THE NUTMEG MAGAZINE

Feature

UGLY SWEATERS

YEARBOOK PREVIEW
+ Senior Kickoff
+ Involvement Fair
+ Mischief After Dark

Winter 2017
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The dreaded finals season is upon us! What a magical time of year. To take your mind off of studying, cozy up with your computer and (digitally) flip through the latest issue of Nutmeg Magazine. This special Winter edition includes a hilarious but helpful fashion article covering the best ugly sweaters of the holiday season - not to be missed if you want to stand out at your next Christmas party. This issue also serves as a yearbook preview for the 2018 Nutmeg Yearbook! We normally keep the yearbook under wraps until publication, but the staff wanted to give Nutmeg Magazine readers a little sneak peek this year. Consider it an early holiday gift, and make sure to share the issue with your friends if you see them featured!

Happy reading,
Rachel Sarnie
Picture this: it’s the holiday season, and you’re running late to a family party. Why? You ask? Oh, because you have nothing to wear. Nothing! Luckily, the Nutmeg crew is here to help, showing you some of the trendiest sweaters to wear all throughout the holiday season. Family Christmas party? Throw on a sweater. Going to a friend’s of a friend’s party where you know absolutely no one except the person that brought you? Throw on a sweater! The uglier, the better; it’ll be a great conversation starter. Oh, it’s not fancy enough, you say? Well luckily we’ll also show you how to accessorize your sweaters so you can go from drab to fab almost as fast as you can say “Ho ho ho.” Grab your freshly wrapped presents and your Santa hats, because it’s sweater time.

Our first model, Elise, is sporting a vintage holiday sweater. It’s the perfect sweater to wear for whatever holiday you celebrate during this season. The penguins are reminiscent of the cold temperatures that usually creep up around the holiday season, so you won’t look out of place at any party. The neutral color of the sweater allows it to be paired with almost any color. You can easily dress up this sweater with some heels, a nice coat, or a nice pair of jeans. It’s flattering on almost any body type, with the sleeves slightly tighter than the bodice. Better hobble to your favorite sweater store. In the past, people have found incredibly ugly sweaters at places like Goodwill and Savers. You can also find them at stores like Urban Outfitters, if you’re looking to splurge.

Rachael is showing off the perfect way to wear a subtle holiday sweater. The dark green gives off some serious Christmas vibes, but this sweater isn’t just a Christmas sweater. This sweater can be worn proudly no matter what holiday you celebrate. Rachael paired it with a grey hat topped with a large pom-pom. The sweater can be worn with a lot of different accessories. The model went with some purple body jewelry, which added the perfect amount of bling. Leggings are a very popular choice of pants with sweaters. Another trendy piece to add to this ensemble would be riding boots. Riding boots can be worn with jeans and leggings, and can make any outfit look a little bit classier. This look is great for a casual holiday party.

Omar is Christmas goals in this Santa hat and elf sweater combo. Unlike the two previous looks, this sweater is all about Christmas. This sweater is perfect for the person who listens to Christmas carols on Halloween. Pair with a Santa hat, and you’ll look like a Christmas miracle. Omar chose to pair the bright sweater with black pants. It adds a nice level of class to the outfit, and doesn’t distract from the sweater. If you look closely, you can see the bells on the sweater are, in fact, real bells. There’s no better way to let a party know you’re arriving than aggressively jingling everywhere you go. You would be the entrance to beat!

Emily is making a statement in a 3D Christmas sweater. This sweater screams Christmas cheer. The detail on this sweater makes it very unique; each cotton ball carefully hand sewn, and each snowflake meticulously embroidered. If you want to feel fancier, go for a sweater like this one, it’ll impress everyone at your neighborhood Christmas party. Emily paired the navy sweater with black jeans. This sweater has a lot of different colors you could match with; it would depend on what look you’re going for. This style sweater is flattering for every body type, so wear that sweater proudly!

Dan is modeling the futuristic Christmas look. The hexagonal Santa pattern will leave all the other party-goers mesmerized. If you want to feel fancy, go for a sweater like this one, it’ll impress everyone at your neighborhood Christmas party. Dan chose to pair the sweater with black pants, which is probably the best choice with this sweater, given the extreter pattern. Sneakers are a very popular choice for footwear, as well as Bean Boots for the winter time. People probably won’t notice your footwear in this wacky sweater. If you want to dress it up, I suggest dress shoes and a scarf. Add a nice coat, and you’ll definitely be on the nice list.
THE NUTMEG YEARBOOK SEeks to preserve the history and culture of the university through words, photography and design.
On the first Friday of the school year, UConn seniors were treated to a kickoff celebration to their final year of being an undergraduate. A line of about 100 students wrapped around the corner of the newly renovated UConn Bookstore, eagerly waiting to pick up swag, such as buttons, sunglasses, and frisbees. Outside, the Dairy Bar truck gave out ice cream and WHUS DJ’d music for the event. Seniors received free “UConn Seniors” shirts as well as a chance to enter a raffle to win a gift basket containing premium lotions, soaps, and scents, a $100 gift card for local restaurant Wings Over, and bags, hats, and coupons. Local restaurant Blaze Pizza was also tabling a prize wheel for students to spin and win a chance at free menu options or merchandise.

