

UConn

AVERY POINT

"Week of Warriors Profiles"

UConn Avery Point Highlights Student Achievements During "Week of Warriors" Initiative

GROTON, Conn. – The University of Connecticut Avery Point recognized 12 students during its "Week of Warriors" initiative from May 4-8. The stories of each individual student, all of whom are making a significant impact in their community during the COVID-19 pandemic, were shared on the school's social media platforms.

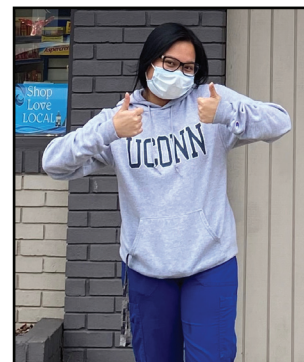
The list of students includes:

Briana Barroga (Waterford, Conn.)
Maxwell Cartier (Mystic, Conn.)
Makenzie Crowell (Lisbon, Conn.)
Abigail Gautrau (Madison, Conn.)
Sierra Jennings (Groton, Conn.)
Samantha King (Niantic, Conn.)
Delaney Konert-Edison (St. Louis, Mo.)
Navjoth Lall (East Lyme, Conn.)
Natalie Penner (Guilford, Conn.)
Kristiana Quintana (Willimantic, Conn.)
Delaney Ross (Mystic, Conn.)
Jacob Roy (Waterford, Conn.)

Briana Barroga **Hometown: Waterford, Conn.**

Briana is a pre-pharmacy major at UConn Avery Point and works a pharmacy technician. She packs patients' prescriptions, counts pills, ensures that directions given by physicians are accurate and that drugs being used are recorded. Briana also takes inventory of all stock that the pharmacy may be running low on. She says that having a routine makes the stress of work and school easier to manage.

Quotable: "It's been stressful balancing school and work especially when my hours conflict with my online classes... there's a lot of stress that comes with working at a pharmacy."



Maxwell Cartier **Hometown: Mystic, Conn.**

Max is a pre-pharmacy major at UConn Avery Point and works as a pharmacy technician at CVS pharmacy. He fills prescriptions, dispenses them to customers, answers questions of customers calling in and types prescriptions. Concerned with the reality of working with potentially infected customers in the retail setting, Max made a difficult choice to move away from home to protect his family. On his days off, he delivers groceries for free, hands out medical masks to the public, and helps his roommates who have been laid off to pay their rent.

Quotable: "The biggest thing I've learned through this chapter of life is that the only way we'll get through this is with collective selflessness...I would say that balancing work and school has been very difficult but doable, especially with all of the faculty at UConn being so supportive and understanding."



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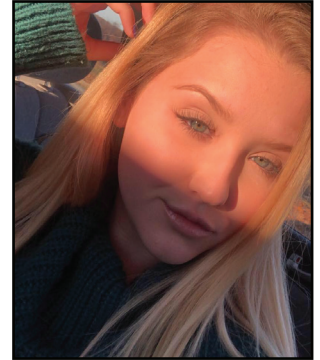
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Makenzie Crowell

Hometown: Lisbon, Conn.

Makenzie is a pre-pharmacy major at UConn Avery Point. On most days, Makenzie works at a pharmacy during the day and on schoolwork at night. In her role as a pharmacy technician, she is on the front line with customers. In addition, Makenzie also coordinates patient deliveries, fills prescriptions and assists with billing.

Quotable: "I find that balancing work and school gets challenging. Honestly, I greatly appreciate my professors for being so understanding. They have made accommodations for me so that I do not have to be so stressed out."



Abigail Gautrau

Hometown: Madison, Conn.

Abby is a psychology major at UConn Avery Point and a food server at an assisted living facility. Her duties consist of serving residents meals while wearing a mask and gloves, cleaning the kitchen, disinfecting supplies and preparing for the next meal. She usually completes her homework before or after a shift.

Quotable: "All of my professors also understand that many students are dealing with struggles with mental health and reach out to many students who they are worried about. The compassion of these professors is inspiring and so important."

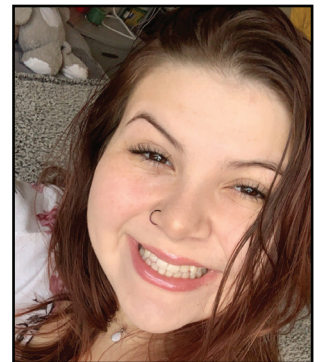


Sierra Jennings

Hometown: Groton, Conn.

Sierra is a biological sciences major at UConn Avery Point. She is a lead cashier at McQuades Marketplace in Mystic, where she also assists with customer services, stocking, cleaning and grocery shopping for senior housing residents at Stoneridge and Masonicare. Her daily routine includes waking up early, heading to work for the majority of the day, and checking on her grandfather. Depending on how much schoolwork she has, she tries to go on a hike or walk with her family. She usually stays up late to complete her schoolwork.

