pillared front to the Knight Memorial Hospital. Definitely a great sight to see in all seasons, with its cold and foreboding look in the fall/winter, and its charming look as it's consumed by overgrowth in the spring/summer. The rest of the building is also interesting to view as you walk the perimeter.

Standing in the center of Dimock Hall's courtyard is a very long U-shaped building next to the Clean Energy Center. It's a great photo shot as the building seems to surround you in the shot. Standing in the middle is eerie as well, as you listen to the wind whistle through the windows around you.

The Longley School is an abandoned elementary school constructed in 1951. It's a weird mishmash of architecture, with porthole windows and large entrances that have now been bricked up. The north end of it has been repurposed into laboratories and is the home to a club I participate in, ASCE Concrete Canoe Club. We make concrete canoes out of the former girl's locker room.

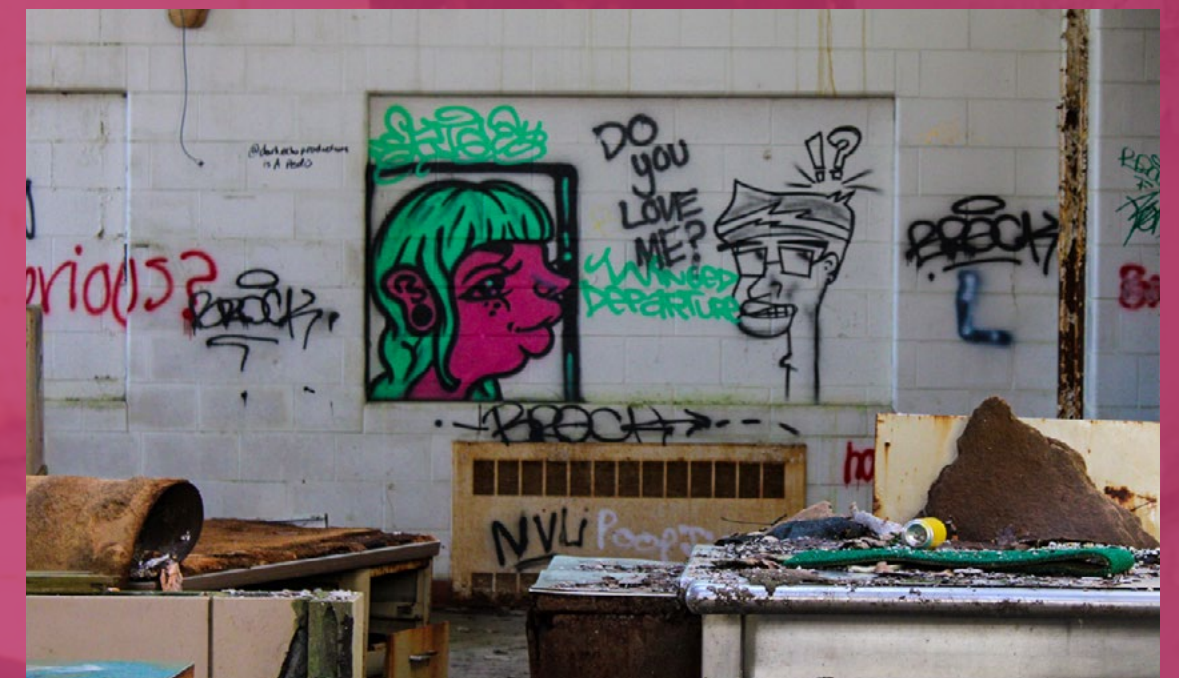
Across U.S. 44, we have the former Bergin Correctional Institution, a low-security jail that UConn recently purchased and is in the process of converting over to laboratory space.

That's not to say the rest of it isn't worth checking out. There can be some real gems if you look hard enough.

**NM:** Was there anything "paranormal" that you experienced that led you to believe that the campus may be haunted?

**OS:** I've heard from some that saw mysterious figures in the windows of the mental hospital, though this isn't particularly unusual. There are scrappers salvaging copper from the buildings and, judging from the graffiti in some of the windows or the computers chucked out windows, the insides of these buildings are frequented by students as well. I've never personally ever seen these "paranormal events," though I've never dared to stay after dark.

