Students Take Concerns to President’s Door

Students walked the campus with heavy hearts on Sunday, Mar. 29, 2015, pursuant to the discovery of racist hate speech spray-painted in the first floor bathrooms of the Crozier Williams College Center. The graffiti was quickly removed, but not before several photographs went viral via social media.

The event shocked a campus still reeling from a series of charged events, starting with a controversial Facebook posting by a member of the faculty. The impact of the comment led to President Katherine Bergeron to call an all-campus forum this past Wednesday in order to address the issue. The event was then followed by an open-meeting of the Student Government Association where two resolutions were passed with the intent of legitimizing a condemnation of hate speech by the student body.

At around 4:00 p.m. that Sunday, an impromptu meeting was moderated by Associate Dean of Student Sarah Cardwell and Director of Student Engagement and Leadership Scott McElvey, as well as a number of other staff members. The event was well-attended for having received little to no official publicity, but the dissatisfaction with Bergeron’s absence was ubiquitous. “How can we solve anything if the President isn’t actually here?” asked Randle Brannum ’17.

The students proceeded to leave the College Center, heading directly to the President’s house on Williams Street in order to discuss the issue directly. Quite quickly, Bergeron opened her door to all, hosting upwards of fifty Connecticut College students in her living room. Following a short address expressing her profound disappointment and sympathy, Bergeron discussed with what seemed like a renewed urgency the mounting issues of bigotry, racism and hate speech on campus.

While some students continued to press for her to condemn the initial controversial posting, this meeting was largely a dialogue concerning structural steps for the College to take.

Suggestions included an immediate cancellation of classes this Monday (Mar. 30) as well as a dramatic re-envisioning of the College curriculum to more adequately integrate issues of racial and cultural diversity into the College’s ethos.

When students left, Bergeron returned to campus in order to continue the campus conversation with the students that remained at the original forum.

There, she spoke with a larger group of students in Cro’s nest in order to more formally address the morning’s occurrences.

Much of the student group then left to engage with an NBC news crew, who arrived on campus around 8:00 p.m. outside of the campus’ Williams Street entrance. Because the campus is technically private property, the students read pre-written statements off-property. SGA President Ethan Underhill ’15, as well as Deion Jordan ’17 read statements on local television in front of their many peers who came to show solidarity.

“There is no way we can begin to heal until we confront these issues head on”, said Underhill. His statements were echoed by students Ramil Kais ’17 and Aparna Gopalan ’17, who urged people to continue speaking out. Gopalan also pointed out that “since the instance that catalyzed this was made in a public forum, the administration’s response also needs to be public.”

By 8:45 p.m., students re-grouped in the College Center where another discussion was joined by Dean of Student Life Victor Arceles and a handful of faculty members concerned with campus life. Students vocalized their suggestions for the next day’s event. Both parties worked to plan the logistics around a secondary, mandatory all-campus forum, one designed to have more scope and impact than Wednesday’s forum.

The group closed the open session around 10:30 p.m., breaking into a smaller, more focused group of faculty and students in order to make solidify the next day’s plans. The NBC news story broke at 11 p.m. EST.
I wrote the following editorial before spring break, when the current conversations were only just beginning. Since then, there have been two racist hate crimes on our campus in the span of four days. The destruction of my artwork (which you may read about below) pales in comparison to the hurt, fear and anger other members of our community are currently feeling. As you read the following editorial, please keep this in mind, and what these instances say about the values of our community.

On Monday, Mar. 2, I received an email from a project partner in my Design: Object and Environment class. Technically, our project was already finished and on display, so I knew it wasn’t good news for her to be emailing me. And I knew much has been said about the vandalism that occurred, but my peers would respect my work got the best of me, and now, essentially, useless to me.

Some members of our campus community may be familiar with the cardboard chair project that Professor Andrea Wollensak assigns in this specific class. However, most people probably haven’t seen them because in the past these chairs, which are completely designed and built from scratch by her students, have only been displayed in Cummings Art Center, where they have remained respected and untouched. For Professor Wollensak’s class, this year was a year of firsts: the first time the class has partnered with Professor Emily Morash’s Interiors of Connecticut College, the first time the project has used site specifically outside of Cummings, and the first time chairs have been vandalized to the point of complete destruction.

Our chairs were built to be placed in was the hallway outside of the Academic Resource Center in the Plex, in the hallway between Harris Refrectory and Johnson, Wright and Park (before the ARC moved into the new library).

My partners and I built three cardboard chairs to be exhibited solely in this location, this is what made them site specific. Extensive historical research and analysis of the site was done by our group, including two students in Professor Morash’s class. This project was no easy undertaking, and I made? Congratulations. You broke folded cardboard. I know my own chair wasn’t the most stable; it was, after all, made of cardboard. But not only should the fact that the glue was beginning to come off and the pins starting to pop out be enough to convince people to not touch it, it was clearly labeled, “do not sit on.” Perhaps that’s the most frustrating part of this. I expected people to ignore my request and sit on it, and it was built to withstand a single person respectfully using it. Clearly, however, people didn’t just sit on it. They kicked it, they tore it, they threw all their weight on it. And my partners’ chairs, which were much, much sturdier than mine ever was, were also completely destroyed when they were found in garbage bins. This isn’t just students trying out the chairs. This is a deliberate act of destruction, and an honor code violation. Above all, it’s just disgusting.

As an art student, I rely on my work to be in good condition for my portfolio. Like most students at Conn, one day hope to be employed, and my art portfolio will inevitably help me get there. Because of the treatment my chair received, I have nothing to show for this project. Sure, I took photos of the chair in progress, but my naivete in trusting that my peers would respect my work got the best of me, and I now have no good quality photos of the project to speak of. This incredibly unique, challenging and rewarding project is now, essentially, useless to me.

Nothing will change what has happened, but to whoever destroyed our chairs, all I ask is that the next time you have the urge to destroy the creative achievements of your peers, shoot me a text. I have plenty of unused art supplies that I would be more than happy to lend you. You may even find that it’s more enjoyable to create than it is to destroy.

The College Voice meets each week at 9 p.m. on Monday.

Join us.
Letter to the Editor
A Response from Professor of Philosophy Andrew Pessin

I am truly sorry for the hurt and offense that I caused via my Facebook post of last summer, to individuals on this campus and now beyond.

It was written last August in the middle of the war between Israel and Hamas, and cut quietly (if publically) on my Facebook page until a Connecticut College student, displaying courage and integrity, emailed me about it on February 18 and described in no uncertain terms how she felt about it. I acknowledged how much I respected her speaking up, apologized for my past actions and words already demonstrated that I am not the person some now think I am, I know that my future actions and words will. Let my first such action be the reiteration of my deepest apology for causing such wounds.

Andrew Pessin
Professor of Philosophy

Letter to the Editor
Dearest Connecticut College community,

We are writing, in light of recent events and conversations, to stress and defend the importance of what we hold to be a most crucial component of Connecticut College — our community’s Honor Code. This letter is meant to address the wide issues that plague our college community and threaten the Honor Code, rather than specific events in particular.

As entering students, each of us signed a pledge of matriculation, which stated:

“I accept membership into Connecticut College, a community committed to cultural and intellectual diversity. I understand my obligation to this community under the Honor Code and pledge to uphold standards of behavior governed by honor. I pledge to take responsibility for my beliefs, and to conduct myself with integrity, civility, and the utmost respect for the dignity of all human beings. I pledge that my actions will be thoughtful and ethical and that I will do my best to instill a sense of responsibility in those among us who falter.”

The pledge contains three central tenets — Community, Integrity, and Civility. These tenets are meant to govern how we behave, each to the other, as well as each to the larger Connecticut College community. The principles engendered by these tenets form a chain, and when any link is severed it severest the entirety.

The second sentence of the Matriculation Pledge establishes the first tenet of the Honor Code — our obligation to our collective college community. Our community is fractured. Each and every one of us is obligated to protect it, and to mend it back to health. With this in mind, we encourage everyone to look toward the broader community with which in each of us resides. Get involved in the dialogues, forums, and discussions. Speak, to be sure, but please, also exercise the equally important obligation to listen and learn.

