

24 HOURS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

UConn

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2025



05:43 AM

Day breaks in Storrs



06:00 AM

Each time we see a cadet's red night vision headlamp come eerily into view on the Horsebarn Hill homestretch, shouts of encouragement break the silence among those who have finished their 6-mile ruck. Hauling 35-pound rucksacks, these Army ROTC students began their training run at 0500 hours, preparation for a 12-mile ruck later in the semester — still later, post-graduation, soldiers must maintain 15-minute miles through a 12-mile ruck to pass muster and commission as officers.

06:24 ▣



07:00 AM

Seven miles southwest a racing shell breaches the calm of Coventry Lake as the women's rowing team begins hour two of its daily practice. The varsity squad is on the lake pre-sunrise every weekday through the first week of November and again as the lake thaws around mid-March. At that time of day — and year — they tend to have it to themselves. "Most of the time, the mornings are peaceful and gorgeous," says head coach Jennifer Sanford.

▣ 07:07



08:01



08:27

08:00 AM

As dawn turns decidedly to day, a Shropshire ewe near Livestock Unit 1 gives us a beseeching stare, but we know student workers fed her hours ago and don't sheep always look beseeching? Bleary are the looks we get from the human undergrad species we find foraging for bagels and lattes at the Student Union. They prize the Union Dunkin' for its convenient location and relatively long hours (7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.).



09:00 AM

Getting to a 10 a.m. class means waking too early and there's not enough coffee on the planet, or so we are told. Sophomore engineering student Dylan Brockel maximizes sleep and minimizes his commute with a two-banana breakfast grab from McMahon eaten on his trusty skateboard. He admits motorcycle boots are not ideal board gear but "they were probably the first thing I saw." The grandpa sweater, too. "But also I think it makes me stand out — in a good way."

9:24 AM ▣



10:00 AM

Just shy of 400 classes are in session during the 10 to 11 a.m. hour on Thursdays at UConn Storrs, including 23 sections of the same introductory chem lab. Our photographers also found environmental engineering and kinesiology labs; writing workshops and seminars; accounting and nursing lectures; classes in drawing, studio painting, American Sign Language, and marketing; and an equine rehabilitation practicum.

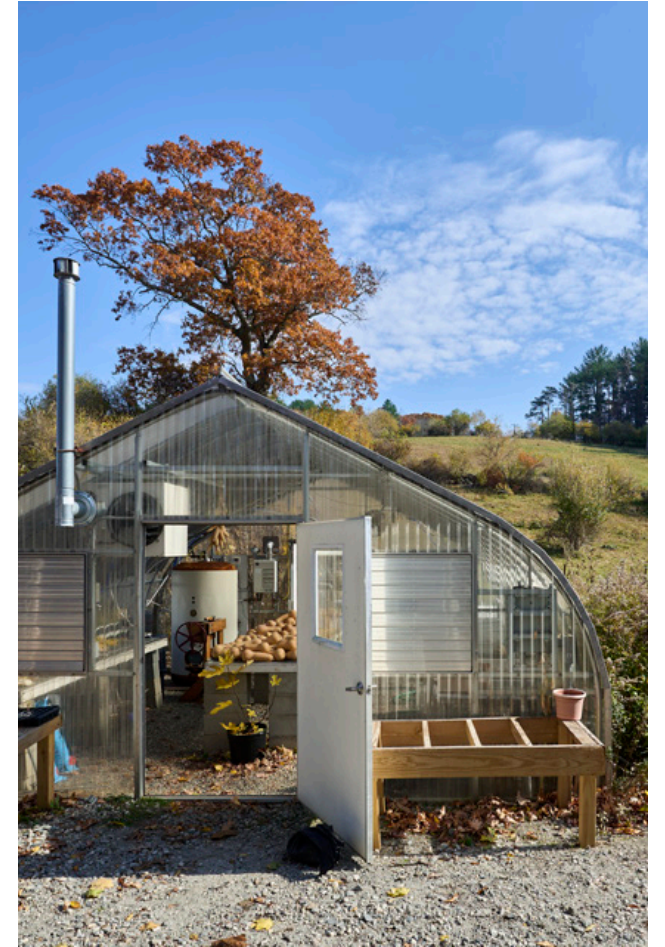
10:03 - 10:54



11:26 ▣



11:27 ▣



▣ 11:30

▣ 11:51

11:00 AM

Campus is at peak swing by now, and at the top of Fairfield Way a golf cart of field hockey players spins around us, a worker changes out a campus map, a tour guide spiels parents and prospective students, a line for TikTok-trendy makeup samples expands exponentially, and a bit of beautiful calm amid chaos — Farm Fresh Market sells shiny squash, tomatoes, garlic, basil, peppers, dried flower bouquets, and more. This season, the 11 resident students at Spring Valley Farm, just past Depot Campus, grew more than 5,000 pounds of produce on their one acre of farmland and sold it here every Thursday from July through October. “It’s like setting up an art show, like sharing the farm with everyone else on campus,” says Adriana Garcia Vazquez, a farm resident and senior in cognitive science.



