BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE OOZEBALL CREW.
WE FIND OUT WHAT IT TAKES TO PUT TOGETHER THE 30 YEAR UCONN TRADITION.

DIFFICULTIES IN GREEK LIFE’S IMAGE LEAD TO SHARP DECLINE IN CAMPUS PRESENCE

BEST CITIES FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES
BOSTON
HOBOKEN
SAN FRANCISCO
& MORE!

SPRING WEEKEND
THEN & NOW.
A LOOK INTO THE CHANGE THROUGH UCONN STUDENTS AND ALUMNI
When I took this job a year ago, I was nervous but prepared. My predecessor and 2014 graduate Kelly Chasse taught me everything I needed to know about how to run the yearbook effectively and efficiently. I was working with a young staff (only one staff member was a senior), but I knew their strengths and trusted them to deliver.

I did not officially start my term as Editor in Chief until this past fall semester and it was what I expected it to be; phone calls and email exchanges with our publisher and photographer, weekly executive board and staff meetings, and collaboration with the UConn Senior office to make sure all seniors knew what they had to do on their end to get their portraits taken.

As I continued with my everyday duties as the COO of Nutmeg, I knew there was something more that we could do for the UConn student body. That is when we came up with the idea of launching a magazine—a semi-lifestyle magazine filled with student-created content that could be both fun and serious; you will know what I am talking about once you start flipping through our content.

We immediately got to work and formed a magazine board that met every Friday at Dog Lane Café. Because of that board, we were able to fulfill our aggressive two month timeline that involved restructuring the organization, rewriting constitutions and by-laws, creating content, marketing, logo creation, distribution—you get the point—if you can think of it we did it. This magazine would still be in its infancy if it were not for them and the rest of our incredible staff who took on extra work to make sure that this idea turned into a reality.

Our cover story for this issue is the transformation of Spring Weekend from pre-2010 to now. We go in depth to analyze why the change took place as well as the new look behind this infamous weekend. It may no longer be a wild campus wide party, but see why free food, Oozeball, and other events are not too bad either.

Without further ado, I present to you the first issue of the Nutmeg Magazine.

Editor in Chief,
Will Lanzoni
When the weather gets warmer a bright colorful maxi dress is a great go-to choice. Pair that with sunglasses and sandals and you’ve got yourself a winner. Where to buy: Dress, Urban outfitters; Sandals, Tory Burch.

Darty Attire

Spring has finally hit Storrs, and frat boys campus wide are rejoicing. The warm weather can only mean one thing: darty season has arrived. With the influx of daytime soirees, the Nutmeg Magazine is your ultimate guide to day party attire. What are others wearing? What is in style? What are you sure to see at the day parties?

When the weather gets warmer a bright colorful maxi dress is a great go-to choice. Pair that with sunglasses and sandals and you’ve got yourself a winner. Where to buy: Dress, Urban outfitters; Sandals, Tory Burch.

Although the sun was shining bright for the kickoff of the first day party weekend of the year, the temperature was not quite where it needed to be, and most girls stuck with cuffed skinny jeans. Ladies take darty season as the opportunity to step out of their leggings and take their outfits to the next level with jeans. The cuff lets everyone know that the women are ready for summer, just not ready to commit to showing off the full paleness of their winter legs. On the other hand, any girl who says that jeans are comfortable is lying to herself, and choosing to wear skintight jeans for hours on end at a darty is quite the commitment. A few brave souls choose to break out their short-shorts, but every girl is waiting on the perfect windless day to wear a comfortable, flowy sundress. The ladies also stick to a number of flowy tops, or opt for the cropped sweater look, a versatile option if the temperature begins to rise.

Converse keep your feet safe while still looking cute. Here it is paired with cutoffs and a graphic tank. Where to buy: Top, Forever 21; Shorts, Pac Sun; Shoes, Converse.
Unsurprisingly enough, the shoes of choice for the girls are converse or sandals. With the long grass, uneven terrain, and God-knows-what liquid all over the yard, I commend those brave enough to subject their bare feet to the grass by wearing sandals. Converse are a nice enough summer shoe, but are still doing their job by covering the whole foot. Sandals may make the outfit, but Converse will never break it. Always opt for the sneaker.

