



CHANGING THE GAME



Please Support Husky Sport

ISSUE IV – MARCH 1, 2013



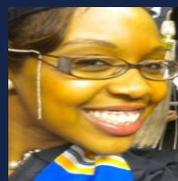
#UConnHuskySport

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WWW.HUSKYSPORT.UCONN.EDU

IGNITE! – Fundraising Competition

Husky Sport is proud to announce that we’ve been selected as 1 of 20 student organizations at UConn to participate in the “IGNITE!” fundraising competition. We receive one point for every **Current UConn Student** or **UConn Alum** (‘03 - ‘12) that donates to Husky Sport (\$5 minimum).

- **Competition:** Organization that receives donations from MOST PEOPLE (*not most money*).
- **1st Place Prize:** \$10,000
- **Timeline:** February 3rd – May 3rd
- **Website:** www.ignite.kintera.org/UConnHuskySport

#UConnHuskySport

Husky Sport is officially kicking off its Social Media pages. Please help us spread the word!

By popular demand and because we greatly value positive, consistent and sustained relationships, Husky Sport is launching accounts for both Twitter and Facebook!

We hope you follow and like us as we work to invest in our relationships with you all. Thank you!



[@UConnHuskySport](https://twitter.com/UConnHuskySport)



[UConn Husky Sport](https://www.facebook.com/UConnHuskySport)

What's in store? Motivational Mondays, Throwback Thursdays, alumni highlights, program updates, special events and much more.

Also don't forget to visit us at:

www.HuskySport.uconn.edu

www.Ignite.kintera.org/UConnHuskySport

READY, SET...READ!



Students welcomed Jonathan with open arms

Husky Sport as an organization is in its 9th year of relationship building and engagement in the North End of Hartford. This year we have just kicked-off the 4th year of Read & Raise at J.C. Clark, Martin Luther King Jr. and Fred D. Wish schools. Students, parents, and school staffs are excited to read and compete for the different incentives, including the bragging rights as the top reading class. With Jonathan touring the schools at the different Read & Raise kick off assemblies, Husky Sport staff geared up to excite the students for yet another enriched and fun-filled spring semester of reading.

With a few fun changes in the itinerary for this year, Read & Raise has been up and running in full force since January 28th. Last year students completed more than 43,500 books and comprehensive worksheets. Along with the schools’ teachers and staff, UConn and Capital Prep School student-volunteers are helping to lead the entire initiative. Students have already completed books and worksheets in the thousands so we’re optimistic for continued success over the coming months.

Top reading classes and top individual readers in the schools will be rewarded with a fieldtrip at the end of R&R to celebrate their hard work. Hope you also attend the “Community Celebration” event and field day at UConn on April 19th.



*Leah Ward,
Assistant Director
(’06 BS – ’08 MA)
during the first Read
& Raise visit of the
semester*



Evan Timme, Husky Sport's Capacity Building Graduate Assistant, and Jonathan getting ready at Fred D. Wish for another great season of Read & Raise



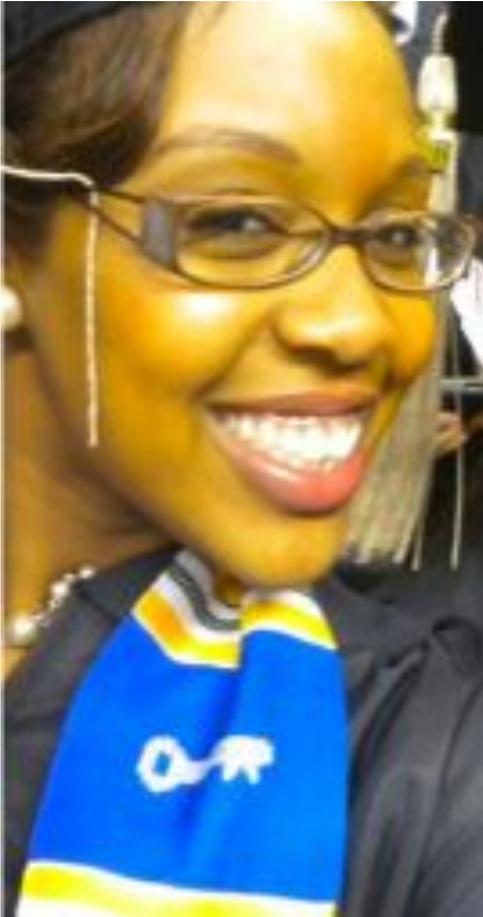
Alex Piñeres, Husky Sport's Capacity Building Graduate Assistant, and Kiara, 7th grader at Wish School, during the Read & Raise assembly for middle school students.



Floyd Grier, AmeriCorps Coach Across America member, during the first Read & Raise visit of the semester at MLK, with a group of 3rd graders.

Patricia Bellamy

Staff Highlight



P. Bellamy, or Ms. Patti as many of the Clark students call her, is the In School coordinator and a veteran Husky Sport face. Patricia is currently in her second year in route to obtain her Master of Social Work, and is one of the most committed individuals and happy faces you would find in the Husky Sport universe. Her care and love for the children of J.C. Clark Elementary and Middle School makes her an outstanding member and role model of the Clark and Husky Sport communities. During this cold season, Patti organized yet another successful Giving Tree of warm clothes and accessories for students at Clark with the help of school personnel, Husky Sport staff, friends, and family.