Depot Campus does have that general "horror movie" vibe; it was eerie the first few times I saw it. It feels like the beginning to a horror movie, or maybe even an apocalyptic movie. We had an awful horror movie filmed here, *House of Dust*, just because of that vibe. Though, over time, it's become more peaceful than anything. When I need to destress from college—to get away from it all—I go here. There's nobody around, just me and my thoughts as the buildings slowly crumble around me. I can do homework on the hidden picnic tables near the cottages or take a nap on one of the lawns. The isolation here used to unnerve me, but now it's my solace.



twenty-nine





However, I won't say that Depot Campus hasn't had its spooky moments. We're always too focused on what's above the surface; I've very rarely heard anyone talk about what's below it. Depot Campus has an extensive network of tunnels that connect all of the medical buildings, meant to ferry patients between buildings when snow made the surface unpassable. On the surface, there are these little concrete vents that pop up every 40 feet or so along a tunnel's path. They're similar to a chimney vent. I've heard movements coming from down there, with water sloshing around as something made its way through the tunnel. The rattling of metal at times can be heard echoing from below. Probably just an animal, but you never know.







Photos by Chloe Parsell & Tyler Washington  
Written by Mary Lasley Designed by Jared Poulsen

If you've ever ventured behind North Dining Hall, past the tennis and basketball courts, and through a tangle of bushes and trees, you may be familiar with UConn's graffiti space. This area was originally a tennis court; however, in 2009, student artists recreated it as an open space "to promote freedom of expression among the student body," according to a sign hanging from the fence. In its heyday, the space was constantly evolving, with artists frequently visiting to create new work and paint over the old. Now, almost every inch of wall is covered with something - from full-length, full-color murals to a shaky recreation of the Vineyard Vines logo. The area saw enough traffic to prompt a bit of controversy between artists and students; one review on Foursquare curtly says, "Don't paint over good work with your garbage." Nevertheless, the different styles of decorations show that this was a place for all students to enjoy, whether they wanted a space to express themselves or just a secluded spot to hang out.

Now, the area has a melancholy, post-apocalyptic feel. Vines and thorns have grown over the fence, and weeds are sprouting through cracks in the pavement. Beyond the fences, the interior decor includes an abandoned table, several folding chairs, and - mysteriously - a large section of wood propped up against a beanbag chair, reminiscent of a DIY skateboard ramp. All entrances are currently locked, but curious students can peek through the chain-link fence and glimpse attractions such as the two fluorescent portraits of Bart Simpson, or a giant, gold-chain-wearing Yoda that occupies an entire wall.

With heavy-duty padlocks on the area's only gates and broken glass scattered all over the ground, it would take an extremely determined artist to get close enough to add any more work to the walls. Therefore, the space has remained mostly unchanged for an uncertain amount of time. There is no way to know if the bright illustrations on the walls are recent or from years ago, which gives the space a strange feeling of timelessness. Newer, brighter pieces are layered on top of the scribbles of yesterday. Some of the oldest tags have faded beyond all legibility, giving them the appearance of archaic cave drawings.

The closing of the art space is shrouded in mystery. There are rumors that the doors were locked following an influx of racist graffiti, but no official explanation has been offered as to why the space is padlocked, or when this decision was made. With the graffiti space locked, the famed UConn Summit recently closed to the public, and the Spirit Rock a frequent target of controversial repainting, it is clear that UConn has a troubled relationship with graffiti. Open spaces like the graffiti wall are created for freedom of expression, but when some students abuse their privileges, this freedom can be lost to everyone. Hopefully, the gates of the graffiti space will reopen someday, and UConn's artists, activists, and students will be able to enjoy it fully once again.