In a startling turn of events, it seems that the trend of the choker has finally hit the East Coast. Falling about a year behind our West Coast counterpart, it was surprising to see the number of chokers that made their debut on the UConn campus, to show the edgier side of the student population. As far as the men go, the usual Vineyard Vines pastel colored shorts and Croakies are the outfit of choice. Dress up or dress down? The men are usually half and half in this department. For those who choose to dress down, the boys find this a perfect opportunity to show off their letters. Boat shoes are a must in either situation, but for the casual option pair them with khaki (usually pastel colored) shorts, and a classic t-shirt. Another favorite option is showing off a sports jersey from their team of choice. Basketball jerseys seem to be the best seller for dartsies, because suns out guns out, right? When dressing up, button-down short-sleeve shirts are key, but what about the bowtie? A little constraining, but always a good option that says, "Hey, I’m the perfect mix of formal and casual!" Whatever is chosen, Croakies are not to be forgotten! This lifesaver invention is sure to prevent broken or lost Ray-Bans. In the end, casual and comfortable is key, because what are the chances that anyone remembers your outfit anyway?

Keep it casual and ultimately don’t wear something you mind getting ruined, like a pair of jeans or a long-sleeve tee. Where to buy (Girls): Green top, Urban Outfitters; Jeans, Free People; Sandals, Tory Burch. (Guys): Shorts, American Eagle; Boat Shoes, Sperry.

For the guys pastel button downs are the way to go. Pair that with a nice pair of salmon colored shorts and you’re golden. Where to buy: Shirt, Brooks Brothers; Shorts, Vineyard Vines; Sunglasses, Ray-Ban.

* Nutmeg Publishing does not support underage drinking and no photographs in this shoot contain alcohol.
SCHOOLBOY Q + A$AP FERG

10 OF OUR FAVORITE IMAGES FROM THE 2015 SPRING CONCERT
A Conversation with Bill Congdon, Magazine Genius
Rachel Sarnie: What compelled you to enter the world of magazine publication?

Bill Congdon: My wife’s father—actually, she was my girlfriend at the time—worked for magazines, so he was telling me about them. I was working in Boston at the time, pretty much right out of UConn, and I was working for a computer company. I saw an opening for a new start-up and it was a boating magazine, and I liked boating as well! So, I thought, “Gee, let me combine a potential interest with a passion.” Plus, I kind of studied advertising at UConn in my marketing courses. At the time, a lot of advertising was magazine advertising.

RS: What brought you back to UConn after graduating in ’75? How do you integrate your knowledge from your career into your teaching at UConn?

BC: I remember getting a visit when I was working in New York City, from the UConn Foundation—wanting money [chuckles]. He was a really nice guy, but that was his goal, right? I said, “Well, I have two kids in college who I’m paying for, so I can’t give you much money but I would love to get involved with UConn.” I have some time to get involved.” He connected me with some people in the School of Business, some professors, and some heads of departments. I started going to more UConn alumni events. I would speak at a career day for the School of Business—I graduated from the School of Business as a marketing major. I got to know more and more professors and they asked me to come in and do guest lectures. So, I would come up to Storrs and give a guest lecture—this was probably about 10 years ago. It was a lot of fun, I really enjoyed it. I was asked to come back more and more, so I was coming up two or three times a semester and talking in under-grad classes and graduate classes. I said, “I really like this, this is really rewarding.” I used my business experience to talk about whatever topic the professor was talking about that day. That got me very involved, I expressed some interest, then one day, I met Tim Hunter, who is the department head of Digital Media. I went to his office after class, he talked to me about teaching, and I said, “I really love teaching.” Then the next semester I was hired full time. It was a great pivot for me, in terms of my career. I had spent about 30 years in magazines and loved it, but to have an opportunity to do something really different, but also still be right in the middle. I’m kind of an advertising and marketing junkie. Here, I get to research all this stuff for my classes that I love. It’s been great. I’m also still very in touch with a lot of people I worked with at the magazine, so I try to get as many guest speakers in as I can because I think that’s a real win for the students, to hear what’s happening in the real world in terms of the specific topics we are talking about.

RS: Finally, what advice do you have for Nutmeg Magazine as we start with our first issue?