12:00 PM

Our chief photographer times his daily constitutionals hoping to intersect with the Jonathans' lunchtime walk, and today we tag along with retired XIV (XV is working an off-campus event). It's like walking an A-list celeb through a hometown film fest. Students mob us with awwws, sighs, shrieks — seeing a Jonathan on the way to class is like winning a scratch-off. Some drop to their knees and melt into the fur of our happy-to-oblige wellness ambassador. How do schools without huskies manage?

12:19



12:38



Bay 2

01:00 PM

A labyrinth of locks and twisty hallways leads us to the clean rooms at Science 1. Through the looking glass, materials science graduate student Yingqi Qiang and lab manager Mustafa Yavuz wire devices on a semiconductor chip with a 25-micron gold line. Yavuz (left) explains that the complex circuitry of semiconductor devices requires clean rooms to prevent contamination with even the smallest particle of dust. They also create biosensors for brain-related diseases here. Across campus, anthropologists use clean rooms to collect DNA from human bones.

01:21

02:36



02:25



02:00 PM

Werth Champions Center is base camp in the Basketball Capital of the World with mirror men's and women's facilities, including practice courts which at this moment are loud, intense, and somehow simultaneously chaotic and balletic. It's nonstop music and screaming, high fives and fist bumps, and try it again, again, again. You get it right away, what players say about coaches Auriemma and Hurley running practices so much harder than games, what they mean when they say you're either Connecticut or you're not and that these are kids who dive on loose balls and sprint back to set up on defense — every single time.



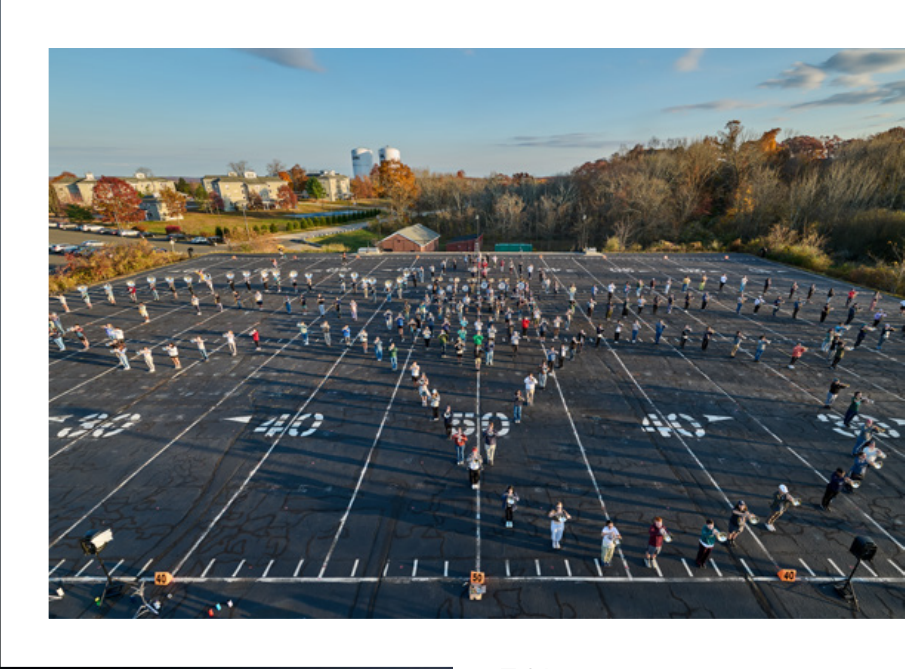
03:38

03:48



03:00 PM

Animal sciences students at the Dairy Bar break down the chemistry of delicious — more butterfat, less air — and confirm that Husky Tracks — vanilla, fudge swirls, peanut butter cups — wins their sales race. Over at Depot Campus, the puppet arts mecca makes us want to go back to college. The place exudes camaraderie and creativity and everyone wants to show us something. Devising puppets for three productions, students in room after room wield glue guns, light boxes, carpentry saws, sewing machines, and behind door number seven are creating portrait masks with legendary instructor Bart Roccoberton Jr. Through the movement of a puppet or a mask, says Roccoberton, “we cause the audience to help us create its existence as an object with breath, intention, and the ability to pursue goals.”



