



CLASS of 2013 WELCOME ADDRESS

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Welcome to Connecticut College! To each and every newly enrolled student, first years and transfers, I am delighted to welcome you and your families to campus!

In recent years I have especially looked forward to Beloit College's "Mind-Set List" which comes out in the late summer. This list is designed to help college professors and administrators understand the average incoming freshman's "frame of reference" by describing how things have "always been" for this particular set of students. I thought I would share just 10 of the 75 items on this list for all our enjoyment (and as a helpful reminder to my colleagues – and the parents in the room).

1. Chocolate chip cookie dough has always been a flavor choice.
2. The KGB has never officially existed.
3. Text has always been hyper.
4. State abbreviations in addresses have never had periods.
5. The European Union has always existed.
6. Christopher Columbus has always been getting a bad rap.
7. There has always been a Cartoon Network.
8. Women have always outnumbered men in college.
9. The status of gays in the military has always been a topic of political debate.
10. There has always been blue Jell-O.

Before I officially turn the Class of 2013 over to my colleagues in the deans' office, allow me to introduce you to your class. You are an extraordinary Class and I am pleased to share your accomplishments.

- 4,733 students applied for admission last year – just 10 applications shy of the College's record two years ago – and 36.6 percent were

- offered admission. 506 of you chose to enroll. Five others selected to defer their enrollment for one year. Thirty-two transfers also join us this afternoon as well as six students who were admitted a year ago and chose to defer enrollment until now.
- You applied to nine colleges on average (likely more!) and were offered admission to four of them.
 - 214 of you – or 42 percent of the Class – made your “first choice” declaration as Early Decision candidates. That also means that 4,415 applicants competed for the remaining 292 spots in the Class during Regular Decision. In other words, there were nearly 15 applicants for each place in the Class, so each student’s presence here is an accomplishment of significant merit.
 - For those who come from high schools that rank, 54 percent ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school while 88 percent ranked in the top quintile.
 - You hail from 377 different high schools. The smallest high school attended had a senior class of 14, while one of you graduated from a high school with 1,010 seniors.
 - Top anticipated majors include English, biology, international relations, psychology, economics, environmental studies, history, government, mathematics, and physics with about 10 percent of you “undecided” – or clueless – but that doesn’t surprise us.
 - Sixteen percent of the Class is made up of domestic students of color, 24 of you are foreign citizens and 58 students have an international background representing 37 different countries.
 - Twenty-nine students in this class are children or grandchildren of Connecticut College alumni and several of you have or have had brothers or sisters in attendance. Sixty-one students, or 12 percent of the Class, are in the first generation of their family to attend college.
 - There are three sets of twins in the Class, but many among you are twins or even triplets, but are here solo.

You come together as Connecticut’s 94th class from Washington DC and 30 states as well as 26 countries, including Angola, Belgium, Cambodia, Ecuador, Georgia, India, Korea, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, and Tunisia, to name just a handful. Nearly 20 languages are spoken in your respective homes, so it won’t be unusual to hear students chatting on their cell phones in Arabic, Croatian, Korean, German, Hindi, Polish, Portuguese or Japanese.

You are the children of the famous and the not-so-famous. Several college professors and teachers, many involved in real estate and finance, architects, artists, carpenters, electricians, and a taxi driver all have children in this Class. Quite a few lawyers and doctors, a nutritionist, letter carrier, chemists, film producers and restaurateurs are your parents.

Interestingly, many of these parents were drawn to the same name. So, here's a tip for class discussion as you begin your first year: if the professor calls on Katherine (with a C or a K), Emily, Matthew, Alexandra, Daniel, Alison, Elizabeth or Benjamin - look around before you offer an answer. (Students with these names represent 14 percent of the Class. While 28 percent of you are "individuals" with your own distinct first name.) And your first and last names create some interesting patterns – in ensuring she arrives to class on time Ms. *Delay* may need assistance from Ms. *Quick*. There's a *Costello* but no *Abbott*, a couple of *Colbys* but no *Bates* or *Bowdoin*, a *Gold* and *Diamond* – but no silver. The color palette is complemented with two *Browns*, a *Gray* and a couple of *Green(fields)*. There is an *Atlantic* that crossed the Atlantic to get to campus. And for those who are of age and are thirsty, there's a *Beck* and a *Beer*, but be sure to abide by the Honor Code as there is a *Cheetham* and a *Ketchum*!

