“I was 6 years old, walking 3 miles daily to the farm. ... harvesting cassava, corn, and hot peppers.”

Read the personal stories of UConn’s Class of 2017
Transcending Tragedy

Sandy Hook Elementary School teacher Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis ’05 (ED), ’06 (MA) always felt that teaching kindness was a critical lesson for her young students — perhaps no more so than in the wake of the tragic shooting that took the lives of six of her colleagues and 20 Sandy Hook students last December.

As countless gifts and messages of compassion poured into the school and uplifted her first-graders in the months that followed, the UConn alum sought a way to teach her students how to pay that kindness forward. “Eventually I just realized that when you get, you have to give,” Roig-DeBellis says.

Launching a nonprofit called Classes 4 Classes earlier this year, Roig-DeBellis has made the act of giving an engaging, tangible experience in her own classroom, as well as in many other classrooms nationwide. The organization, whose mission is to teach every child in America to have an interest in the well-being of others, invites K-5 teachers and their students to become sponsors for other K-5 classrooms elsewhere in the country — for instance, by helping to raise funds for the purchase of much-needed school supplies, a field trip, or a guest speaker for a classroom in need.

“It’s so important, especially for younger students, to have a genuine experience in learning to be caring, kind, compassionate, empathetic,” Roig-DeBellis says. “As teachers, we’re so busy with curriculum and all the major subject areas — which are so important — but there is still such a gap in how kids treat one another.”

Classes 4 Classes begins to address that gap, offering students the opportunity to experience firsthand the joy of giving, while involving the larger community. “A lot of people say, ‘I’m not a teacher or parent,’ or ‘I have no involvement with schools,’” says Roig-DeBellis. “But this program is also about the people who are helping to make it happen — whether it’s monetarily or by spreading the word. Every person can be a part of it.”

To learn more, donate, or find ways to get involved, visit classes4classes.org. To contribute to UConn’s Sandy Hook Memorial Scholarship Fund, visit uconn360.s.uconn.edu/sandyhook.

Watch Sandy Hook survivor Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis ’05 (ED), ’06 (MA), as she shares her powerful message on teaching compassion at uconn360.s.uconn.edu/classes4classes. For more UConn videos, visit UConn’s YouTube channel.
features

A CLASS OF THEIR OWN

A high school junior, his home destroyed by Hurricane Irene. A 6-year-old in West Africa, daydreaming of one day attending school. This fall, UConn welcomed one of the most exceptional incoming classes of freshmen in University history. Every one of them has a story to tell.

TALK OF THE TOWN

It’s been years in the making, but the wait is finally over. The long-awaited opening of the new Downtown Storrs Center — complete with cafes, restaurants, shops, and high-end apartments — brings a modern, college-town charm right to UConn’s doorstep.

BIG IDEA

Sandy Hook survivor and schoolteacher Kaitlin Roig-DeBellis ’05 (ED), ’06 MA has found a way not only to honor colleagues and students who lost their lives in the tragic shooting nearly a year ago, but also to share lessons in kindness with classrooms nationwide.

VANTAGE POINT

Assistant professor of communication Amanda Denes explores the science behind pillow talk — with research into how revealing our feelings may play a key role in guiding our most intimate relationships.

10 QUESTIONS

Cinematographer and native New Yorker Brian Schulz ’97 (CLAS) is captivating audiences through film, covering everything from Major League Baseball to Fashion Week to the country’s greatest teenage chess champions.

HUSKYMANIA

Going from UConn Huskies point guard to a 13-year NBA career taught Kevin Ollie ’95 (CLAS) a few things. Now heading into his second season as head coach of the UConn men’s basketball team, Ollie is ready to put those life lessons to use.

PLUS...

NUMBER CRUNCHER 22
NOTES 23
LEADERS OF THE PACK 26

Stay connected with what’s happening at UConn via our online resources at today.uconn.edu and social.uconn.edu.
Brian Schulz ’97 (CLAS) is always ready to roll—whether it’s for a professional ballgame or a tournament of teenage chess champions. A producer and cinematographer for Major League Baseball, Schulz also recently served as a producer and the director of photography for the 2012 documentary “Brooklyn Castle,” which tells the story of America’s top junior-high chess team. He lives in New York City.