BC: I would suggest doing some research. If your target market is the students here, what’s the kind of articles they might like? How do they read? Are they on their smartphones, are they on their laptops more? That’s going to then help you make a decision on format. Get to know the consumer. I’m sure you and the creative people have some direction you want to go in, but make sure you are consumer-centric. Make sure, if you’re an online product, to engage with the consumers. When you have your articles, work in that engagement technique, where you’re not just shouting out at them, you’re recreating a two-way street. And, user-generated content is really big. Maybe start a column or section that is user-generated—you guys control the editing obviously—but you really want the user to engage with you. Because then, you’ll build a relationship, and that’s what you really want to do. So, that’s my tip of the day.
Greek life is a mystery. It’s illusive, it’s powerful, and quite frankly, it’s a little threatening to someone on the outside. Having a few friends in Greek life has given me snippets into what it could possibly be like. Those not in Greek life of course hear vaguely about weekend party plans and see countless photos on Facebook of enthusiastic girls donning their sorority’s letters. The phrase, “From the outside, you can’t understand it. From the inside, you can’t explain it” has been jokingly recited time and time again.

Here at UConn, in light of many chapters being thrown out and the now-infamous rock scandal, Greek life has certainly become a hot-button topic. Last year, the sorority Kappa Kappa Gamma was kicked out after a hazing scandal that landed UConn student Hillary Holt in the hospital from alcohol poisoning. According to Holt’s account, the hazing was bizarre and cruel, forcing her to drink past her limit and “sizzle like bacon” on the floor, a phrase that has become synonymous with the hazing scandal. The response from the Kappa sisters was fierce, and many blamed Holt for her whistle-blowing actions. This hazing took place at a party thrown by Sigma Alpha Epsilon in their fraternity house, causing SAE to be kicked out of affiliation as well. Kappa must wait four years until it can reapply to be part of UConn affiliation and SAE must wait five years.

In a snowball effect, two sororities, Delta Gamma and Delta Zeta, and the fraternity, Sigma Chi, also lost UConn affiliation after similar alcohol-related hazing incidents. Pi Kappa Alpha lost recognition from UConn after throwing parties while on probation and hazing members. The final straw in PIKE’s scandal was an occurrence that took place while fraternity members harassed a sorority member of Alpha Kappa Alpha while they painted UConn’s spirit rock.

Although riddled by scandal in the past year, members of existing Greek life continue to stand by their community and respective organizations. In order to learn more about these organizations that everyone—students both in and out of Greek life alike—seem to love to talk about, a survey was sent to the Greek students of UConn, in hopes to gain a more personal, specific perspective as to what it’s really like on the inside. The results were a mixed bag, but sifting through 7879 words of responses certainly gave insight into the world of Greek life.

Although most of the survey respondents were students in sororities rather than fraternities, the majority of responses spoke to system of Greek life as a whole rather than specific chapters. The questions were pointed and some were a bit tricky to answer for students who perhaps felt that Greek life is in fact a perfect organization. The students that did speak to the issues surrounding Greek life were surprisingly rather than focusing on their own personal strife or complaints, most complaints voiced were directed towards the issue of image, and the struggle to create a more positive culture. The positive comments were that of pride to be part of a culture with a remarkably strong presence on campus. Greek students aren’t blindly roped into a secret society of sorts. Rather, these students are extremely self-aware. For every false stereotype a student listed (such as paying for friends or partying non-stop), about three more positive aspects were shared. A junior sorority member wrote, “Greek life has really helped me grow into the person I am. I know that’s cliché and whatever, but adjusting to college is HARD and people are mean. Joining Greek life was about finding a place I belong and giving me a structure in college that has helped me get through tough times, improve my grades, volunteer more, and expand my horizons.”

The self-aware aspect of Greek students of course comes with a flip side; they understand that things have to change. One graduate student—who has been in his fraternity for all four years of his undergraduate career—commented on the transformation he has seen in Greek life. “I was in a fraternity from my freshman year to senior year and sadly, saw the system deteriorate. I was on the UConn Interfraternity Council from my sophomore year to my junior year and we established a policy that sought to eliminate rush parties and remove alcohol from the recruitment process. This was a huge step forwards, but did not radically alter the culture. Sadly, the problem with Greek life is that
there aren’t enough meaningful changes being made. Many organizations are very set in their ways and hesitant to eliminate harmful behaviors such as hazing and alcohol abuse which may have served as traditions within the chapter. I have seen Greek life become more involved with HuskyTHON, which is a positive. But now they must address their internal issues and do everything they can to change their culture.”

One freshman sorority member, despite just joining Greek life this year, already sees room for improvement as well. She states, “A lot of what is currently happening in the Greek community is maintenance control. The presidents and boards are all simply trying to maintain our organizations status. They fear acting too out of the norm will draw attention and be misconstrued as evidence to kick us off. We need leaders who will actively work to change the face of Greek life to a family that bands together and does so much good for their community.”