# Abandoned Ski Slope

Written by: Eileen Sholomicky  
Designed by: Jared Poulsen  
Photos by: Jonathan Kopeliovich



Connecticut does not usually strike one as a skier-friendly state. Most skiers prefer to travel to places like Vermont, New Hampshire, or even Colorado for good snow and slopes. However, back in the late 1960s and the '70s, smaller ski slopes were cropping up all over Connecticut, including right in Storrs.

Previously, a ski slope used to reside behind Horsebarn Hill. Unofficially titled "Husky Hill" by students and locals, the UConn ski slope was operated by UConn's athletic department. It opened in February 1967 as one of many smaller ski slopes to open up across the state as skiing reached the peak of its popularity. There were two slopes — one for beginners and one for experts — each with their own rope tow, and three trails through the woods that led to the bottom of the main slope.

For a few years, UConn offered ski lessons and ski rentals. Husky Hill was open to the public for \$1 per session and \$5 for a season pass. On the other

hand, students — similar to attending basketball games at Gampel Pavilion now — just had to show their student IDs to ski for free. Lights were put up for night skiing, and a warming hut that offered hot chocolate for skiers. UConn's ski team even used the slope for training when it snowed.

So what happened to the ski slope? One of the biggest issues with the ski slope was that there was no snowmaking. This meant that UConn relied on natural snowfall to make the slopes skiable. Between 1967 and 1978 — the latter being the year the slope closed for good, temperatures grew warmer and snowfall totals grew lower. There were increasingly less nights where the temperatures fell below freezing so that snow could form and stick to the ground. This meant that, in some seasons, the slopes were only open a total of about 10 days or so and, in 1978, that number was closer to six. If the university had wanted to keep the slopes in operation, they would have had to install snowmaking equipment, which would have been costly. There were also issues at that time with the athletic department's budget, and keeping the slopes open just wasn't viable. And so, after 1978, the university decided it would be best to close the slopes for good. Husky Hill suffered the same fate that faced many of the other small slopes across Connecticut.

However, the slopes at Husky Hill were never torn down. If you venture deep into the woods behind Horsebarn Hill, you'll find the skeletal remains of what was once a thriving ski slope as nature slowly reclaims the area. The former site of the main rope tow is lined with rusted, graffitied poles that stand like monuments to the past. The bottom of the rope tow is bent, leaning over and ready to collapse at any moment as foliage sprouts up around it. Gone, though, is the warming hut where skiers once drank hot chocolate and huddled away from the brutal Storrs winters. The structure was still standing in 2003, albeit dilapidated and one harsh wind from falling apart. However, as of 2017, any buildings that once remained by the slope were no more. And maybe one day, the same fate will befall the rest of the slope, and its memory will become another relic lost to time.







# Planetarium at UConn

Space has always been a mystery to humans. We have created countless methods to explore, study, and document outer space, but many of us are still left curious about the world outside of our atmosphere. Planetariums give people the opportunity to explore space on their own through the use of telescopes and presentations. Even popular TV shows, such as “Friends,” recognize the wonder of planetariums, featuring one as the setting for a major plot point.

UConn is lucky enough to have its own planetarium to serve its faculty and students. Yet, over the years, it has begun to rust and become obsolete as less and less people know about its existence. Located next to Swan Lake at North Eagleville Road, it is a small, concrete building that is often overlooked. When asked about the planetarium, most students are not aware of its existence. However, those who know how to get inside get a special treat of staring up at the stars. This “secret spot” was built in 1954 by Provost Al Waugh, and the planetarium is the oldest in the state. It is run by Professor Cynthia Peterson, the university’s first female professor in the physics department. She has operated the planetarium and its shows for the past 45 years, and she has deemed it her favorite spot on campus. With seating for 25 people, the planetarium is the perfect spot for small gatherings to watch the stars. The space is primarily used for instruction in UConn’s introductory astronomy course, PHYS 1025, but it is also available for special shows by reservation. Students can design their own shows in the planetarium or watch any of the premade presentations provided.

Photos by Chloe Parsell | Written by Sydney Fournier | Designed by Jared Poulsen



# Abandoned Wolf Enclosure

Photos by Jonathan Kopeliovich    Written by Eileen Sholomicky    Designed by Leyla Arici

From the stories of the “jungle” in the North Quadrangle to the old Mansfield Training School on the Depot campus, UConn has some strange history. One piece of strange history lies in the middle of the UConn Forest behind Horsebarn Hill.