**How did you get into sports photography?**

It all started at UConn because I worked in the sports information department (SID). I did some work on the ESPN production trucks as a student assistant with the SID’s office, and it seemed like a cool career. … I found my creative side—I never really thought I was creative. I can’t draw, I can’t sing, I can’t act, but I had some kind of creativity that took some time to blossom.

**Had you always been interested in photography?**

As a little kid, I liked tuning into the World Series or the Super Bowl to see the video teasers for the game. They would play some cool music, and there would be all these majestic shots. As a kid I probably didn’t know what I was experiencing, but that probably contributed to my future career choice.

You’ve worked at MLB since 1999. What kind of work have you done there?

I recently worked on a cinematic essay as a promo for the All-Star Game. One of our writers at MLB Productions wrote a really heartfelt love letter to New York City, voiced by John Franco, a former New York Met and lifelong New Yorker. We’ve encapsulated the beauty of New York and the beauty of the All Star Game coming to New York. I like really cool, crisp, clean cinematic shots and weaving them into a story.
How much traveling does the job involve?
I worked on a Showtime series called “The Franchise” that followed a single team — two years ago, it was San Francisco Giants, and last year it was the [Miami] Marlins. And other things come up — we do interviews with players throughout the season, so we go to their ballparks and do specialty shots with them. Then there’s the World Series and the All-Star Game every year and the London Games and the Special Olympics.

Do you ever get tired of watching baseball?
I’m not as big a fan as I used to be. I think it’s just a natural tendency — if I worked at Baskin Robbins, I’d be sick of ice cream by now. It’s not that I’m sick of baseball; it’s just there every day. Being around it so much, you forget how endearing it can be.

What’s one of the most memorable moments you’ve captured?
The 2004 Red Sox victory in the World Series. I was shooting camera on the third-base side when the Red Sox won, so I captured that last out. When I look back in 30 or 40 years, I’ll know that that slow-motion shot was mine.

How did you get involved in “Brooklyn Castle”?
It was actually my sister’s idea — she has always worked in documentaries and wanted to do one of her own. She had this idea of following around the best junior-high chess team in America, which no one really knew about. It’s a really interesting story. They come from a section of Brooklyn where you just wouldn’t think chess would thrive.

Was it a challenge to make chess interesting cinematically?
We did a lot of slow-motion and artistic shots, and we weaved it into a storyline about what was going on in the players’ lives. We tried to make the chess really interesting. We were at a tournament in Dallas in one of these big, big conference rooms. I like really smooth shots, but we didn’t have the funding for a dolly or a Steadicam. I see a luggage cart that a bellhop is bringing in, and I get on it with my tripod and have my brother-in-law push it. So here I am on this luggage cart being pushed across the room, in the midst of the ultimate concentration sport. It was a poor man’s dolly.

You grew up in Brooklyn yourself — is that what drew you to the film?
My sister always wanted to do a film about where we were from, and I gravitated to that as well. I thought it would be good to make a film about something that was emblematic of Brooklyn. I think the best thing about documentaries is that you’re shining a light on a subject that a lot of people may not know about. We try to show that chess is cool — these are some of the most popular kids at their school.

What are you working on right now, outside of MLB?
I’m working on some stuff for Fashion Week. It’s fascinating, the process that goes into the fashion shows. I see the parallels to the sports world — there’s a lot of pressure. If you’re a designer, there’s a lot of pressure to have a good show. Then you get the whole dynamic with the models, who are kind of like the athletes. And the shows themselves are like big games now, with all the celebrities and everything.

“I FOUND MY CREATIVE SIDE — I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT I WAS CREATIVE. I CAN’T DRAW, I CAN’T SING, I CAN’T ACT, BUT I HAD SOME KIND OF CREATIVITY THAT TOOK SOME TIME TO BLOSSOM.”

