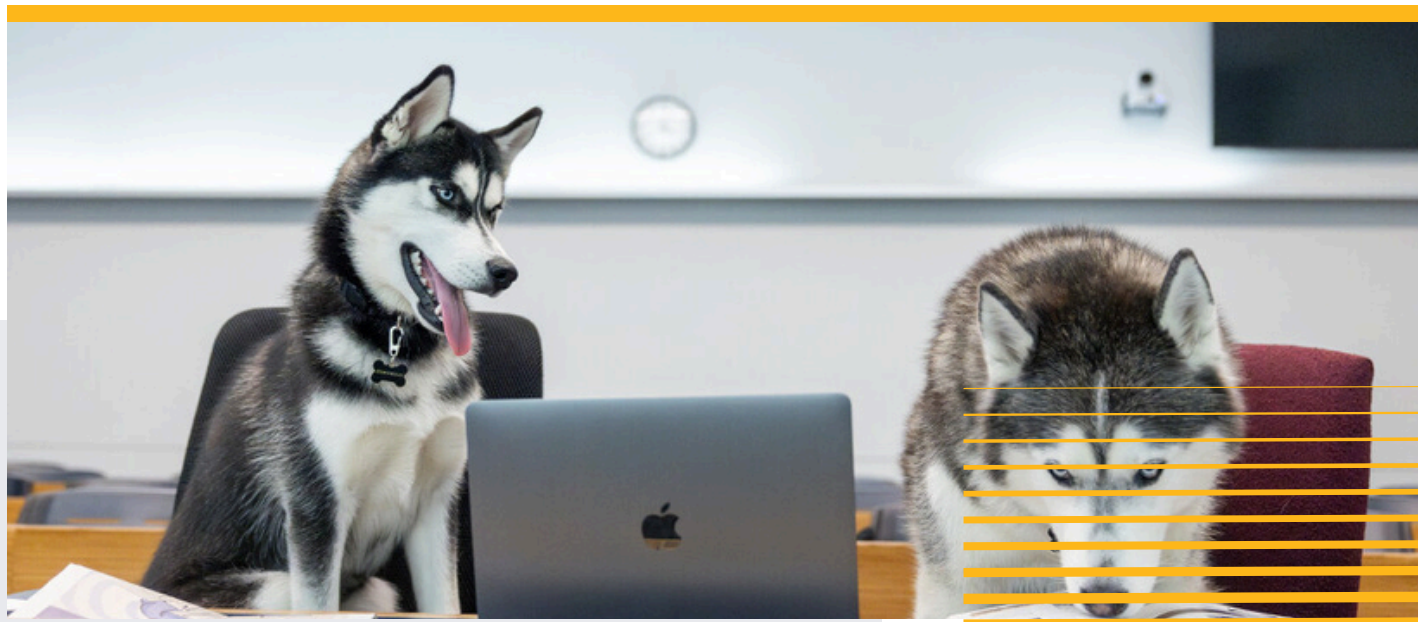


# The Husky Vet Gazette

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

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## All VA Beneficiaries

(Chapter 30, 31, 33, 35, & 1606)

**IMPORTANT!** All certifications will be delayed due to a VA shift.

We anticipate delays in stipends, payments to the school, and BAH (monthly housing allowance) payments.

Please reach out to the main UConn Veterans & Military Programs office via phone or email if you have questions.

Phone: 860-486-2442

Email: [veterans@uconn.edu](mailto:veterans@uconn.edu)

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Veteran of the Month  
Upcoming Events Spring 2025

Do you have VA benefits questions? Meet with VA staff to ask about services and resources available, claim questions, file a claim, and more.

When: The 1st Tuesday of the month from 10:30am-1:30pm. First come first serve.  
Where: Hawley Armory

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## RESOURCES

### VR & E Visits

**Feb. 6th, 9a.m. - 3p.m. Hawley Armory (Storrs)**

**Feb, 27th, 9a.m. - 3p.m. Rm. 207 Hartford Campus**

Meet with VR&E staff to learn about Chapter 31, the Veterans Readiness and Employment Program. For those of you already using the benefit, this will be a great opportunity for you to check in and discuss goals/planning for the future. VR&E Counselors will be available from 9a.m. to 3p.m. on Feb. 6th at the Storrs campus and on Feb. 27th at the Hartford Campus.