This brutal honesty is something to be respected. The ability for members such as the students quoted above to look critically at such a massive organization exhibits room for growth and willingness to improve. Despite the scandal, consequences, and stereotyping that surrounds Greek life, the students have pride to represent themselves and determination to fix what is broken.

\[\textbf{The (Anonymous) Voices of Greek Life:}\]

“The best aspect of Greek Life is that it has given me my home away from home. I know that even if my organization did not exist I would still be best friends with the women, but my organization brought all of us together in a way that would have been hard to do otherwise. I love my friends and do not know how I would have found people that share the same values as me without my chapter.”

“We do not haze. Isolated incidents have occurred, but as a whole, hazing is not tolerated. Hazing promotes an unhealthy environment in which Greek life is actively distancing itself from.”

“It can sometimes be difficult to overcome the typical Greek life stereotypes. Although I am new to college and Greek life, I already feel the pressure of judgment of others not involved in our community. In a way, it feels like some of these people are just watching us, waiting for us to make a mistake.”

“The stereotype that all Greeks party and hook up with each other is absolutely false. There are no cookie-cutter organizations where this stereotype pertains to every member. Each Greek organization has a diverse group of men and women. Much like the general population of UConn, there are some people who go out, and there are some people who prefer to stay in, there are some people who are single and looking for casual flings and there are other people who are satisfied being single or are in a long-term relationship.”
BASEBALL
ON THE RISE

There are few things in life for the ultimate sports fan that are better than sitting outside on a beautiful spring or summer day with an ice cold beverage of your choice watching America’s sport. Yes, baseball season has finally arrived. Now that the weather is (semi) normal here in Storrs, we can all flock to the field or that little hill up next to Hilltop Apartments and watch the UConn baseball team do its thing. In fact, we should. We sat down with some of the players on their off day to catch up with them about all aspects of the season as they get ready to head into the final stretch of their season.

Catching Up to Speed
This year’s team is exceptional and currently on track for not only a great conference record, but a berth in the NCAA Tournament. They play a tough schedule in the American Athletic Conference, which is one of the more competitive conferences in the country when it comes to college baseball. The roster exudes talent from the two talented pitchers senior Carson Cross and sophomore Anthony Kay, to junior catcher Max McDowell, and stretching far between to freshman third baseman Willy Yahn. It’s no wonder why head coach Jim Penders has had faith and confidence in his team from the start that they would do big things this season.

Conference Play
This weekend UConn takes on a conference series with the Memphis Tigers. They also have remaining series with the East Carolina Pirates and the Cincinnati Bearcats.

“Conference is huge,” Penders said. “We’re all bunched up with maybe three or four games separating last place from first place out of the 8 teams.” The Huskies are currently in a four-way tie for second place in the conference with Memphis, Houston and ECU, all teams they will be facing coming up at the end of the season.

Life on the Road
As of last week, 42 of the 64 days of the season had been on the road according to Penders. Since the conference is quite spread out, the team has been on airplanes almost every weekend. A lot of this has been in part due to the harsh Storrs winter weather that is inevitable early on in the season.

“It’s really tough. It’s fun in the same sense
because we’ll be down in Florida on the weekend or somewhere like that,” said junior leftfielder Joe DeRoche-Duffin. “We can only really get in one [workout] per week, and through the season your body deteriorates. The biggest thing is trying to maintain what you had before the season.

“We sort of adapt when we’re on the road and overcome whatever’s really thrown at us and we try to do our best job,” added junior centerfielder Jack Sundberg. So far they have been able to manage everything from baseball to keeping their grades up and maintaining their health, and the final stretch of the season, though it ends on the road, will give them more time on their home field.

The Fans

While UConn students are always known to be big supporters of the basketball teams, and are known to frequent football games as well, baseball gets sandwiched in the middle of these two big seasons. However, the team has seen bigger crowds at home games this season, deservedly so, and certainly has noticed the presence of the lively fans who perch themselves on the Hilltop Apartments hill overlooking the field.

“We’ve actually had some big crowds out here and it’s been pretty awesome especially in the crowd up at Hilltop,” DeRoche-Duffin said. “It’s pretty spirited up there. It’s always great to have a good support system and it’s honestly fun to hear what they have to say.”

“The more fans the better,” Sundberg said. “Usually when we go away to southern schools we’re being heckled in the outfield and stuff, so it’s nice to come home and just have some support on your side.”