The kickoff signified something much more than just free goodies. It was the culmination of making it through three-quarters of the undergraduate experience—a daunting thought when a student first steps onto campus. “Being a senior gives me butterflies,” said seventh-semester journalism major Isaiah Chisolm. “It’s like I’ve finally made it to the finish line of something that started four years ago.”

Seniors have probably checked off many items on official UConn “bucket list”, including attending a homecoming football game; joining a club or organization; and even meeting local mascot Jonathan the Husky. Although graduation is in sight, students are prepared to move forward and take on the world ahead of them.

“The quiet after the storm allows me to examine each step I’ve took to be where I am and plan future steps,” said seventh-semester mechanical engineering major Nico Wright. “[I’m] also looking forward to go for my PhD and make significant contributions to science. Based on where I came from, I would have never seen myself here at UConn with so many opportunities for success.”

**SENIOR KICKOFF**

Article by Neel Razdan  Photographs by Omar Taweh  Design by Hayley Joyal
Involvement Fair

With a sprawling campus and an increasingly large student body, it can be hard for new students to find their niche. To help incoming Huskies make this large campus feel a little bit more like home, UConn hosts a campus-wide Involvement Fair each semester. The Involvement Fair is the place to go to find information regarding the hundreds of clubs and activities UConn has to offer, all in one place. Each organization has a table and they are able to use whatever tactics they want to draw UConn students to join their organization.

This year’s Fall Involvement Fair had tables for all UConn clubs and activities. From academic to social clubs, Tier III organizations to fitness groups, there was something for everyone on display at the fair.

The Involvement Fair is notoriously hectic. On the day of the Involvement Fair, walking down Fairfield Way is near impossible with the amount of people flocking to every side, bannering the tables with posters and telling students about how their club is the one for them.

“The Involvement Fair can be very stressful, especially freshman year,” commented junior Adeline Bray. “However, I have found that because of it and the clubs I am involved in have affected my UConn experience in a positive way.”

After searching through the Involvement Fair, it is a feat for most students to find a club that suits them and helps them become more connected within the UConn community. Sometimes, it can take a few involvement fairs for one to find all of the clubs and activities they want to be involved with on campus. Each club joined becomes another part of each student’s UConn identity.

Article by Katharine Depalma  Photographs by Owen Bonaventura  Design by Barbara Clayton
UConn Puppet Slam

Bringing Stories to Life

Out of the hundreds of colleges and universities around the nation, UConn is one of three to offer a major in Puppet Arts. Though Professor Frank W. Ballard taught the first puppetry class at UConn in 1964, he nor anyone else foresaw the growth of the program into what it is today. The program works to include all UConn students by hosting a variety of showcases and performances throughout the academic year. The UConn Fall Puppet Slam is one of the most attended of these events.

Shane McNeal, a graduate of the UConn Puppet Arts Program, hosted the event as Doctor Thaddeus J. Foster, a persona that brought the mode of storytelling to a completely different level. Featuring works by professional puppeteers and performers, the 2017 UConn Fall Puppet Slam drew quite the crowd. Students lined up outside of the Nafe Katter Theater to witness acts by Lone Wolf Tribe, Veronica Barron, Isaac Bloodworth, and many others. According to Isaac Bloodworth, an alumnus of the Puppet Arts Program, the night was one of the best reasons he could think of to come back to campus: “I think the night went pretty well! It was refreshing to be in a space full of positive energy and smiling people! I would to come back and perform again in the following years.” He went on to perform his piece “Curled,” which told the story of an African American girl who had to change her hairstyle in order to gain permission to attend school, to the delight of all.

Viewers and performers alike got lost in the magic of the performances. People watched in awe as Lone Wolf Tribe, otherwise known as Kevin Augustine, effortlessly performed with foam-rubber puppets. They connected with those whose pieces reflected personal hardships and discrimination that they had faced themselves in everyday life. The addition of digital animation and stop-motion filmmaking provided an extra element to all of the acts, inviting the audience to be a part of the story rather than just watching it.

