



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011



DEAR FRIENDS,

An institutional anniversary is a tremendous opportunity to reinforce and celebrate a shared identity. We've been doing just that throughout Connecticut College's Centennial year with a whole series of programs, initiatives, events and publications. Our celebration has reinforced for me the value of this education and how very well positioned Connecticut College is to begin its second century.

With our challenging academic program, world-class faculty, extraordinary student body, beautiful campus, and diverse and vibrant co-curricular opportunities, we focus every day on a student experience without equal. The connections students make here — with professors, staff, local community members and alumni — transform them and help shape their adult lives.

This year, as we celebrated our Centennial, we also continued to move very purposely forward with our strategic priorities. With support from our dedicated alumni, parents and friends, we are enhancing intellectual life at the College, revitalizing the campus — including beginning construction on our new Science Center at New London Hall — strengthening support for faculty research and teaching, and increasing financial aid resources.

I am proud and honored to be president of this great institution at this milestone in its history. And, at the end of this Centennial year, I sincerely hope that all of the many constituents who comprise the Connecticut College community feel more closely connected to the College. Further, I hope you understand in new ways the importance and relevance of this College today and how they will be even more important in the future.

As we boldly step together into our second century, I am pleased to share with you the successes of our Centennial year.

Sincerely,


Lee Higdon



President Lee Higdon speaks with members of the Centennial Class during a dedication of their class gift.



▶ JANUARY

- ★ Centennial year launches with celebratory video, commemorative calendar and campus tea.
- ★ Lee Eisenberg '99, writer for NBC's "The Office," speaks on campus.
- ★ Student-sponsored photo show opens downtown.
- Sidney E. Frank Foundation establishes \$1 million scholarship fund in memory of Helen O'Brien '37.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Awards won by Loretta Vereen '12; Jennifer Manion, director of the LGBTQ Center; and David Canton, director of the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity.
- College receives \$1 million gift from Cynthia Terry White '46 to endow West Coast admission position.

▶ FEBRUARY

- ★ Centennial Song Contest won by Richard Schenk and Ann Livingston Schenk M'01.
- New York Times features Dean Martha C. Merrill '84's advice for readers.
- Connecticut College earns spot on Peace Corps' "Top Colleges" ranking.
- Connecticut College earns its first patent.
- Mohamed Diagne '97, Oakes Ames Associate Professor of Physics, awarded \$200,000 for brain injury research.
- College receives \$2.5 million gift from anonymous donor.



▶ MARCH

- ★ College hosts "Honor New London Day" downtown.
- Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment sponsors "Smart Growth" conference.
- National Science Foundation awards Charles & Sarah P. Becker '27 Professor of Botany Peter Siver nearly \$150,000 to assemble, catalog and archive the world's most extensive chrysophyte collection.
- Lindsay Paiva '12 named Truman Scholarship finalist.
- National Cancer Institute awards Professor of Biology Martha J. Grossel \$419,375 for ovarian cancer research.
- Pablo Tutillo '13 selected as 2011 Institute for International Public Policy Fellow.
- Barbara Zabel, professor of art history, curates Calder exhibit at Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP: Centennial lecture on gender and race, debut of Centennial Song, Centennial Tea, 'Honor New London Day'



▶ APRIL

- ★ *White House aide Jonathan McBride '92 speaks on campus.*
- ★ *Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity hosts diversity conference.*
- ★ *Founders Day celebration features keynote by Linda Eisenmann '75 P'03 '07, tea and birthday party, debut of Centennial Song, concert, and special student dinner.*
- ★ *Paula J. Giddings, professor of Afro-American studies at Smith College, is speaker at Centennial Lecture on Gender and Race.*
- ★ *"Camels Care" series of alumni community service projects launches nationally.*
- Erik Caldarone '12 and Currie Huntington '11 present at National Conference of Undergraduate Research.
- College's top faculty awards won by Jennifer Fredricks, associate professor of human development; Joseph Schroeder, assistant professor of neuroscience; and Candace Howes, Barbara Hogate Ferrin '43 Professor of Economics.
- The College Voice wins news reporting prize from Society of Professional Journalists.
- Chris Krupenye '11 wins National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.
- College makes list of "Top Green Colleges" in Princeton Review.

▶ MAY

- ★ *Olympic Medalist Anita L. DeFrantz '74 is Baccalaureate speaker.*
- ★ *Centennial Class graduates. Commencement speaker is Cynthia Enloe '60, Clark University professor.*
- Groundbreaking ceremony for new Science Center at New London Hall.
- Silfen Auditorium earns LEED Silver certification.
- Women's sailing team places 2nd at nationals.
- Taryn Campbell '12 wins American Chemical Society research fellowship.
- Five students and young alumni win Fulbright Awards.
- President Lee Higdon publishes article in The Chronicle of Higher Education.
- Student Government Association honors Professor of History Marc Forster.



▶ JUNE

- ★ *Reunion draws more than 1,300 alumni to campus.*
- College receives \$1 million gift from Susan Eckert Lynch '62 for greenhouse at new Science Center.
- College installs first green roof.
- College named to President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.
- New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association names Jeff Bresnahan Coach of the Year.
- Amy Dooling, associate professor of Chinese, wins National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship.



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: Centennial Reunion, Science Center groundbreaking, Centennial Commencement, Founders Day

▶ JULY

- Meredith Byrne '13 wins Kathryn Wasserman Davis 100 Projects for Peace grant for community garden in New York.
- Sufia Uddin, associate professor of religious studies, awarded American Institute of Indian Studies research fellowship.
- President Lee Higdon becomes Huffington Post blogger.
- George I. Alden Trust awards Connecticut College \$175,000 grant to support new Science Center at New London Hall.
- College receives \$200,000 grant from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation for global environmental justice education.



