

JOIN US FOR A PANEL ON  
**COLLEGE EXPERIENCES**

&  
**NEURODIVERSITY**

TUESDAY NOV/19

11AM-2PM

**PROGRAM:**

**11-12PM: BRAIN GAMES**

**12-1PM: PANEL**

**1-2PM: PIZZA WITH THE  
PANELISTS**

@ ESB LOBBY



# CURIOUS ABOUT NEURODIVERSITY?

## JOIN US FOR A PANEL ON COLLEGE EXPERIENCES & NEURODIVERSITY

Have you ever wondered what neurodiversity really means? Are you neurodivergent and curious about how others navigate the challenges of college life? What unique perspectives do neurodiverse students bring to the academic environment?

Join us for an engaging panel discussion that dives into the diverse experiences of neurodivergent students in higher education.

Hear firsthand stories, ask your burning questions, and discover strategies for thriving in college.

Let's come together to share insights and foster a more inclusive campus community.

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to meaningful change—join us for a panel on neurodivergent college experiences!

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# BRAIN GAMES

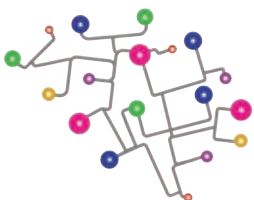


Don't miss this opportunity to learn how neuroscientists study the brain! Explore how researchers capture the mysteries of the mind and gain insights into the fascinating world of neuroscience.

Join us for our exciting **Brain Games**, where you can put your knowledge to the test with a fun **TRIVIA CHALLENGE** about the brain—complete with a prize for the winner!

But that's not all! You'll also have the chance to engage hands-on with **neuroimaging and physiological recording equipment**.

Come have fun, expand your knowledge, and prepare for the panel discussion that follows!



**TRANSCEND**

Brought to you by the TRANSCEND outreach committee and the Brain Imaging Research Center (BIRC)!