The UConn Fall Puppet Slam offered students the opportunity to explore one of the most unique programs UConn has to offer. With acts covering techniques such as moving scroll performances, solo pieces, and Japanese Butoh dancing, there was something for everyone to enjoy.
UConn’s student-run radio station, WHUS, hosted another successful “Mischief After Dark” fall concert. The event, which took place the weekend before Halloween, included headliners like Princess Nokia and Chester Watson. JBS Beats, a group of UConn students who perform a number of different hip-hop sets, kicked off the night. They began by performing one of their more popular numbers, “I Think Therefore I Am”.

While issues related to traffic and difficulty finding the venue delayed Princess Nokia’s performance, Chester Watson took the stage to try and appease the impatient crowd. Watson, a 20-year-old from Florida, performed for a little over an hour with a mixture of songs from his latest cassette-only release. His sound, styled after the likes of Earl Sweatshirt and MF Doom, managed to keep the crowd satisfied. In fact, the audience seemed amused as he skimmed through beats on his phone, playing one for a few seconds before getting bored and moving onto the next. When he finally found a track that he liked enough to settle on, he was able to truly show off his freestyle rap skills.

Princess Nokia, an American rapper of Afro-Puerto Rican descent steadily gained popularity through her online releases of mixtapes such as 1992 Deluxe and songs like “GOAT” and “Tomboy,” which she performed as her opening number. Though she began her performance an hour late, the excitement and energy could still be felt pulsating through the crowd of 150 or so students.

Princess Nokia has also played an active role in the feminist movement, describing herself as a bruja, which means witch, in Spanish, a tomboy, and a queer woman who isn’t burdened, but empowered by her complexity. Therefore, it was only fitting that her set consisted of the song “Brujas”, in which she rapped about her ancestral history and brought attention to ongoing racial issues in today’s world.

Despite some minor difficulties in regard to timing and performances, it was clear the audience still enjoyed themselves. Kailey Townsend, the WHUS General Manager, said that going in the direction of rap music was different for WHUS, given that they tended to work more with traditional indie rock bands. “We’re trying to bring more diversity,” she elaborated. “We tried to narrow it down to the best rappers that were still indie.” While WHUS may have taken a risk this year, it definitely seemed to pay off.
You Are More Than Just Your Pain

To Write Love On Her Arms founder speaks out about mental health for Suicide Prevention Week

What do you need?" Jamie Tworkowski asked his audience, emphasizing the word "you." "What does it look like to take care of you?"

Caring for oneself was a point the To Write Love On Her Arms (TWLOHA) founder stressed throughout his keynote speech at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts as part of Suicide Prevention Week. Tworkowski shared stories of struggle with depression, addiction and other mental health issues, both his own and of his friends, as a way to normalize them. He rejected stigma and stressed that it’s okay to admit when you’re not feeling strong, because that’s where healing truly begins.

TWLOHA’s official campaign slogan for World Suicide Prevention Day was “Stay: Find what you were made for.” Tworkowski said that to "stay," however, doesn’t necessarily mean to stay the same. "If you’re in a relationship and it’s toxic or it’s unhealthy, you don’t have to stay in that relationship. If you’re in a job and you hate it, you don’t have to stay in that job," Tworkowski said. "We’re asking people to stay alive, to fight and find hope... but we’re not saying things should stay the same."

Erasing stigma was a big theme of Tworkowski’s lecture and is a large part of the discussion surrounding mental health in general. Tworkowski talked about the things that keep him stable, while encouraging others to find their passions and little things to keep them going through tough times. For Tworkowski, “it’s playing with my nephews, it’s going surfing, it’s reading books, it’s watching films.”

In talking about his own experiences, Tworkowski normalized mental health conditions. It’s okay to feel sad, upset, broken or angry because he does too. “There’s no shame in me going back to the hotel and taking an antidepressant. There’s no shame in the counseling appointment I had Monday evening,” Tworkowski said.

Tworkowski also detailed the rise of TWLOHA, demonstrating that small gestures can reach further than one ever intended. He started the organization to help pay for a friend’s treatment while she was struggling with depression and addiction. He initially thought that if he and his friends sold 100 t-shirts, which had his friend’s story written on the inside of the shirt, they could help her through treatment. After members of the band Switchfoot wore TWLOHA t-shirts onstage, Tworkowski began receiving heartfelt and honest MySpace messages from people who connected with his friend’s story. “Those messages have continued to come in every day since. We’re coming up on 12 years,” he noted. We get e-mails every single day and we get notes and letters. We get comments and Tweets from around the world."

Tworkowski said his ultimate goal is to encourage people to get the help they need. He considers his talk a success if he convinces one person to make a counselling appointment, check into a rehabilitation facility or reach out to a friend. “Whatever change you’re in need of is actually within reach,” he stresses.