▶ AUGUST

- Tanya Schneider, assistant professor of chemistry, wins Cottrell College Science Award.
- College announces new Science Center at New London Hall will feature geothermal heating and cooling system.



▶ SEPTEMBER

- ★ *Convocation welcomes Class of 2015, features keynote by Tiana Davis Hercules '04.*
- ★ *Centennial season of onStage at Connecticut College opens with performances by Mary Foster Conklin '79.*
- ★ *Jay Lauf '86, publisher of The Atlantic, speaks on campus.*
- ★ *Music department launches Centennial season of concerts.*
- College begins renovation of historic Steel House.

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP: Jay Lauf '86 dines with students, Centennial Convocation, onStage Centennial season, Centennial Convocation



OUR CENTENN

▶ OCTOBER

- ★ *Fall Weekend welcomes record number of alumni and parents; standing room only crowd in Palmer for the Big Event.*
- Ruane's Den, new student café in Harkness House, opens.
- Athletic Hall of Fame inducts Elizabeth Ashforth Bacon '78 P'07 '09, Tracy Hayley Smith '97, coach Doug Roberts, and the 1998-99 men's basketball team.



▶ NOVEMBER

- ★ *Math department hosts Mathematical Association of America for two-day event highlighting history of math at Connecticut College.*
- Klagsbrun Symposium features Art Spiegelman, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and artist.



▶ DECEMBER

- ★ *Alice Maggin '91, ABC News anchor and producer, speaks on campus.*
- ★ *Art department finalizes alumni art exhibition for January 2012.*
- ★ *College begins planning its 2111 Bicentennial!*



CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: Fireworks on Tempel Green, Centennial Class gift dedication, Ruane's Den opening, Centennial Fall Weekend

IAL YEAR 2011

★ Denotes Centennial event.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

With 19 months to go, the Campaign for Connecticut College is \$35 million from its goal of raising \$200 million for a bold transformation of the educational experience.

A record-breaking Annual Fund, major gifts to support a new Science Center, scholarships and residential education, and a sharp rise in commitments for planned gifts combined to make 2010-11 one of the strongest fundraising years in College history.

It was a defining year. The College broke ground for the \$25 million Science Center at New London Hall in May, thanks to leadership support from alumni and parents through the Campaign. This project will transform the College's first building into a state-of-the-art center for the life sciences and computer science.

Other gifts created a popular new student café at Harkness House and are funding scholarships and internships, strengthening athletic programs and facilities, and supporting admission outreach. Annual giving reached \$5.3 million, a new record.

New gifts and commitments for 2010-11 totaled \$21.2 million, the highest level since the start of the recession in 2008. As of Oct. 31, 2011, the Campaign stands at \$165 million.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Throughout the Centennial year, the College has continued to find new ways to support and enhance the faculty-student relationships that have always been a hallmark of the Connecticut College experience.

We have provided new resources to help foster deep intellectual engagement and strengthen these relationships — on and off campus. Through the President's Fund for Faculty-Student Engagement, students and faculty are discovering new ways to share their scholarly interests. In 2011:

- Professor of Anthropology **CATHERINE BENOÎT** and students in her Nature, Culture and Power in the African Diaspora course went to New York, where they studied an African burial ground in Manhattan, visited the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and wrapped up the day with discussion and dinner at Le Baobab, an African restaurant in Harlem.
 - **MARC ZIMMER**, the Jean C. Tempel Professor of Physical Sciences; Binsen Li '13; Ramza Shahid '13 and Paola Peshkepija '13 traveled to the New England Science Symposium at Harvard Medical School, where their poster presentation, "Water Diffusion In and Out of the GFP b-Barrel of Fast Maturing Fluorescent Proteins," won an honorable mention.
 - Professor of Art History **BARBARA ZABEL** gave students a personal tour of "Calder's Portraits: A New Language," an exhibit dedicated solely to the portraiture of famed artist Alexander Calder (1898-1976) that Zabel curated at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.
 - **GARY PARKER**, associate professor of computer science, took seven students to present at conferences in Japan, New Orleans and Anchorage.
- present informal talks, plan educational programs, host study breaks and design other activities in residence halls. This interaction extends interdisciplinary learning and introduces new dimensions to the educational experience. Many of our professors say the students teach them as much as they teach the students and this shared inquiry awakens new passions and interests. Some recent events have included:
- **ALEX HYBEL**, the Susan Eckert Lynch '62 Professor of Government, and **CAROLEEN SAYEJ**, assistant professor of government, facilitated a discussion in Coffee Grounds about developments in the Middle East.
 - **DENISE PELLETTIER**, associate professor of art, opened her studios to students who wanted to learn ceramics. They created bowls and then hosted an "Empty Bowls" event to draw attention to worldwide hunger.
 - **ROBERT PROCTOR**, the Joanne Toor Cummings '50 Professor of Italian, facilitated an in-depth look at the Amanda Knox case — the judgment, the appeal and Italian culture — with students in Jane Addams Common Room.
 - **AUDREY ZAKRISKI** and **RUTH GRAHN**, associate professors of psychology, cooked up "brain food" — salmon, blueberries, flax seed, dark chocolate — with students in the Lazrus House kitchen and talked about the research linking a variety of foods with brain health.
 - **EUGENE GALLAGHER**, the Rosemary Park Professor of Religious Studies, led a discussion, "Cults Go Hollywood and Hollywood goes Cults," with students in the Katharine Blunt Common Room.

Through the Residential Education Fellows program, professors work with students to

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