While many of you held jobs in recent years, a significant number of students answered the call of activism. Indeed, service highlights most of your resumes. One of you created a cell-phone tutoring program for the elderly while another helped set up a youth center in LA to help teens stay out of trouble. Another founded a student-run micro lending group that has already raised significant funds for developing countries. The environmentally conscious among us are pleased to welcome the many students who were recycling and environmental coordinators at your high schools and who participated in sustainability projects around the world.

And while we know all of you performed well in the classroom, the Class of 2013 boasts students with unique and impressive activities and accomplishments who:

- Competed as Olympic water polo players, NASCAR racers, nationally ranked sailors and squash players, and semi-pro Wiffle Ball players
- Herded cattle in Kenya
- Served as firefighters
- Fled Tibet with her parents

- Ran a 2.4 mile race with a bone protruding through his wrist
- Conducted research with the Weill Cornell Medical College and the American Cancer Society
- Performed as trapeze artists
- Discovered vision and tranquility in a Native American sweat lodge
- Interned with U.S. senators Kerry, Dodd and McCaskill
- Authored a children's book
- Sang back-up to the Spice Girls
- Grew up without a TV
- Presented as the only student at a Google conference
- Co-authored an article with a Cal Tech professor in a Diabetes Journal
- Served as ball boy at the U.S. Open

Our Supplement asks students to “...share something about yourself... not addressed in your Common Application or that may not be revealed in a recommendation” and we received many interesting responses! There are quite a lot of music lovers and singers (one noted “I sing therefore I am” while another shared that they have over 900 albums). There are many self-proclaimed “foodies” in the Class who love to cook *and* to eat. One of you stated that “food is an art form”, while another is an “ice cream artist.” We were pleased to learn that many of you are bibliophiles and love to read and write. One student translates Latin poetry as a remedy for insomnia or anxiety, one loves to enter other worlds through books, while another simply loves grammar. And you are a modest bunch – many stated that they are funny, determined, hard-working, love an adventure. You pursue endeavors with intensity, you’re good listeners and honest...indeed, one of you admitted you were clumsy while another has bad teeth.

All of these traits we are happy to have on our campus. I am confident our faculty will enjoy engaging with each and every one of you!

Thank you for allowing the admission staff and me the opportunity to get to know you through interviews, high school visits, numerous e-mail exchanges and your applications.

You indicated that you chose to apply to Connecticut College because of specific academic programs, research opportunities, our focus on interdisciplinarity and internationalism, our reputation and location and several of you commented that our mascot, the camel, is pretty cool. Many of you simply got that “gut feeling” when you stepped on campus – we were

a welcoming community. “Even the president was nice” one of you commented. And as several of you noted, you will have the opportunity to be innovative.

Be sure to take advantage of all that the College offers – and don’t be afraid to innovate. We intend to challenge, encourage and support you so that you continue to succeed here at the College and beyond.

Enjoy the adventures that lie ahead. You took the time to share your inner thoughts, dreams and aspirations with us and I admitted you with all great hopes and expectations that you will accomplish them and more!

As some of you know, I not only welcome you as the dean of admission, I also welcome you as an alumna of the college. When you leave today, you will receive what we call the “alumni passport.” This little packet provides some brief information about a sampling of alumni who are making a difference in the world today – in many different ways. We hope that you will be inspired by these people. One day, not too far from now, we may be sharing *your* accomplishments with incoming students! Also included in this packet is a small token of our welcome to you – a Camel Pride bracelet. We hope that you do, indeed, wear it with pride

And now it is my pleasure to turn the Class of 2013 and the 32 transfer students over to my close colleagues: Dean of the College Community Armando Bengochea and Associate Dean of Studies for Freshmen and Sophomores, Andrea Rossi-Reder.