

An extraordinary beginning

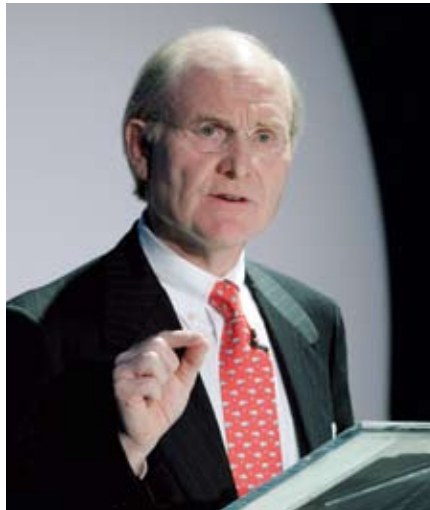
Leo I. Higdon, Jr.

›WE HAVE JUST COMPLETED one of the most memorable weekends in my experience at Connecticut College. With \$11 million in construction and renovation projects completed this summer, the campus sparkled. And the activity was nonstop. The conversation with “60 Minutes” reporter Steve Kroft, an open house with faculty and opportunities to visit with two live camels were among the highlights, as were hotly contested athletic events throughout the weekend. (Men’s soccer tied the defending NCAA champion, Middlebury, 1-1.)

But it was the spirit of the weekend that made it truly extraordinary. The College welcomed parents, alumni, trustees past and present, and other special guests — nearly 2,000 visitors who all came to share in the momentum that is sweeping through the campus community as we move toward the College’s 100th birthday and the second century beyond.

During the weekend, we publicly launched the Campaign for Connecticut College, a \$200 million fundraising effort that is already advancing the College in important ways. Usually campaigns go public when they have reached the halfway point; we have already raised \$111 million toward our goal. When the Campaign finishes in 2013, we expect to have raised a total of \$100 million in new endowment, \$50 million toward capital projects and another \$50 million in annual giving.

Through the Campaign, we are building new connections and collaborations — in the arts, humanities,



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sciences and social sciences. We are broadening the reach and scope of our leading-edge interdisciplinary centers. We are raising the necessary resources to support our world-class faculty, and we are renewing our historic campus.

At the same time, we also are working to advance our leadership positions in the life sciences, international programs and residential education. And we are raising financial aid dollars to

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ensure that we can continue enrolling the best and brightest students regardless of their ability to pay.

Simply put, we are re-imagining liberal arts education for a new century. (Read more about the Campaign and

the future of Connecticut College on pages 17-22 or visit the Campaign Web site at <http://campaign.conncoll.edu>.)

Already the Campaign is having a tremendous impact, through a range of new programs and facilities. If you have visited campus recently, you have seen the new classrooms and common rooms, the start of our new fitness center, new walkways and plaza spaces, and the ongoing renovation of our historic buildings. Indeed, visiting alumni tell me, “The campus has never looked better.”

We do face some uncertainty as we embark on the public phase of this Campaign during one of the most difficult economic periods in recent memory. But despite the challenges, this Campaign is too important to put off.

Fortunately, the College is already managed in a careful and fiscally conservative way. We are very strategic and purposeful about where and how we spend our money. These habits will serve us well as we manage through this difficult environment and as we invest for the future. (To read more about the impact of the economy, please see page 4.)

Connecticut College continues to evolve, preparing students for the unique challenges of today – and the still unknown challenges of tomorrow. In the current economic environment, you may face difficult choices about where to invest your philanthropic support. I hope that you will keep Connecticut College at the top of your list. In an increasingly complex world, this education is more important than ever.