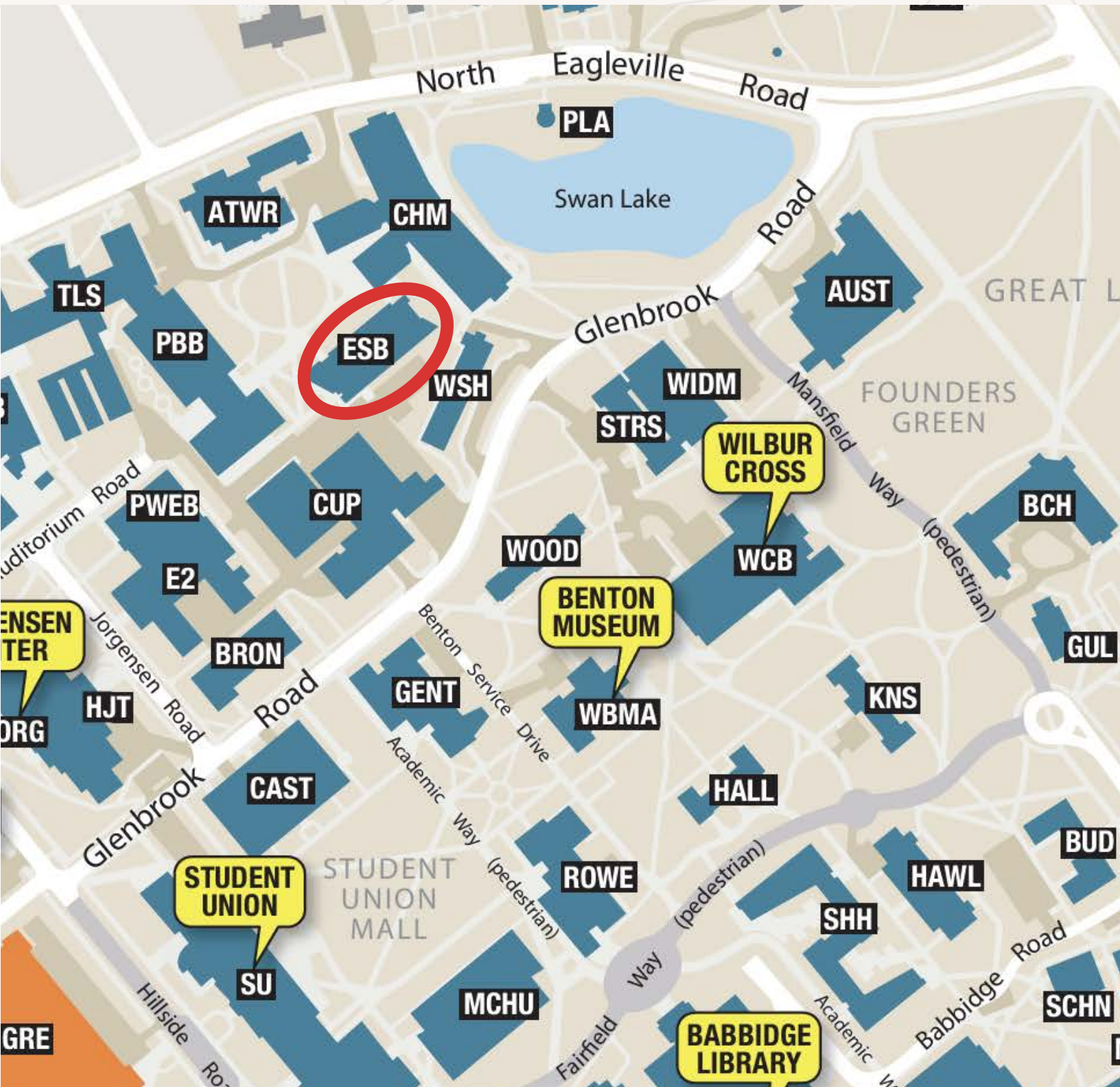


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# ENGINEERING & SCIENCE BUILDING (ESB)

67 North Eagleville Road, Storrs CT 06269

you can find the **LOBBY** right past the entrance



# WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF



**Martina Villa, facilitator**

a PhD student in developmental psychology. Having dyslexia, she cares that research on reading disabilities is accessible to those who struggle to read and engages in outreach and community building activities.

On a Sunday, you will find her enjoying her favorite band: Harshana and the Dysclaculic Trio.



**Hayes Brenner, facilitator**

a PhD student at the University of Connecticut. Influenced by his own history with autism and his love of music, his research is focused on studying how autism affects rhythm perception & performance.

He loves discussing jazz, Russian literature, and video games.



**Mikayla Friday**

a 2nd-year PhD student pursuing a doctoral degree in Engineering Education, with a focus on Artificial Intelligence in Education. After completing her B.S. in Environmental Engineering, Mikayla wanted to work to make engineering more equitable, inspiring her to join the engineering education field. Her own experiences with ADHD led her to join the neurodiversity initiative at UConn. In her free time, she loves hiking and making pottery.



**Sarah Gilmore**

a former elementary teacher and Ph.D. student in Curriculum and Instruction, was diagnosed at 39 with ADHD and autism. Through her work in teacher education and community outreach, Sarah aims to increase awareness of the varied ways neurodivergence can present, dismantle outdated, deficit assumptions about neurodivergent people, and advocate for increased diagnosis, support, and celebration of neurodivergent learners in educational spaces.



**Connie Syharat**

a Research Assistant in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, where she serves as the Program Manager for Include, a strength-based neurodiversity initiative designed to foster a culture of inclusion within engineering. Passionate about advancing neuroinclusivity in STEM, Connie has led numerous Neuroinclusive Teaching Institutes and workshops tailored for STEM faculty and teaching assistants. As a graduate student pursuing a doctoral degree in Engineering Education, Connie's qualitative research explores the experiences of neurodiverse graduate students in STEM fields. In her spare time, she enjoys practicing Tang Soo Do, reading dystopian fiction, and raising pet praying mantises.



**Emma Wedell**

a PhD student in social psychology. She has recently adopted the term "neurospicy" to describe her variety pack of neurodiversity. Her research focuses on LGBTQ+ mental health, confrontation of prejudice and discrimination, and measurement. These days, she spends much of her time listening to her new favorite band (Parcels), and finding unique ways to bring up her kitten, Milo, in conversation.



**Arash Zaghi, PhD**

a professor at the University of Connecticut with a background in structural engineering and a passion for advancing neurodiverse learning. His pioneering work in AI-driven, personalized learning is rooted in a strength-based approach to neurodiversity, influenced by his own journey with ADHD. When he's not leading paradigm-shifting research, Arash enjoys exploring spiritual philosophy and spending time with his family.