Integrity is our Honor Code’s second tenet. Integrity involves honesty, morality, and virtue. Racism is devoid of morality, virtue, and integrity. Integrity also has a second meaning, which is to say, whole and undivided. Our community is currently divided. And, in this regard, our community currently lacks integrity. We, as its constituent members, are mandated to push past this division and we must do so to reestablish a sense of cohesion within our community.

Civility is the final tenet. Civility entails respect. Respect is the natural evolution of the first two tenets and it does not, indeed cannot, exist in the absence of the first two. Under the Honor Code, we pledge to conduct ourselves with the utmost respect for the dignity of all human beings. Racist words and sentiments lay in direct, flagrant, opposition to this idea. Racism is uncivil. As our community embarks on its efforts to heal, improve, and push forward, we must all keep the principles of civility in the front of our minds. We must conduct ourselves with the utmost respect for the dignity of all human beings by listening to what others have to say, empathizing with their perspective, and exhibiting a care beyond ourselves.

Sunday’s incident and those like it, cannot, should not, and will not be tolerated. But those who are behind these egregious acts can only be held responsible if they are identified. The Honor Code fosters freedom, but it also entails an imperative amount of responsibility.

The 1924-1925 Connecticut College “C” Book, which marked the first formal iteration of the Honor Code and its practice stated:

“A student who is aware that a fellow-student has broken a College rule or established principle of conduct is honor bound to admonish that student to report herself. If the delinquent fails to respect this admonition, the student shall herself bring the case to the attention of the Student Council.”

We have the responsibility to hold each other accountable. This responsibility is central to the functioning of our Honor Code system. With this in mind, if you have any information concerning Sunday morning’s incident or any of the incidents listed on the bias incident log (available on CamelWeb) please bring it forward.

You may report information to us at honorocouncil@conncoll.edu, Dean Cardwell, Campus Safety, or file a report using CamelWeb.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage all efforts to bolster the Honor Code and the community that it creates. We view both as integral to Connecticut College and its identity, and the experience of its members. We believe that this pivotal moment is an opportunity to broaden and deepen the foundation of the Honor Code across our entire campus. As such, we whole-heartedly endorse the idea for Connecticut College Faculty and Staff to be invited to pledge themselves to the Honor Code and the values that it promotes. We will work with the SGA on the resolution they are putting forward to this effect, and pledge to encourage other ideas and efforts that will protect and strengthen our College’s Honor Code and the community that it fosters.

Sincerely,

The Connecticut College Honor Council
Dear Connecticut College Community,

I am writing this letter to the editor for three reasons. The first is to comment on a resolution passed this past Thursday by the SGA, the second is to comment on the way in which it was passed, and the third is to express a sentiment that I fear could be lost amongst the impassioned diatribe and discourse of the past few days.

To the first of my purposes, I am speaking in reference to CC 14-15 #22: Resolution for the Connecticut College Student Government Association to Demand an Administrative Response Condemning Dehumanizing, Racist, and Hateful Speech by Members of the Campus Community. This resolution was brought to the floor and passed in a single night, and before I address what I believe to be an irresponsible breach of protocol, I want to speak to resolutions themselves.

There has been much talk on campus recently about what exactly free speech on a campus like ours, about what exactly should and should not be protected, and about how we as a community and an institution should respond to incidents like the Facebook post by a professor here. On one side of this issue are those who demand an official condemnation from the administration of the kind of language which was used and which has so hurt members of our community. On the other side of this are those who believe that such an action would invariably diminish the ability of this campus community as a whole to engage in free speech. My own opinions are in line with the values of the latter.

This is not to say that I believe that those seeking an administrative condemnation in any way desire to abridge the right to free speech we all enjoy; far from it. Many have said themselves that condemnations of speech need not silence the voice of anyone involved. On this I agree in all cases except that of the greater institution.

When I (or any singular person) condemns the speech as hateful and racist, as I rightfully do, and when departments or other organizations on campus do, the condemnation does not carry with it the force to silence the voice of the condemned. We are each of individuals operating beneath the umbrella of the institution we belong to, and as inhabitants cannot exert this kind of influence over each other. However, if the institution itself condemns the speech, regardless of the intent behind such an action, the very dimensions of the community change. The effect would be a narrowing of the umbrella, a de facto suppression of thought. It becomes impossible to freely express an idea within a system that has openly disallowed it.

There are those who might say that, even with this being the case, the importance of an administrative condemnation here is paramount. To them I would say this: principles are hard. To maintain free speech in the face of such offensive and hurtful ideas is hard. But as hard as it may be, it is equally as necessary.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. is a personal hero of mine, and has been for many years. I doubt if most of you will recognize his name, but I think he and his words are worth knowing. Holmes was a Supreme Court Justice serving about 95 years ago. In case of Abrams v. United States, where two men were convicted under the Espionage Act of actively subverting the United States' war effort during WWI through the distribution of leaflets with inflammatory writing, Justice Holmes wrote a dissenting opinion in defense of free speech so powerful that it resonates to this day:

"Persecution for the expression of opinions seems to me perfectly logical. If you have no doubt of your premises or your power, and want a certain result with all your heart, you naturally express your wishes in law, and sweep away all opposition. To allow opposition by speech seems to indicate that you think the speech impotent... or that you do not care wholeheartedly for the result, or that you doubt either your power or your premises.

But when men have realized that time has upset many fighting faiths, they may come to believe even more than they believe the very foundations of their own conduct that the ultimate good desired is better reached by free trade in ideas – that the best test of truth is the power of the thought of it to get itself accepted in the competition of the market, and that truth is the only ground upon which their wishes safely can be carried out. That, at any rate, is the theory of our Constitution. It is an experiment, as all life is an experiment. Every year, if not every day, we have to wager our salvation upon some prophecy based upon imperfect knowledge. While that experiment is part of our system, I think that we should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions that we loathe and believe to be fraught with death, unless they so imminently threaten immediate interference with the lawful and pressing purposes of the law that an immediate check is required to save the country."  

Justice Holmes is speaking about the country as a whole, and we here are merely concerned with the state of our campus community, but the same principles still do apply. The ideas expressed in the Facebook post have no power here, the last few days have made that abundantly clear. The market of ideas which is our campus has spoken recently in unison to declare that we want to be a place of learning and acceptance, where people can do better than hate. This hurt Justice Holmes serving about 95 years ago.

Lastly, I want to express a sentiment that I hope is strong enough to cut through the passions and disagreements that have shaken and continue to shake us. What I desire is no different from what the members of our community who have spoken out recently desire; what I feel is no different from what they feel. I am hurt to see my friends and peers hurt; I am angered to see them angered. I speak now, as they do, out of love for this community and what it can be. I differ from them only in how I seek to reach our destination, not in my view of the destination itself. A safe space is safest when it is made to be so by those who inhabit it, not by a narrowing of its boundaries.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Cory Scarola, 2016 •
Department Statements Against Dehumanizing Speech

Date: Mon, Mar 23, 2015
Subject: CCSRE clearly states that we do not condone dehumanizing speech.

In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to and during spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, the CCSRE would like to clearly state that we do not condone speech filled with bigotry and hate particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language and incites or celebrates violence and brutality.

We make this public statement with particular attention to those students, staff, and faculty whose identities and affiliations position them as the targets of such speech. We feel a public statement that directly names the harm of bias incidents is essential to supporting the well-being of various members of the Connecticut College community, their right to educational opportunity, and their right to work in a non-hostile environment. We will continue to play our part in creating spaces for productive engagements around inclusive excellence.

We look forward to collaborating with others to help move the College forward in achieving our goal of full participation.

From the following members of the CCSRE Steering Committee (arranged alphabetically):

Courtney Baker, Associate Professor of English
Samit Bhattacharya, Professor and Chair of Human Development
David Caniato, Associate Professor and Chair of History Department
Nathalie Etoke, Associate Professor of French and Africana Studies
Leo Garsee, CCSRE Director, Associate Professor of History
Sandy Grande, Associate Professor and Chair of Education Department
Tracee Keiser, Associate Dean for Community Learning, Associate Director of the Holleran Center, and Director of OVCS
Arielle Rotramel, Visiting Assistant Professor of Department of Gender and Women's Studies
Bryana White, Coordinator of Multicultural Counseling, Student Counseling Services

We invited other Centers and Departments to sign or reissue this statement, or to create their own to share with the College community.

