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CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
Fall 2013, Volume 22, Number 1

// FEATURES

COVER: DREAM INTERNSHIPS
Connecticut College offers something almost no other college or university does: a funded internship to any student who completes the College’s comprehensive career-guidance program. Read about some of the dream jobs students have been able to sample with this support and career successes that have followed.

THE MAYOR OF CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
Retiring President Lee Higdon ends a seven-year term of endearment and accomplishment.

UNDER A SHARK-FILLED SKY
The waters around a mysterious treasure island harbor a precarious trove of life.

SUCCESS!
The College completes its biggest fundraising campaign in history; tour the effects of all the generosity.

THE LONG ARM OF INDIFFERENCE
A philosopher explains why our response to evidence of climate change offers us the power to determine more than just the environment of the future.

// DEPARTMENTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

NOTEBOOK
Welcoming the president-elect, welcoming the most diverse class ever, national recognition for being welcoming to people of all sexual orientations, and more

ASK A CAMEL
Five things you probably don’t know about Norman Rockwell

INK
“Listening to Sea Lions” and eight other alumni and faculty titles

ALUMNI LIVES
Featuring Jonathan McBride ’92, Carolyn Fuchs ’96, Adam Mogovisin ’93, Jessica Soffer ‘07, Oscar and Edgardo Monteon ’09 and Zoe Madden ’12

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

THIS PAGE: THE MASCOT AND STUDENTS WELCOME THE CLASS OF 2017 TO CAMPUS.

PHOTO BY BOB MACDONELL

ON THE COVER, CORRIE SEALS ’14, AN ART HISTORY MAJOR FROM MINNEAPOLIS, AT THE SITE OF HER DREAM INTERNSHIP LAST SUMMER, CHRISTIE’S AUCTION HOUSE AT NEW YORK CITY’S ROCKEFELLER PLAZA. PHOTO BY KARSTEN MORAN
To the Editor:

THREE VIEWS OF DIVERSITY

I was thrilled to see the summer 2013 alumni magazine’s cover story about the first Posee scholars at Connecticut College! They are certainly an impressive group of individuals who, no doubt, will continue to bring pride and recognition to the school as they launch their careers.

I have a tremendous amount of respect for the Posee Foundation’s commitment to supporting diverse and historically underrepresented students as they pursue higher education. As an African-American alumna, I recognize that diversity is so much more than different skin colors, ethnic backgrounds or religious preferences. For me, Connecticut College was a larger version of the private school I’d attended since age 12, and, as such, it felt familiar ... and safe.

However, there are so many other environments and experiences than those that mirror Conn College’s, and these are as valuable as race, religion and ethnicity in creating a truly diverse college campus. Congratulations to Conn College for its mission to maintain ties between the College, its alumni and all other communities, in their professions and in the life of the College.

I’d attended since age 12, and, as such, it was a larger version of the private school I’d attended since age 12, and, as such, it felt familiar ... and safe.

Dr. Christine Bozarth ’01
Alexandria, Va.

CHAIN REACTION

Thank you for putting me in the magazine over the summer (LaurelChain, p. 16). I am a third-generation Camel and a second-generation member of the Laurel Chain. My grandmother, Marie Waterman Harris ’56, preceded me in the honor. My mother, Ellen Harris, is Class of 1980.

Caroline Knoblock ’14
Belmont, Mass.

CORRECTION

The caption on the photo in the last issue — of Vonne Bell Valve ’69 and others involved in the production of a catalog for an exhibition of the core paintings of Louisiana, France (“Found in translation,” page 52) — had two names out of place. The people at the left of the photos were catalog designer Anu Piatt and photographer Philippe Piatt.

www.connecticutcollege.edu

AS I LOOK TO MY RETIREMENT in December, a number of people have asked me to sum up my presidency. “What is your defining achievement?” “What accomplishments are you most proud of?” “How do you hope people will view your presidency?”

These kinds of questions are natural — expected even — yet impossible to answer. How could anyone whittle down a presidency at an institution like this to a single, defining moment?

I prefer to think of my presidency as a series of defining moments that, in the end, are but one small part of a much larger continuum. This continuum began with a small group of visionary founders more than 100 years ago, it will endure long after I retire, and it will always be shaped and advanced by an extraordinary community of people.

Ann and I were embraced by this community from our very first moments in New London in 2006. Since then, we have traveled throughout the United States to visit with the people who define Connecticut College. We’ve met men and women from generations of graduating classes — people who are leaders in their professions, and in the life of the College. And we’ve welcomed many of you back to campus.

You come to New London for Reunions, for Fall Weekend events, for our annual Commencement ceremony. You come to watch athletics competitions, plays, recitals and concerts. You come for art exhibits, lectures and research symposia. And, perhaps most important, many of you take time to interact with students during your visits, sharing your stories and helping our students see how you’ve used your Connecticut College education to shape your lives.

It’s this vibrancy, this personal interaction, indeed this support for future generations that I find so inspiring. Connecticut College provides an exceptional liberal arts education that prepares students well for lives of meaning and purpose.

I had been a college president before I came to Connecticut College, and previously, when I attended school, I always had a next presidency to focus on. Retirement will be very new to me, and I know Ann’s goal is to keep me very busy. We hope to keep Connecticut College very much in our lives. We’re looking forward to dropping in from time to time — perhaps for Reunions or other major events — and continuing to be part of the life of this community, that has come to mean so much to us.

Seven years ago, I wrote in my first CC: Magazine column that “I have never felt more honored, or more excited about the future, than I am now as the newly inaugurated president of Connecticut College.”

I carried this sentiment throughout my term and it will stay with me forever. The honor and privilege of being president of Connecticut College is a defining part of my life, and I am more excited than ever about the future of this extraordinary institution.

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What I’ll remember

Leo I. Higdon, Jr.

To Everyone in the right of the photo were dorothy bleakney, beverly pollack, linda barker, marta jones, and LESLIE wikoff. The people at the left of the photo were catalog designer Anu Piatt and photographer Philippe Piatt.
Old Lyme native Katherine Bergeron will come from Brown

THE 11TH PRESIDENT of Connecticut College will be Katherine Bergeron, a scholar of music history who has been chief academic officer for undergraduate education at Brown University since 2006.

The College’s Board of Trustees announced her selection in August. She is scheduled to take office Jan. 1, 2014, following the retirement of Leo I. Higdon, Jr., president since 2006.

“Katherine Bergeron is the right leader for this moment in our history,” said Pamela D. Zilly ’75, chair of the Connecticut College Board of Trustees and chair of the Presidential Search Committee. “She has a tremendous ability to connect ideas and convert them into action. She is a champion of the tradition of education in the liberal arts and sciences, and, at the same time, an experienced and effective administrator with a record of successful innovation.”

As Brown’s dean of the college, Bergeron is credited with leading a renewed focus on the undergraduate experience; strengthening academic and career advising; and implementing new programs in community service, science education and internationalization.

In 2007-08, she led the first comprehensive review of the Brown curriculum in 40 years; this work resulted in the creation of new learning goals, new standards for academic concentrations and new opportunities for student-faculty interaction. She also designed and implemented initiatives to recruit and support underrepresented students in the sciences, mathematics and technology.

“I commend the Connecticut College trustees for their wise selection,” said President Emerita of Brown University Ruth J. Simmons. “Katherine’s depth and breadth of experience have prepared her well for the challenges of the college presidency. She is committed to excellence in education and research, has sound judgment and offers a collaborative approach to leadership that is highly effective.”

Bergeron was recruited to join Brown University as professor of music in 2004 after 11 years as a member of the music faculty at the University of California, Los Angeles. Since 2004, she has been professor of music in 2004 after 11 years as a member of the music faculty at the University of California, Los Angeles.

In the academic sphere, Bergeron’s research focuses on French cultural history of the 19th and 20th centuries, with an emphasis on music and language. She is the author and editor of numerous scholarly articles and books, including two prize-winning monographs, “Decadent Enchantment” (University of California Press, 1998), about the revival of Gregorian chant, and “Voice Lessons” (Oxford University Press, 2010), a study of French language education, linguistic science and the emergence of the vocal art known as la melodie francaise.

Throughout her career, Bergeron’s teaching and research have been enlivened by performance. A singer of eclectic tastes, she has performed Gregorian chant, the blues, the court music of central Java, contemporary pop music, experimental music, and, most recently, French art song.

“She has proven leadership and the ability to solve complex problems within a system based on collaboration and shared governance,” said Connecticut College Chemistry Professor Stanton Ching, a member of the Presidential Search Committee. “We were impressed with her ability not only to develop good ideas but also to cultivate creativity in others and work with them to put their ideas into action.”

In an editorial, The (New London) Day, wrote: “In naming Katherine Bergeron as its 11th president, Connecticut College selected a woman with an impressive academic background, a clear commitment to liberal arts education, and a local girl to boot. Not bad.”

Bergeron is a native of nearby Old Lyme, Conn., and has deep roots in eastern Connecticut and longtime ties to Connecticut College. She graduated from Lyme-Old Lyme High School in 1976 and as a sophomore began receiving music instruction from Patricia Harper, an adjunct professor of music at Connecticut College since 1975. Bergeron is married to Joseph Bath Rowan, professor of music and chair of the music department at Brown. The couple performed Rowan’s experimental work, “vis-à-vis,” at the 2003 biennial symposium of the Ammerman Center for Arts & Technology, one of Connecticut College’s five interdisciplinary academic centers. Rowan was an Ammerman Center visiting artist in 2007.

Watch a video of Katherine Bergeron speaking on campus at www.conncoll.edu/president-elect.
College launches sustainability plan

BUILDING ON ITS PIONEERING ROLE in environmental studies and stewardship, the College has committed to an even bigger idea: teaching and modeling the principles of sustainability.

Sustainability is the ideal of balancing societal, economic and environmental considerations so as to ensure the health and wellbeing of humans and natural systems now and in the future.

“Sustainability reflects our understanding that healthy environments, healthy communities and economic wellbeing are all connected. You can’t attain one without the others,” said Roger Brooks, chair of the College’s Sustainability Steering Committee.

In late August, the College opened a new Office of Sustainability in the historic Steel House at the south end of campus and unveiled a comprehensive Sustainability Plan that includes:

• Infusing sustainability principles across the curriculum and adding new courses in sustainability-related issues through many different departments.

• Offering grants to support student-initiated sustainability projects and programs.

• Making campus buildings more resource efficient. For example, a geo-thermal heating and cooling system.

The College's commitment to sustainability is intertwined with its history, beginning with the creation of its first teaching garden in 1928 and, three years later, the founding of the Arborium. In the 1950s, groundbreaking environmental research by botany professors Richard Goodwin and William Niering, helped establish the modern American conservation movement and led to the creation in 1968 of one of the first environmental studies majors in the country, originally called human ecology (see related stories, page 45).

Since the 1990s, teaching and research in the College’s five interdisciplinary academic centers have highlighted the interconnections among environmental, economic and community issues on both a local and global scale.

In search of justice for all

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, 18 faculty members from science, government, art and other disciplines traveled to India, Peru and South Africa to study global environmental justice. That’s the concept that environmental benefits and burdens should be shared fairly.

The fieldwork and further research, made possible by a grant from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation, has led to the creation of 12 courses (so far) in environmental justice and revisions to 10 others. The new classes include:

• Toxins in the Nervous System: Environmental Justice Issues (Joseph A. Schroeder, associate professor of psychology), which examines how marginalized populations are disproportionately affected by environmental pollutants such as lead, mercury, PCBs and pesticides;

• Environmental Art and its Ethics (Karen Gonzalez Rice, Mercy Assistant Professor of Art History), which looks at how “environmental artists” protest overconsumption, pollution and environmental injustice; and

• Environmental History and Social Justice (Leo Garofalo, associate professor of history and director of the Center for Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity), which traces the impact of conquest and colonization on environmental history, and how the exploitation of resources has often provoked bitter struggles.

Sustainability Office’s home shows preservationists’ mettle

AFTER A SEVEN-YEAR PRESERVATION EFFORT, the College’s historic Steel House has reopened with a modern role: as the new Office of Sustainability.

