



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Katherine Bergeron
President

May 30, 2017

Dear Parents of the Class of 2021,

As summer arrives in New London, we are preparing in earnest for the arrival of the Class of 2021. I recently wrote a note to all the students, to be mailed along with the book they will read this summer: Yaa Gyasi's debut novel, *Homegoing*. I wanted to take a moment to write to you as well and congratulate you on becoming Connecticut College parents.

Your student is arriving at a dynamic time. In the academic year that just closed, we completed a new strategic plan, [Building on Strength](#), that will enhance the College's academic distinction, enrich the student experience, and support a vibrant, just, and sustainable campus. And we launched a bold new curriculum, called [Connections](#), with this year's entering class.

Those of you who were here during Camel Days in April heard me talk about Connections. It's one of the best things to have happened at Connecticut College—and in higher education—in a very long time. Our faculty wanted a better way for students to “put the liberal arts into action,” as our mission says, in order to help them meet the challenges of an increasingly complex global society. And so they created a new curriculum with the structures—the connections—that would help students grapple with complexity: in different disciplines and languages; in the classroom and in the world; and in life, both during college and beyond it. It's a breakthrough that has already generated quite a bit of excitement. Two educational foundations awarded the College \$1.55 million to support the development of Connections over the next few years. More than 50 new courses have been designed or redesigned to date. And, with the support of other private foundations and donors, we will be starting construction this year on a Global Commons in the Blaustein Humanities Center to support the global engagement of every student. Your children will be among the first to profit from all this.

Our career program is receiving fresh attention as well. Last year, Forbes magazine listed Connecticut College among the top 20 most entrepreneurial colleges in America, based on the number of graduates who go on to found successful businesses. At Conn, we believe that intellectual and social development should connect seamlessly to professional development, which is why our four-year career program guarantees internships for every student, leading to better employment outcomes. In our most recent survey, 97 percent of the Class of 2015 were well placed in jobs, graduate programs, or competitive fellowships one year after graduation. Our office of Career and Professional Development is now offering [FastForward](#), a winter break program designed to give students an extra boost to succeed in a competitive marketplace. I look forward to telling you about these and other initiatives in the coming months.

As for the summer, I hope you might have the opportunity to read *Homegoing* yourselves and discuss it with your student this summer. The students will be able to meet the author and hear her views on the book when she visits campus on Sept. 27.



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This is the first of many communications you can expect to receive from me and members of my staff about the vibrant educational experience at Connecticut College. For now, let me simply welcome you and your family with my very best wishes. I look forward to seeing you in August and in the months and years ahead.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Katherine Bergeron