Date: Wed, Mar 25, 2015
Subject: Education Department Statement against dehumanizing speech

To the Campus Community.

The history department would like to clearly state that we condemn speech filled with bigotry and hate particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language and incites or celebrates violence and brutality.

In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to and during spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, the Education Department joins the CCSRE in condemning hate speech.

We make this public statement with particular attention to those students, staff, and faculty whose identities and affiliations position them as the targets of such speech. We feel a public statement that directly names the harm of bias incidents is essential to supporting the well-being of various members of the Connecticut College community, their right to educational opportunity, and their right to work in a non-hostile environment. We will continue to play our part in creating spaces for productive engagements around inclusive excellence.

We look forward to collaborating with others to help move the College forward in achieving our goal of full participation.

From the following members of the History Department (arranged alphabetically):

David Caniato, Chair, Associate Professor of History
Sheetal Chhabria, Jacob and Hillda Blumstein Assistant Professor of History
Ann Marie L. Davis, Assistant Professor of History
James T. Downum, Associate Professor of History
Marc Forster, Henry B. Plonski Professor of History
Les J. Garsee, Associate Professor of History
Eileen Kane, Associate Professor of History
Jan Muranyi, Associate Professor of History
Frederick Paxton, Brigid Pacchiani Ardenghi Professor of History
Sarah A. Queen, Professor of History
Catherine M. Stock, Barbara Zacher Kahn Professor of History
Lisa H. Wilson, Charles J. Maccoby Professor of American History

Members of the Department in Alphabetical order:
Lauren Anderson
Charlie Coover
Sandy Grande
Mike James
Dana Wright

To the Campus Community.

In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to and during spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, the Education Department joins the CCSRE, the History Department and the Holleran Center in stating that we condemn speech filled with bigotry and hate particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language and incites or celebrates violence and brutality.

We make this public statement with particular attention to those students, staff, and faculty whose identities and affiliations position them as the targets of such speech. We feel a public statement is essential to supporting the well-being of various members of the Connecticut College community, their right to educational opportunity, and their right to work in a non-hostile environment. We will continue to play our part in creating spaces for productive engagements around inclusive excellence.

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Safia Mondes, Uldine, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Global Islamic Studies Program
Joseph Alcheremes, Associate Professor of Art History and Director of Architectural Studies
Sheetal Chhabria, Assistant Professor of History
Dena Ferratovic, William Meredith Assistant Professor of English
Seema Golestan, C3 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Anthropology
Afghan Jafar, Associate Professor of Sociology
Eileen Kane, Assistant Professor of History
Matthias Machmann, Assistant Professor of German
Fred Paxton, Brigid Pacchiani Ardenghi Professor of History
Caroleen Sayej, Assistant Professor of Government and International Relations
To the Campus Community,

The Department of Human Development would like to clearly state that we condemn speech filled with bigotry and hate particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language and incites or celebrates violence and brutality. In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to and during spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, the Department of Art History and Architectural Studies joins the CCSRE, the History Department, the Education Department, the Holleran Center, and others in stating that we condemn speech filled with bigotry and hate—in all of its forms, including visual representation and the built environment—and particularly when these communications use dehumanizing language or imagery and incite or celebrate violence and brutality.

We make this public statement with particular attention to those students, staff, and faculty whose identities and affiliations position them as the targets of such speech. We feel a public statement is essential to supporting the well-being of various members of the Connecticut College community, their right to educational opportunity, and their right to work in a non-hostile environment. We will continue to play our part in creating spaces for productive engagements around inclusive excellence. We look forward to collaborating with others to help move the College forward in achieving our goal of full participation.

Members of the Department (in alphabetical order):

- Joseph Alcherine, Associate Professor of Art History
- Jennifer Fredericks, Professor of Human Development
- Loren Marulis, Assistant Professor of Human Development
- Virginia Anderson, Assistant Professor
- Donna Holman, Academic Assistant
- Robert Baldwin, Associate Professor of Art History
- Karen Gonzalez Rice, Sue and Eugene Mercy Assistant Professor of Art History
- Emily C. Morash, Visiting Instructor in Art History
- Qiang Ning, Chu-Nihlack Associate Professor in Asian Art
- Christopher B. Steiner, Lucy C. McDannel ’22 Professor of Art History

We make this public statement with particular attention to those students, staff, and faculty whose identities and affiliations position them as the targets of such speech. We feel a public statement is essential to supporting the well-being of various members of the Connecticut College community, their right to educational opportunity, and their right to work in a non-hostile environment. We will continue to play our part in creating spaces for productive engagements around inclusive excellence. We look forward to collaborating with others to help move the College forward in achieving our goal of full participation.

Members of the Department (in alphabetical order):

- Michelle Dunlap, Professor of Human Development
- Karen Gonzalez Rice, Sue and Eugene Mercy Assistant Professor of Art History
- Emily C. Morash, Visiting Instructor in Art History
- Qiang Ning, Chu-Nihlack Associate Professor in Asian Art
- Christopher B. Steiner, Lucy C. McDannel ’22 Professor of Art History

To the Campus Community,

The faculty and staff of the Department of Theater would like to clearly state that we condemn speech filled with bigotry and hate particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language and incites or celebrates violence and brutality. In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to and during spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, the Sociology department unanimously joins CCSRE and other departments in denouncing speech filled with bigotry and hate, particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language.

We feel a public statement that directly names the harm of bias incidents is essential to supporting the well-being of various members of the Connecticut College community, their right to educational opportunity, and their right to work in a non-hostile environment. We will continue to play our part in creating spaces for productive engagements around these issues and look forward to collaborating with others to help move the College forward in achieving our goal of full participation.

Members of the Department (in alphabetical order):

- David Jaffe, Associate Professor
- Notarfrancisco, Professor
- Robert Gay
- Cherice Harris
- Afshan Ijtar

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- Donna Holman, Academic Assistant
- Robert Baldwin, Associate Professor of Art History
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- Emily C. Morash, Visiting Instructor in Art History
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- Christopher B. Steiner, Lucy C. McDannel ’22 Professor of Art History

We make this public statement with particular attention to those students, staff, and faculty whose identities and affiliations position them as the targets of such speech. We feel a public statement is essential to supporting the well-being of various members of the Connecticut College community, their right to educational opportunity, and their right to work in a non-hostile environment. We will continue to play our part in creating spaces for productive engagements around inclusive excellence. We look forward to collaborating with others to help move the College forward in achieving our goal of full participation.

Members of the Department (in alphabetical order):

- Jennifer Fredericks, Professor of Human Development
- Virginia Anderson, Assistant Professor
- Donna Holman, Academic Assistant
- Robert Baldwin, Associate Professor of Art History
- Karen Gonzalez Rice, Sue and Eugene Mercy Assistant Professor of Art History
- Emily C. Morash, Visiting Instructor in Art History
- Qiang Ning, Chu-Nihlack Associate Professor in Asian Art
- Christopher B. Steiner, Lucy C. McDannel ’22 Professor of Art History
To the Campus Community,

In response to the recent events on campus regarding a Facebook comment by a member of our faculty, and the many targeted and anonymous posts on social media, the Ammerman Center joins CCS-RE, the Holleran Center, academic departments and others in stating that we condemn speech and actions filled with bigotry and hate—in all its forms, both online and off—particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language and incites or celebrates violence and brutality.

We make this public statement with particular attention to those students, staff, and faculty whose identities and affiliations position them as the targets of such speech. We feel a public statement that directly names the harm of bias incidents is essential to supporting the well-being of various members of the Connecticut College community, their right to educational opportunity, and their right to work in a non-hostile environment. We will continue to play our part in creating spaces for productive engagements around these issues and look forward to collaborating with others to help move the College forward in achieving our goal of full participation.