The Bauhaus-style house at the south end of campus is a rare surviving example of a prefab housing concept displayed at the 1933 World’s Fair in Chicago.

Winslow Ames, founding director of the neighboring Lyman Allyn Art Museum, and his wife, Anna, had the house and one next to it (made of asbestos cement panels) erected in 1933 on a small plot of land near the museum. The College acquired both structures in 1949 and used them for decades as faculty housing.

By the mid-2000s, the Steel House was no longer occupied and had deteriorated into a rusty eyesore. But with grant support, the College was able to have the building disassembled, restored off site, and returned to its original foundation. Like the restored asbestos-cement Winslow Ames House next door, the Steel House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Essentially an 800-square-foot box made of insulated metal panels, the Steel House is “a very early example of modern architecture in the United States,” said Abigail Van Slyck, associate dean of the faculty and Dayton Professor of Art History. “This project has preserved an important piece of American history.”

The Steel House will provide office space for Manager of Sustainability Josh Stoffel plus gathering and meeting space for student organizations related to sustainability. It has also lent its name to the Steel House Sustainability Grant program for student sustainability initiatives.

The building’s design incorporated many early sustainability features, including a compact footprint, super-tight construction, modern materials, passive solar and ventilation features, and prefab construction. It provided safe, affordable family housing, said Doug Royalty, a historic preservation specialist who managed the project along with Van Slyck. Unfortunately, the builders never garnered enough sales to scale up manufacturing.

Financial support for the preservation project was provided by the Dr. Scholl Foundation, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and individual donors. A landscape plan featuring native plantings and a rain garden was donated by Alice Eckerson ’82.

Best-selling novelist Julia Alvarez ‘71 to speak on sustainability

JULIA ALVAREZ ’71, poet, essayist and author of 14 novels, including “How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent” and “In the Time of the Butterflies,” will speak on sustainability and writing Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. in the 1962 Room in Crozier-Williams, followed by a book signing. The event is free and open to the public.

Alvarez, writer in residence at Middlebury College, and her husband, Bill Eichner, are the founders of a sustainable coffee farm and literary project in the Dominican Republic. Her most recent book, “A Wedding in Haiti: The Story of a Friendship,” is a memoir of their trip to Haiti to attend the wedding of a young worker at the coffee farm and a later return trip to check on their friends after the earthquake.

Alvarez was born in the United States and grew up in the Dominican Republic. At Connecticut College she was a student of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet William Meredith, who introduced her to the famed Breadloaf Writing Conference in Vermont.

“I fell in love with Robert Frost country,” she said. She subsequently transferred and graduated from Middlebury.

Her years at Connecticut College were foundational to her writing identity, she said. The College’s Benjamint Marshall Poetry Prize, which she won two years running, is still listed on her curriculum vitae.

“For an immigrant girl — just seven years in America — to win this prize in my second language was so affirming,” she said. “Connecticut College never gets the credit for me because I transferred, but in fact, that’s where it all began.”
New faculty bring expertise in everything from avatars to animals in literature

THE COLLEGE’S SEVEN NEWEST

Tenure-track professors include a circus-history researcher, a videogame developer whose work could help people (virtually) live forever and the co-founder of a nonprofit dedicated to fostering innovation among the cultural arts.

The new faculty can speak and read seven different languages, and they come to the College with teaching experience at institutions including Columbia, Yale, the University of Toronto, USC, Caltech, the University of Washington and UCLA.

Here’s a look at each:

Lauren Anderson, assistant professor of education. Her areas of specialization include education policy, urban schooling past and present, teacher preparation and critical literacy. Her work examines what prospective teachers actually learn from the student-teaching experience and how it influences their future teaching.

Virginia (Ginny) Anderson, assistant professor of theater. Her areas of specialization include theater history, LGBT theater, women’s theater, children’s theater, the AIDS epidemic in theater and film, the history of the circus and representations of animals in performance.

Sangyoon (James) Lee, assistant professor of computer science. His areas of specialization include avatars, computer graphics and visualization for interactive applications. His collaborative avatar research work has been featured on PBS’s “NOVA scienceNOW: Can We Live Forever?” and Discovery Science’s “Pop Sci’s Future of: Immortal Avatars.”

Wendy Moy, assistant professor of music. Her specialties include choral conducting and methods. She was a guest conductor with the Seattle Women’s Chorus and Bellevue Chamber Chorus, and she served as an assistant conductor with the Cascade Youth Symphony Orchestra. She is co-founder and president of a nonprofit that fosters innovation in the choral arts.

Tobias Myers, assistant professor of classics. He specializes in Greek and Latin poetry, ancient magic and religion, mythology, and Homeric studies. He has acted in stage presentations of deities performed in the original ancient Greek, including Aristophanes’ “The Birds,” Euripides’ “Iphigenia at Aulis” and Sophocles’ “Oedipus Tyrannus.”

Michelle Neely, assistant professor of literature. She specializes in American literature to 1900, animal studies, ecocriticism, food studies, African-American and Native-American literatures, women’s literature and literary and political theory. Her current book project, “The Antebellum Animal,” examines literary, philosophical and popular representations of animal life during the 19th century.

Kenneth Prestininzi, associate professor of theater. Prior to joining the faculty at Connecticut College, he was the associate and acting chair of playwriting at the Yale School of Drama. He has written and directed plays in many cities internationally, including Brighton (England), Chicago, Edinburgh, Los Angeles, Mexico City, New York City, Philadelphia, Prague and San Francisco.

Dance professor’s company chosen for goodwill mission

A CULTURAL DIPLOMACY AND EXCHANGE program of the State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, has selected Dance Professor David Dorfman’s New York City dance company to perform in Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan next April and May.

David Dorfman Dance was one of three companies selected for the fourth season of the cultural exchange program, known as DanceMotion USA. The companies will embark on consecutive, four-week-long international performance-and-exchange tours to underserved regions around the world.

The other selected companies are CONTRA-TIEMPO of Los Angeles, which will travel to Bolivia, Chile, and Ecuador; and Brooklyn’s Mark Morris Dance Group, scheduled to visit Burma, Cambodia, and Timor-Leste.

Do you have more or fewer than 50 items on your fridge?

A “CBS Sunday Morning” segment earlier this year opened with the story of a woman who owns 45,000 refrigerator magnets.

Few people go to such extremes, but participants in a study by Assistant Professor of Anthropology Anthony Graesch were found to have an average of 52 items on their fridge, including birthday party invitations, school lunch schedules, family photos and magnets of all kinds.

Graesch explained the cultural significance of fridge exteriors to “CBS Sunday Morning,” Faith Salt in the June 9 episode. He said the fridge communicates a lot about what is important to a family, being at the center of what he calls “command central of American family life,” the kitchen.

Graesch was part of a research team at UCLA that conducted an in-depth study of how people live with and among their things. A resulting book, “Life at Home in the Twenty-First Century,” co-authored by Graesch, includes an entire chapter about how families use their kitchen spaces and objects.

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College called a national leader in protecting natural resources

THE WEBSITE NERD SCHOLAR saluted the College earlier this year as one of 10 colleges and universities that it says “invest in our nation with programs that take the lead in land preservation and restoration.”

The website, which offers advice about choosing and paying for college, named the College to its list of schools with either “restoration programs” that “aim to protect land and train professionals who oversee its use and care” or arboreums and agriculture programs “that strive to beautify campus grounds, provide opportunities for teaching, learning, and recreation, and repurpose land for community benefit.”

Other honorees included Texas A&M University, Colorado State University and the University of Maryland.
Most diverse class ever

This year’s group of first-year students, the Class of 2017, is the most diverse in the history of Connecticut College — and in a variety of respects.

Twenty-two percent of the class is made up of historically underrepresented minorities. Counting non-U.S. citizens, 28 percent of the class consists of students of color.

The class also represents a high level of socio-economic diversity with 54 percent of students receiving financial-aid grants from the College, compared with 44 percent last year. Sixty-nine first-year students (14 percent) are the first in their families to attend college.

Nearly 90 percent of the enrollees ranked in the top fifth of their high school class. Fourteen transfer students also enrolled this fall.

Class of 2017

- Applicants: 4,702
- Admitted: 1,726
- Total first-year students enrolled: 899
- Origins: 37 states and 31 countries
- Children or grandchildren of alumni: 28
- Top anticipated majors: biology, economics, psychology, English, international relations, history, environmental studies, government, math, behavioral neuroscience

College among the 25 most LGBT-friendly schools

Campus Pride, in collaboration with The Huffington Post, has named Connecticut College one of the Top 25 LGBT-Friendly Colleges and Universities in the country.

The list — which is alphabetical, not ranked — is based on the Campus Pride Index, a detailed survey of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) policies, academics, student services and diversity training for faculty, staff and students.

“Diversity and inclusion are central to a liberal arts education, and all students benefit from a learning environment in which students with different experiences and perspectives can participate freely,” said President Leo I. Higdon, Jr.

Higdon said the College has taken a number of steps in recent years to create a more supportive environment for all students. For example, in the spring of 2007 the College opened the LGBTQ (the Q is for queer and questioning) Resource Center to provide educational programming and a central space for students.

“Campus Pride describes itself as “the only national nonprofit organization for student leaders and campus groups working to create a safer college environment for LGBT students.”

Here today, gong tomorrow

After signing the honor code pledge in Palmer Auditorium, members of the Class of 2017 were invited to file out into Castle Court and take a swing at a large gong affixed to the courtyard’s eastern wall.

Then they were told not to do it again — at least for a few years.

The gong was purchased and installed last summer as a replacement for a huge gong sculpture by artist William T. Wiley that stood in the courtyard from 1995 until last year. Over time, the Wiley gong became the destination for the senior streaking event known as Fishbowl.

(According to tradition, if students rang the gong before senior year, they would not graduate.)

Last year, Fishbowl was eliminated due to safety concerns, and the Wiley gong went away as well, although the timing was pure coincidence. Contrary to popular belief, the College never owned the artwork; it was on a long-term loan from the artist.

Under the loan agreement, the College was responsible for maintenance of the gong, and either party could cancel the loan with 30 days’ notice.

In December 2012, the sculpture was extracted from the Castle Court with a crane and transported to a fine-arts metal-fabricating company in New Haven for a much-needed restoration. While it was there, the artist’s dealer found a purchaser. The College had the right of first refusal but chose to pass on the $225,000 asking price.

Now, with the new gong comes a plan for a new tradition. As seniors, the Class of 2017 will again process out of Palmer and up to Tempel Green for Commencement. On their way through the courtyard, they will pass the gong and ring it a second time, putting an exclamation point on their college careers.

Before classes even began...

Above: The 489 members of the Class of 2017 and 14 transfer students spent their first full day after drop-off pitching in on community projects in New London. The assignments included painting fences, cleaning up beaches and helping run a community event that prepared local elementary students for the first day of classes.

Below: For the second time, all new students attended a career and professional-development workshop during orientation. The session was about using extracurricular activities to develop career skills and interests. The students also received an overview of the College’s four-year career development program. (See related feature, page 16.)

For more news, go to www.conncoll.edu
LeDuc named national scholar athlete of the year

MIKE LEDUC ‘14 was named the Division III Outdoor Track Scholar Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. LeDuc had a cumulative GPA of 3.793 and won the NCAA Division III title in the 3,000-meter steeplechase last May.

Among other honors earned by last season’s student athletes:

Stasia Sekman ‘13 and Mike Clougher ‘15 were named to the All-NECSCAC Rowing Team. Both were second-team selections. Lily Beck ‘13, Lindsay Cook ‘15, Mackenzie Jackson ‘14, Amanda Jones ‘15, Sophia Muller ‘13 and Val Goldstein ‘14 joined Sekman and Clougher as NECSCAC All-Academic Team honorees.