## EVENTS

### Lunchtime Games Every Thursday

**When & Where?** Every Thursday at 10:00a.m. in Hawley Armory (Storrs)

These are not your everyday board games and it's open for anyone interested in joining the fun. different games will be played each week with the rules explained by the Game Master!

**Questions?** Contact Jon Ramos (a.k.a. the Game Master) at [jonathan.ramos@uconn.edu](mailto:jonathan.ramos@uconn.edu)

## SCHOLARSHIP

### Hawley Award Apply or nominate someone!

**Last Chance!** Nominations are open through **February 4, 2025!**

UConn's Student Life Awards are now open for students to apply and/or nominate others for. One of these awards is the Willis N. Hawley Service and Leadership Award. This award is given to a military or veteran student who has made significant contributions to the UConn community.

**Interested?** Detailed information can be found on [UConn's Student Life Awards website](#).

FUN

# UConn Hockey

February 1st and February 8th



**UConn Men's Ice Hockey**

**FREE TICKETS!**

TICKETS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE UCONN HAWLEY ARMORY (359 MANSFIELD ROAD ROOM 100B) TICKETS ARE LIMITED; FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE, SO BE SURE TO COME BY DURING OUR OFFICE HOURS TO GRAB SOME FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!

Call Us : 860-486-2442 Visit Us : veterans.uconn.edu

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 1, 2025  
3:30 PM  
UConn vs. Providence  
HARTFORD XL CENTER

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 8, 2025  
3:30 PM  
UConn vs. UMass Lowell  
HARTFORD XL CENTER

BENEFITS

# GI Bill Covers Test Fees

Did you know?

Do you need to earn certification or licensure for your desired career? You can use part of your GI Bill entitlement to cover the cost, up to \$2,000, of certain tests and certifications to become a licensed or certified professional. [Learn more about this benefit and find out what's approved before you take any tests.](#)

RESOURCES



**VET CENTER**

**UConn Storrs Campus Visit**

Thursday, February 20th | 10am-12pm  
OASIS Lounge in the Student Union

Meet with Aaron Costa, Veteran Outreach Program Specialist, who can offer support on the services that the Vet Center offers.

## CONGRATULATIONS

# Veteran of the Month

## Marcos Rico

The Office of Veterans & Military Programs (VAMP) at UConn is pleased to recognize Marcos Rico as UConn's Veteran of the Month. Marcos is a proud undergrad in the Urban Forestry and Arboriculture degree program, born in Bolivia, he immigrated and grew up in Rhode Island.

Marcos enlisted in the Army Reserves as a Private in 1985 and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6). In 1995, Marcos transitioned to active duty, serving as an enlisted soldier where he made it to the rank of Sergeant First Class (E-7) until 2008 where he crossed over to become a Warrant Officer and he retired in 2016 as a Warrant Officer 2 (CW2). Marcos was deployed on three separate occasions to Iraq in 2003, 2005 and 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During Reconstruction in Iraq, he mentored and taught military intelligence to his Iraqi counterparts. He also deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Marcos served alongside his brother who also served the Army and Army Reserves. Before he retired he was an instructor at Fort Huachuca and years later, from time to time he would run into some of the personnel he taught there and they would come up to him thanking him because what Marcos taught them in that course "kept me alive."

Marcos resides in Wethersfield and is currently a member of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, a national organization he volunteers with other Combat Disabled Veterans in teaching fly tying, fly casting, and rod building. He shares that Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, "turned my life around from contemplating suicide to where I am now at UConn." Marcos shares that he is always surprised at the number of Veterans who don't use their benefits. His one piece of advice to his fellow Veterans is to be sure to get connected with the VA for benefits, including for medical, disability, etc. since these are benefits that were earned and exist to help Veterans in their day to day lives.



## CALENDAR

# Spring 2025

### January 21

1st day of classes

### February 4

VBA Visit (Storrs)

### February 4

Hawley Award nominations due

### February 6

VR & E Storrs Campus Visit

### February 20

Vet Center Visit (Storrs)

### February 27

VR & E Hartford Campus Visit

### December 9 - 15

Final Exams