From the following fellows of the Ammerman Center: (in alphabetical order)

Joseph Alchermes, Associate Professor of Art History and Architectural Studies Program
Ginny Anderson, Assistant Professor of Theater
Nadav Azor, Assistant Professor of Studio Art
Greg Bailey, Associate Professor of Art
Catherine Benoit, Professor of Anthropology
Lindsay Bratton, Digital Scholarship and Visual Resources Librarian
Bruce Carpenter, Director of Technical Support and Information Security Officer
David Dorfman, Professor of Dance
Libby Friedman, Assistant Director of the Ammerman Center
Karen Gonzales Rice, Assistant Professor of Art History
Anthony Graue, Associate Professor of Anthropology
Charles O. Hartman, Professor of English
Ted Hendrickson, Associate Professor of Art
Lee Hilde, Vice-President for Information Services
Shawn Howle, Assistant Professor of Dance
Ozgur Imruli, Associate Professor of Computer Science
David Kyuman Kim, Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Priya Kohli, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics
Art Kreiger, Professor of Music
James Lee, Assistant Professor of Computer Science
Steve Lubar, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theater

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015
Subject: Statement from the Ammerman Center

Dear Student, Staff, and Faculty colleagues,

Robert Ashkins
Marystone Borrelli
Jane Dawson
Anthony Gworek
Kristine Hardeman
Pam Hine
Chad Jones
Michaela Laczardale
Michelle Neely
Page Owen
Jen Payach
Peter Silver
Rachel Spencer
Sardha Surajyaparama
Douglas Thompson
Marc Zimmer

Dear Connecticut College campus community,

The faculty of the Department of Biology would like to clearly state that we condemn speech filled with bigotry and hate particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language and incites or celebrates violence and brutality. We are calling upon ourselves and others to act in order to strengthen our community and to move away from indifference.

We make this public statement with particular attention to those students, staff, and faculty whose identities and affiliations position them as the targets of such speech.

We feel a public statement that directly names the harm of bias incidents is essential to supporting the well-being of various members of the Connecticut College community, their right to educational opportunity, and their right to work in a non-hostile environment. We will continue to play our part in creating spaces for productive engagements around these issues and look forward to collaborating with others to help move the College forward in achieving our goal of full participation.

From the following members of GWS steering committee, faculty and associated faculty have signed this statement:

Ginny Anderson
Samul Bhath
Joyce Bennett
Mary-Anne Borrelli
Blanche Boyd
David Cohen
Sheela Chhabria
Shani Collins-Achille
Ann Marie Davis
Amy Doelling
Michelle Dunlap
Leo Gorfolo
Heidi Henderson
Cagdas Howe
Michael James
Suzuko Knott
Julia Kogilgin
Michael Laczardale
Karolin Machant
Rosemarie Roberts
Ariella Rotramel
Safiya Uddin
Lisa Wilder
Lisa Wilson
Dana Wright

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015
Subject: Statement from Biology

The Advisory Committee for the Program in Environmental Studies, the Department of Botany, and the GoodWIN-Niering Center encourages all members of the College community to acknowledge, value and accept the humanity of all individuals. Speech or actions that incite or celebrate violence or are dehumanizing are incompatible with our individual and institutional values.

As an institution that publically espouses principles of inclusive excellence, we must both collectively and individually, work to create an environment that is supportive of and non-hostile to all members of our community.

In response to the recent events that have transpired in our campus community regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, we publicly recommit ourselves to, as stated in the Connecticut College matriculation pledge, “take responsibility for [our] beliefs, and to conduct [ourselves] with integrity, civility, and the utmost respect for the dignity of all human beings.”

Robert Ashkins
Marystone Borrelli
Jane Dawson
Anthony Gworek
Kristine Hardeman
Pam Hine
Chad Jones
Michaela Laczardale
Michelle Neely
Page Owen
Jen Payach
Peter Silver
Rachel Spencer
Sardha Surajyaparama
Douglas Thompson
Marc Zimmer

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015
Subject: Statement from Biology
In response to recent events on campus regarding racism, bigotry, and intolerance, the Department of Anthropology at Connecticut College wishes to publicly voice its opposition to all speech and acts that dehumanize any member of our community or incite suffering, violence, and/or brutality. We reaffirm that the rights to free speech are indivisible, but we stand against speech acts, non-verbal forms of communication, and actions that attack the humanity of students, staff, and faculty. Statements or acts directed at students, staff, and/or faculty that are homophobic, sexist, bigoted, or hateful are protected by the First Amendment, but we passionately support the capacity of others to identify, interpret, and scrutinize such acts. Indeed, we believe that all speech and acts that are bigoted and hateful should be made public and subjected to thorough and thoughtful consideration with respect to the ways that they harm individuals as well as our broader intellectual community.

Furthermore, we are committed to helping guarantee that all Connecticut College students, staff, and faculty are afforded equal rights to education, intellectual exploration, and everyday campus life without fear of physical harm, directed hate, harm to their personal property, or any other form of hostility.

In anthropology, we believe that it is our professional responsibility to identify, question and when necessary call out racism in our everyday lives as well as in the policies, practices, and norms that define our institutions and structures. We are committed to collaborating with students, staff, and faculty across the College for the purpose of continuing to develop programming and creating spaces in which we can discuss and find meaningful resolutions to both the incidents and structures of racism, in our lives, in our community, and in our institution.

From the following members of the Department of Anthropology (arranged alphabetically):

Joyce Bennett, Visiting Assistant Professor
Catherine Benoit, Professor
Seema Golestanian, CI Postdoctoral Fellow
Anthony Gruschen, Associate Professor and Chair
Manuel Lizardo, Associate Professor
Chris Steiner, Professor

Sincerely,

Connecticut College Hillel Executive Board

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015
Subject: Statement to the Community from the Department of Psychology
To The Campus Community,

The undersigned members of the Department of Psychology want to express that we strongly condemn hate speech and bigotry. We do not condone racist or hateful language. We feel a public statement that directly names the harm of bias is essential to supporting the community at Connecticut College and well-being of various members of and are mindful of how destructive the Connecticut College community, their right to educational opportunity, and their right to work and live in a non-hostile environment.

Shanti Collins-Achille
Jasun Connolly
Amine Couture
David Dorfman
Heidi Henderson
Shawn Howe
Lisa Race
Rosemarie Roberts
Richard Schenk
Greg Sgarra
Marya Urin
Derrick Singleton

In solidarity with all those on campus who have voiced their opposition to hate speech and racism, we are committed to being active participants in the collective effort to improve our community.

Ann Devlin
Jeny Gorman
Ruth Grabin
Talib Khairallah
Nancy MacLeod
Jill Marshall
Jason Nier
Joe Schroeder
Jefferson Singer
Audrey Zukowski

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015
Subject: Statement to the Community from the Department of English
To The Campus Community,

As faculty who are deeply invested in the work of language, the undersigned members of the English Department abhor the speech that has inflicted damage on our community. Recognizing that speech deeply affects and reflects our humanity, we condemn language that debases members of religious and racial groups or seeks to justify acts of brutality and oppression.

Speech is both powerful and fragile. The devastating toll that hateful speech has had on our campus makes this clear. We make this public statement with particular concern for those students, staff, and faculty whose identities and affiliations position them as the targets of such speech and in support of their right to work and live in a non-hostile environment.

Courtney Baker
Bianche Boyd
Donis Farhatdoode
Janet Gazari
Charles Hartman
Michelle Nicely
Julie Ruskim
Phil Ray
Steve Shoemaker
Lindi Wilder

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015
Subject: Statement to the Community from the Department of Anthropology
To The Campus Community,

Connecticut College Hillel is proud to be a part of a community of students who both share their opinions and listen to others respectfully. We appreciate everyone who engaged in sharing their views at the community forum on Wednesday, March 25, and especially wanted to show appreciation for the students who took the initiative to start this important conversation.

Although a variety of viewpoints were expressed at the forum, the Hillel executive board would like to publicly state that Connecticut College Hillel firmly denounces hate speech. We do not condone racist speech or actions toward any group under any circumstance. Rather, we support and attempt to embody inclusivity, equality and acceptance. Hillel's events are always open to everyone. Moreover, the Zachs Hillel House was established not only with the intention of providing a space for Jewish programming, but also to be a welcoming and inclusive space for members of the campus community of all faiths and backgrounds.