Coxswains Maureen Sweeney ‘13 and Phoebe Rohn ‘16 were both named to the NECSCAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Bri Miller ‘13 and Andrew Freedman ‘13 were named to the 2012-13 Capital One Academic All-District At-Large Lacrosse Teams, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Women swimmers post nation’s top GPA

MATT SAFIAN ‘15 (above) was one of 12 students out of more than 2,000 applicants to win a design fellowship from the famous Silicon Valley venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. The other 11 KPCB Fellows during summer 2013 were almost entirely from Harvard, Yale, Stanford and schools that teach only art and design. He was the only student selected from a liberal arts college. KPCB Fellows are assigned to the venture-capital firm’s portfolio companies. Safian served at Luvocracy, an online social-shopping start-up built around recommendations from fellow shoppers. He worked as a product designer, crafting interfaces to improve user experience, whether through the website or mobile application.

Now a junior, Safian is composing a self-designed major he calls “Experience Design” that will combine study in graphic design, computer science, psychology, sociology and anthropology. He said he would someday like to start his own company or create a product that changes the lives of people everywhere.

His supervisor at Luvocracy, Brooke Thompson, head of design, said, “What I love about Matt is that he knows what he wants to be and that he is at a school that supports his career goals.”

Safian’s design portfolio can be seen online at www.mattsafian.com.

Men’s track & field teams posted nation’s top GPA

The College’s men’s team also performed well, finishing in a tie for 36th with a team GPA of 3.23. Both teams were honored with the association’s Team Scholar All-America award, and six Camels — Julia Pelock ’14, Esther Mehezi ’15, Sarah Lautsiden ’16, Mackenzie Lilly ’13, Samantha Pierce ’16 and Cameron Johnson ’15 — earned individual scholar awards.

Head coach Marc Benvenuti said, “For our women’s squad to be ranked No. 1 is an amazing accomplishment. Our men followed up on their third-place finish at the NECSCAC Championship with another outstanding academic ranking.”

Student lands gig at Video Music Awards

OLIVIA DUFOUR ’16 found herself on the red carpet outside the MTV Video Music Awards show in Brooklyn in late August charting with and photographing the likes of Katy Perry, Taylor Swift and Selena Gomez.

Dufour, from Hopewell Junction, N.Y., was one of six student photographers selected to create an image that interpreted or reinterpreted one of the VMAs’ “Best Song of the Summer” nominees. As part of a Nokia promotion, each student was given a camera phone to create the image and later invited to snap the stars as they entered the awards show. The students’ experience later aired on the college-targeted MTVu network.

The song assigned to Dufour was Robin Thicke’s controversial R&B/Hip-Hop hit “Blurred Lines,” widely criticized as degrading to women.

“At first I thought, maybe I want to switch my song, I don’t know if this is something I want to promote,” said Dufour. A human-rights activist since age 15, she is majoring in government with a concentration in human-rights legislation and a minor in linguistics.

Instead, she decided to take on the assignment and use it to highlight the influence of the music industry on images of women and feminism. The image she submitted shows a female model posing in front of a luxury lingerie store in New York’s SoHo district.

Prestigious design fellowship goes to sophomore

Jewish center being built on campus

CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN on a Hillel House that will serve as a center for Jewish student life and related programming as well as a venue for intercultural events.

The 6,700-square-foot Zachs Hillel House will be at the north end of campus near Winthrop Hall. It will include a conference room, library, study space, a kosher kitchen and social space.

Connecticut College already has a Hillel student organization, a nondenominational group that holds Shabbat dinners, Jewish holiday celebrations and other events for the entire campus community. Until now, however, the Jewish community had no dedicated space on campus.

Group has not had any dedicated space on campus.

Construction of the new house is being made possible by a $1 million gift from the Zachs Family. Henry M. Zachs has been instrumental in building Hillel Houses at Trinity College and the University of Connecticut.

Fundraising is under way for endowing the building and programming.

“We are confident that alumni, parents and friends of the College will support endowing Hillel and annual giving to Hillel,” said Claire Gedrow, acting vice president for advancement.

MATT SAFIAN ’15 (above) was one of 12 students out of more than 2,000 applicants to win a design fellowship from the famous Silicon Valley venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. The other 11 KPCB Fellows during summer 2013 were almost entirely from Harvard, Yale, Stanford and schools that teach only art and design. He was the only student selected from a liberal arts college.

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Meet the College’s new trustees

A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EXPERT on presidential transitions, a former head of the Justice Department’s Antitrust Division, and a distinguished physician with nearly three decades of experience are among the College’s new trustees.

Four alumni were elected at the Board of Trustees’ meeting in May along with a new Young Alumni Trustee from the Class of 2013, Trustee Eduardo Castell ’87 and Prescott W. Hafner ’80 were elected to three-year terms as vice chairs, assisting Chair Pamela D. Zilly ’75.

The newcomers are:

Martha Joynt Kumar ’63, professor of political science at Towson University. In 2008 she served as director of the White House Transition Project, a nonpartisan group of scholars, universities and policy institutions that work to ensure an orderly transition of presidential power. Her 2007 book, “Managing the President’s Message: The White House Communications Operations,” won the 2008 Richard E. Neustadt Best Book Award of the American Political Science Association’s Presidents and Executive Politics Organized Section.

Laurie Norton Moffatt ’78, director and CEO of the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass. A leading Rockwell scholar and author of “Norman Rockwell: A Definitive Catalogue,” she undertook a major campaign to build the present gallery and to relocate the artist’s studio to the museum. She began working at the museum as a part-time guide in the summer between her junior and senior years at Connecticut College.

Sharis Pozen ’86, partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. She joined the law firm after serving as acting assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department’s Antitrust Division from August 2011 to April 30, 2012. In that role she worked with leaders of international antitrust authorities and managed an annual budget of more than $160 million and a staff of more than 800, including 360 lawyers.

Timothy Yarboro ’75, physician, Arlington County Health Department and member of the Health Care Advisory Board of Fairfax County, Va. A specialist in family medicine, Yarboro has more than 29 years of practice. His wife, Elizabeth Golden Yarboro ’75, senior director for education at the American College of Radiology, was a founding member of Black Students for Quality Education at the College.

Maura Hallisey ’13, Young Alumni Trustee. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate with a double major in film studies and sociology, she earned a certificate from the Hol-leran Center for Community Action and Public Policy. Her senior project analyzed gender roles in children’s television and their impact on classroom behavior and professional achievement. She was also a captain of the cross country and track and field teams.

New Vice Chair Eduardo Castell ’87 is a political campaign executive and partner in the consulting firm MirRam Group, LLC; he has been a trustee since 2005. Scott Hafner ’80, the other new vice chair, is managing partner and director of marketing for Hafner Vineyard in the Alexander Valley of California’s Sonoma County; he has served on the Board since 2008.

Castell and Hafner succeeded William B. Barrack ’81 and Judith Tindal Opatary ’72, who were among five retiring trustees. The others were Claire S. Gould ’70, Lynda Batter Munro ’76 P’08 and Kevin Wade ’76.

Trustees may serve up to two consecutive four-year terms. At the May meeting, Trustee David H. Paltén ’76 P’04 ’09 was elected to his second term. Trustees are eligible to be honored as emeritus trustees one year after retirement. At the May meeting, the Board voted to honor five past trustees with this designation: Former Chair James S. Berrien ’74, Theodore S. Chapin ’72 P’07, Linda J. Lear ’62, Theodore M. Romanow ’76 and Franklin A. Tuit ’87.

ASK A CAMEL

5 THINGS YOU PROBABLY DON’T KNOW ABOUT... NORMAN ROCKWELL

by Laurie Norton Moffatt ’78

1. He was influential in the Civil Rights Movement.

Although famous for sentimental scenes of Americana that he painted for the covers of the Saturday Evening Post for 47 years, Rockwell had a second career, as an illustrator for Look magazine. In the 1960s he produced several iconic images of the Civil Rights era, including “The Problem We All Live With” (1964), which shows a 6-year-old African-American girl being escorted to school by federal marshals during school desegregation in the South.

2. The U.S. government initially rejected a series of his most famous works.

In a speech to Congress in 1941, President Roosevelt laid out the reason for the country to enter World War II: to defend basic human rights for people the world over. Rockwell responded to a call for artists to illustrate this concept with a set of four images he titled “Four Freedoms.” At least two of these — “Freedom of Speech,” showing a man standing up to speak at a public hearing, and “Freedom from Want,” a family enjoying a Thanksgiving turkey dinner — have become iconic. To Rockwell’s disappointment, his submission was rejected. Government propagandists had been looking to use fine artists for the project instead of illustrators, who had created pro-war images for World War I. “Four Freedoms” ran in the Saturday Evening Post instead, each illustration accompanied by an essay. The publications proved so popular that the government reconsidered. Rockwell agreed to allow their use in the war-bond poster campaign.

3. “Rosie the Riveter” (1943) was a spoof of a work by Michelangelo.

Rockwell’s “Rosie” is often confused with J. Howard Miller’s “We Can Do It!” poster done around the same time, which shows a female factory worker, hair tied up in a bandana, flexing her biceps. Rockwell’s Saturday Evening Post cover shows an actual riveter, similarly muscular, who is taking a lunch break on a girder. Sight gags abound, such as a compact peeping out from the pocket of her overalls and a copy of Hitler’s “Mein Kampf” under her penny loafers. The gag most obvious to art historians was Rosie’s pose, which is identical to that of the prophet Isaiah on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

4. He admired Picasso.

In his famous “Triple Self-Portrait” (1960) Rockwell has four self-portraits pinned to his canvas, all by painters he admired: Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Albrecht Dürer and Picasso. Unlike the other three, Picasso’s self-portrait is unrealistic, done during his post-cubist period. Rockwell said, “Try hard as I might to paint like Picasso, it always comes out Rockwell.”

5. He suffered from lifelong depression.

Rockwell often painted a rosy picture of life, but like many artists he struggled with self-doubt and depression. “I paint life as I’d like it to be,” he would say. That was not always how he experienced it.
DREAM INTERNSHIPS

80% of students are taking the College up on an offer almost unheard of in higher education

by Amy Martin

TO KELLY (MELILLO) SWEETING ’04, the woman on the 52-foot-high IMAX screen had the best job in the world.

Sweeting, then a high school student, watched captivated as a wetsuit-clad Kathleen Dudzinski, head of the Dolphin Communication Project, swam with wild dolphins and recorded the clicking and whistling sounds they made.

Years later, when Connecticut College career counselor Julia Browne asked Sweeting to imagine an internship that would be perfect for her, she remembered Dudzinski and the dolphins. Unfortunately, the dolphin researcher’s website made it clear that her organization wasn’t taking research interns. Besides, Sweeting, then a junior majoring in environmental science, was feeling pressure to seek out “real jobs.”

The career counselor encouraged her to reach out to Dudzinski anyway and let the organization know that Connecticut College would fund an internship with a $3,000 stipend.

It worked.

Sweeting contacted Dudzinski and found the dolphin researcher actually was interested in taking on a field intern; she just couldn’t afford to fund one. Sweeting ended up spending the summer assisting with the Dolphin Communication Project’s research, going out on daily four-hour research trips to record where and when dolphins were sighted and what they were doing. She now works for the organization as a scientist based out of Bimini, a chain of small islands in the Bahamas.

Thousands of dream internships like that have become reality since the College launched its Career Enhancing Life Skills program in 1999, says Browne, now director of the College’s career development program. Through the program — known around campus by its acronym, CELS — students attend seven skill-building workshops over their first three years, meet regularly with counselors and qualify for up to $3,000 for a career-related internship or research experience between junior and senior years.

Connecticut College is one of only three colleges in the country that offers all students a funded internship, and it has awarded more than 3,000 in 15 years. This past summer, 318 students — 69 percent of the Class of 2014 — completed College-funded internships. Another 9 percent used their CELS training to land company-paid internships, so they didn’t need the College’s stipend.

Participating in CELS has become almost a no-brainer because of the generous benefits and because it works. Approximately 80 percent of students choose to take part in the program. In a survey of alumni who participated in the program in the last five years, 9 out of 10 said it helped them find their first job or prepare for graduate or professional school.