Since when are the cool kids on the chess team? Since now. Get a glimpse into how cinematographer Brian Schulz ’97 (CLAS) captures the story at brooklyncastle.com.
Pillow talk, or post-sex conversation, and its influence on relationships, is vital to my scholarly interests. I became interested in this line of research upon realizing the very different experiences people were having with pillow talk. Friends would tell me stories about sweet nothings whispered following sex — a time period denoted by researchers Daniel Kruger and Susan Hughes as the post-coital time interval (PCTI). These conversations would sometimes make or break the relationship. For some, saying “I love you” for the first time after sex brought the relationship to the next level. For others, the same disclosure led to regret for having confessed one’s sentiments too soon.

Why such different experiences? Why were some people sharing their innermost feelings, even when they knew the relationship had not yet reached that level? What effects would these post-coital disclosures have on relationship satisfaction?

In beginning to explore the relationship between our hormones and communication decisions, I recognized that the physiological changes accompanying sex may be the underlying cause of pillow talk and that investigating communication during the PCTI may help us better understand the link between physiology and communication. I also realized that one important variable was likely influencing this whole process — orgasm.

Yes, I’ve seen people shift uncomfortably when I use this word in academic presentations. While individuals may have different levels of comfort when it comes to discussing sexuality, to ignore the importance of orgasm would be to ignore a key piece of the pillow-talk puzzle and what my own research has revealed to be an important predictor of post-sex communication.

Oxytocin may explain this finding. Women who climax have more oxytocin flowing through their systems than women who do not climax, and we know that the hormone relates to increased feelings of trust and connection — key components that influence individuals’ decisions to disclose feelings to their partners. Women who orgasmed also disclosed more than men who orgasmed — perhaps because men’s higher levels of testosterone suppress the oxytocin response.

Additionally, pillow talk varied by couple type. Individuals in more committed relationships were disclosing more positive feelings to their partners after sexual activity than individuals in less committed relationships. They also regretted their disclosures less and reported more relationship satisfaction following pillow talk.

A Purpose Behind Pillow Talk

This may suggest that, for individuals in more committed relationships, pillow talk is part of the way they maintain closeness and satisfaction with their partners. I am currently investigating the possibility that post-coital communication functions as a relationship maintenance strategy by looking at why individuals engage in pillow talk.

In another study, I found that how individuals view the benefits and risks of disclosing their feelings to their partners can help explain the relationship between orgasm and pillow talk. For some individuals, it seems that the glow of orgasm may minimize the risks — and enhance the benefits — of disclosing. It’s easy to imagine the ways this may function in couples’ everyday interaction. During pillow talk, couples may feel more comfortable opening up about their stresses, feelings, and hopes for the relationship, and this openness may trickle over to other, non-sexual contexts.

Relationship researchers such as myself are beginning to ask the questions to which so many couples want to know the answers: Why do I feel as though I can share feelings with my partner after sex that I don’t feel comfortable sharing normally? What effect will pillow talk have on my relationship satisfaction? Will my relationship benefit from pillow talk?

In starting to answer these questions, we’re gaining a better understanding of the ways that post-coital behavior relates to relationship satisfaction and healthy couple functioning. For me, the research doesn’t end with sex. In fact, it’s just the beginning. 🎥

Amanda Denes, assistant professor of communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, studies communication in interpersonal relationships. Her research has been funded by such organizations as the Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality and The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction.
Talk of the Town

Long-anticipated Storrs center becomes a reality

By Kenneth Best

Tans to transform Storrs into a bustling college town have long been the word on the street — among quite a few generations of UConn Huskies. It was 44 years ago, in October 1969, when the University first announced that its Board of Trustees had approved plans for a $12 million project that would provide “the latest word in shopping convenience and contemporary housing” for the campus community. The plans included apartments, chain department stores, a gourmet food store, a sporting goods store, a bookshop, and several restaurants, among other retail businesses.

Although scheduled to become reality in early 1971, the plans for an energized downtown never came to fruition. Decades later, renewed discussions between the Town of Mansfield and UConn led to agreement on a new plan — one that is now materializing adjacent to the south end of the Storrs campus.

