

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The academic year is off to a wonderful start as our students sample the rich array of academic and co-curricular opportunities that characterizes the Connecticut College experience.

As you know, Connecticut College is among a very small peer group of premier, residential liberal arts colleges. In my first few months as president, I have seen firsthand how well the College merits its reputation for excellence. Faculty, staff and students are deeply engaged in creating an individualized, personalized education in a community based on intellectual rigor, an honor code and shared governance. I feel privileged to be part of this enterprise.

Since I arrived on campus July 1, I have been meeting with people from throughout the College community. Getting to know students has been a particular pleasure. In these first weeks of school, I have enjoyed dropping in on residence halls, classes, athletic events and Harris Refectory, as well as speaking with people I meet as I walk across campus.

I've found that these conversations – with students, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, donors, and local and state government and business leaders – support our overall objective to enhance the College's standing and reputation, and are helping me clarify strategic priorities and shape a vision for the College that draws on shared values and supports our educational mission.

Some recent changes I'd like to point out include five new faculty members – in mathematics, history, music, English, economics and gender and women's studies. I am also pleased to welcome Armando Bengochea, a political scientist and long-time administrator at Brown University, who joined us as Dean of the College Community.

With leadership support from alumni, parents and friends, we modernized key classrooms with technology and furnishing that support innovative teaching, and Marshall and Hamilton residence halls are being renovated. Additionally, students in several freshman seminars have been issued video cameras, so they can try out new ways of incorporating technology into their academic work.

My wife Ann and I have met some parents, and we look forward to meeting more of you during Fall Weekend. I hope you will join us on Saturday, October 14, for my inauguration as Connecticut College's tenth president. An updated list of Inaugural events is printed on the reverse of this letter. In addition, please visit our Web site for a full program of Fall Weekend panels, seminars, sporting events, and more.

I look forward to seeing you here on campus or during my travels this year. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,
Lee Higdon