FOUR YEARS OF CAREER PREP

IN ADDITION TO A FUNDED INTERNSHIP, THE COLLEGE PROVIDES:

- Four years of one-on-one advising from a trained career counselor
- Seven career workshops — starting during new-student orientation
- Personality-type analysis and other assessments to help identify a good career fit
- Help writing resumes and cover letters
- Mock job interviews and business-etiquette classes
- Networking and advice from alumni

Kelly Sweeting ’04 records video and the sounds of young Atlantic Spotted dolphins in the waters around the Bahamas. Her internship led to a job in dolphin research.
College-funded internships benefit both students and employers, and in ways that may not be obvious.

“Very desirable to employers,” says Day, who now recruits volunteers for the New York City division of Citizens Schools. The nonprofit organization provides staffing and curriculum to extend the school day with enriching activities for middle-school students in low-income districts. Day is also still active with Art Start and this spring expects to earn a Master of Social Work from Fordham University.

Often students are looking to investigate if their major can translate into a career. Cortie Searls ’14, an art history major and East Asian studies minor, found what she describes as her “absolute dream internship” last summer at the New York City auction house Christie’s. Her work included handling ancient Chinese ceramics and other artwork.

The internship stipend can be used to pay for travel as well as living expenses. That can be a real asset to the nearly 20 percent of students who do College-funded internships abroad.

Paul Dryden ’07 says he wanted to find a job in which he could apply his study of Latin American culture and follow his passion for music. The Latin American studies and Hispanic studies double major knew someone who had once worked in public relations in the Latin music business, at Universal Music Argentina, so he emailed the head of press relations there and explained the CELS program to her. She wrote back and offered him a job as her assistant in the Buenos Aires office.

Dryden was thrilled to get the public relations experience and, because his boss spoke only Spanish, the internship doubled as a language immersion. He now works for New York-based ATO Records and Red Light Management, developing marketing strategies for album releases by artists including the Grammy-nominated rock group Alabama Shakes and Mexican guitar duo Rodrigo y Gabriela.

For many students like Dryden, a College-funded internship reaffirms career dreams. For some, it prompts a rethinking.

Frannie Noble ’08, a government major and scholar in the College’s Torr Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA), was interested in global children’s rights. She was initially thrilled to arrange an internship in Mali, West Africa, with the Coalition of African NGOs Working with Children. Her job was to research how the small developing country was implementing the U.N.’s Convention on the Rights of the Child, an international treaty ratified in 1990. She interviewed government representatives and employees of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

She says she learned a lot about policy, but the work left her feeling disconnected from the people she wanted to help. “I learned that I want to work on a big enough level to see change happen but also local enough so that I actually see the kids,” she says.

In a survey of alumni who participated in the program in the last five years, 9 out of 10 said it helped them find their first job or prepare for graduate or professional school.

“I can’t imagine my life if I hadn’t had the CELS program,” says Day, who now recruits volunteers for the New York City division of Citizens Schools. The nonprofit organization provides staffing and curriculum to extend the school day with enriching activities for middle-school students in low-income districts. Day is also still active with Art Start and this spring expects to earn a Master of Social Work from Fordham University.

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After graduating, Noble traveled on her own to East Africa to study the care of orphaned and abandoned children. She then worked for Flying Kites, a nonprofit that provides orphaned children in Kenya with residential care in small, family-style homes. This fall she began a master’s program in peace, conflict and development at the University of Bradford in West Yorkshire, England.

MAKING UNPAID AFFORDABLE

Several recent high-profile lawsuits have put unpaid internships under legal scrutiny for not meeting Department of Labor internship criteria. The rules stipulate that, among other things, an internship must benefit the student, and the student must not displace a regular employee. That’s put an end to some instances of employers exploiting students for free labor while teaching them nothing. Many legitimate unpaid educational internships do remain. The problem is, students in need of summer income can’t afford to take them.

That’s where the College’s stipend can help. The Christie’s auction house intern, Searls, is from Golden Valley, Minn., a suburb of Minneapolis. She needed the $3,000 for airfare and short-term room and board in New York. Jamie Gross ’14, an environmental science major at Cornell University, spent the summer with the Minor-League Connecticut Tigers of Norwich.

That’s one of the key differences between a career services office and one at a liberal arts college, where students are taught to think more broadly and imaginatively and follow their talents and dreams. Connecticut College’s funded internships reinforce those impulses by underwriting the transition from Conn to the real world.”

But turning the internship into a permanent job isn’t the primary goal of the program anyway, the program’s leaders say. “The real benefit of the program is that students can tailor their experience to their interests, they learn hard skills like resume- and cover-letter writing and interview techniques, they gain real experience in their fields and they have an opportunity to network,” Browne says. “They are well prepared to search not only for their first jobs but for the rest of their careers.”

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IN SOME CASES, having a CELS career counselor becomes a little like having OnStar, the wireless vehicle-assistance service. Help is just a click or a phone call or a few keystrokes away.

One student admitted that her CELS counselor was second on her cell phone’s most-dialed list, behind only her mother.

Another, Will Hardy ’14, found he needed to condense his two-page resume into one page to apply for a job, and he had only 24 hours to do it. He emailed his counselor, Cheryl Banker ’06, even though he knew she was on vacation. She got back to him with advice within an hour, he said. And he got the job.

Many alumni say they have stayed in touch with their CELS counselors. Post-graduation counseling is not part of the program, but it happens on a personal level because of the strong bonds that form.

Four years after she earned her degree, Frannie Noble ’08 said she called her counselor to discuss her candidacy for a Rotary Peace Fellowship, which covers tuition and all expenses for graduate school. She got it and recently began a master’s program in England.

Matt Frackelton ’04 credits his counselor, Julia Browne, with helping him land his job as a scientist traveling the world for ARCADIS, an environmental consulting company. Among other assistance, she helped him develop a resume, conduct a mock job interview with him and eventually helped negotiate compensation.

Browne was more than a counselor, he said. “She was a friend, and a wonderful resource for helping with the transition from Conn to the real world.”

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Swetering, the 2004 alumna captivated by dolphin research after watching an IMAX film in high school, now manages all of the Dolphin Communication Project’s research at the Bimini site and analyzes interactions between the local Atlantic spotted and bottlenose dolphins. Part of her job is to educate the public about the work she does. She says she often talks to high school and college students and always mentions her Connecticut College experience and how her CELS internship got her to where she is today.

“It took my life in a direction I otherwise wouldn’t have been able to explore,” she says. “People in my life were telling me to ‘be realistic,’ ‘. . . Without this internship, I might have listened to them.”

Amy Martin is manager of media relations at Connecticut College.
The walk from Fanning to Cro is not much more than a couple of football fields in length, but it can take 20 minutes or more in certain circumstances. Maybe just one circumstance.

Walking with Lee Higdon.

Here comes a member of the basketball team whom the president congratulates on a great game last night, which Higdon attended. There’s a student who sang at a recital he went to a while back; he stops to tell her how beautiful she sounded. Up ahead is a student with whom he had a conversation once about a topic from history. The conversation picks up where it left off.

On and on it goes, and the amazing thing is that he greets everyone by name.

“It’s as if he’s not only the president but the mayor because he seems to know everybody in a very warm and personal way,” says Trustee Emerita Sally Susman ’84, co-chair of the search committee that recommended Higdon’s hiring seven years ago.

Something will be noticeably missing from the campus in 2014, and that something is the ubiquitous, mayoral, college directory in dress shoes named Lee Higdon.

“Big Hig,” as students affectionately nicknamed their 5-foot-5-inch president, is retiring at the end of the calendar year. He says the timing is right with the completion of the Campaign for Connecticut College, which raised $211 million, by far the most in College history. The development of a new strategic plan would be the logical next step, followed by another capital campaign. That cycle typically takes six to seven years, and Higdon turned 67 in May.

The 10th president in the College’s 102 years, Lee Higdon will be, by everyone’s estimation, a Sinatra-esque act to follow.

In addition to completing a capital campaign he inherited, he oversaw $85 million in improvements to campus. Building on an initiative of his predecessor, Norman Fainstein, he significantly increased diversity among faculty and students. This year’s freshman class is the most diverse ever, consisting of 22 percent students of color (29 percent including internationals). Under his direction the College became a leading graduator of Fulbright scholars and Peace Corps volunteers, and won national awards for both internationalization and local community relations.

“There was nothing he fell short on,” says Trustee Emeritus James S. Berrien ’74, who chaired the College’s governing board from 2009-12. “I reviewed his goals every year and he crushed them every single time…. On a scale of 1 to 10, he’s a 12.”
A 20-YEAR POSTPONEMENT

That Leo Ignatius Higdon, Jr. can be said to have crushed it as head of a private liberal arts college for seven years is a lesson in mid-life possibilities. Twenty years ago, at age 47, he was shoulder deep in IPOs, mergers and acquisitions as head of the global investment banking division of the investment bank, Salomon Brothers. This was not his life’s ambition. After earning his bachelor’s in history from Georgetown and an MBA from the University of Chicago, he had planned to pursue a doctorate in international business at Harvard. Family responsibilities intervened.

After college, he and his wife, Ann, taught high school together in Africa for two years in the Peace Corps. During that time the first of their four children was born. Returning to this country, he earned his MBA and was admitted to the Harvard Ph.D. program. He accepted an offer from Wall Street instead.

“But I never lost the dream,” he would say years later.

The long-awaited U-turn came in 1993, when he landed an unlikely entry-level (for him) job in academia as dean of the University of Virginia’s highly regarded Darden Graduate School of Business Administration. Successful presidencies follow, at Babson College, a private business school in Wellesley, Mass., and at a 10,000-student public institution, the College of Charleston.

Record-setting fundraising and administrative successes at each stop made him a prime candidate for presidencies at many schools in the early 1990s, but Connecticut College held special appeal. During a visit years earlier to watch Babson play the Camels in a soccer championship, he had walked the campus and fallen in love with the buildings and grounds.

Ann Higdon says her husband was drawn to the small liberal arts college atmosphere, where almost all students live on campus “and it’s a real community.”

In his interview with the search committee, Higdon performed “amazingly” throughout, recalls Evan Piekara ’07, one of two students on the committee. Each candidate was given exactly one hour to answer an identical list of questions, which were divided up among the committee members. Unfortunately, when it came Pickara’s turn to ask one of Higdon, the hour was nearly up.

The question he asked was, “How would you balance the dual presidential responsibilities of being on the road fundraising and being on campus and visible to students?” The college junior added sheepishly, “We only have 30 seconds left, so you have to answer in 30 seconds or less.”

Piekara says Higdon paused, took off his watch, and set it in front of him. He then calmly articulated his view that a president needed to be present on campus to forge strong connections with students because that’s the only way they will become loyal alumni and future donors.

He finished within the 30 seconds.

“At that point I knew he was going to be our next president,” says Piekara, now a management consultant in Washington, D.C.

GROUP PSYCHOLOGY

Higdon soon demonstrated political savvy equal to his speed of thought. Pamela D. Zilly ’75, the current board chair, remembers him calling her and all other trustees he hadn’t met during the search process. He wanted to introduce himself and ask what they liked about the school.

For many months afterward he continued to introduce himself to faculty, staff, students and alumni. In his first 11 days in office he visited 22 student residences. Determined to listen before making any plans, he had the same question for everyone: How do you want Connecticut College to be thought of five or 10 years from now?

The wine connoisseur and art collector even managed to dispel suspicions that he would expect to be pampered in New London. The president’s residence at the College of Charleston is a National Historic Landmark, built in 1770 and much grander than the modest colonial on William Street that serves as Connecticut College’s presidential residence.

Berrien, the former chair of the board, remembers traveling to see Higdon in Charleston when Higdon was still considering whether to take the Connecticut job. Berrien brought up the issue of the president’s house and said the College would be open to “alternative arrangements.”

“My response,” he said, “is that the house is fine, that’s not why I’m going.”

The reason he was going, Higdon wanted everyone to understand, was that he genuinely wanted to be president of a traditional residential liberal arts college with a superb academic reputation. This college in particular.

If any doubts remained about whether the former investment banker believed in the value of a liberal arts education, he swept them away at his inaugural, declaring, “The liberal arts are the most practical preparation for a life that is meaningful, purposeful and well-lived.”

In the speech Higdon also lauded the College’s history and his predecessors and vowed, “[T]ogether we will raise our sights even higher. We are on a path to greater recognition as one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the country,” and, “We will earn for Connecticut College the standing and influence it so richly deserves.”