An emerging destination for local residents, visitors, students, as well as the rest of the UConn community, the new Storrs Center is no longer mere rumor. With cafés and restaurants, specialty shops, high-end apartments, and more to come, this downtown community center is the product of years of shared effort and vision.

In the early planning stages of Storrs Center, Thomas Callahan was associate vice president for government and community relations and also served as co-chair of the University’s Town-Gown Committee. He says the University and Town of Mansfield worked together to forge consensus on a development plan that would meet the needs of both entities.

Plans for Storrs Center resumed in 2001 with the formation of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, a nonprofit led by a board of directors representing Mansfield residents, business owners, UConn, and the Town of Mansfield. LeylandAlliance was hired as the master developer for the $220 million mixed-use project that, in addition to 322 apartments and an array of shops and restaurants, will also eventually include a UConn Co-op bookstore, the relocated Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry, and a clinic operated by the UConn Health Center. A supermarket is scheduled to open in 2014, and there are plans for a residential neighborhood as well.

When former UConn President Philip Austin asked trustee Philip Lodewick ’66 (BUS), ’67 MBA to represent the University in the project planning, the businessman and philanthropist recalled his undergraduate days in Storrs, when few activities were available beyond campus.

“It was a place almost barren in terms of the opportunity for people to socialize,” he says. “To see the town evolve is wonderful. It’s been a good collective effort on the part of a lot of people ... I think this downtown will cement the community within Storrs and Mansfield. From a standpoint of camaraderie, collaboration, and the ability to enjoy social interaction, it’s vital.”

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See the new Storrs Center for yourself. For 360-degree panoramic views, an interactive map, and a video, download UConn Magazine’s free app for your tablet device at magazine.uconn.edu/app today.
“It was gratifying to see the amount of political consensus that emerged to get it on the ground,” says Callahan, now associate vice president for infrastructure planning and strategic project management at UConn. “The citizens and political leaders of Mansfield who wanted to see something like this happen mobilized to ensure that the project moved forward. You also had strong presidential leadership, with Phil Austin and now Susan Herbst supporting the plan, and support from the Board of Trustees to make it go.”

SweeT SUCCESS

The new downtown center has presented unique opportunities for new businesses, including ventures led by local residents and young UConn alumni.

Barry Schreier, formerly the director of Counseling and Mental Health Services at the University, had always dreamed of opening a candy store. He became involved with the Downtown Mansfield Partnership and helped form the advocacy group Smart Growth for Mansfield. In 2012, he opened Sweet Emotions, a boutique candy store in Storrs Center that he says has “all the duties of parenthood.” Schreier stocks a range of candies that would appeal to college students, children, and the wider community. His website draws orders from around the nation, and his store offers services including candy bouquets and baskets, children’s parties, “etro” candies on the shelf. He has six employees, including five UConn students. For friends Jessica Chiep ’12 (CANR) and Ron Liu ’11 (BUS), the chance to open their own restaurant adjacent to the UConn campus was an opportunity they could not resist.

After starting their post-college careers, they realized they wanted to be self-employed. They formed a partnership with their friend Thomas Wang ’11 (BUS), whose family has operated restaurants for many years, including two in Middletown, Conn. The partners will open the Japanese restaurant Haru Aki this month, which they say will serve authentic Japanese street fare with traditional elements. “Our menu items are taken from influences straight from Japan with a little bit of fusion twist. We’re not taking shortcuts with the ingredients,” says Liu. “There’s more to explore in this cuisine than the old clichéd approach.”

Chiep and Liu say that after initially meeting with the developer and learning more about the downtown project they found “everyone’s willing to help make things work.”

In addition to a diverse menu, Chiep says they plan to offer activities such as sushi rolling, dumpling making, screenings of Japanese style animation known as anime, and fresh mochi tastings. Geno Auriemma, UConn’s Hall of Fame women’s basketball coach, who has been involved in the restaurant business with his Geno’s Fast Break Food Court and Pub at Mohegan Sun, opened Geno’s Grille, a 100-seat restaurant with primarily Italian cuisine, in Storrs Center this past spring.