Looking Ahead

If all goes well in these upcoming matchups, it will put the Huskies on track to not only dominate in the conference, but also set them up for an appearance in the NCAA tournament.

“We’re kind of focusing on finishing what we have started right now,” redshirt junior pitcher Devin Over said. “If we do what we’re supposed to do, we’ll be alright. We expect to be there.”

“We’re winning, it feels good, we’re just starting to get at home right now so we get a little momentum going,” Sundberg said. “But other than that it’s just fun to be out here playing every day.”

With that momentum picking up and the team improving upon every game played, this makes for an exciting rest of the season and all the more reason to go out and support the Huskies as they continue to battle toward not only making the NCAA tournament, but also making a deep postseason run. Whether it’s on that little hill with some friends, or alongside the team in the stands, one thing is for sure: this team will not disappoint.

Story About Grayson

Just this past week, 5-year-old Grayson Hand of Sturbridge, MA came to the team through IMPACT, which is a program that pairs children with life-threatening and chronic illnesses with local college athletic teams to help improve their quality of life. Grayson is often seen at practice with his family and will surely attend every game that he can.

“When someone at that young of an age has to struggle through something so terrible, it’s always great to be a part of something that helps them,” DeRoche-Duffin said. “It’s going to be great to have him here for as long as we can.”

UConn in the MLB

Currently, UConn has three alumni from the program active on major league rosters. Nick Ahmed (‘11), George Springer (‘11), and Mike Olt (‘10) play for the Arizona Diamondbacks, Houston Astros, and the Chicago Cubs respectively. Penders regularly keeps up with the guys and likes to keep in touch with his former superstars.

“His fun flipping around all the games,” Penders said. “It’s fun keeping up with those guys and just seeing how they’re doing.”

Go-To Pregame Meal

DeRoche-Duffin: Mine usually is: food I’m not picky at all.
Sundberg: “My mom makes me a green smoothie, so she puts a bunch of different vegetables in there- all her different kale and stuff”

Song of Choice to Get “In the Zone”

DeRoche-Duffin: Anything. Mine usually is: food I’m not picky at all.
Sundberg: “Longing For’ by Jah Cure”

Any superstitions?

DeRoche-Duffin: “Before I get into the box every at bat I close my eyes, I focus, I tell myself something, I relax and I get back in the zone.”
Sundberg: “I spit in my gloves every time before I get in the box, but it might just be a habit.”

Q&A With the Players

If you could be a multi sport athlete, what other sport would you play?

Sundberg: “Probably football, that’s what I played in high school, too.”
DeRoche-Duffin: “I’d love to go and play football here at UConn right now, but I don’t think coach would be too happy.”
Ah, yes. That dreaded question that most seniors are just not quite ready to hear yet. Graduating alone is stressful enough, but now add things like getting a job, cooking for oneself, and simply surviving in the real world into the mix? Forget it, I’d rather live under a pile of blankets and watch Netflix all day. As daunting as life after college may be, it’s hard to deny that it’s pretty exciting, too. There are so many different places that life can take you, and while this may be an overwhelming thought, we at Nutmeg Magazine have got you covered with the top ten places in the nation where most grads are choosing to migrate and start their lives post-college based off of all sorts of factors including career paths, cost of living and lifestyle.

**THE 10 BEST CITIES TO LIVE IN AFTER GRADUATING.**

**“What are your plans after graduation?”**

**10. CHICAGO, IL**
A place that has a solid UConn alumni foundation, precisely 1,200, the city has plenty of growing opportunities in the financial, engineering, and publishing industries. A handful of neighborhoods in the city house populations of college grads ages 22-24 according to Homescout Realty. There are plenty of social opportunities in the big city, and always something to do on the weekends between the nightlife and the sports scene.

**09. HOBOKEN, NJ**
This city is close enough to New York City but still serves as an oasis from the chaos of it all. Hoboken offers a vibrant community with lots of local parks, shops and restaurants, but is also a quick commute away from NYC if that’s where your job is located. Major industries in Hoboken include publishing, healthcare, and insurance, and it’s one of the most walkable cities in the country. According to Livability, about 68 percent of the homes in Hoboken are rented and the majority go for less than 30 percent of the average income.

**08. RALEIGH, NC**
Raleigh ranks No. 1 on Forbes’ Best Places for Business and Careers. Its top industries fall under biotechnology, green energy, and education. Also known for its concerts, shopping, world-class museums, and scenic areas, this city is the well-rounded package, all located in beautiful North Carolina. The cost of living is average, with the median income for grads coming in at $45,495, however the city boasts a stable job environment and economy evening out the costs and making it the ideal place to live for college graduates.

