Dear Parents and Guardians,

The College’s Board of Trustees has set a 3.5-percent increase in the comprehensive fee, bringing next year’s fee to $58,780. This increase will support and strengthen all aspects of a Connecticut College education.

In addition to the comprehensive fee, approximately 17 percent of the cost of educating students is paid for through fundraising and income from our endowment. With this in mind, we continue to fundraise actively, with particular emphasis on the budget-supporting annual fund and a planned renovation of Shain Library.

I am proud that over the past six years, we have been able to invest considerable resources in hiring new faculty, renewing the campus and improving the academic program. I am also proud of the high level of support that we offer students.

- Seniors in the College’s interdisciplinary academic centers are hard at work on integrative projects that bring together multiple aspects of their four-year experience. This year’s projects include a study of human trafficking in Latin cultures, protecting coral reef systems, an ethnobotanist’s analysis of herbal medicines in China, and many more.

- Several hundred juniors are finalizing plans for their College-funded summer internships with intensive support from counselors in our career office. Between 70 and 80 percent of students participate in this program, which provides opportunities to explore the working world or participate in high-level research.

- A group of Japanese language students have just returned from a spring break language immersion program in Tokyo with Professor Hisae Kobayashi. Strong language programs expand post-graduation work and study options for many of our students. Last year’s East Asian studies majors, for example, are working in positions that vary from a biophysics researcher in Japan, to an American corporate liaison in China.

- We continue to expand opportunities for students to hear directly from recent graduates about how they have translated their Connecticut College educations into rewarding lives and careers. Just before spring break, we hosted a panel of young alumni lawyers and another of graduates working in finance. Last week, a Memorial Sloan-Kettering oncologist from the Class of 2000 was on campus to speak with pre-health students, and this week we host a graduate from the Class of 2003 who works for the U.S. Department of State.

As we approach the final weeks of the academic year, the impact of this highly personalized approach to education can be seen and felt throughout the campus. It shapes the College experience – and the lasting value of the Connecticut College degree.

Sincerely,

Leo I Higdon, Jr.
President of the College