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Many might find themselves exhausted from the perils of the year 2020. Amidst the global coronavirus pandemic, multiple curveballs have made this year unique and transformative. From wildfires raging throughout Australia to adjusting to virtual school and work, we have experienced a roller coaster of events and emotions. Most notably, the death of George Floyd has led to social outrage and a call to attention to address racism within all levels of society.

This tragic event has been met with responses in the forms of protest, social media campaigning, and public petitions. An acknowledgement that has become relevant at UConn is the creation of an Instagram page, @black.at.uconn. Third semester physiology and neurobiology major Winta Mekonnen and fifth semester linguistics and philosophy major Adrienne Bruce are two UConn students who have been crucial players in developing and maintaining the voice of BIPOC students through numerous social media outlets. The goal of the page is to uplift the voices of UConn students who have been subject to microaggressions or acts of racism. Over 100 current and former students have shared personal anecdotes of their struggles during their time at UConn.

The creators viewed the formation of the page as a necessary platform amidst this time of racial turbulence. Winta stated, "The bottom line is racism still exists in America and, for a lot of Americans, this was not something they were aware of. We are truly tired of seeing video after video of Black men and women being ruthlessly murdered by the police...

it was at that time Adrienne reached out to me with the idea to start the page."

By sharing these posts, this exhibit yearns to emphasize the voices of the BIPOC community on campus while enlightening those who may be unaware of the current social climate. This dynamic has given victims a platform to safely voice their concerns while the UConn community as a whole can reflect on their role in either preventing or perpetuating racial discrimination at UConn. Furthermore, Mekonnen and Bruce believe their page played a role in pushing the university to add an anti-racism course and would like to see the university mandate the course to be required for all students. They also want to highlight other resources such as the cultural and diversity centers that facilitate engagement and discussion between individuals with a myriad of experiences.

The year 2020. Who would have known this year would bring such friction and division. In trying times like these, it is imperative to simplify our understanding of ourselves. Locally, we are all Huskies. Nationally, we are all members of a greater society with pursuits and aspirations. Regardless, movements like @black.at.uconn are attempts to restore a familial attitude amongst our community. Perseverance in the present will dictate the future. This story remains unwritten and we are the authors that dictate its ending, so it is imperative that we band in pursuit of a society where all are treated equally.