

# CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

LEO I. HIGDON, JR.  
*President*

December 2, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am pleased to share with you the enclosed Connecticut College calendar along with my best wishes for the holiday season and the new year ahead. The calendar photos have been selected to highlight the most recent improvements to the campus and the student experience.

The economic news this fall, as we all know, has been dismal, but there has been plenty of good news here on campus. Our campus renovations have won several construction awards, a recent graduate was a finalist for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, and our science faculty have received seven new government grants supporting faculty-student research. For the second year in a row, the College has been recognized as one of the top producers of Fulbright Fellowship winners among liberal arts colleges.

We are filling 15 new faculty positions this year, an unusually high number that reflects generational change in the faculty as well as normal turnover. The faculty we are seeking include lecturers in Arabic and Chinese, an English professor with a focus on race and ethnicity, and a computer science professor with expertise in bioinformatics. We are also moving forward with further internationalization of our academic program using a \$1 million gift for faculty and curriculum development.

This year, we have made a special effort to expand transportation options for students who do not have a car on campus. We now have two ZipCars parked in front of Crozier-Williams, which students can reserve and rent by the hour or day. (For more information, go to [zipcar.com/connecticutcollege](http://zipcar.com/connecticutcollege).) We have increased our CamelVan service to the mall, downtown New London and other popular locations. We also have partnered with a local company to offer a discounted shuttle fare to and from Rhode Island's T.F. Green Airport for Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks.

More than half of freshman seminars this fall are being held in newly renovated common rooms, a teaching innovation that has been enthusiastically received by both faculty and students. We also have increased the funds available to students for programming and established new student leadership

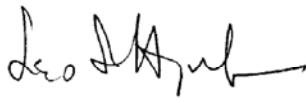
positions called Floor Governors in the residential houses. These changes are part of a multi-year residential education initiative designed to strengthen connections between the classroom and the residences and expand the involvement of faculty in residential life.

Our next step will be to select 10 to 12 Residential Education Fellows, a group of faculty who will serve as advisers and mentors to specific residences and assist students in planning intellectual and co-curricular events there. Using gifts and other funds, we have established an endowment for this new program, which will be launched next fall under the leadership of Eugene Gallagher, the Rosemary Park Professor of Religious Studies and recipient of national awards for excellence in teaching.

In my most recent letter, I shared with you some of the ways that the economic downturn could affect Connecticut College, and of course, we continue to monitor the economic situation closely. At the same time, despite the economic challenges, we have a clear strategic vision for continued excellence in education, and we are moving forward with that vision, to the benefit of all our students.

I wish you and your families well in these challenging times, and I thank you for all the ways you support Connecticut College. As always, I welcome your comments and questions at [lhigdon@conncoll.edu](mailto:lhigdon@conncoll.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leo Higdon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.