**07. SEATTLE, WA**
According to CNBC, Seattle is the most educated city in the country. About 34 percent of the population holds a bachelor’s degree or higher. It has one of the highest average incomes for college graduates coming in at $50,578. According to Forbes, it’s one of the safest cities in the country and it’s worth mentioning that it is also America’s best coffee city. Some of its top industries include information technology, healthcare, and clean technology.
If southern living is your thing, Austin is huge among college graduates looking to kick off their lives in a city populated with lots of other young people- 21 percent of the population to be exact. With one of the most affordable costs of living in the entire country, it’s no wonder why grads from all over flock here. Austin is well known for its laid-back vibe and its live music scene, but also its low unemployment rate and stable economy. All around, this makes for a perfect combination for newcomers who hope to get their careers rolling.

This is a popular location for grads nationwide as well as past Huskies. According to Forbes, the jobs per 1,000 residents is 837, and the population favors young professionals. If you’re looking for a thriving city, as well as some place that might be a little bit closer to home, Boston is the perfect middle ground between the two. Just about 11,000 UConn alumni live in the city according to the UConn Foundation, and it has one of the most active Husky Alumni groups in the country. Not to mention, the city has everything to offer from an active arts community to an intense sports crowd.

For those of you looking to get as far away from the state of Connecticut as possible, San Fran might just be the place for you. Although the cost of living definitely ranks up there, CNBC says the median income salary of $61,426 for graduates with a bachelor's degree is the highest in the country. This city is a technology hub, giving college grads some pretty cool opportunities to work for popular companies like Google and Twitter. Where are the Huskies going? About 1,600 reside in the home of the Golden Gate, 2,200 opt for Los Angeles, and 7,000 total UConn alumni live in the state of California.

The city holds one of the highest millennial populations in the country, with 31 percent being people ages 20-29. Plus, the state is home to a great deal of Fortune 500 companies, making the job market quite open to college grads in particular. Other perks include a crazy amount of parks where residents can support their active and healthy lifestyles, and who wouldn’t want to live in close proximity to the Mall of America?

Taking it out west, Denver slides in at the No. 3 spot. Aside from its gorgeous mountain views and awesome downtown area, the economy is strong, the cost of living is moderate, and college grads are making over the average income rate according to CNBC. Top industries with the most openings in the city include aerospace, broadcasting and telecommunications, energy, and health care.

Coming in at the top spot is the capital of the country. While D.C. has a higher cost of living, the median income for college grads in the city in 2014 was $60,104 according to CNBC. It’s quite popular with the Huskies, too. A whopping 4,300 of the Foundation’s recorded 230,000 total alumni have chosen D.C. as their home. As an added bonus, you’re close to some of the nation’s most historic sites and scenic areas, making it hard to run out of things to do in your free time.
OOZEBALL
AN INSIDE LOOK

Thirty-two years after its initiation in 1983, OOzeball, started by the UConn Student Alumni Association, has become one of UConn’s biggest and most popular Spring Weekend events. OOzeball is a single-elimination volleyball tournament played in eight inches of mud. Tons of sand and water are used to cover a normally green quad into a large and muddy arena. As sophomore Suraj Muddasani puts it, “You’ll never have more fun getting dirty.” Up to 400 teams participate in the event, while over 3,000 students, faculty, and alumni look on.

Student coordinators Erin McMahon and Jessica Sokol agreed to sit down with Nutmeg Magazine to talk more about what goes on behind the scenes, as well as what students can look forward to in this year’s and future years’ events. They also requested that we give a huge shout out to UConn Recreation, without whom the changes to this year’s event would not have been possible.

NM: Why is the tournament located in South this year?
The location has recently been shifted from North to South for convenience purposes. South was a dominant location for the event for a while until 2012 because commencement services were held on the Quad, and the tournament would make it a mess. They previously changed it to North because it would be easier for facilities to clean up the mess and not have to worry about the field and turning the custom-made mud volleyball courts back into grass.