In Higdon, the College had found a leader with a heartfelt commitment to academia and a business person’s determination and task-oriented approach to achieving results.

“A notorious list-maker” is one way the College’s former fund-raiser-in-chief, Greg Waldron, now with Providence College, described his boss. A former Connecticut College trustee referred to him as “the Energizer Bunny” because as far as she could tell he never slept.

Near the end of Higdon’s initial list of concerns was the condition of campus. Years of deferred maintenance had left the grounds in a less-than-pristine condition. Higdon, who typically runs around or through the campus for an hour five mornings a week, recognized the importance of prospective students and parents getting a positive first impression.

“He walked the course of the campus (admissions office) tour and pointed out every single crack in the sidewalk,” recalls Benjamin Panciera, the library’s director of special collections.

At the north end of campus, a collection of dilapidated two-room structures represented another eyesore. The buildings were no longer in use, but removing them entailed expensive asbestos containment. Until Higdon’s arrival, the expense had kept their removal low on the College’s list of priorities. Higdon decided they had to go.

“The campus was in rough shape and he had a plan to fix it,” says Deborah MacDonnell, the College’s director of public relations. “He brought a lot of logic here, and that logical, straightforward approach worked well. He would see a problem, come up with a solution, and then make sure it was done and done well.”

The campus renewal, which continues, included a $25 million transformation of New London Hall into a Science Center and construction of an $8 million fitness facility that tripled workout space. Three miles of campus roads were rebuilt, and a mile’s worth of sidewalks...
He regularly met with and offered advice to student groups, countless games, concerts, shows and other gatherings. To raise the College's visibility, Higdon could usually be found meeting with trustees, or out on the road closing the deal on major gifts. He knew every department, every nook and cranny of the College to believe in itself more strongly. As the president, he made sure students had the best possible experience. This translated into support for an array of student-focused initiatives. Funds were made available to foster more student-faculty interaction — through conversation over free lunches, for example, or sponsored research collaborations.

RESPONSIVE STEERING

Second priority early on for Higdon was building trust with the faculty. A falling out with faculty can doom any college presidency. To prove his commitment to transparency and shared governance, Higdon retained a system whereby the chair of the Faculty Steering and Conference Committee (the College’s equivalent of a faculty senate) and the chair of the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee attend weekly meetings of the senior administrators.

Few colleges and universities have such a large degree of faculty input at the highest level of decision making, says Slavic studies department Chair Andrea Lanoux, who chaired the Steering and Conference Committee last year. Lanoux says she came away from every meeting feeling that Higdon genuinely cared about people and listened carefully to everyone around the table, as well as to what he was hearing from faculty, staff and students on campus.

She says, “Lee exhibits a beautiful synthesis of qualities that makes him able to steer the institution with just the right amount of pressure on the tiller.” When he wasn’t meeting with his administrative team or trustees, or out on the road closing the deal on major gifts, or publishing op-eds on issues in higher education to raise the College’s visibility, Higdon could usually be found at campus events. Demonstrating he wasn’t kidding in his answer to Pickara, the president attended countless concerts, games, shows and other gatherings. He regularly met with and offered advice to student government. He held no-holds-barred question-and-answer sessions over pizza in the student residences.

Young alumni say they were sometimes surprised by the president’s accessibility. They were always amazed by his memory. He could seemingly remember the name of every student he met, and frequently their majors, hometowns and interests, too.

“I have developed this myth that Ann (Higdon) had a set of flashcards with everybody’s information on them and she would quiz him on them at night,” says Harris Rosenheim ’99, who served as a Young Alumni Trustee for three years after graduation. “He was able to weather the storm with no layoffs, only a one-year salary freeze.

“One thing is that it’s a very strong presidency,” Maroni said earlier this year. “In a lot of ways the college is in its strongest position ever.”

HIS OWN ASSESSMENT

Barry Mills, president of Bowdoin College since 2001, says Higdon was “the perfect leader for his time.” He also says his friend (they know each other from meetings of the NESCAC presidents) accomplished his goal of having Connecticut College be regarded as one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the land.

Higdon himself isn’t ready to declare that mission accomplished. The College is “unquestionably” in a better position than it was seven years ago, he says. “I feel pretty good about that.” And he says it has made “steady progress” during turbulent economic times toward the goal of greater recognition. But he acknowledges that it takes longer than seven years to change perceptions of a college or university significantly. One sign of progress is that the College has averaged about 5,000 admission applications a year (for fewer than 500 slots) for the past five years. That’s up significantly from previous years.

When asked to rate, on a scale of 1-10, the degree to which he completed his list of goals, the president says he can’t. “Because I’m the kind of person who always has a new list.”

In retirement, the lists figure to be shorter. The president says he hopes to teach at two of his previous stops, the College of Charleston, where he still has a home, and the University of Virginia. He’ll likely continue to serve on corporate and not-for-profit boards. He’s looking forward to spending more time with his children and five grandchildren.

He vows to fulfill the No. 1 obligation of any ex-president — staying out of his successor’s way — but says he’d like to find an appropriate way to remain involved with the College. He keeps in touch with Pickara and many other former students. There’s a good chance alumni who graduated during his years will find a smiling Big Hig visiting their tables at the lobster bake on Tempel Green during Reunions.

In the meantime, work remains. Zilly, the current board chair, said this past summer that she was still talking to him regularly and he hadn’t let up on his focus or begun sidestepping decisions, leaving them for his successor to deal with.

It’s been almost a year since he stood up before the board, meeting in executive session, and announced his decision to step down at the end of 2013. Zilly says he choked up trying to get the words out.

“I don’t think people would expect that of Lee because he is very focused and driven,” she says. “It was great to have a president who loves the College that much and feels such a loss for leaving.”

The feeling is understandable. When you get what you’ve dreamed of for most of your life, and the experience turns out to be all you hoped, withdrawal can be a tough thing to contemplate.

Every successful mayor can relate to that.
An Office of Plenty

Oil painting of Morton Plant, the College’s first major benefactor and chair of the Board of Trustees.

The presidential closet. On the door hang academic regalia from his current presidency (blue) and from past presidencies at Babson College (green) and College of Charleston (red).

Camel sculpture made from scrap metal, a gift from a College student who bought it in West Africa.

“American Indian Theme I” by Roy Lichtenstein. Higdon, an art collector (mainly mid-19th century Hudson River School), moved this abstract to his office from its original location in the president’s house on Williams Street.

Shovel and hardhat from the groundbreaking ceremony for the Science Center at New London Hall. The $25 million building re-opened in August 2012.

Framed copies of his own op-eds and news articles written by or about him. The matted frames are color-coded — blue for those from his time at Connecticut College, green for Babson, and red for College of Charleston.

Compiled by Josh Anawecz

A colorful, handmade decorative plate given to him by members of a delegation of Vietnamese officials that visited campus.

Volleyball signed by members of the 2012 women’s team that qualified for the national tournament.

Connecticut College water bottle. He drinks from it all day, particularly after his morning run, to rehydrate.

Keepsakes made by his children, now grown, include a rock painted to look like a whale (by his daughter) and a glass figurine of a city skyline (by his son). He says they’ve been on every desk of his since his days on Wall Street.

“Stock books” summarizing IPOs and other deals he arranged as an investment banker. “They’re more for decoration these days,” he says.
In the waters around a fabled treasure island, an ecologist finds a trove of life

Text and photography by Varun Swamy '01

In 1820, the Spanish viceroy of Peru made a fateful decision. The Expedición Libertadora army, under the command of the famous General José de San Martín, was approaching Lima in its drive to end Spanish rule of the country. Fearing that treasures of the Catholic Church would be lost in the revolt, the viceroy and Catholic clergy entrusted the trove to a British trader for transport to Mexico for safekeeping. But the objects, which included jeweled stones and life-size solid-gold statues of Mary holding the baby Jesus — estimated to be worth a total $250 million in today’s dollars — proved too great a temptation. According to various accounts, the captain and crew turned pirate, killing the accompanying guards and clergy and sailing north and west to a spot on the map known as Isla del Coco. There, it is said, they buried the treasure in a cave for later retrieval.

The pirate ship was soon apprehended by a Spanish warship, and the entire crew except the captain and first mate were executed for piracy. In exchange for their lives, the two agreed to lead the Spanish to the stolen treasure. Upon arrival at the island, however, they managed to escape into the forest and were never seen again.

Hundreds of attempts were made during the 19th and 20th centuries to find the Treasure of Lima and other treasure supposedly buried on the island. All ended in futility.

Located 340 miles off the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, Cocos Island, the only emergent portion of the eponymous Cocos tectonic plate, represents a 10-square-mile blip in a million-square-mile canvas of submerged sea mountains. Sixteenth-century French map makers originally labeled it Île de Coques for the nutshells or coques of a tree particular to the island. In the more recent past, the island provided the inspiration for the fictional Isla Nublar (literally “cloudy island”), the setting for the novel and movie “Jurassic Park.” Because of a quirk of geography, the peaks of Cocos Island remain permanently shrouded in a layer of clouds.

Today the island is uninhabited by humans except for a small number of park rangers. The entire island and the waters surrounding it out to a three-mile radius constitute a national park and marine conservation zone protected by Costa Rica’s environment ministry. It is to this remote nature preserve that I ventured earlier this year.

For the past several years, my research has focused on how the hunting of large animals has affected the lowland Amazon forests of southeastern Peru. I compare sites that have intact animal communities against areas where the large vertebrates have been hunted to elimination. One of the most difficult aspects of my work is finding undisturbed areas of tropical forest to serve as reference sites that represent the “normal” condition. The same holds true for marine ecosystems, which have been devastated by decades of overfishing that specifically target top-of-the-food-chain predators such as sharks and bluefin tuna.

This past summer, I made my way to Cocos Island from Costa Rica (a 36-hour voyage) to explore the island’s waters, one of the last remaining pristine marine ecosystems in the world. I was actually on vacation. As an experienced amateur scuba diver (who studied marine biology as an undergrad and originally got certified in 1999 by crusty Coast Guard instructors in the Lott Natatorium), I had long dreamed of visiting what Jacques Cousteau described as “the most beautiful island in the world.”

During a sublime week of diving, I experienced a spectacular undersea world. At the same time, I was constantly reminded of my research challenges and the fragility of natural ecosystems in the face of modern human society’s never-ending demand for natural resources.

Varun swamy ’01 is a Charles Bullard Fellow in Forest Research at Harvard University, a research fellow at the Institute for Conservation Research at San Diego Zoo Global and a research associate at Duke University’s Center for Tropical Conservation. His current research examines human impact on forest regeneration in the lowland Amazon basin of southeastern Peru. He can be reached at varunswamy@gmail.com.
On my second morning at the island, the Sea Hunter, our live-aboard, purpose-built 115-feet vessel, is docked at Wafer Bay, now referred to as “WiFi Bay” because of the free wireless Internet signal broadcast from the park ranger station on this side of the island.

Cocos Island looks beautiful and mysterious, its highest peaks shrouded in mist. The sheer rock walls are covered with lush green foliage — trees and mossy carpets, interspersed with steep waterfalls. One could almost visualize a dinosaur straight out of Jurassic Park emerging from the interior onto one of the exposed peaks and emitting a thunderous roar at us down in the water.

On our first day we glimpsed tantalizing samples of the marine life that has made Cocos a diving mecca: marbled stingrays, spotted eagle rays, spiny lobsters, king angelfish, guineafowl puffers, trumpetfish, scraper filefish, spotted boxfish, green sea turtle; large schools of convict surgeonfish, blue and gold snappers, yellowfin tuna and crevalle jacks. But the undoubted highlight was the astonishing abundance and diversity of sharks: whitetip reef sharks, blacktips, silvertips, silky sharks, Galapagos sharks and the local star attraction — scalloped hammerheads. These varieties of sharks pose no threat. Their jaws are too small to take on marine mammals like sea lions and dolphins, not to mention scuba-diving terrestrials.