▣ 04:57

04:00 PM

Did you know that Marching Band has an asphalt football field between Husky Village and Charter Oak? With a five-story command tower? This weekend is Homecoming, so the call-and-response from directors and choreographers on the tower and musicians on the field is extra. A tuning cacophony transforms into a symphony while the human blob turns into a dragon. They're practicing songs from "Wicked" and "How to Train Your Dragon," as well as Journey's "Separate Ways," for which they'll be joined by some 200 alums from the 1970s through 2024, a longstanding Homecoming tradition.

▣ 04:47



05:31

05:41



05:00 PM

Autumn's magic hour on Horsebarn Hill obliges us with a signature sunset — hills of red and gold over pastures of sheep, cows — and horses, who make even this landscape more beautiful. Dressage team members lead horses from the practice arena to the barn to untack and groom. Helena Hand, a pre-veterinary sophomore, introduces us to Utzi, a 12-year-old Welsh pony/thoroughbred cross, one of her favorites "because of his willingness — and his undeniable cuteness."



06:00 PM

Dinner time! We head to McMahon, Whitney, and Connecticut halls. Dining's aim to nurture emotionally as well as nutritionally means comfort food no matter where you're from and what that means to you. Students eat made-to-order risotto stir fry, curried roti chicken, and shrimp and grits in small café rooms, on couches, and at small and long high- and low-tops. A crowd suggests many students find comfort in the pies coming out of McMahon's famous pizza ovens.

06:02 - 06:54





07:39 ▣

07:00 PM

A few blocks down the street at Gampel, year 38 of the Homecoming Lip Sync contest is underway and while there's some singing, it's all about the dance. "When you sway your hips you can really see the fringe move," says PRLACC's Zaimarie Cabrera of her bachata dance dress. The nursing junior loves Lip Sync. "It's a chance to show a little bit of our culture, to just dance and have fun with our community, to see the other groups perform — and to cheer one another on."

07:40 ▣



08:00 PM

Thursday is still the new Friday on campus and we couldn't even begin to keep up. Behind every door and on every quad are horror movies, scavenger hunts, parties for everything and nothing, billiards games, tap dance practices, a cappella rehearsals, improv sketches, pumpkin smashing. At St. Thomas Aquinas every Thursday, dozens of students join faculty and parishoners for Eucharistic Holy Hour, an entirely silent time of prayer preceding nightly Mass. Loudness prevails at Morrone Stadium, where we find some women's basketball players you may recognize cheering women's soccer to a 3-1 Big East win over DePaul.



08:52



08:25



09:00 PM

Surrounded by proud parents, partners, roommates, and friends, we get to stop racing around to let wash over us the precise, billowing joy of Edward Elgar's "Enigma Variations" as played by the UConn Symphony Orchestra at von der Mehden. Bliss.