NM: Have there been rumors about the changing of the location around campus, where could this event possibly be held?
When we look for a location we focus on the visibility, the amount of space and the effects it will have on the environment. We like holding the event on South campus because the restoration of the area is not a big deal since they were building honors dorms and it was all a mess already. A plus for South also is the amount of space that we have. We are partnering with UConnalopazoza this year and there’s enough room to let both of our events happen at the same time so students can attend both. The event being held in North brings up the issue of space because it is so limited and you cannot easily add more things to it. There has always been the option of holding it at depot campus, but we want that to be our last resort. Though it would impact the environment minimally, its so far off campus. OOzeball is such a prominent event on campus and we want to keep it accessible to students. By having the event on campus, there can be participation in both events: OOzeball and UConnalopazoza. Through the perspective of the student body, we want to see it never moved.

NM: How are the courts being constructed?
Last year, we had to bring in 227 tons of dirt in order to make the courts. After OOzeball was over though, facilities had to take all this new dirt and work it back into the land, which would be a hassle for the workers. So this year we’re making courts out of the current land and making it into fresh mud.

NM: How are you improving OOzeball this year?
Well we’re back in South partnering with UConnalopazoza and UConn Recreation. We have 400 teams playing, which is an extra 16 teams. We have changed the structures of the teams and games. You’ll play through in pods that can, for example, begin at 9:00 and you’ll be done at 10:00 and then you would have to come back at 3:00. This way we’re limiting the time hanging around and waiting for participants. We also have added a new and improved hose-inking station, which is really exciting. We created something specific and unique for the event, allowing 50 people to clean off at once. This shower is highly pressurized from the source of a fire hydrant, and it will be efficient in making sure students aren’t leaving muddy and making everywhere else dirty. We added a check-in bag station so you can change and leave the event. We’ve also gone electric! This year we have TV screens that will be displaying the brackets. We could not have done this at all without UConn Recreation. They’re also going to be sorting out the brackets and sending out email and text message alerts for games-compared to slips of paper in the past. Another new event added to OOzeball that we’re really excited about is the All Star Game. It’s an exhibition game where it is the campus administration vs. student leaders. We have it scheduled to be at 11 a.m. and we’re super excited. We can’t release any of the names for those who will be playing on the campus administration team but on the student leader team we have the USG President, SUBOG President, the homecoming queen and king and more!

NM: Are there other organizations involved in the event?
We partnered with UConn Recreation, which has made the event so much better and exciting, we really do love them. We could not have done any of these new changes without their help. We also have the fire department, police department, dining services, facilities, residential life, student activities, and parking transportation services involved in making this event possible. Without the fire department we couldn’t make the mud, and they are also providing EMT services which is really great. Without facilities we wouldn’t have our courts because they create our mud courts and then after the event, dismantle the courts and clean up the area. Thank you to all who helped!

NM: What do you think about the future of OOzeball?
We know that we’re running out of space to hold the event since buildings and dorms are constantly being built. This event is such a tradition for Spring Weekend, along with the many other events held. We’re looking into having a prominent spot that is known for the OOzeball tournament. A long-term goal would be to see a permanent court created for year-round use for practice.
As a freshman, I find that there are many traditions that I know nothing about. I often find myself feebly asking, "...what is that?" to a response of grinning upperclassmen who find the wide-eyed freshman just so innocent and adorable. This happened when the concept of Spring Weekend first presented itself. I had no idea what it was, and asked my friend the year above me to enlighten me as to what this supposedly "insane" weekend entailed. I was a little frightened when the first thing they told me was, "well, people have died, if that gives you any indication." When I talked to more people about it, I formed a less terrifying picture, but it definitely gave me an idea of why the rules are so stringent now. According to a UConn informational website for Spring Weekend 2011, one of every four UConn students reported, "being so drunk that they black out." One of the best examples of how crazy it can get was 1998, when there were 2 expelled, 6 suspended, 12 removed from the dorms, and 61 put on probation. Students populated hot spots on and off campus including X-Lot and Carriage Apartments, where the parties would get so crazy that on your left you could see a couch go up in flames and in the opposite direction a mob of students would be flipping a car. It was madness, and everybody knew it.

However, it was Spring Weekend of 2010 that ultimately was the turning point for the infamous event. When Ja-far Karzoun died because of a drunken brawl with a non-UConn student, the regulations on Spring Weekend went from lax to incredibly strict. Then-president of UConn, Michael Hogan, stated that the University would investigate how Spring Weekend itself contributed to Karzoun’s death. Some students wanted the weekend cancelled altogether, while some suggested the policy in place today that prohibits non-UConn students.