Quotable: "The experience between balancing school work and my job has nothing less than exasperating and stressful. It has been a huge adjustment for me, and I'm sure many others as well. It taken everything out of me, but I'm beginning to adjust."



Samantha King

Hometown: Niantic, Conn.

Samantha is a psychology major at UConn Avery Point and a supervisor at a grocery store. During the course of her workday, she performs duties such as ringing out customers, balancing the cash office and supervising the front end.

Quotable: "Balancing work and school has not been super easy, but it is manageable. It has taught me time management...Avery Point is really awesome. "The faculty and staff are so supportive and always there for the students. It is a great environment to be in."



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Delaney Konert-Edison

Hometown: St. Louis, Mo.

Delaney is general studies/pre-med major at UConn Avery Point. She works as an emergency room technician at Backus Hospital and is certified as an EMT-B, supporting the nurses and providers in the emergency department. Her duties consist of simple blood draws, checking vital signs, EKG testing, swabbing and cleaning wounds, restocking linens or supplies, cleaning rooms and general patient comfort measures. On the days she isn't at work, she studies for most of the day and tries to fit in a walk or time for gardening in the afternoon.

Quotable: "The hardest part of my job right now is seeing how it affects our elderly patients, particularly those with dementia. While that can be stressful, I consider myself exceedingly lucky to work alongside some amazing people who have adapted to the new changes without missing a beat...I am grateful for the AP community and that I hope that while we are all continuing to be vigilant in following guidelines, that we are also all taking care of ourselves emotionally. I cannot overstate how much some (socially-distanced) fresh air and sunshine boosts my mood, even if that's just sitting in the backyard for 20 minutes."



Navjoth Lall

Hometown: East Lyme, Conn.

Nav is a molecular and cell biology major at UConn Avery Point. He teaches children ranging from a few months to 5 years old. He helps to create educational and recreational activities designed to develop children's psychological, emotional, behavioral and social skills through the Reggio Emilia approach. Before the pandemic spread, Nav also spent his time volunteering at Backus Hospital. He is currently a board member on Mask Makers of Connecticut serving as the Public Relations Executive.

Quotable: "Although most of my day is usually filled with things to do, either for myself or the preschoolers, I find it gives my life more structure and helps me stay on top of things."



Natalie Penner

Hometown: Guilford, Conn.

Natalie is a biology major at UConn Avery Point and is currently serving as a combat medic in the Army National Guard. She has been performing coronavirus antibody testing on healthcare workers and guardsmen. Natalie travels to New Haven in the mornings and works in the laboratory with other guardsmen and civilian lab workers. Her typical duties consist of receiving blood samples, organizing them, setting up the testing and recording data.

Quotable: "It's a lot of work but it's good experience...It did start off as a challenge, but my professors have been extremely understanding and supportive. It really makes me feel like I have a good team in my corner that can help me deal with any stress and manage my school work."



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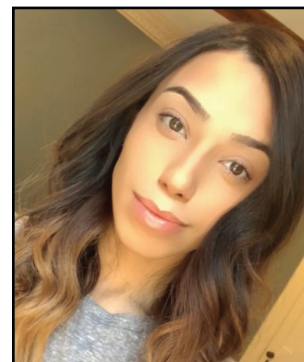
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Kristiana Quintana

Hometown: Willimantic, Conn.

Kristiana is currently finishing her sophomore year at UConn Avery Point and is majoring in Allied Health Sciences. She works third shift as a Personal Care Aide, assisting clients with their activities of daily living when their loved ones are unavailable to do so. When she's not completing schoolwork, she has also been completing intensive training at her second job as a medical scribe.

Quotable: "I'm truly grateful to have wonderful professors and staff that put in generous amounts of effort that make learning from home so much easier."



Delaney Ross

Hometown: Mystic, Conn.

Delaney is a non-degree/biology major at UConn Avery Point. She works as an emergency room technician, assisting nurses with taking patient vitals, drawing blood and doing EKGs. She usually completes her schoolwork in the morning and heads into work until midnight.

Quotable: "I work in Hartford where there are around 6,000 cases of Coronavirus, and we have hundreds of patients coming into the ER every day who are very, very sick. It's been extremely hard to go from that to home where classes are going on as usual! That said, my professors have been very supportive and I'm still making time to study."



Jacob Roy

Hometown: Waterford, Conn.

A nutritional sciences major at UConn Avery Point, Jacob serves as a Crew Chief in the Air National Guard. He and his fellow airmen have recently been activated to assist the state in combating challenges faced by the pandemic. His daily routine consists of waking up early, reporting to his assigned location in the state, being tested for the virus and getting to work on transforming the location into a temporary hospital.

Quotable: "We have accomplished several tasks most notably at Stamford Hospital, Hartford Convention Center and at CCSU. At each of these locations, we unloaded and constructed beds to relieve hospitals in the areas...My experience balancing work and school were overwhelming at first, but I found a groove and am going to stay on it."



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