Tour the new Storrs Center through the eyes of a UConn student. Check out the video at s.uconn.edu/downtown. For more UConn videos, visit UConn’s YouTube channel.
Behind every aspiring UConn Husky is a story waiting to be told. This fall, UConn’s Class of 2017 arrived with the most impressive academic record of any incoming freshman class in the history of the University — and yet even grade point averages, SAT scores, and extracurricular activities can’t say it all. Here, in this collection of college admissions essay excerpts, we invite you to get a glimpse of the luminous personalities, personal experiences, and hard-won insights that define some of UConn’s newest students, as they tell you who they are, in their own words — with style, emotion, and candor.

Sunil

We always used to sit on the swing together. He would sing this frivolous line over and over again, “Men may come and men may go, but I’ll be there forever.” To me, it was just a fun song that was amusing. The sun illuminates a puddle glistening underneath the swing. I see the reflection of an auto-rickshaw, compelling me to ruminate about our trips. He took me to various places, such as the old-age home, the school for the blind, and the orphanage. But one day, the last stop was in front of a peculiar, frail mud house. Four small boys, wearing nothing but ragged underwear and with dirt all over their bodies, ran up to us. This was their home. I couldn’t help but notice the desperation in their eyes. I was shattered. I was so bewildered as to why he would take me to this random place.

We went for a walk with the mother. He kept on encouraging her not to give up and to keep striving to provide for her family. We then took the children to the doctor’s office for a check-up. I was stunned by the fact that, despite the family’s being complete strangers, he still went out of his way to help them both physically and mentally.

I sat on the swing and sang that line repeatedly, “Men may come and men may go, but I’ll be there forever.”

All of his actions defined one word, success. This one word made me who I am today. Success is not about what you have in life; it’s about what you do for the lives of others in your lifetime.

How is it that he taught me everything, but nothing at all? He had not directly spoken to me about success, but he had shown me everything that I needed to achieve it. He taught me life’s greatest lesson, and no matter what, his lesson will always stay with me.
perfectly at peace with the result because I did the right thing my own heart. Whether I am accepted into college or not, I am only academically, but morally as well. I had been raised to be essays. I knew hiring someone to write my essay was wrong not experience education. In Hartford, Ivory Coast, like many children, I didimagined my uncle using such a service. My uncle had always said me that if someone else wrote my essay, that gave me an unfair flow from my mind the way numbers do. My conscience told League challenged my own sense of wrong and right. my uncle's acceptance convinced me that despite my cultural handicap, he was accepted by an Ivy League college as well. But the fact that he cheated his way into the Ivy League I was not honoring my values. My family had instilled in me that cheating was wrong not to stay hopeful while struggling. I knew that I was now privileged to attend school. Attending the University of Hartford, Connecticut, hearing my mother was not merely speaking to me, but addressing the concerns of my future Winnipeg in 2004 from the refugee camp in Ivory Coast to the United States was one of the greatest challenges I ever encountered. Living in the Ivory Coast, like many children, I did not experience education. In Hartford, Connecticut, speaking only French and two other West African native languages made learning seem impossible. Three teachers each took turns pulling me out of class and teaching me basic English words. Although I stumbled on the words, I didn’t give up because the desire of learning was like a fresh fire inside of me still waiting to be fed. Finally attending school was a dream come true, but my peers found a great pleasure in teasing the dumb girl in the classroom with the accent. However, I remained encouraged, knowing that I was now privileged to attend school. Attending the University of Connecticut will strengthen my knowledge and help me to become a truly remarkable leader. My goal is to inspire many young girls around the world to stay hopeful while struggling under harsh conditions. I saw the mixed look of surprise and respect I receive when someone asks what instrument I play, and I respond, “I play percussion!” It’s not as if spotting a girl drummer is like finding a unicorn; we’re out there. Among all films I have made of my blind experiences, I have always listened to be better than them: snipper with my rudiments, sharper with my rhythms, and more attentive during practice. However, my male peers always had an advantage over me, and that was confidence. I watched how they played the drums like they owned them, whether it was the correct rhythm or not. That wasn’t my style. I could play, but only if I could play the music right. Otherwise, I felt as if I was making a fool out of myself. Regional auditions, jazz performances, and symphony band concerts all force me to play music that often mandates improvisation in front of an audience. I often wonder why I put myself through such high-pressure situations. Maybe it’s because I like to test myself, as playing percussion has forced me to try out new things that I may have never explored. Maybe it’s because I know there will often be a talent examination on my confidence, only more opportunity to expand the panner play and the techniques I employ. But maybe it’s because, at the end of the day, I just want to do the beat the boys.
Before the official start of practice for the 2012–2013 men’s basketball season, there was only one certainty: With a ban on postseason play due to NCAA penalties, the Huskies would play their final game of the year on March 9, 2013, at Gampel Pavilion against Providence. No one knew what might be in store for the Huskies, given the transfers to other schools or the departure of several key players from the 2011–2012 squad to the NBA. There were more question marks when Hall of Fame coach Jim Calhoun announced his retirement in mid-September and Kevin Ollie ’95 (CLAS), whose only coaching experience was as an assistant for two years in Storrs, was named to lead the team with a one-season contract.

