CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

"I knew before I got to Connecticut College that I would be a botany major. I want to work outside some day. I had learned that Professor Lizarralde specializes in tropical regions and that was what I was interested in.

The coursework has been fantastic so far with many classes to choose from. The professors are great and the classes are very student-oriented, so I'm getting plenty of individual attention. I've enjoyed learning about plants and how they grow, in the classroom and on our field trips to explore the botany of southern New England.

I've also gotten the chance to study ethnobotany, which is how people use plants. We've used plant materials to make objects like a bow and arrow, a basket or a bowl, the way indigenous peoples do. It's helped me get an understanding of other cultures that I'm going to build on when I study in Peru this year. I speak Spanish, but it will still be a challenge to learn the common names of the plants I'll find in Peru.

Studying abroad is just one way I'm learning about botany outside the classroom. This past summer I interned at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, where I worked with collections of plants from Madagascar and Costa Rica."

— Richard Hederstrom '09

Botany

IN 1917 botanist Caroline Black accepted a position to teach at Connecticut College on the condition that botany would be a separate department from biology. This decision created a focus on plant science that is, to this day, a hallmark of the College. If you major in botany here, you will find unparalleled opportunities to study plant biology and work side-by-side with faculty mentors. Teaching and research are inextricably linked here, and the department has an international reputation in coastal, marine and estuarine studies. You will find an exceptionally strong program in freshwater botany, as well as courses in such diverse areas as terrestrial ecology, plant systematics, ethnobotany and plant cell biology.

In our laboratories you'll work with top-flight transmission and scanning electron microscopes as well as light microscopes. You'll get hands-on experience in our extensive greenhouses and learn plant identification and classification in our Graves Herbarium, a renowned resource for scholars.

Another unusual resource for a small college is our 750-acre Arboretum, a living laboratory with hundreds of species of native trees and shrubs and a large variety of wetland and upland habitats. Here also is the Caroline Black Garden, an internationally designated "Garden for Peace."

In this highly dynamic major, you and your professors will also work closely with the biology department. You'll be able to focus on your specific areas of interest while developing a strong background in all aspects of plant biology. The botany and biology faculty jointly support the biological sciences major.

Special Opportunities

Thanks to our low student-faculty ratio and ample funding for undergraduate research, any student who wants to do research with a botany faculty member can. In recent years students have worked with faculty on projects in many parts of New England and the continental U.S., as well as Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Venezuela and Peru.

Faculty-student collaborations often lead to presentations at conferences and co-authorship of papers in top science journals. Connecticut College botany majors have presented their work and won awards at the Northeast Algal Symposium, the New England Estuarine Research Society, the International Diatom Symposium and the Northeast Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists.

One botany student was first author of a book on Connecticut lakes before he graduated. Two others recently presented their research on tidal marsh ecology at regional and international scientific meetings. Many students have worked with Professor Siver, Charles and Sarah P. Becker '27 Professor of Botany, to create and maintain an interactive, searchable database on lakes and ponds.

Faculty

Jennifer Boyd, *Visiting Assistant Professor of Botany*
B.S. Allegheny College; M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Columbia University

Glenn Dreyer, *Charles and Sarah P. Becker '27 Arboretum Director/Executive Director, Goodwin-Niering Center for Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies*
B.S., University of California, Davis; M.A., Connecticut College
Vegetation management, ecology and horticulture of native plants, invasive exotic woody plants, large and historic trees

Kristine Hardeman, *Lecturer of Biology and Botany*
B.S. University of Iowa; Ph.D. University of Oregon
Plant biotechnology, genetics, cell biology

Pamela Hine, *Senior Lecturer*
B.A., Bates College; M.A., Connecticut College
Tidal marsh ecology, pollination ecology, environmental education

Chad Jones, *Assistant Professor of Botany and Environmental Studies*
B.S. Brigham Young University; Ph.D. University of Washington
Terrestrial plant ecology, invasive plants, plant succession

Manuel Lizarralde, *Associate Professor of Ethnobotany*
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley
Ethnobotany of tropical rainforests, ethnobotany of New England Native Americans

T. Page Owen, *Associate Professor of Botany*
B.A., Oberlin; Ph.D., University of California, Riverside
Plant and animal cell biology, instrumental technology, scientific writing

Peter Siver, *Charles and Sarah P. Becker '27 Professor of Botany and Director of Environmental Studies Program*
B.A., SUNY Binghamton; M.S., University of New Hampshire; Ph.D. University of Connecticut
Limnology and phycology, biodiversity and biogeography of algae, paleolimnology, acid rain

Scott Warren, *Jean C. Tempel '65 Emeritus Professor of Botany*
B.A., Defiance College; M.S., Ph.D., University of New Hampshire
Wetland and tidal marsh ecology, influence of sea-level rise on coastal wetlands, tidal marsh restoration

Sample Courses

Plants, Protists and Fungi; Seminar on Indigenous Use of Tropical Rainforests; Ethnobotany of Southern New England; The Ecology of Terrestrial and Wetland Plant Communities; Marine and Freshwater Botany; Genetically Modified Crops; Scanning Electron Microscopy; Plant Structure and Function; Plant Systematics and the Local Flora

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers more than 50 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

What can you do with a major in botany?

Rick Canavan '93

Environmental scientist specializing In wetlands and water quality.

Earned a master's degree in soil science from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in biogeochemistry from Utrecht University in the Netherlands. At Connecticut College, studied water quality in Connecticut lakes, and worked as a lab instructor.

Toby Ahrens '99

Ph.D. candidate in biogeochemistry at Stanford University.

Jessica Korecki '00

Administrator at the New England Wild Flower Society.

Coordinates 130 botanists and other conservation professionals to monitor rare plant populations throughout New England.

For more information, visit www.conncoll.edu/academics/