What better way to begin the second dive day than sighting the grandaddy of them all, the whale shark. This is the fourth whale shark I’ve seen in all my diving experience, and the sensation of seeing one of these gentle, plankton-eating giants of the ocean — a gorgeous one at that — never gets old. Estimating whale shark size is an admittedly imprecise science, but I’d hazard a guess of 20-25 feet … plenty big! The scalloped hammerheads came closer today than during any of the previous dives. There’s something about their sleek hammer-shaped heads that makes them seem less threatening and sinister than the “typical” shark visage; they seem almost like puppies, simultaneously trepid and inquisitive.

On our first night dive of the trip, to a site called “Manuelita Rock Garden.” The novelty of the night dive is the spectacle of numerous little (4-foot) whitetip sharks and black jacks hunting together, guided and aided by the divers’ lights. It is mesmerizing and surreal, kneeling at the sandy bottom in a semicircle with our lights focused on the center, watching the swirling herds of sleek whitetips, reminiscent of pack dogs, and the bolder black jacks with their brooding expressions resembling hounds.

The two most spectacular dive days include sightings of the utterly bizarre endemic Cocos batfish (with a face only a mother could love) and a menacing tiger shark on patrol. One morning dive represents the epitome of the Cocos Island dive experience — a descent against strong current, grabbing onto a rock ledge and holding on for dear life against the current and two-way surge. We are eventually rewarded with a picture-book scene, looking up at a sky filled with dozens of scalloped hammerheads, their unmistakable dark profiles perfectly outlined against the lighter blue water. Fantastic!

What makes the Cocos marine ecosystem so unusual is its intact food chain comprising all the trophic levels,
particularly the apex predators, the sharks. The healthy shark population allows for the existence of the kind of fish biomass that is hard to comprehend — enormous numbers of jacks, snappers, tuna and other schooling fish. Areas close to but outside the marine protected area are greatly depleted in comparison, especially of sharks and other apex predators.

During a visit to the island one afternoon, I learn about the efforts of the Costa Rican National Park System to protect its magnificent biological riches and the serious challenges they face. An enterprising young park ranger named Roberto Cubero describes the difficulty in trying to stave off illegal commercial fishing. We are shown the enormous amount of confiscated gear from illegal longline fishing boats collected in just two months’ effort — a large shed stuffed to the ceiling with sacks of fishing line, and several crates of fishing hooks and clips. A few minutes earlier, we had been walking on a swaying bridge across a stream. The bridge, he explains, was built entirely out of gear confiscated from illegal fishing boats — buoys, fishing line, hooks, clips, and wire mesh.

VIGILANCE AND CONTRACTIONS

On the journey back to the mainland I have an illuminating conversation with a Ministry of Environment official assigned to the Cocos Island marine conservation area. He describes the constant battle against the longline fishing boats that routinely violate the sanctity of the three-mile protected zone. He tells me they primarily target yellowfin tuna, but the longline hooks do not discriminate and hook a large number of sharks as well. According to him, if the line attached to the hook is made of metal wire, it is a clear sign that they are targeting sharks. If the line is regular nylon, the sharks can chew through it.

The park has three patrol boats to monitor the protected area. They also coordinate with the Costa Rican coast guard, which has larger and faster boats but whose mandate does not implicitly include enforcing the marine protected area.

A plan is in the works to create a 12-square-mile “marine management area” around Cocos Island in which only smaller Costa Rican longline fishing boats will be allowed to operate using a traditional fishing technique that includes a handmade dolphin decoy. This method nets almost zero by-catch. The plan also calls for increasing patrolling to keep out the enormous trawling vessels owned by foreign fleets (primarily Venezuelan, Panamanian, Brazilian, Chinese and Japanese). These fleets can harvest the equivalent of an entire year’s catch by the longline fleet in a single event.

The traditional fishing technique is more sustainable but only if the fishing boats do not expressly target sharks — which they sometimes do. The challenge lies in working with the longline fishery to eliminate shark harvest for shark fins. An inherent contradiction in the regulations is that fishing boats are currently allowed to harvest entire sharks, ostensibly for shark meat, but the meat itself has very low value. Only the fins are worth harvesting, for the lucrative Chinese sharkfin soup market.

Another problem is the conflict of interest between the protected-area managers and the agency in charge of allotting fishing licenses and quotas. The agency is only partly a government entity. It receives most of its funding from the fishing industry.

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It was clear to me that the Costa Ricans are making a sincere effort to protect their marine natural bounty, which ties in with their exceptional efforts in recent decades to conserve and manage their terrestrial biological resources.

The fabled troves of buried gold on Cocos Island are unlikely ever to be found. The real treasure lies in the waters that surround it. The dazzling abundance of marine life remains safe for now but will require constant vigilance to ensure that it does not fall victim to illegal commercial fishing fueled by the insatiable demands of present-day human society.

The challenge lies in working...to eliminate shark harvest for shark fins.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

A SUCCESS STORY

THE CAMPAIGN for Connecticut College, which concluded this past summer, was monumental, raising $211 million, 53 percent more than any fundraising campaign in College history.

If you explore today’s campus, some of its effects are obvious: the new Science Center at New London Hall, a new Fitness Center and other improvements to the athletic facilities and residence halls. Some of the effects aren’t as obvious, such as a significant increase in financial aid and the creation of a new, holistic concept in student support, the Academic Resource Center, which is designed to ensure that every single student succeeds academically.

Gifts to the Campaign created additional opportunities for students to study and explore the world abroad. They enabled more teaching to be done in the classic residential liberal arts college tradition, in the residences. They funded more opportunities for students and faculty to create new knowledge by working together on collaborative research.

On the pages that follow you’ll find additional examples and details of the Campaign’s impact. Further information is available at the Campaign’s website, www.conncol.edu/campaign.

None of these improvements would have been possible without all of you — our alumni, parents and friends — and the entire College community. Everyone came through for our students. You’ve changed their lives, and Connecticut College has moved forward because of your support. We are grateful.
Residential education

Intellectual discussions among faculty and students have always been at the heart of a Connecticut College education. Over the last decade, an ambitious and multifaceted residential-life program has been developed to create even more such interaction and a vibrant intellectual community that runs 24/7.

• Residence halls, common rooms and gathering spaces across campus were enhanced.
• First-year seminars limited to 16 students were created.
• A new Fitness Center was built.
• The new Residential Education Fellows program enlists 11 faculty who present informal talks, plan educational programs and host study breaks in the residences.
• A major renovation is planned for the Charles E. Shain Library that will quadruple the number of individual and collaborative study spaces.

programs for students developed by Residential Education Fellows

Internationalization and foreign language study

• $1 million endowment from anonymous donor supports curricular renewal and faculty development, including a symposium and faculty retreat to Turkey for the Global Islamic Studies initiative.
• More study- and research-abroad opportunities have been created; more than 2,600 students studied abroad during the Campaign.
• The Foreign Language Fellows program provides students who have advanced foreign language skills the opportunity to design and implement co-curricular activities, from conversational practice at language tables to public lectures and exhibitions related to foreign cultures.
• The Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA) allows students to add an international dimension to any major. This includes intensive language study and an international internship.
• A grant from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation allowed 18 faculty members to spend four semesters researching global environmental justice during trips to India, Peru and South Africa. The trips have generated 12 new courses and revisions to eight others to date.
• More than half of Connecticut College students now study abroad for at least a semester in more than 40 countries. The College’s students come from 70 countries.
• In the past decade, more than 100 College students and faculty have traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam, as part of the College’s Study Away/Teach Away program, which provides immersion in the culture, economics and politics of the communist nation.
• Students have conducted research in a foreign language in 25 countries, and nearly 140 students have taught foreign languages to elementary school students in New London.

Student Success

• The new Academic Resource Center will be an integral component of the impending library renovation.
• The center offers tutoring, workshops and group study. Professionals teach best practices for study skills and time management.
• A quantitative-skills program teaches core competencies such as statistical reasoning, modeling empirical data and reliable measurement.
• The center was made possible by an anonymous $11 million gift, the largest in College history.

The new Academic Resource Center brings together programs, services and staff to help students reach their highest academic potential.

Today, more than half of Connecticut College students study abroad for at least a semester in more than 40 countries. To prepare students for success in a global environment, the College has designed comprehensive programs to infuse a cross-cultural perspective into the curriculum, programs and campus culture.

Foreign Language Fellows designing and leading foreign language programs on campus and in local communities
Science education

- The $25 million Science Center at New London Hall provides new laboratories, classrooms, collaborative study and work spaces, and a modernized greenhouse.
- Research and internship opportunities for students have been expanded, and accomplished faculty have been recruited.
- The Science Leaders Program attracts and provides support for students from groups underrepresented in the sciences, including women and students of color.
- Over the past decade, College science faculty have received more than $7.7 million in grants.

EXEMPLARS

Erick Argueta ’12
Major: Biochemistry
Providence, R.I.
Argueta conducted research at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland, examining nanometrology, the science of locating molecules on a scale invisible to microscopes. His work was made possible by the American Chemical Society’s International Research Experience for Undergraduates award. He was recently accepted to the Stony Brook University School of Medicine.

Yumi Kovic ’14
Majors: ACS Certified Chemistry and Biochemistry
Norwich, Conn.
Entering her senior year, Kovic has taken part in the College’s hands-on Bioluminescence Research Group. She helped cowrite a published paper with Bruce Brandini, the McCollum-Valente Professor of Chemistry, on the molecules fireflies use to produce light. She received the Pettit Family Foundation grant for women in the sciences and was recently awarded a prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for students who pursue careers in science.

Anne Bernhard
Miller Associate Professor of Biology
In the wake of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Bernhard was awarded a grant of nearly $203,000 from the BP-sponsored Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative to explore the effects of the spill on salt marshes on the Louisiana coast. The grant has allowed Bernhard to analyze samples from the marshes and pay two undergraduate student researchers to work with her during the summer. Students in her molecular ecology classes have also analyzed samples from her research.

28% increase in new collaborative learning spaces in the Science Center at New London Hall

One of the most ambitious goals of the College was a new academic building to support interdisciplinary research, teaching and collaboration in the sciences. The result was the $25 million Science Center at New London Hall (facing page).
Financial aid

- Since 2006, the College has increased spending on financial aid by 64 percent.
- Today nearly 50 percent of students receive financial aid.
- Aid has helped diversify the student body. Domestic students of color now make up 16 percent. This year’s incoming freshman class is the most racially and ethnically diverse in the College’s history (22 percent minorities).
- The Posse Scholars program recruits and trains student leaders from public high schools in urban areas to form multicultural teams called Posses that attend highly selective colleges through scholarship support. Since 2009 the College has enrolled more than 40 Posse Scholars who bring diverse perspectives to the campus experience within and beyond the classroom.

Annual Fund

- More than 20,000 alumni, parents and friends raised nearly $50 million.
- The Campaign saw a 77 percent increase in annual giving.

Molly Bangs ’14
Major: Government
Montclair, N.J.

As a media intern at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City, Bangs worked closely with the foundation’s media relations and speechwriting teams. She was responsible for media outreach to reporters, editing speeches and press releases, writing blog posts, and introducing speakers at foundation events.

A CISLA (Tioe Cummings Center for International Studies in the Liberal Arts) scholar, Bangs was interested in working for an organization that performs international outreach and was able to gain knowledge and skills from one of the oldest and most prestigious foundations in the world. “I’m extremely grateful that I was able to work for an organization that, through initiatives and grants, does so much good around the globe,” she said.

Bangs’ dream job would incorporate diplomacy, nonprofit work or international relations with researching and writing, possibly at the United Nations.

Gift sources

More than 22,000 alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, corporations, foundations and friends made 102,460 gifts.

Contributions to the Annual Fund generated many dramatic, tangible improvements throughout the College, including: new academic initiatives; campus refurbishment; support for programs to strengthen faculty-student interactions outside the classroom; attracting and enrolling the best students, regardless of their financial means; and funding career-enhancing internships around the world.