Kevin Ollie will be imparting his newly learned lessons to a Husky team that returns a core of experienced players — including Shabazz Napier ’14 (CLAS), Ryan Boatright ’15 (CLAS), and DeAndre Daniels ’15 (CLAS) — who enter the new American Athletic Conference with the chance to win a conference championship and make the NCAA Tournament.

“In the locker room, I do everything,” Ollie says. “I’m going to try and give this University.”

“I’m learning every day. I’m an empty cup. I think that’s what will allow me to, hopefully, become a great coach and an even better leader,” Ollie says. “I don’t know it all. I’m not afraid to tell anybody that. I collect information and make a decision. There’s a lot of stuff I don’t know, but I better ask somebody.”

Kevin Ollie

ON POINT

Last November, an upset opening win over No. 14 Michigan State in the Armed Forces Classic at Ramstein Air Base in Germany indicated the Huskies might have surprises ahead during the season. It became a roller-coaster ride, with other upsets of ranked opponents, some frustrating losses, and seven overtime games, including the team’s E3-9 overtime win over Providence that ended the year with a record of 20–10 overall and 10–8 in the Big East.

In many ways, it was familiar territory for Ollie, who had proven again and again during a nomadic 13-year career in professional basketball that he could do the job and overcome any obstacle placed before him. He established a reputation as a reliable veteran who could mentor younger players while making contributions on and off the court.

From the outset, Husky fans enthusiasti- cally expressed their support for the former Husky, who proclaimed his affection for UConn and his student-athletes.

“He is the one always giving 100 percent. I feel every time I step on the court, I’ve got to match his intensity,” junior forward Niels Giffey ’14 (CLAS) said, after practice early last November. “He’s really showing me how to work hard. Everybody respects him so much.”

Ollie says playing for Calhoun and such highly respected NBA coaches as Chuck Daly, George Karl, and Larry Brown allowed him to learn the game from the best basketball minds in the sport.

“Being a point guard, not only had to know my position, I had to know everybody else’s position on the court,” Ollie says. “I didn’t have all the talent in the world. I had to study, look at the game tapes. It allowed me to be a better student of the game and what coaches are trying to do in certain situations.”

What’s behind Coach Ollie’s success? To hear him talk about the lessons he has learned, download UConn Magazine’s free app for your tablet device at magazine.uconn.edu/app.

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“They’re going to be great. I really believe that,” Ollie says. “I don’t know about a national championship and all of that stuff, because I’d tell you that championships will chase us if we have the right attitude. Winning chases us. We don’t chase win- ning. If we have the right attitude and pull together unselfishly, those things will automatically happen. I want these guys to have a habit of winning and making winning plays at the right time and that’s not just on the basketball court, it’s out in the real world and academically. You want to make winning plays and show yourself well and be ambassadors for UConn basketball. My expectation of these guys is to give your best every day that you play hard like we did last year.”