09:23 ▣

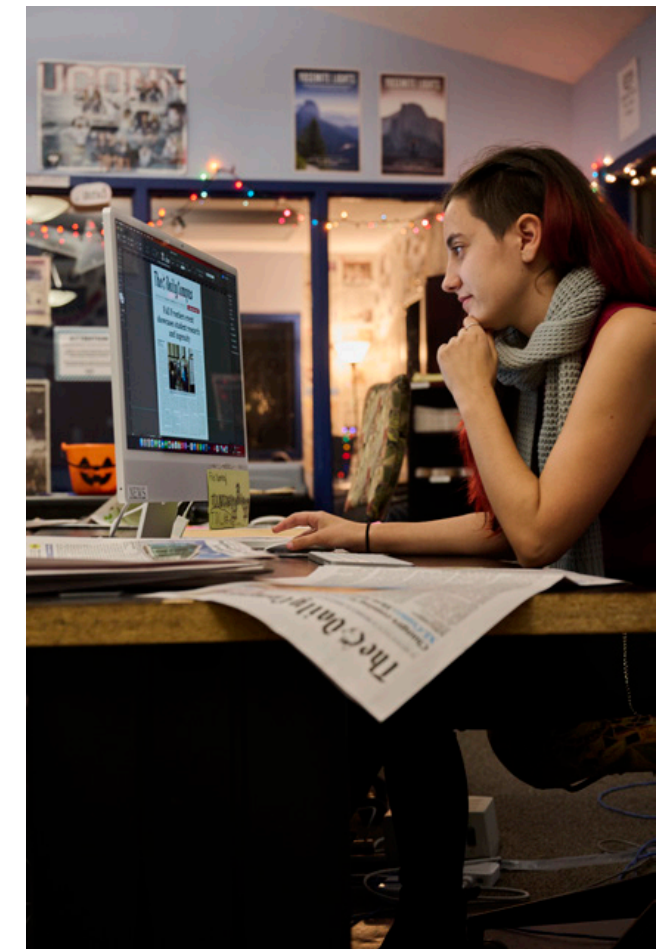


10:00 PM

Via drone, the Peter J. Werth Residence Tower at night is utterly "Hollywood Squares." We match the outside tableaus to their inside counterparts and find students here and at Connecticut Hall studying, doing laundry, watching TV, playing video games, spilling tea over cocoa, and, with RAs, crafting Halloween decorations.

■ 10:07 - 10:56





■ 11:37

11:00 PM

At WHUS and the Daily Campus, the tech is in another stratosphere but the giddy-serious tribe vibe feels identical to the campus papers and radio stations we worked at decades ago. From the Student Union, DJ Astro aka Cyrus Diamond, a communications junior, “spins” Kate Bush, Stevie Nicks, and Elvin Bishop, while on the other side of town digital media and design sophomore Sophia Ayoub “pastes up” the final front page of the Oct. 25 Daily Campus.

■ 11:19



12:23 ▣



12:45 ▣

12:00 AM

Downtown Storrs' newest occupant is not so new. A branch of the iconic Huskies bar rakes them in on Thursdays by waiving the cover (not the ID check) and pouring \$5 drinks from 9 to 10. Minutes after last call the party spills into the streets and breaks into pods. Some start a street dance-off. Some linger, some head home, many seek sustenance.

12:43 ▣



01:02 ▣



01:00 AM

Around the corner, D.P. Dough, open until 3, briskly dispenses calzones — mostly the Roni Zoni (cheese and pepperoni) and the Buffer Zone (cheese and buffalo chicken). Not everyone gets to start their weekend early — the library, still surprisingly busy now, will close at 2.

01:27 ▣



02:00 AM

The entirety of the darkness surrounding the cattle barn at the bottom of Horsebarn Hill gives it an alien glow. It's a 13-second exposure, camera resting on the fence, that brings out the color in the sky. We can see only a few of the young Hereford and Angus cattle inside as most are lying down. It's their bedtime, too — cows sleep standing up, sure, but only briefly and never deeply. The temperature is just starting to drop and we pull on jackets to head back to mid-campus.

02:51 ▣



03:00 AM

We're at the command center now on the north side of campus — those lights keep glowing and the heat keeps blowing thanks to plant operators like Cheyne Nye (below). That slight buzzy soundtrack all movies use for these places? It's happening here. Our reward for being up at this hour comes when plant supervisor Tim Bilyue gives us a tour of the massive south tunnel that runs below campus from here to the School of Business. Who knew?

03:28 ▣



03:41 ▣





04:16

04:00 AM

If only we could make this one a scratch-and-sniff! You'd experience something akin to the torture it was to smell, 23-plus hours into this project, the cinnamon rolls, scones, and croissants emerging from the ovens at the UConn Bakery on the eastern edge of campus. It is all business in here, the only sound the consistent slapping of dough onto stainless steel and the rolling of tray carts across tile. Once the pastries are trayed and tagged for various dining halls and cafés, it will be time to start on today's share of the more than 3,000 pounds of pizza dough they make weekly.

04:14



04:22



04:18



04:20



05:00 AM

It is utterly quiet and unmistakably cold now — you can almost feel it in the drone shots so crisp with color. An ethereal glow emanates from the hooded fixtures around Mirror Lake that reduce light pollution. State-of-the-art cameras and drones have just recently made it possible to take clear photos from on high lit only by street lamps. You're welcome.

05:39



A time-lapse montage from the upper floor of The Benton shows one slice of activity around the Waugh sundial for each of this project's 24 hours.