We would also like to clarify that Connecticut College Hillel is not a political organization. We do not associate with any one political viewpoint or agenda. We recognize that there are diverse perspectives with regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We support discourse that encourages a more educated, empathetic community by grappling with the conflict from multiple positions and experiences. Our primary focus as a student organization is to celebrate Jewish life while maintaining a sense of community and inclusivity.

It is of the utmost importance to us that constructive conversations and dialogue are continued with respect and dignity. Thank you for standing up for your beliefs. We pledge to do our part in fostering an open, engaged and supportive community at Connecticut College.

Sincerely,

Connecticut College Hillel Executive Board
Date: Sat, Mar 28, 2015
Subject: Statement from the Department of Slavic Studies

Yes to free speech, no to racist language. This is the position of the Department of Slavic Studies in response to recent events on campus, and we encourage reports from our students about anonymous attacks aimed to harm, discredit and oppress others. Such language in no way advances the civil, public discourse that is so vital to any academic institution, indeed, to any open society.

We are committed to working with others across the campus to create a better, more just environment for students, staff, and faculty who are alienated and harmed by the current climate.

Christopher Colbeath
Petia Boyanova
Andrea Lounas
Tony Lin
Laura Little

Date: Sun, Mar 29, 2015
Subject: MUSIC DEPARTMENT STATEMENT

We of the Department of Music clearly state that we do not condone dehumanizing speech filled with bigotry and hate. We will collaborate with others to help move the College forward in achieving our goal of full participation.

Sincerely,

John Anthony
Art Kropf
Wendy Mey
James McIntosh
Mark Sato
Midge Thomas

Date: Sun, Mar 29, 2015
Subject: Statement from the Department of Italian Studies

To the Students, Staff, and Faculty of Connecticut College:

The members of the Department of Italian Studies join CCSRE, the Centers, and the academic departments in denouncing hate speech and bigotry.

We greatly value the respect and dignity of all individuals in their diversity. Our recent campus forum revealed that we are all affected by acts of racism, xenophobia, homophobia and sexism over time, and we are especially concerned about the effect of bigotry on the well-being of those who have been the targets of hateful speech.

We are committed to building a thriving community at our college. We support all those who have voiced their opposition to hate speech and racism, and are actively engaged in the collective effort to improve our sense of safety and constructive dialogue at the college.

In alphabetical order:

Carmela Patton
Frida Morelli
Robert Proctor
Paola Sera

Date: Sun, Mar 29, 2015
Subject: Statement from the Department of Comparative Studies

As the oldest interdisciplinary program at the College and a founding partner of the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE), the American Studies program condemns all hate speech and any other representations, expressions, or actions that denigrate human beings and their communities, whether close to home or across the world. We also applaud the courage of the Connecticut College students who have brought forward their concerns in the tradition of non-violent student protest, despite the very real risks they face by doing so. In expecting the College and its officers to uphold its own mission, core values, and honor code, student protesters have in fact "put the liberal arts into action."

Furthermore, they have shown that they believe the highest purpose of their educations is not to obtain a credential or assimilate into the corporate structure of the global economy but rather to actively participate in advancing principles of peace, justice, equity, and inclusion. We stand with our students in this pursuit.

Program Director
Catherine McNeil Stock

Program Advisors
Courney Baker
David Canton
James Downs
Karen Greco
Rice
David Kim
Jen Manion

Affiliated Faculty
Lauren Anderson
Ginny Anderson
Chris Barrard
Joyce Bennett
Sunil Bhattacharya
Tribtan Anne Borer
Ron Flores
Leo Garofalo
Anthony Graesch
Sandi Grande
Christine Ho
Alphonse Jako
Michael James
Emily Marzouk
Michelle Neely
Dentice Pelletier
Julie Rivkin
Rosemarie Roberts
Christopher Steiner
Sofia Uddin
Lisa Wilson
Dana Wright

Date: Sun, Mar 29, 2015
Subject: Statement from the American Studies Program

Dear colleagues, students, and friends,

We in the Philosophy Department want to thank you for your understanding of the very difficult situation we are in. We also want to say a special thank you to students and colleagues who have shoulder much of the burden in recent weeks. Several of us wrote to our majors and minors just before spring break, but we now appreciate the need to share our thoughts more publicly.

First, we think that there is an important difference between stating a political view that someone might find offensive and (b) expressing one’s political view in a way that denigrates or devalues others. We join with other colleagues and students in rejecting (b) as inconsistent with our individual and departmental values.

Second, we support those students who feel moved to speak out about dehumanizing speech and other bias incidents. The blame and burden must not be shifted onto them.

Third, we hope that all students will feel welcome in our philosophy classes and at department events.

Fourth, we staunchly support our colleague Andrew Peterson’s academic freedom. We deeply value his contributions to our philosophical community and we look forward to welcoming him back at the end of his leave. We know him to be an excellent teacher and a first-rate scholar. And we are committed to including him in the intellectual life of the department and the college.

Fifth, although we do not believe that any students or colleagues are trying to silence political speech about the Palestinians - Israeli conflict, we would stand strongly against any attempt to do so. Our commitment to inclusivity means that we have to be open to a variety of perspectives on complex issues of the day, even (and perhaps especially) when those issues are painful to discuss.

Finally, we reaffirm our department’s commitment to helping all to participate fully in the shared aspects of college life. We believe that our discipline has a special contribution to make to building an inclusive community of inquiry.

We will work hard to try to understand how different members of the campus community experience things in different ways. Our doors are open to all and all students and colleagues who would like to talk with us.

Yours,

Simon Feldman
Kristin Pijperkorn
Derek Turner
Larry Vogel
Mexican Non-Profit Speaks to Conn Community
A conversation about human rights

MAJA HIBBETT CONTRIBUTOR

On Mon., Mar. 23, Connecticut College hosted Pablo Obando and Stuart Schussler, two representatives from the Mexican Non-Profit Organization that promotes social change in Mexico and facilitates students’ involvement in solidarity activism.

Obando’s center has been located in Chiapas, the southernmost state in Mexico, since 1989. He explained that aside from being Mexico’s southernmost state, Chiapas is also its poorest state—but in a financial sense. He noted that due to the presence of indigenous tribes including the Tzotzil, Tzeltal, Tojolabal, and Zoque peoples, Chiapas is culturally rich. According to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), this richness can potentially be used to further develop the area.

Obando’s role is to get involved when indigenous groups’ rights are violated. For the cases—between eight hundred and one thousand per year—that Frayba receives, members of the non-profit assess the human rights infringements in question and then investigate and document qualifying cases. The purpose of documentation is simple yet powerful: when atrocities are exposed, they become real. Once these cases become real, it becomes easier to promote awareness and prevent future violations.

In order to provide deeper context for his talk, Obando discussed several atrocities that have been documented by Frayba. He cited these accounts, however, with the assertion that his intent was not to scare the audience but to instill pride for Mexico’s indigenous people. Rather than focus on the negative, Obando challenged listeners to concentrate on the ability to organize, demonstrated by the people of Chiapas, and to view the situation with hope.

"When I go to Mexico, I share hope with us," he said.

Obando quickly condemned Mexican former president Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, who approved a counter-insurgency program that killed 45 and injured 25 people in the Acteal Massacre at a refugee camp called Las Abejas, or "the bees." This massacre was only one of many attacks by Ponce de León, and since his presidency Mexico’s "low-intensity war" has continued to be perverted by officially recognized paramilitary, but by civilian groups working to oppress the people of Chiapas.

Obando described a recent case in August of 2014, in which 15 of one such group eliminated a village in the region called the Zapata movement that promoted autonomy.

Chiapas wants autonomy, Obando explained, but the Mexican government aims to suppress the movement. Therefore, Obando posed the question, "Is it possible for us to overcome this problem?" Because the Mexican government wants to maintain its control over Chiapas, the low-intensity war tactics dissolve the divisions in the people of Chiapas, thus making it more difficult for them to unite and gain independence. The fact that the majority of Americans hear so little about this situation in the United States promotes the silence that the Mexican government wants. In the eyes of the corrupt government, American media is doing its job. On the role of the media in addressing this conflict, Obando said, "They want us to associate a million different things with fear. And they want Mexico to be one of them."