“No ExCUSES

Ollie says his primary lesson from last year is to make the best use of every hour of the day, to be a better student of the game and what coaches are trying to do in certain situations.

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Kevin Ollie

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Last year, donors provided $57.9 million worth of scholarships to UConn students, from more than 950 scholarship funds at the UConn Foundation.

Charles Vigra ’32 (BUS) was induced into the Brain Trust High School Hall of Fame in recognition of his accomplishments playing baseball and basketball, as well as serving as class president. Vigra died July 29 this year. He utilized a $200 scholarship at UConn, led Gardner-Webb University to the NCAA Division II basketball championship, and was elected to the Gardner-Webb Hall of Fame.

Loyal Husky donors have submitted more than 65 million since 2009 in support of UConn Athletics.

There are 26 funds at the UConn Foundation specifically supporting academic lecture series at the University.

There are currently 19,646 alumni households—8,020 supported UConn with a gift.

There have been 8,460 donors of $1 million or more since 2007.

There have been 10,200 gifts to UConn that were made by text message last year.

There have been 50,000 alumni since 1947.

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The number cruncher specifically supports scholarships to UConn students, from more than 950 scholarship funds at the UConn Foundation.

Loyal Husky donors have submitted more than 65 million since 2009 in support of UConn Athletics.

Charles Vigra ’32 (BUS) was induced into the Brain Trust High School Hall of Fame in recognition of his accomplishments playing baseball and basketball, as well as serving as class president. Vigra died July 29 this year. He utilized a $200 scholarship at UConn, led Gardner-Webw University to the NCAA Division II basketball championship, and was elected to the Gardner-Webw Hall of Fame.

Loyal Husky donors have submitted more than 65 million since 2009 in support of UConn Athletics.

There are 26 funds at the UConn Foundation specifically supporting academic lecture series at the University.

There are currently 19,646 alumni households—8,020 supported UConn with a gift.

There have been 8,460 donors of $1 million or more since 2007.

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...and has published more than 300 scientific articles. He is a professor and food science and human nutrition specialist at Michigan State University and currently serves as the editor of the American journal of Clinical Nutrition. He has been elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists, Fellow of the Institute of Food Science and Technology, and Fellow of the Institute of Food Research. He has been awarded many research grants and has received numerous awards and honors, including the National Academy of Sciences Award for Research Excellence in Food Science and Nutrition, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Scientific Achievement, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Achievement in Public Service, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Achievement in Education, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Achievement in Leadership, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Achievement in Research, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Achievement in Community Service, and the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Achievement in Public Service.

Richard Darak '13 MBA, '14 JD, '15 LL.M., student record manager in the Department of Science and Engineering Education, is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Food Technologists, the Institute of Food Science and Technology, and the Institute of Food Research. He has received many research grants and has been awarded numerous awards and honors, including the National Academy of Sciences Award for Research Excellence in Food Science and Nutrition, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Scientific Achievement, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Achievement in Public Service, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Achievement in Education, the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Achievement in Community Service, and the American Society for Nutritional Sciences Award for Distinguished Achievement in Public Service.

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leaders of the pack

When Brooke Dragon ’15 (CANR) one day decided to audition online for MTV’s Emmy Award-winning reality television series “Made,” she would never have predicted her path to near-celebrity status in the fitness world.

An aspiring registered dietician, the now 20-year-old UConn junior starred on Season 12 of “Made,” a self-improvement reality show through which Dragon not only transformed herself into a fitness competitor and spokesperson for Bodybuilding.com, but also inspired a following of newfound fans from across the country to take charge of their own health.

‘Made’ for TV

To read the full story, download UConn Magazine’s free app for your tablet device at magazine.uconn.edu/app, or see Brooke Dragon in action on MTV’s “Made” at s.uconn.edu/made.
UConn’s D.C. Connection

What better place for talented and ambitious UConn alumni to make their mark than in the nation’s capital?

Watch the video at s.uconn.edu/UConnDC. To find a UConn alumni chapter near you, visit s.uconn.edu/alumnichapters. For more UConn videos, visit UConn’s YouTube channel.