10/25/2024

*I'll tell you how the sun rose, —
A ribbon at a time.
The steeples swam in amethyst,
The news like squirrels ran.*

— from "A Day (I'll Tell You How The Sun Rose)"
by Emily Dickinson

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Edit Lisa Stiepoek; with Julie (Stagis) Bartucca '10 (BUS, CLAS), '19 MBA

Design Andrew Janavey '15 (SFA); with Yesenia Carrero; Christa Yung

Photographs

Peter Morenus Pages 0-1, 5, 8-9, 10, 11, 13, 14-15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 30-31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46-47, 48, 49 (gatefold), Back Cover

Sean Flynn Pages 6-7, 8-9, 11, 12, 18, 25, 27, 33, Back Cover

Andrew Janavey '15 (SFA) Pages 23, 25, 36, 40-41, 45, Back Cover

Milton Levin '04 Ph.D. Pages 4, 22, Back Cover

Daniel Buttrey '00 (SFA) Pages 8-9

Bri Diaz '08 (CLAS), '10 MA Pages 8-9

Nathan Oldham Pages 2-3

Thomas Rettig Pages 8-9

Claire (Galvin) Tremont '17 (CLAS) Pages 8-9

Austin Bigoney Page 29

Sydney Herdle Back Cover

University Communications

Interim VP for Communications
Michael Kirk

Executive Director of Creative Strategy and Brand Management
Tracy Anderson '09 MA

THANK YOU ...

Chicken parm grinders at Willington Pizza

Our staff has been talking for years about doing some sort of day-in-the-life special issue and last Oct. 4 an off-site lunch prompted the aha! associate editor Julie Bartucca and I needed: We have a 48-page book, that's one spread for each of 24 hours, a perfect day-in-the-life set up. Let's start planning now, we decided, so in January when art director Christa Yung gets back from maternity leave we can pull this off for, maybe, Summer 2025?

Lebkuchen (German gingerbread) and doughnuts

Said double sugar rush can be the only explanation for all of us at a regular staff meeting a few days later saying yes when photographer Peter Morenus went down this slippery slope: for optimum campus beauty we'll need to shoot in spring or fall; it should be fall, let me look at the events calendar; oh, Lip Sync is Oct. 24 this year, that's a perfect date. Which gave us exactly 15 days to plan. We wouldn't set anything up, only shoot what was happening in the moment. But we'd need to decide where to be and when for the best photo ops, in some cases gain permission and access to those places, take test shots for ideal equipment and angles, and so on. We'd need to find more photographers to cover as much ground as possible. Andrew Janavey, with Yesenia (Jess) Carrero's help, would stand in for Christa. Our colleagues at University Communications stepped up as they always do, especially photographer Sean Flynn, who signed on for a 15-hour stretch. Other photographers across the University agreed to cover specific times we wanted to be two (or 10) places at once. Our bosses, Tracy Anderson and Mike Kirk, were like mom and dad, telling us to just be ourselves — stay authentic and creative, make it real — and how can we help?

Coffee, apples, and Cheetos

When the three of us planning to do all 24 hours — Pete, Andrew, and I — arrived at the office around 5 a.m. on D-day, we found a banquet of muffins, cookies, tea, coffee, fruit, and snack bags courtesy of so-kind colleagues Michelle Long and Jen Cote. Not sure when we'd be back, I stuffed a backpack to keep the photographers hydrated and energized. Julie would do the same when she and Sean arrived a few hours later. (It was 12 hours before we'd have a moment to race back here — to grab more charged camera batteries.)

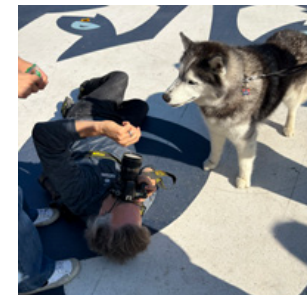
Pizza

We extend gratitude less to the leftover lunch version that helped us stay late at work Wednesday to tie up loose ends and thankfully did not give us food poisoning than to the godsend pie Jess bought just before Domino's in Downtown Storrs closed at 2 a.m.

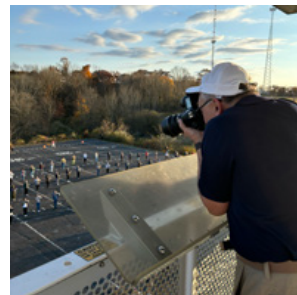
... and last but not most: Toast

Oct. 24 had produced a cloudier than desired sunrise and the question was, after getting our Hour 24 5 a.m. drone shots, did we have it in us to wait more than an hour for this new day's sunrise and then spend an hour so doing? Pete's answer: What time does Toast open?