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Annual Fund

- 77 percent increase in annual giving during the Campaign (2013 versus 2004)
- $49.2 million raised, total annual fund

Planned Giving

- $48.1 million raised in planned gifts, which include bequests, charitable trusts, life insurance and IRA direct rollovers

How the money was invested

- $65.6 million: new endowment
- $46 million: capital projects
- $24 million: financial aid
- $16 million: athletic programs and facilities
- $11 million: Academic Resource Center (largest single gift in the Campaign)
- $8.2 million: faculty research grants
How we respond to evidence of climate change will affect more than just the environment of the future

by Lauren Hartzell Nichols ’03

in being kicked from the inside by my first child, a boy. It’s his way of letting me know he’s doing okay.
As I prepare for his arrival, as much as anyone can prepare for a completely foreign and unknown experience like parenthood, I sometimes find myself wondering about the world in which my child will live. What will the world be like in 20, 50 or even 100 years?
As an environmental ethicist, I devote much of my time and energy to thinking about our collective moral obligations to future generations. What do we owe to our children? What do we owe to those who don’t yet exist? Specifically, do we owe it to future generations to protect the environment from climate change and other threats? What would it mean to protect the environment for future generations?
The answers to these questions are far from simple and require deep philosophical reflection. One of my aims as a philosopher is to get to the metaphorical starting line of such questions, by articulating the nature of the issues.
For example, I suggest that the choices we make today will affect not just the environment of the future but actually who will live in the future.
To understand why, think about how different the world would be today if the Industrial Revolution had never happened. It’s hard, isn’t it? We, those of us living today, would not be alive, would not exist if the Industrial Revolution hadn’t happened. Too much would be different.
Don’t believe me? Think of yourself. In order for you to have come into being (if you believe that your identity is at least in part determined by your genetic make-up), your parents would have to have been your parents, and they would have had to conceive you in the month they did. But would your parents have conceived you when they did — let alone existed themselves — if there had never been an industrial revolution? There’s just no way.

Think of the people living just before the Industrial Revolution. If the revolution hadn’t, in fact, happened many people would have lived entirely different lives. People who would have become machinists or merchants post-revolution might have remained farmers instead.

Lauren Hartzell Nichols ’03 studied philosophy and the environment at Connecticut College and earned a certificate from the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment before earning her doctorate in philosophy from Stanford University. She teaches environmental ethics at the University of Washington in Seattle and is working on her first book manuscript, “A Climate of Risk: Precautionary Principles, Catastrophes and Climate Change.” Her essay appears here in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Goodwin-Niering Center.
The fact that we often don’t understand with any degree of precision the nature of a problem or the distant-future effects of our actions. And when we don’t understand those, we’re not very good at finding solutions. Think about forest fires. We used to think forest fires were always a negative, so we did all we could to avoid them. Now we realize that fires are natural and play an important role in many ecosystems.

Likewise, it appears clear we ought to reduce greenhouse gases, but what seems like a reasonable solution to us, the present generation, may not be a satisfying solution to distant future generations. For instance, we may be satisfied if we limit global warming to 2°C above the pre-industrial average, but this increase may be far too great from a genuinely intergenerational perspective.

Where does all this leave us regarding the questions I originally posed, about our collective moral obligations to the future? Although I cannot provide a complete philosophical argument here, the simplest reason I can give about why we ought to care about hypothetical and even unimaginably distant future generations is that a harmful outcome is a harmful outcome whenever and to whomever it occurs. Logic dictates that we cannot directly harm any future people because our “harm” will be responsible for their very existence. But I propose that we ought to be concerned about creating harmful conditions for whomever comes into existence. We certainly cannot (and should not) take ourselves to be obligated to do everything in our power to eliminate all harmful conditions in the world, as this would be paralyzing. But we have strong moral reasons to try to prevent foreseeable catastrophes.

I am literally connected to the next generation right now. This connection helps me imagine my son’s future, but it also provides me with strong moral reasons to protect the environment. And in this way, I hope to create a better world for my son and future generations.

We need to come to collectively care about the fate of future generations, whoever they turn out to be.
Listening to Sea Lions: Currents of Change from Galapagos to Patagonia

By Sarah Keene Melnoff ’71
2013, Altamira Press, $75

Melnoff, an associate professor of marine affairs and policy at the University of Miami, mentions Connecticut College in the preface of her book. As she explains, during her senior year she won a prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship for independent study abroad. She had proposed sailing solo down the west coast of South America and studying children in the villages that she imagined dotted the shoreline. Only after winning the grant did she discover that the shoreline consisted mostly of desolate desert. She went to the Solomon Islands, northeast of Australia, instead.

More than 20 years later, Melnoff made it to her original area of interest and began anthropological studies of people living along the Latino Pacific Coast and later the Galapagos Islands. This book tells six stories of the people she met as they struggled to survive extreme El Niño events and shifting political climates.

Melnoff’s accounts read like short stories or parts of a novel. They’re filled with vividly drawn characters, such as Max, a fisherman who loses his life to “the bends” (decompression sickness) after too many dives trying harvest pepino or sea cucumbers for a lucrative market.

The sea lions of the title share in the struggling fishermen’s plight. Sometimes acting as mascots, sometimes as rivals, they endure the same boom-bust cycles of fish populations and the effects of tourism and conservation efforts.

Adventures of a One-Breasted Woman: Reclaiming My Moxie After Cancer

By Susan Cummings ’66
2012, Booksouthy Press, $12.95

Cummings didn’t lose her sense of humor after battling breast cancer and the subsequent body image issues that arose. Not just another cancer chronicle, “One-Breasted Woman” is a spirited journey recounted with self-deprecating candor.

Chronicles from the Field: The Townsend Thai Project

2013, MIT Press, $35

MIT professor Townsend has been collecting economic data in Thailand since 1997. Along the way he learned much about the people and culture of Thailand. Journalist and author Jordan traveled with him and his survey cohort to write the text of this book, which details their efforts and how they could impact the country’s economic and social policies.

Humble Launching: The Story of a Little Boy Growing Up at Sea

By N. Beetham Stark ’56
2011, $4.99

During a long career as a plant ecologist, N. Beetham Stark worked for the U.S. Forest Service, the Desert Research Institute in Reno, Nev., and at the School of Forestry at the University of Montana, where he students named her outstanding forestry professor three times.

Now retired, she has written a collection of nine books about a fictional hero named Benjamin Rundel and his adventures during the Napoleonic Wars. Her love of exploration shines through in the latest novel as Rundel starts out as a stowaway, stands up to a traitorous captain, is marooned on a deserted shore and repeatedly faces death. The novels are available for purchase at www.nbeethamstark.com.

Our Rarer Monsters

By Noel Sloboda ’95, Marc Snyder (Illustrator)
2013, Sunnyoutside, $15

This second book from Sloboda, an assistant professor of English at Penn State York, contains more than 60 brief poems and works of prose — some illustrated with linocuts (a variation on a woodcut) — that touch on subjects both modern and historic, whimsical and routine, real and mythical.

ALUMNI AND FACULTY AUTHORS: Please have review copies and publicity materials mailed to Editor, CC: Magazine, Becker House, Connecticut College, 270 Mohegan Ave., New London, CT 06320-4196.

When Seltzer was Two Cents a Glass: A History of America and Me, 1929-1955

By Bernard I. Murstein 2013, CreateSpace, $15.95

Murstein, the May Buckley Sadowski ’19 Professor Emeritus of Psychology, diverges from his prolific academic writings to pen a memoir/history, the first in a planned two-volume set. He begins each chronological chapter with a portrait of the political and societal tenor of the times and then connects them to his personal experiences growing up in Jewish neighborhoods of the Bronx.

Sold for Endless Rue

By Madeleine E. Robins ’75
2013, Forge Books, $25.99

Robins, whose previous books have been in the fantasy and romance genres, has published a historical novel set in 13th century Salerno, Italy, home of the world’s first medical school. The book is inspired by the story of Rapunzel and follows three generations of women who work in the healing arts.

The Principles of New Thought: Tracing Spiritual Truth from the Source to the Soul

By April Moncrieff ’64
2013, DeVos & Company, $12.95

Without the rigid principles to which other spiritual movements adhere, New Thought has changed since its 19th century beginnings. The core beliefs remain intact, however, and Moncrieff revisits the movement’s history to help modern followers connect more deeply to their spirituality.

ink
Camels in the news

Patricia Wald ’48, the first woman appointed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit, joined a group that includes Bill Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, Ernie Banks and Gloria Steinem. They were all among the 16 Americans designated earlier this year to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor. Wald was chief judge of the circuit court in D.C. from 1986 to 1991 and later served on the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. Edward Burger ’85 is the new president of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. He was formerly an award-winning math professor at Williams College. Defed G. “Fritz” Folts III ’82, senior managing director at Windhaven Investment Management and a trustee of the College, joined 20 other business people from various industries and regions of the country for a roundtable discussion with President Obama in Washington, D.C., in July. He said the president spent 90 minutes talking with the group about domestic policy, foreign policy and the current environment in Washington and also answered questions. Maine Superior Justice Nancy Miles ’71 presided over the sensational trial of a Kennebunk fitness instructor nicknamed the “Zumba Madam” who was accused of prostitution and making pornographic videos. The trial ended in the defendant being found guilty on reduced charges. Julie Baugold’s ’66 essay in the August issue of Vogue described her relocation — and journey of self-discovery — from New York City to Amelia Island, Florida. She is a former contributing editor of New York, Esquire and Vogue. John Remondi ’84, formerly chief operating officer of Sallie Mae Corporation, is now the organization’s CEO. The largest U.S. student loan provider, Sallie Mae has announced plans to split into two publicly traded companies. The American Theatre Critics Association named Stefanie Zadravec ’90 “90 winner of the $10,000 Thespians’ Choice Prize for her play “The Electric Baby.” The prize is given annually to an emerging female theater artist. The play is about how the lives of an assortment of characters are affected by a traffic accident. There’s also a baby that glows in the dark. Zadravec was one of the featured speakers at the College’s 2011 Centennial Big Event. The New York Times reported that Kim Senior (Baker) ’95 is in line to direct a possible Broadway production of Ayad Akhtar’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play “Disgraced.” She directed the play, about troubling turns in the life of a successful Pakistani-American lawyer, during a production at New York City’s Lincoln Center Theater. The Times also wrote about Andrew McGregor ’02 in his role as founder of the Los Angeles Chessboxing Club. Participants in the sport alternate between playing chess and boxing. Competitors win by checkmate or knockout or outpointing their opponent on the judges’ scorecards. The (San Francisco) North Bay Business Journal profiled Katherine Henderson ’59, former president of Point Park University in Pittsburgh. She is currently director of the Other Lifelong Learning Institute at the Dominican University of California. The Wall Street Journal wrote about how Rachael Hurwitz ’11 and her sister Eliza rewrote the lyrics of Alain Morissette’s 1996 hit “Iconic” for a video that went viral. Sarah Fischler, the editor of the Hollywood Reporter, is the new president and CEO of Connecticut United for Research Excellence (CURE), a nonprofit that acts as a forum for the state’s bioscience research organizations. She studied botany at the College. Connecticut Superior Court Judge Nina Elig ’84 received the 2013 Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award from Connecticut Law Collaborative for Diversity. The award is named after a Yale Law School graduate who in 1880 became Connecticut’s first lawyer of color. Elois, a Filipino American, became Connecticut’s first Asian-Pacific-American judge in 2004. Beth Pollard ’79 retired after 12 years as city manager of Albany, Calif. Jaye Wilson ’77 is retiring from the New Lunar Public Schools after 36 years, the last six as principal at Winthrop Elementary. Oren Tainsi ’83, partner in North Palm Beach’s (Fla.) Haile Shaw & Pfaffenberger PA., was elected president of the National Association of Dealer Counselor’s board of directors. Tasini is a national authority in automotive law and works with car dealerships concerning legal and compliance, regulatory and franchise matters, and in the buying and selling of automotive franchises. The Western College Hockey Blog praised Rand Pecknold ’90, head coach of Quinnipiac University’s hockey team, for building a program that reached the NCAA championship tournament’s Frozen Four last April. Artisounds.com, an independent music news site, profiled Andrew O’edel ’10 of the band ‘The Band in the Bathtub’ in the site’s regular File-O-Facts feature. The Lyman Allyn Art Museum hosted an exhibition by Howard Milford ’75 — “Milford’s Marvels,” 25 years of drawings, paintings, and sculpture inspired by Herman Melville’s epic novel “Moby Dick.” The show continues through June 8, 2014. Milford is a professor at the Rhode Island School of Design. Boston baby photographer Jessica (Haynes) McDaniels ’97 celebrated 10 years of her business, Boston Baby Photos, with a series of gallery shows to benefit The Jimmy Fund. The opening for the gallery series raised more than $3,500 for the fund, which supports the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The show is running at various Boston area libraries through early 2014. McDaniels was also honored by the New York Times’ Motherlode blog (May 25) for considering giving up using her smartphone power around her daughters.