With this statement, Obando reminded the audience of the stigma that exists in the United States against Mexico and the general fear of any conflict within the region. Obando brought up how easily people distance themselves from world conflict and oppression. In reference to Chiapas’s dead and disappeared people, he stated: "They are not only ours."

"Obando's aim was not to guilt the audience, but rather to reinforce the importance of solidarity on a global scale. To the audience, he said, "Please don’t ask me "how can we help you?" Remember that they are fighting for their survival, not for our survival."

"Frayba's purpose was not to seek charity, but rather solidarity. The non-profit’s power stems from the notion that with solidarity, "We can make the same noise in 30 different countries."

Because Frayba is a non-profit, Schussler explained, it relies largely on volunteer work. Volunteers either serve as employees at the center in Chiapas or complete 15 day sessions as observers stationed in various neighborhoods whose purpose is to bear witness to human rights violations. Should they occur, Frayba explained that although work as an observer sounds risky, it is actually extremely safe. Because the Mexican authorities want to keep their practices from being exposed, they stop committing atrocities when observers are present. Therefore, observers protect themselves and Chiapas’s citizens simply by being there.

In an interview after the talk, Obando explained that the majority of observers come from the United States, he said, "We need more.

Stuart Schussler’s role in the talk was mainly to provide additional interpretation and clarification, provided one example of the need for American involvement with Frayba. When asked how he got involved with Frayba and Mexico Solidarity Network, Schussler responded, "The short answer is that I signed a mailing list at a talk like this."

Schussler elaborated by admitting that he, like many students here, had been raised in a relatively sheltered American culture and was "pretty oblivious" until he got to college and involved himself with solidarity activities. Once you start seeing the truth about how the world works, he said, "you have to do something about it."

Obando had two closing thoughts to leave with Conn’s student body with. First, he stated that those in the U.S. need to learn more about occurrences in Mexico and realize that the United States is part of the problem, but with a little effort, it can become part of the solution. As his final statement, he said: "If we have a call for solidarity, respond."

On Mar. 24, 2015, only a couple of days after returning from spring break, a group of Connecticut College students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the New London community, gathered at Williams Street for the unveiling of the new Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) bus stop. The new bus stop, which can take riders into New London as well as neighboring towns such as Norwich, is one of the many new initiatives furthering integrating Connecticut College into New London. Speakers at the event included President Katherine Bergeron, New London Mayor Duryil Finizio, SEAT Board member and former mayor of New London Margaret Curtain, Community Learning Coordinator in OVCs David Cruz, and SEAT Bus General Manager Michael Carroll. Vice President for Administration Ulysses Hammond gave introductions.

Cruz, a New London native, saw the need for a bus stop to aid in transportation between the College and community, and called the decision to forward with the initiative a "no brainer." Virginia Gresham ’17, Senior Fellow for Resource Management in the Office of Sustainability, assisted Cruz in the planning of the new SEAT bus stop last spring and attended senior administrator meetings with him. She told The College Voice that, though the new stop is officially open to the public, more will be coming to encourage people to use the bus, including both a physical and digital copy of the bus schedule, and GPS tracking of the bus which can be viewed live on SEAT’s website.

Mayor Finizio spoke about the new stop as a way to "continue building on our partnership" between New London and the College, and to the importance of "rebuilding the Williams Street corridor." Carroll added that he "hope[s] it’s a long lasting relationship between New London, Connecticut College and SEAT." President Bergeron, who discussed taking the bus while living on the West Coast, agreed that the creation of the bus stop will help the College and the community to continue coming together. With an affordable rate (a ride is just $1.50), hopes are high that the bus stop will not only become a practical and integrated service, but will also encourage students, faculty and staff to explore surrounding towns and villages.

This year has been a big year for students involved in the Office of Sustainability. Grisham explained that four other students involved in the Office attended over spring break the Eco Practicum in New York City, a conference involving multiple workshops designed for giving students interested in sustainability leadership training and ideas to bring back to their institution. These new initiatives include the donation of all the old furniture from Stain Library to local non-profits, to the announcement from the Office of Sustainability that the College will host the 2015 Student Sustainability Leadership Symposium in the fall semester.
On Friday, Mar. 27, approximately fifty students gathered in Coffee Grounds to engage in a critical discussion on "Hate Crimes and Fear of Islam in the US," with Professors Bhattacharya, Borer, Hammond, Jafar, Campos-Holland, and Professor of Sociology Afshin Dehshirzadeh. The talk was originally supposed to take place in February, its content is still very much relevant today, globally and locally. She told the audience that what prompted her to want to hold the event was her observation that the murder of three Muslim students (Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha and Razan Abu-Salha) by Craig Stephen Hicks near the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on Feb. 11, 2015. In particular, the lack of media coverage of the murders in Chapel Hill inspired her to act on her conviction. The few times it was covered, it was done in a "very roundabout way," in that some people wondered whether this was an isolated act or if it should be considered hate-crimes. Jafar said: "Why have we been going around in circles trying to avoid thinking about it? When it seems that there are very obvious clues leading us to this is a hate-crime... so why are we trying to label it as a hate-crime?"

After opening the talk, Professor of International Relations and Government Tessa Borer discussed another incident related to the talk's title, the attack by Hansip Mourad, Said Konouchi and Cherif Konouchi on the French satirical magazine, "Charlie Hebdo," that occurred in Paris in January. She noted that in the same way that the Charlie Hebdo attacks occurred, Boko Haram committed acts of violence in the Nigerian town of Baga and Dorrin Baga on Jan. 3, yet the former was less discussed by the media and by students, Professor Borer then mentioned that she wondered whether the media that has reacted and covered the Germanwings incident has been through stereotypes and wrongful framing that attempt to connect the co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz, to terrorism because Lubitz's girlfriend is "Muslim. The reports immediately [wondered] 'Oh is he Muslim?' Was this an act of terrorism?" Professor Borer also used the capturing of trophy photographs of Muslim prisoners at Abu Ghraib by American military personnel as another example of the ways in which the process of dehumanization of groups leads to violence.

During the event, students and professors alike frequently integrated the issue of belonging and citizenship into the dialog. "To me the question of belonging is at the center of all of this. And at the center of that is, do you have an entitled right to be here? Are you an equal citizen of the United States?" Professor Jafar said, first commenting on the theme of belonging or the lack of it. These questions then become further complicated when individuals are faced with the reality of living in an environment of ignorance and bigotry, which can lead to hate crimes and feeling of exclusion. Professor of Human Development Sunil Bhattacharya contextualized and expanded on Professor Jafar's comment by stating that, "We want to establish here that this [hate crime and questions of belonging] happens in different dimensions of the world. The spectrum of hate crimes are very similar in many ways," he said, using historical examples of atrocities committed during World War II to contemporary times. There is "a certain language that gets involved when we think about what hate crimes address," he explained. For example, hate speech was adopted as official policy so that the entire apparatus could use propaganda. Professor Bhattacharya continued. Professor Bhattacharya stressed that there is real danger when the state sanctions the use of hate speech, making it "legitimate," by giving it "full license." In cases of hate crime, Professor Bhattacharya commented that, "As a professor [involved] is never neutral."

Another prominent theme that filtered throughout the talk was the need for more conversations on campus, nationally and globally that seek to educate everyone on various levels. Several students also expressed that it was agree that it is essential to gain a better understanding of groups and ways of thinking that people may not be familiar with. In this context, students need to engage with their classmates and should ask questions and try to understand each other. Professor Bhatia and others continued the conversation in the K.B. common room. As students discussed the issue, many agreed that the "overall goal of the event is to encourage and further construct a conversation in our community and I look forward to learning and moving more from continued dialogue."