Add it to the long list of reasons we couldn't have done this if Pete weren't Pete, with his enthusiasm and nearly 30 years of making friends and finding the hidden and not-so-hidden UConn spots we get to share with our readers. Every time we needed some extra juice along the way it was Pete's passion that sustained us even more than his Korean candy and tea stashes (thanks for those, too, though). He kept saying, "I want this to be my love letter to UConn." —LISA STIEPOCK, EDITOR



Sean — Hour 7



Pete — Hour 11



Andrew — Hour 22



Pete, Andrew, Lisa — Hour 24

UConn

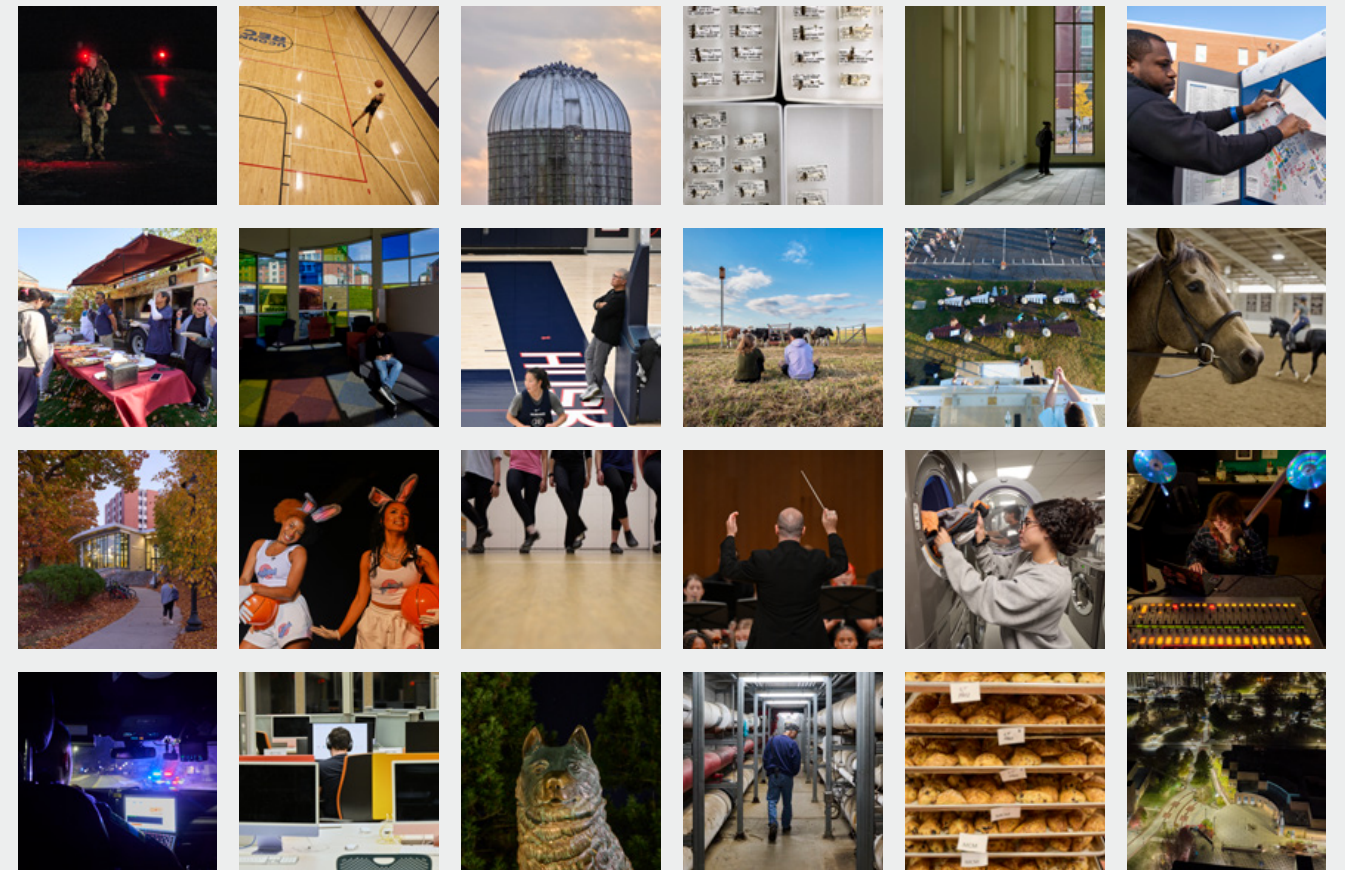
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Inside the Outtakes

What about the tens of thousands of shutter clicks that did not make it into this book? You'll find many favorites on our website: magazine.uconn.edu



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