ON THE ROAD, DOWN A GOAL

A few years back on a half-off sale, the Chicago Blackhawks appeared certain to lose Game 6 of the 2013 Stanley Cup finals. That is, until they tied the game on a goal with 1:16 left to play and scored what proved to be the game (and championship) winner just 17 seconds later. No new way that coming, except possibly the NHL team’s public relations director, Adam Rogowin ’93. He had a premonition from...
The president’s chief headhunter

JONATHAN MCBRIDE ’92 has a temp job filling temp jobs in one of the highest-profile, if temporary, organizations in the world.

Earlier this year, the former economics and history major, 43, was promoted to director of presidential personnel and assistant to the president at the White House. He had been deputy director and special assistant to the president since 2009.

McBride and his team are responsible for recruiting people for presidential appointments within the executive branch. These are the positions that presidents get to fill with people who share their vision on policy and operations. They serve at the pleasure of the president, which means they usually leave or are replaced when a new president takes office.

About a quarter of the roughly 5,000 presidential appointments are to high-profile jobs like secretary of an agency. The rest of the appointments include executives, subject-matter experts and confidential support staff. It’s a small army of people but dwarfed by the roughly 2.1 million civil servants in the executive branch. Those are the career professionals whose hiring goes through normal government hiring channels and who often remain at their posts through presidencies of either party.

McBride says he meets with the president to discuss matters such as high-profile hires. In addition to recruiting and vetting potential new appointees at the direction of the president, his office also spends time ensuring that the administration is “investing” in the people working for the administration and working to identify and grow young internal talent into future leaders, he says.

Before working in the White House, McBride was chief strategy officer for Universum, an employment branding company. In 2000 he co-founded Jungle Media Group, an award-winning media company. He acknowledges that he took a pay cut (his salary is public record) to serve in the White House but that he considered it the opportunity of a lifetime.

The alumnus insists he has no interest in running for political office but that it wasn’t a hard decision to remain with the Obama administration for a second term.

“When I thought about what else I could be doing with the next couple years of my life,” he says, “there was not anything that could be more important than working for this president, at this time, trying to get the best people in place but also then trying to keep the very best of those people for as long as possible.”
The artist in the lizard’s house

CAROLYN FUCHS’ job title is exhibit specialist, but she could be called an interior decorator for zoo animals. Her mission is to make them feel at home in a world made largely of man-made materials.

A photo with an article in the July 15 New York Times showed the 1996 art graduate at work on an enclosure for a blue tree monitor, a lizard native to Papua New Guinea. Seated on the root of a strangler fig tree, which she sculpted, she paints the bark of the predatory plant, which survives by wrapping itself around existing trees and growing to maturity. Through research Fuchs learned that artificial trees are necessary in zoos not just because of space limitations but because some of the tree varieties seen in new exhibits would take 25 years to grow to maturity.

One of her favorite and more gratifying recent projects, she says, was the zoo’s Madagascar! exhibit being built at the Bronx Zoo. When Fuchs was assigned was slated as a home to day lizards and was then hired as an exhibit fabricator. Her work there included adding artificial reefs fashioned from molds of actual reef material. Fuchs explains that artificial creatures also live together in L.A.

The alumna says that after earning her degree in art — a self-declared major she called “ceramic collage” — she worked as a research assistant for the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Lower Manhattan and then as an artist for Tower Records. Returning to her hometown of Brooklyn, Fuchs landed an internship with the New England Aquarium and was then hired as an exhibit fabricator. Her work there included painting artificial reefs fashioned from molds of actual reef material.

Returning to her hometown of Brooklyn and about 500 conservation programs in 60 countries. She’s been with the organization since 2002 and does new habitats and exhibit maintenance at all the NYC locations.

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One of her favorite and more gratifying recent projects, she says, was the zoo’s Madagascar! exhibit. One of the enclosures she was assigned was slated as a home to day geckos and bright red tomato frogs. Through research Fuchs learned that the small frogs were “sit-and-wait predators,” that patiently wait in nooks and crevices for wayward crickets. So she sculpted many such features into a hollowed-out artificial tree.

“When they first put the animals in, I went by to take a look, and they were in all of them,” she says. “The best part of my job is seeing an animal living happily in a habitat I’ve created.” — Ed Cohen

Identical twins now visualizing online battles

IDENTICAL TWINs Oscar and Edgardo Monteon ’09 not only chose to attend the same college (ours) and study the same subject (fine arts), they now work only a few desks away from each other.

Having earned certificates from the College’s Ammerman Center for Arts & Technology, the Monteons have turned their interest in art and design into a job many video game players probably dream of: creating game characters.

The Monteons work in the seaside Los Angeles suburb of Santa Monica at Riot Games, one of the country’s top video-game companies. Both are character artists, which means they use 3D modeling software to bring fantastical creatures and champions to life in Riot’s award-winning online video game, League of Legends. Oscar created the in-game visuals for a character called Fizz, a small aquatic creature who wields a magic trident. Edgar has worked on characters such as Ahri, a seductive half-fox, half-human enchantress; and Cho’Gath, a massive scale. Edgar has worked on characters such as Ahri, a seductive half-fox, half-human enchantress; and Cho’Gath, a nightmare beast. Originally from central Mexico, Oscar and Edgardo moved to the United States when they were in second grade and grew up 30 miles east of L.A. in Pomona, Calif. They attended the College with support from the Bright Prospect Scholar Support Program, which assists potential first-generation college-goers from seven Pomona-area high schools.

Oscar says the program was a “big brother” to him during his college experience. Bright Prospect has sent 14 students to the College over the last 10 years. The 26-year-olds say the courses and equipment they experienced here — especially “Introduction to 3D Modeling Software” and various art principles they learned — helped them get to where they are today. Oscar says he was no more of a gamer than the average kid growing up, but in college his interest shifted from traditional art to film and games because of the potential of new media to share ideas on a massive scale.

Oscar was the first to go to work for Riot Games, about two years ago. Edgardo was hired not long after on his brother’s recommendation. The tag-team character artists also live together in L.A.

“My brother and I have long been each other’s competitor,” Oscar says, “as well as the best supporter.” — Whit Richardson ’02
A young alum gets kids to eat their veggies

A YEAR AFTER HEADING UP SPROUT!, the college’s student-run organic garden, Zoe Madden ’12 is fighting childhood obesity by, among other means, introducing kids to the joys of eating the vegetables they grow themselves.

As director of coordinated school health for the Norwich Public School district, about 10 miles north of the College, Madden has developed several health-education programs for children in the district’s 10 elementary and middle schools. This spring, she led the creation of a 4,000-square-foot garden, roughly the size of a basketball court, at one of the middle schools.

In the Bridges Extended Learning program, Madden teaches gardening to elementary-schoolers. She knew it was hard to get kids to eat vegetables. But that has not been the case with the snap peas, radishes, tomatoes, kale, lettuce and edible nasturtium flowers the children have been growing under her watch, she says.

“One of my favorite experiences on the job so far was introducing a group of students to kale. They loved it. Whenever I take them out to the garden, they enjoy picking leaves off the plant and eating them raw,” she says. “There is something about planting a seed, nurturing it, and seeing it grow that really inspires my students to want to try new foods and enjoy the harvest.”

In another program, Madden teaches middle-school students about exercise, healthy eating and how to calculate their body mass index, a ratio of weight to height that is used in gauging if someone is overweight. Children also learn how to monitor their weight and blood pressure, allowing them to see their progress.

Madden was hired in response to an epidemic of childhood obesity in Norwich. A study by nurses at the school-based health centers found that nearly 40 percent of students were overweight and about 20 percent obese, she says. Madden, who joined the school system in January, says one group of 16 elementary students who participated in an after-school fitness class lost an average of half a pound each over four weeks.

“This is a significant weight loss for this age, as it is often a goal for overweight children (just) to maintain their current weight so that they can ‘grow into it,’” she says.

A botany and environmental studies major, Madden spent several summers on campus doing research with Associate Professor of Botany Rachel Spicer and Peter Siver, the Becker Professor of Botany.

As president of the Sprout! Garden club, she was one of a group of students who helped secure administration and grant funding to expand and relocate the garden from its original location — at the north end of campus near the student residence 360 House — to a more prominent location behind the College Center at Crozier-Williams. The expanded garden has raised beds, more planting area, and a hoop house to extend the growing season. And it’s now featured on the campus tour for prospective students.

In Norwich, Madden’s fundraising experience has come in handy. At one point, her position was in danger of being eliminated because of a lack of funds. She successfully applied for grants to support it for another two years. —Devon Gay
Sundays with Alumni: a series of programs that brings alumni to campus to share their experiences and career paths with current students. The most recent gathering, “Plugged In: Leveraging a Liberal Arts Degree for an eCareer,” Sept. 22, featured alumni sharing how their Connecticut College education prepared them for successful careers in technology. Speakers included Alexandra Kowerting ’08, senior enterprise account manager, HubSpot, Boston; Andrew Margie ’96, co-founder, advisedacro, New York City; and Matthew Cooney ’95, social media manager, iRobot, Boston. The panel was moderated by Andrew Nusbaum ’13, social media strategist in the Office of College Relations.

Upcoming programs include discussions on careers in:

Nov. 3 Intelligence and national security
March 2 Sports and business management
April 6 Event management

For details on events and speakers, visit conncoll.edu/alumni or contact Beth Poole ’00, beth.poole@conncoll.edu.

Seminar on Success (S.O.S.): a series of career workshops and networking opportunities for juniors and seniors featuring alumni from various industries. Students will gain experience in the job-application process, including a mock interview with a member of the alumni community. Scheduled for Feb. 1, 2014. Contact alumni.relations@conncoll.edu for more information.

Job Shadowing: a program that matches students with alumni in career areas of interest to them. Students selected are hosted for a full or half day at the workplace of interested alumni. Interested in hosting a current student at your place of work? Contact alumni.relations@conncoll.edu.

Bon Appetit: a program in which alumni invite a small group of students to share their experiences, career paths, offer advice and answer questions, as well as partake in intellectual discussion over dinner. On Sept. 17 in Becker House, Anna Longstaff ’00 talked about her role in directing the Annual Fund and her career path. On Nov. 12 at 5:30 p.m. in Becker House; Russ Mont ’95, assistant professor of film at Connecticut College, will discuss the movie “The Dark Knight” from both a political and a philosophical perspective.

For details, contact alumni.relations@conncoll.edu.

CONNECT WITH YOUR CLASSMATES: www.conncoll.edu/alumni
Welcome

President-elect Katherine Bergeron greets members of the campus community in Castle Court after a welcome event for her in Palmer Auditorium Sept. 19. In her remarks, she recalled both the college’s pioneering origins and its many recent achievements and declared, "it is no time to rest."

Photo by Bob MacDonnell
Tell us a story...

Your Connecticut College story

Connecticut College is a place where you write your own story — however you define it. And because you believe in this liberal arts education, we want you to share a story or memorable moment from your Connecticut College experience.

It could be an anecdote from your days on campus or something that has happened since. We’re looking for those moments that changed your life or made you realize that it had been changed.

All stories will be archived and shared in a variety of ways in our print and digital materials (with your permission, of course). To join us in this effort, you can visit www.conncoll.edu/giving and use the brief form. You can also send a card or letter to the Annual Giving office.

Share your story, and when you’re done, please consider making a gift to the Connecticut College Annual Fund, which helps today’s students write their stories.