

September 2009

Last Thursday was a proud day for Connecticut College. We celebrated the start of the new academic year at Convocation-it was a full house in Palmer Auditorium - and then cut the ribbon for our new fitness center, marking completion of the College's second major construction project in three years. The ribbon-cutting followed an all-campus picnic outside the fitness center, with sweeping views of the Thames River at sunset. It was a great opportunity for the entire campus community to see this stunning new facility. Please [view a slide show of photographs from that event](#), or, better yet, plan a visit to campus and see it for yourself.

Many other great things are happening here. The College is in a strong admission position. Applications for admission were high, the "yield"- or number of admitted students who enroll - is increased over last year and buzz about the College resulted in a record number of transfer applications this fall. We also are joined this year by 23 new visiting and tenure-track faculty members. Last year's fundraising results were very positive, despite the downturn in the economy. This year, fundraising started off on a very positive note when we announced last week a [\\$1 million gift to support science education](#).

I know that many of you have stretched to make the most substantial gifts you could, and that last year some of you had to make smaller gifts than you would have liked. Each year the entire College community, including me, appreciates the support you are able to give.

[College-sponsored networking opportunities](#) and other career-related services have helped many alumni make important connections within their fields. Please check the College Web site, Facebook and Camel Tracks, your alumni e-newsletter, for more information about those and other opportunities to connect.

The College's careful and thoughtful financial management strategies - combined with strong support from alumni, parents, foundations and friends - continue to position us well and enable us to pursue funding for our strategic priorities. Our students are eager to make a difference in the world, and your support of this extraordinary education is critical.

Connecticut College is strong. We will continue to be watchful, while moving boldly forward. I hope you will join us for [Fall Weekend, October 23-25](#), and see how your support and engagement have energized the campus. I look forward to seeing you then, or any time during the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leo Higdon" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Leo I. Higdon, Jr.
President