In the late 1970s, UConn’s Biobehavioral Sciences Department launched an experiment studying the behavior of coyote-beagle hybrids, known as “coydogs.” The dogs were chosen for their opposite attitudes—beagles because they were friendly and playful, and coyotes because they were more timid. By 1983, the experiment was on its third generation of dogs, including one dog named Julie, cared for at the time by graduate student Alice Moon. At the time, Moon was in the seventh year of an eight-year doctoral degree experiment with Julie.

On September 27, 1983, tragedy struck when Julie’s body was found in the back of a truck about a mile out from the kennels in the UConn Forest where the coydogs were being kept and cared for. Two students, Steven S. McEnerney and David G. Pervier, were arrested in connection with Julie’s death. Allegedly, McEnerney and Pervier wanted to bring the dog back to their dorm room as a prank, but were drunk when they went to take Julie. McEnerney claimed that he reacted in self-defense to the dog attacking him, but that he did not use a weapon. However, an autopsy showed the dog was choked and killed by a blow to the head by a hammer or weapon of similar size. Moon noted that coydogs were shy and “would only bite when cornered.” Julie’s death set Moon back six years and cost the university \$340,000, as the previous generations of dogs were already dead, effectively forcing Moon to start all over again. After this, the experiment is believed to have collapsed.

However, the kennels remain, if you’re brave enough to find them. And some students are. Grace McFadden, a fourth-semester English



thirty-nine





major, set out in the fall 2020 semester to look for the kennels.

"I just didn't have a lot to do in my spare time because of the [COVID-19] pandemic, so I spent a good chunk of time just wandering campus . . . and spent some time combing the UConn Reddit to do so. [I] found a post on the [coydog] cages and followed the directions . . . and sure enough, there they were. They're fenced in, and I didn't go beyond the fence so I didn't see many of the [actual] cages. Mostly, I just thought it was cool to see a 'hidden' part of UConn. Finding abandoned parts of the university is like seeing little parts of history in real time," said McFadden.

There are multiple routes students can follow to the coydog kennels. McFadden took a path from the agricultural buildings at Horsebarn Hill.

"There are some long driveways, and one of them ends in a sort of dirt road. Once you see an old-timey water pump, you're on the right path," she explained.

Owen Spangler, a fourth semester civil engineering major, also advises taking the route from Horsebarn Hill, although he also offered an alternative route: parking in a small turnoff on Gurleyville Road near the orange trail and approaching the kennels from the south.

"I originally tried enter[ing from] Gurleyville Road, but that trail was overgrown to the point of being unpassable. [However], [UConn] might have recently trimmed [that] path," Spangler said. I myself can attest to this, having gone on a failed mission

with my roommate to see the kennels in spring 2019 by taking the path from Gurleyville Road.

Of his own experience with the kennels, Spangler elaborated,

"There isn't much there . . . a couple [of] individual cages with cinder block dog houses, and then a large open cage that's overgrown. Apparently there are some wooden observation huts in there, but they're on the far side of the enclosure and I wasn't able to reach them. It was sort of eerie and peaceful there, but I could hear someone practicing their trumpet in their backyard the whole time, so it kind of ruined the mood."

While Spangler also expressed disappointment that details about the remainder of the experiment are near-impossible to find, we can at least take comfort in knowing that Alice Moon, now known as Alice Moon-Fanelli, has gone on to be successful, having been a clinical assistant professor at the Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine from 1994 to 2009, and the current owner of Animal Behavior Consultations, LLC.

The coydog kennels in the UConn Forest are one of many places on campus and in the surrounding area suspended in a moment in history, while the rest of the world progresses around them. Though nature slowly reclaims these places, their memory is kept alive as students pass down their stories and explore them. I know I'll be back in the UConn Forest looking for these kennels again soon—will you?

forty-one





**NM**