One student, who attended UConn from 2008 to 2013, remembers her first two Spring Weekends as an insane party weekend. When asked about her significant memories from the weekends, she replied, "I was at UConn during the time..."
when the ‘old’ Spring Weekend shifted to the current one. During my first two years at UConn, there was a known party at a different location each day. I felt like it was a UConn tradition, going to a Spring Weekend party, whether it was at Carriage or X-Lot. I remember walking to X-Lot and seeing ambulances and cops lined up at the front of the lot. They did not stop any of us walking by; they were there in case anything happened. It was a weird feeling because no IDs were checked, no one asked us to stop.”

She went on to explain how the shift in policies happened, stating “after a student died as a result of the actions of a guest, things changed. The campus was literally on lockdown. I wanted to go visit my friend in an apartment, just to watch a movie, and my car was stopped because I did not live there. It went from lax to extreme. The university didn’t have activities that first year of the ‘new’ Spring Weekend; they just wanted us to go home. Over time they added events during the weekend, but the police presence makes it harder for students to simply just ‘go wild’ as the weekend has previously marketed itself.

In the early 1980’s, Spring Weekend had a completely different air about it. According to an alum who attended UConn in 1981, the weekend was “crazy and wild.” When it came to parties, she did not recall any major damage or people getting out of control. She believes that the reason that it was not as crazy back then was that the drinking age was 18. With the novelty of drinking not being an issue, students were able to be much more responsible with their consumption of alcohol and thus Spring Weekend did not bring an influx of alcohol-related incidents. According to a current UConn professor who attended the university at this time, package stores used to deliver kegs and other beverages to students’ dorms on campus.

Fast forward to Spring Weekend 2015, where the amount of activities on campus have increased and the planning has gotten more and more in-depth to ensure that students still have something fun to do during the three-day event. Derek Evans, Vice Chair of the Spring Weekend Committee, shed light as to why the policies for Spring Weekend are what they are, and why it has changed so much throughout UConn’s history. Years ago, “fights, riots, tear gas, fires, and excessive damage” were common when this infamous weekend rolled around. While the police presence and campus lockdown have been extremely stringent in the past, this coming Spring Weekend is expected to be somewhat more relaxed, as the administration has let the student body become more involved with the planning. As Derek put it, “The student body has been given a chance to take Spring Weekend back from the lockdown forced by the administration. Things have eased and will continue to ease if we have more success in the coming years.” With all of the events planned for the weekend, Derek is confident that it will be a success and what some have been calling a “militarized zone” will become just a weekend with slightly stricter safety policies. So while there may not be any parties to attend anymore right in our backyard, this new design for Spring Weekend will hopefully clean up its reputation and help it become something that students look forward to again.
Subog’s mission is to create activities that enhance the experience of students at UConn. We build positive traditions on campus through innovative programs meant to entertain, educate, and engage our community.

Last week, we asked some UConn seniors to share their favorite experiences as students in Storrs. Some of them are ordinary, some of them are extraordinary, but all of them are close to the hearts of our fellow Huskies.

To UConn’s graduating seniors, Subog extends a big thanks for building a unique community during your years in Storrs. We wish you the best of luck in the future and hope you cherish your college years as some of the most memorable of your lives.

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Cancer. You’ve read about it. You’ve seen it on TV. You’ve probably been affected by it; almost everyone knows someone diagnosed. Nowadays, it seems like this horrific disease has touched each and every one of us, creating the need for more support than ever before. Relay for Life does just that. In association with the American Cancer Society (ACS), the American Cancer Society Colleges Against Cancer Club at UConn puts on the event in an effort to help ease the financial burden of those affected.

This year, the event raised a total of $24,859 to relieve some of the monetary pressures. Even though their set goal was not met, when one considers how expensive cancer is—the multiple doctor visits, scans, and rounds of chemotherapy and radiation—each dollar raised adds up to make a significant impact on the bill. With all of the other stressors that the affected and their family face, just taking one off their chests makes all the difference.

The impact that Relay For Life and the American Cancer Society have on the affected individuals simply cannot be put into words. It’s more than just financing someone’s medical expenses; it’s about giving life. When it all comes down to it, each dollar raised during Relay For Life gives someone the opportunity to have another birthday, to make more memories.

There are many uncertainties surrounding cancer, and many patients live with the knowledge that any day may be their last. This year, the UConn student body, with having raised roughly $25,000, has helped those individuals see further into the future. We, together, have enabled those individuals to spend more time with those who really matter: friends and family.

At the end of the day, it’s more than assisting in funding research, lodging, medications, or recovery support; Relay For Life promotes hope and confidence that cancer will be stopped, it will be beaten.