Her favorite fruit and vegetable are strawberries and broccoli, while in 5th grade her favorite subject was math and P’s favorite sport is volleyball. Two of Patricia’s favorite everyday mottos are:

- Strength is...Persevering when all else is against you
- Purpose & Possibilities

Here is what some of her fellow Husky Sport staff have to say about Patti:

“It is quite often that you will come across someone in a work setting who meets the expectations and the set requirements; however, Patricia is not this person. She is actually someone who is dedicated to continue moving beyond the expectations even when she has met the requirements; and for that I am thankful to work side-by-side someone of this nature.”

“Patti is a dedicated and brilliant teacher. It is my privilege to work with her every week.”

“Working with people like Patti makes working with Husky Sport enjoyable.”

“Patti always has fun and exciting activities planned out for the kids and is extremely dedicated.”

ENCORE!

SERVICE LEARNING AND HUSKY SPORT

Clark Elementary and Middle School has established a Middle School Encore program that allows students in seventh and eighth grade to engage with teachers, staff and other program leaders outside of the academic setting, during school hours. At a specified hour every week students are allowed to engage in activities with teachers and program leaders including, but not limited to, basketball, art, drama, yoga, knitting, and service learning. Husky Sport leaders, Patricia Bellamy, Erinn Arbelaez, Justin Evanovich and Husky Sport Alumni Derek Santiago have engaged four Clark students using service learning as the main focus.



J.C. Clark students and Husky Sport leaders working on the final touches for the Gym mural

Husky Sport Encore students were involved in an eight-week program where they created e-mail accounts and used these accounts to communicate ideas, goals, objectives, and eventually a plan to complete a school beautification project that will allow all Clark students to take pride in their school. Students were very excited and engaged as they learned to use time management and teamwork skills in the completion of a large mural in the gymnasium of Clark School. The contents of the mural were solely the ideas of the students: Genesis Negron (8th grade), Debbie Martinez (8th grade), Cristien Mendoza (7th grade) and Kr’stefer Rodriguez (7th grade) who came up with the idea to paint the Clark mascot, a panther, with his paw prints leading around the four pillars of the school: Respect, Responsibility, Care and Safety. Husky Sport would like to congratulate these students for seeing the project through and give a special thanks to Derek Santiago, former Husky Sport program leader, who used his artistic talents to assist in the completion of the project and Clark Principal, Tayarisha Stone, and gym teacher, Anthony Cipolla who gave their blessings and their space as we completed the project.

2ND ANNUAL - COMMUNITY FALL FEST



Building off last year’s success Husky Sport hosted the Second Annual Community Fall Fest on Nov. 15 at the Parker Memorial Community Center. The Community Fall Fest was a two part event. For the first part of the event youth, families, and community partners came together to "Get Active" by participating in physical activity and nutrition education stations led by 27 Husky Sport staff, students and volunteers.

During the second portion of the event parents and families from Hartford's North End attended the "Change the Game Fair", where they interacted with over 20 different community organizations so to learn more about the services, programs and opportunities available for themselves and their children within the community. As a way to integrate the whole community, Hartford students and Husky Sport personnel also participated in the "Change the Game Fair" alongside family members and friends so to create opportunities for relationship building, exposure, and learning about the large community. Thanks to everyday who participated, in particular the following community partners: **Catholic Charities; the Community Renewal Team and CRT-Generations; the Salvation Army (Hartford North End Corps); Hartford Food System; Parker Memorial Recreational Center; CCMC/Hartford Childhood Wellness Alliance; Covenant to Care for Children; Ebony Horsewomen; Wilson-Gray YMCA; City of Hartford Department of Families, Children, Youth & Recreation; City of Hartford Department of Health and Human Services; Community Solutions; Hartford Stage Education; CREC / Regional School Choice Office; Husky Nutrition; and the Clark Elementary School PTO.**



"The organizations all see the benefit of reaching out to the children and families to let them know about programs and services," said Dr. Bruening. "This is how the children and families learn more about what is available to them and start to build relationships with representatives of the community organizations. Those relationships are critical to sustaining connections between the residents and the organizations."

The Community Fall Fest was a way to celebrate the collaboration between UConn and Hartford's North End community, where Husky Sport has been a part of for nine years. And for Husky Sport and the community organizations, it was a great way to reconnect, catch up on what everyone is doing and further develop the partnerships around the community. Fall Fest was also successful by engaging more community members and organizations than the previous year. We hope to build off this success and the positive relationships to have an even better 3rd Annual Community Fall Fest next year.

Mike Chung, AmeriCorps VISTA member, leading the nutrition station at the Fall Fest



Families and students meeting with community supporters.



Please Support Husky Sport!

Let everyone in your Current Student and Alumni networks know about our on-going fundraising campaign! All support goes towards our programs, our people, and our communities. Donations from non-UConn students or alumni are greatly appreciated. Your gift will make all the difference!

Help us win the IGNITE! competition.

www.Ignite.kintera.org/UConnHuskySport



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Get Active!

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Change the Game!

CHANGING THE GAME

9 years of
community
engagement

