



## *From the President*

ANDREA E. CHAPDELAIN, PH.D.

Dear alumni, family and friends of Connecticut College,

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to enjoy time with friends and family over the holidays.

As we begin the spring semester, there are several milestones from last year worth celebrating, including but not limited to:

- Our students' many successes: publications, presentations, performances, fellowships, internships, contributions to social justice work and civic engagement, extra-curricular achievements, and so much more.
- An impressive array of faculty scholarly activity: publications, presentations, performances, grants, fellowships, curricular and pedagogical improvements, and again, so much more.
- The launch of the Division of Retention and Success, ably led by Erika Smith, our inaugural vice president and dean of the College. This new structure, composed of dedicated and talented staff, strengthens our commitment to student, faculty and staff retention, success and belonging while ensuring equity and inclusion are integrated into every aspect of campus life.
- The opening of a new Disability Cultural Center (one of a handful on college campuses nationally) and a new lounge for international students.
- The completion of the renovation of Crozier-Williams, Harris dining hall, residence hall bathrooms and Silfen Field, in addition to substantial progress on the new promenade through the center of campus.
- Recording the best year yet in Camel Athletics history, earning several NCAA and

NESCAC titles and finishing in the top 20% of all Division III programs. We also set a record with 406 NESCAC All-Academic selections.

- Our senior survey results showed increases in student satisfaction and our retention rate rose to an impressive 91%.

### **Senior Administration Updates**

Since spring 2023, Justin Wolfradt has served as interim vice president for administration. Justin has proven himself to be an able and innovative leader, addressing critical staffing needs, improving processes and systems, developing long-term plans for infrastructure investment, and successfully managing several large-scale projects. He has worked collaboratively with campus partners and demonstrated a strong commitment to service and to our students' well-being. We have benefited greatly from Justin's hard work, thoughtful counsel and positive leadership. Accordingly, I have appointed Justin associate vice president for facilities and campus planning. In this role, Justin will oversee all aspects of the College's physical plant, advancing the critical work of campus investment and planning. He will continue to serve as a member of the senior administration and will report directly to me.

Regarding the search for our new vice president for marketing and communications, the executive search team recently interviewed department members, and a new candidate profile has been posted.

Finally, Chuck Mann, interim vice president of finance, has graciously agreed to continue in this role part-time at least through the spring 2026 semester.

### **Admission**

We are excited to announce our Early Decision class: a strong cohort of 168 students hailing from 23 states, the District of Columbia, and eight countries. This group brings diverse experiences, talents and perspectives, and we look forward to welcoming them in the fall.

### **Advancement**

This past Saturday, 81 alumni, families and students gathered at the Warrior Ice Arena in Boston to cheer on the Men's Ice Hockey team as they earned an exciting win against

Southern New Hampshire University. Go Camels!

While we are still finalizing year-end giving from late December, the advancement team has ended 2025 on a strong note with a 9% increase in annual fund dollars. I am deeply grateful to the alumni, families, friends of the College, staff and faculty who supported Conn, and especially encouraged by the response to Giving Tuesday and year end giving. The collective impact of your generosity helps enhance the College we all know and love. Thank you!

### **Celebrating our Faculty and Staff in the News**

- **Anthony Graesch** was featured in [\*The Cut\*](#) in a piece examining the meaning and social dynamics of holiday gift-giving.
- **Kendell Coker** was quoted in [\*The Hartford Courant\*](#) for his expertise on privacy and technology issues related to law enforcement.
- **David Dorfman** and his company, David Dorfman Dance, were profiled in [\*The Bowdoin Orient\*](#) in connection with a recent performance, film screening and workshop.
- **Mays Imad** was published in [\*Faculty Focus\*](#), where she explored how ritual, beauty and care can reshape educational spaces and deepen learning.
- **Susan Purrington** was featured in [\*The Chronicle of Higher Education's Teaching\*](#) newsletter, contributing to national conversations about the role of artificial intelligence in higher education.
- **Kate Rushin's** work was highlighted at Hartford Stage in a [\*Hartford Courant\*](#) article covering the Judy Dworin Performance Project's recent premiere.
- **Tim Stevens**, writer in the Office of Marketing and Communications, was featured in [\*Scary Mommy\*](#) with an essay examining why television Christmas specials continue to resonate across generations. He also spoke with WTIC-AM following the death of actor and director Rob Reiner and his wife Michele, offering insight on Reiner's cultural impact and legacy.

As we begin the spring semester, thank you for your ongoing interest and commitment to Connecticut College.

Warmly,



**Andrea E. Chapdelaine, Ph.D.**

President

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