As the audience was told that Coffee Grounds was to close at 6pm, Professor Bhattacharya and others continued the conversation in the K.B. common room. As students discussed the issue, many agreed that the overall goal of the event is to encourage and further construct a conversation in our community and I look forward to learning and moving more from continued dialogue. As the audience was told that Coffee Grounds was to close at 6pm, Professor Bhattacharya and others continued the conversation in the K.B. common room. As students discussed the issue, many agreed that the overall goal of the event is to encourage and further construct a conversation in our community and I look forward to learning and moving more from continued dialogue.
Complicated Contemporary Politics in Venezuela

ALEX MILOFSKI
CONTRIBUTOR

After former Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez's death in March 2013, current President Nicolás Maduro, Chávez's hand-picked successor, has spent almost his entire tenure dealing with the monumental problems facing his country. These dilemmas have sparked widespread riots and protests. The opposition is protesting mainly because of the sharp inflation rate, alarming crime rate and the scarcity of basic and medical commodities. President Maduro has reacted to these protests with an iron fist. According to the international organization Human Rights Watch, approximately 150 civilians were killed as a result of violent clashes with protesters, “almost all of them civilians,” and there has been an emergence of serious rights abuses in 45 cases involving 150 civilians in Caracas and three states.

Just two weeks ago, Rodolfo González, also known as “El Aviador,” was found hanging from a rope in his cell at the headquarters of the Venezuelan Intelligence Service (SEBIN). He had been detained on accusations of plotting violence against President Maduro. According to the new government by President Maduro, González is one of an unknown number of political dissenters detaining or removing from office. He was比较简单 and led to the death of 43 Venezuelans. Antonio Ledezma, the mayor of Caracas, was most recently arrested on charges of kidnapping and plotting violence against President Maduro’s government.

The president’s socialist policies, nationalization of large industries and falling oil prices have plunged the economy into inflation. Coupled with this is a new exchange rate that attempts to ease devaluation of the bolivar, Venezuela’s currency. Some businesses, students and priority imports can be approved for 50 bolivars, while the exchange rate of either 6.3 or 12 bolivars per U.S. dollar, while the market has been trading at about 170 bolivars per dollar and the black market right around 190 bolivars per dollar. The existing exchange rate has hobbled an economy fueled by oil, sending doctors to Venezuela to provide care for Venezuela's citizens, but U.S. relations with Venezuela are difficult at best for President Maduro, who has stepped up an iron fist crackdown on dissenters, imprisoning opposition leaders and using military force.

Venezuela, as one of the bigger oil exporters in the western hemisphere, has much political sway in the region when it comes to these nations. Cuba, for instance, received millions of barrels of oil in return for sending doctors to Venezuela to work at understaffed hospitals. Venezuela is also one of the United States’ top five oil exporters.

Complicated Contemporary Politics in Venezuela

Venezuela's political situation is complex, with frequent protests and a government that has been accused of human rights violations. The country is facing a severe economic crisis, with high inflation and shortages of basic goods. The government has cracked down on dissent, leading to a rise in violence and human rights abuses.

President Maduro has faced criticism for his handling of the crisis, with some accusing him of using contraventions to repress opposition groups and others praising his efforts to stabilize the economy. The country's relationship with the United States has also been strained, with the U.S. imposing sanctions on the Venezuelan government.

The future of Venezuela is uncertain, with opposition groups calling for democracy and human rights, and the government responding with a tightening grip on power. The situation in Venezuela is a complex and ongoing challenge, with many different factors at play.
'No Pain, No Shain,' No Longer!

I am poets
like
 whims
It is a rare privilege not only on this place. It is a thing throughout the universe.
Campus Forum Leaves Concerns Unaddressed

LUCA POWELL
MANAGING EDITOR

FRED MCNULTY
MEDIA EDITOR

On March 25, President Katherine Bergeron hosted an all-campus forum, billed as “a community conversation on free speech, equity and inclusion.” The event started on time at 4:30pm in Palmer Auditorium, but went over the expected end time by over 45 minutes. The entire auditorium was nearly full, resulting in the use of an overflow room with a stream of the event.

President Bergeron pledged to enact a five-part agenda aimed at assuaging concerns. She plans to have policies toward speech on social media reviewed, as well as the procedures for reporting incidents. In addition to finding a full-time Dean of Equity, Bergeron will appoint an interim dean. Last, she pledged to create a new forum to discuss campus-wide issues.

Following Bergeron’s comments, Liza Talusan ’97, former chair of the Connecticut College Alumni of Color community, and a member of the College’s Alumni Association Board, spoke briefly about her role as a facilitator. Short of a few attempts to enforce the time constraints of the forum, Talusan gave the students nearly unfettered ability to speak their minds. The forum quickly took a life of its own.

Ayla Zuraw-Friedland, editor-in-chief of The College Voice, spoke as an individual in solidarity with marginalized groups on campus, specifically calling out President Bergeron, asking her to speak off the cuff and to condemn hate speech by name. Zuraw-Friedland’s in-situence voiced many of the student body’s concerns: that the forum would not suffice, and neither would the administration’s five-part agenda if it did not recognize and decisively address the rights of the offended.

Bergeron pushed back on the implication that anyone, other than herself, could be “identificationally yours and lack a level of understanding of the context,” and that her name was the only one that added it to “call out to those who are identity of the forum.” She acknowledged the concerns, but emphasized that “it’s just not that easy to put yourself in a vulnerable state. However, this week’s post-spring break event has illustrated the real need for Connecticut College and our greater community.

The Critical Role of Professors in our Shifting Community

SARAH ROSE GRUZZECKI
STAFF WRITER

Over spring break, I wrote an article for this issue of The College Voice examining professors and student relationships within Connecticut College and how they are unique to our institution. As the first post-spring break week at Conn began, this article was close to complete. With interviews conducted and sources cited, it appeared as though I was perfectly on track for my assigned due date. However, after witnessing and experiencing the startling events of this week, something about my article did not feel quite right. Its humorous tone detailing professor-student relationships through sources ranging from “rate my professor” ratings to informal meetings no longer felt appropriate to best service this week’s events.

It is difficult to deny that there are many fantastic professors on our campus. The fact that we live in a community where professors invite their students over for dinner and frequently introduce themselves on a first-name basis are qualities which make our school incredibly special. Upon returning home from college many of my friends were indeed surprised that one of my friends had joined her seminar professor and peers for a home cooked meal. These intimate and meaningful relationships play an essential role for many in the overall Connecticut College experience and help to foster a unique and important sense of community.

However, it is evident through the events this week that not all of our professors have most certainly changed. As our campus has been turned upside down to engage in critical discussions on race and free speech and our mission to fully participate, I have witnessed many professors support students in a manner that transcends far beyond academic borders. As evidenced through the events of Wednesday’s community forum and over (AYLA WILL INSERT CURRENT NUMBER HERE) signed department emails condemning racism and dehumanizing speech, the professors’ firm commitment both to our general community and to the safety of the college’s students has never been more apparent. In the past week alone, I have witnessed many professors advocate for students in a way that has made me feel honored to attend a community so dedicated and vibrant faculty.

In a time where many prospective Connecticut College students are receiving the news of the week, some individuals have understandably expressed concern about the current state of our academic institution. In light of this, I thought it only fitting to hear from these students directly. As a first-year student currently enrolled in a CDS seminar professor and peers for a home cooked meal, I have witnessed many professors advocate for students in a way that has made me feel honored to attend a community so dedicated and vibrant faculty. But many students, faculty and staff are struggling to recover from the pain of this week’s incidents and the challenging discussions they have provoked. I have proudly witnessed students and staff come together to find a space to productively heal.

Furthermore, over the course of this week I have been further impressed by the time which professors have allocated within their classes for open discussions about racism, discrimination and community values. As a first-year student currently enrolled in a number of classes with separate departments, I was incredibly surprised to discover the majority of my professors allotted at least one full class period to processing this week’s events. Interrupting their predetermined syllabi to address the needs of our community and student body is an act that I sincerely appreciate. Unlike many of my experiences in high school where instructors appeared solely fixated on the courses they were responsible for teaching, it has become strikingly evident that Conn’s professors hold an overarching investment in the success and safety of our greater community.

The past week has exposed me to a side of Connecticut College that was not evident in the enthusiastic guided tours, informational sessions and colorful pamphlets used in the college’s admission department. The words used to describe the recently graduated class of 2014 were “manifestly diverse.” The first time Conn speaks with me about her experience last year. Wednesday’s forum and the consequential events which followed have reinforced all the reasons why many others that our college and community remain in a vulnerable state. However, this week has also illustrated the real need for Connecticut College to remember that the place I choose to be my home.

At the end of the day, our professors truly care about creating a community where all individuals feel safe, respected, and above all, genuinely heard.
Exploring Research in the Social Sciences

SHATRUNJAY MALL
STAFF WRITER

Connecticut College, just like other small, liberal arts colleges, takes the number of opportunities that it provides for undergradu-
aten level research with faculty as a point of pride. These opportu-
nities are usually made possible by a close level of collaboration between the faculty and students. Through these, students gain valuable exper-
ence that often opens wide ranges of avenues for their future. However, “student research” may appear to be rather vague and un-
familiar to the outside observer. This is especially the case for re-
search in the arts and humanities, where traditional notions of “le-
gitimate research” are challenged. I was interested to learn what ex-
actly the term “student research” is used to refer to.

In April, I visited Deborah Dreher, Associate Dean for Fellowships & Scholarships. She emphasized that there are “dif-
ferent kinds of opportunities” in the arts and humanities that are available to students, even if not the most prevalent, rather more orthodox conception of research as being something conducted in a laboratory with copious quanti-
ties of data does not suffice. As an example, she referred to the perfor-
ming arts where questions have always arisen about what can be consid-
ered legitimate research.” She noted that many communities practice the art of research in this way, where the work of research is something that “transforms the way faculty and students think of.” To discover students’ perspectives on their research, I reached out via email to Sal Bigay ’16, who received the opportunity to do research in art over the summer before his junior year. His research inter-
ests were in line with the more ortho-

Here's the bibliographic citation for this book entry in the COCI format: 

**CIRRA HEALEY ARTS EDITOR**

Scores of students shuf-

ded in Boston, adding a se-

he conducted it off-campus, be-

Green Dot training are among some of the events planned for April by the Think S.A.F.E. Project (Sexual Assault Free Envi-

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After an Icy Preseason, Camel Sail Plans to Head Up Nationals This Spring

WELLER HINOMAZ
STAFF WRITER

After winning the semifinals at the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association national championship last year along with a 16th place finish at the co-ed national championship, the Connecticut College Sailing Team plans to build on their previous season with great hope and promise of an exceptional season this spring. While many of the Camels of our community were on spring break, relaxing at home or tanning and vacationing at exotic places, the Camels on the water were on the freezing and windy Thames River as well as Saint Mary's River in Maryland. On the Thames, often the water were on the freezing and winter has caused serious difficulties for other New England

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In Maryland, the Women’s team sailed in the Saint Mary’s Women Intercollegiate Regatta where they competed for some great results. In the B division, rookie skipper Emilia Clementi along with classmates Alexandra Maurillo, Isabelle Pieper and Haley Kachmar scored 101 points cruising to seventh place. In the A division, first year skipper Charlotte List was joined by Alexandra Maurillo and Isabelle Pieper in 17th place with 184 points for the Camels. Freshman Charlotte List and senior Alex Israel have been honored as the New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association sailors of the week for their recent break out performances. At the Navy Women’s Intersectional, List and Israel had the highest New England finish in B division, locking up 3rd place after 4 races on March 15.

The Connecticut College Sailing Team strives in a division comparable to NCAA Division I sports and has had major success with both the current squad and with the alumni. Of the 16 American sailors competing in the 2012 London Olympics, two of them were Connecticut College alumni. Amanda Clark in the class of 2005 and Bob Willis of 2009 made not only the United States, but also Connecticut College Camels proud in the Olympics. This has set the tone for excellence at Connecticut College, and the sailors continue to compete at an extremely high level to meet these standards. The high standards in the sport, however, come with the responsibility and rigor of a Connecticut College education. Rebecca Quirk said, “The caliber of competition we encounter has students travelling as far west as Oregon, south as Texas and north as Maine for regattas weekly, while trying to juggle the NESCAC caliber of school work.” As the sailing team is consistently ranked in the top 20 teams in the country, the Camels plan to continue their success and move up the ranks this spring season. With spirits up from the successful preseason, the Camels plan to build on last year’s achievements. Quirk said, “This year I believe we will improve on last year’s finish considering our success in the preseason and the talent on this team.”

AIMIEE MANDERLINK
STAFF WRITER

With an undefeated conference record of fourteen wins and no losses, Connecticut College’s Women’s Water Polo team is the team to look out for on campus this season. The Camels began their conference play last week with a tournament at Monmouth College in Illinois in which they opened the first day with three consecutive wins. The team first beat Macalester College 16-6, then went on to gain victories against Penn State-Behrend University and home team Monmouth. University beating both teams by wide margins (16-2 and 19-2 respectively).

Among those adding to the Camels’ high scoring results were senior All-Americans Kate Jacobson and Nicky Jasbon who added three goals and an assist in their triumph against Macalester.

The Camels furthered their commendable three game sweep by rack ing up three more wins the following day of the tournament. The first victory of the team came against Washington & Jefferson College, where they doubled the goals of their opponent achieving a 14-7 win. Their next win arrived against Carthage College, in which the camels matched their 14-7 score of the last game.

The Camels ended their second triple-header with a 15-8 victory over the Utica College Pioneers. The weekend ended on a high note when the team gained their final victory against Pennsylvania’s Grove City College, beating them 13-4.

Several members of the team walked away from the final four games with an impressive number of goals. Jacobson and Jasbon netted another ten goals each, and fellow senior classmate Isabelle Baneux earned eight goals. On the defensive side, the Camels also made waves. In the team’s victory against Washington & Jefferson, junior Ashley Amey made ten saves. Sophomore Susan Doetsch managed ten stops in the day’s next game against Carthage. Freshman Sarah Pursley demonstrated the Camels’ unstoppable, triumphant momentum by gathering nine saves and one steal in the victory against Utica.

The Camels proved their immense stamina as they emerged with seven consecutive wins after the weekend. This weekend at Connecticut College the Women’s Water Polo team swept the tournament winning seven games and keeping their 14 game winning streak alive.
Track and Field Athletes: Sprinting into a new Season

LIZ VAROLI
CONTRIBUTOR

Connecticut College Men's Track and Field team has already finished the first half of their 2015 season with some solid results, and is looking forward to finishing the second half of the season with an even stronger showing. In the most recent weeks, the men traveled to Wesleyan University, Assumption College, Emmanuel College, Salve Regina University and others. Some of their best results at this meet included the following events: the 4x400 meter relay in which Aidan Cort, Nick Fischetti, Brent Lo, and Rich-Piondella finished in third with a time of 3:40.69; the 3000 meter run in which Billy Barnes finished in fourth with a time of 9:20.39; the pole vault in which Fischetti finished in sixth at an apex of 10 feet, eight inches; the 1500 meter run in which Joyce finished in eighth with a time of 4:22.14; and the 60 meter hurdles in which Cort finished in eighth with a time of 9.50 seconds.

The season is far from over, the men have some important, exciting events to train for in the upcoming weeks. In April, the team will compete at the Amherst College Invitational, the Silfen Invitational, the MIT Invitational, the NESCAC Championship, and at the New England Division III Track and Field Championship in April and May. Barnes said he is simply “looking forward to the later meets when the weather gets better.” All three seniors clearly seemed proud of their team and the beginning of their season, with high hopes for their potential success at the end of the season. Each acknowledged that these next few weeks are their “final chance”, so they hope to do well and to have a good end of the season.

For the first time in her 14-year coaching career Coach Steele has been selected as the NESCAC Coach of the Year. Leading her team to a 7-7-2 conference record this season the lady camels were able to receive their highest NESCAC Tournament seed under her direction. In her 14 years of coaching, Steele has led the team to eight consecutive NESCAC Tournament appearances and has made it to the semi-finals three seasons.

Women’s Hockey Coach Named NESCAC Coach of the Year

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Following the NCAA Tournament

PETER BURGE
CONTRIBUTOR

With the burgeoning excitement of this year’s Men’s NCAA Tournament, we are in the midst of something special. Something men’s college basketball has been waiting for through a decades-long drought of sound teams and also-rans sharing prestige in sports’ greatest event. College basketball has a powerhouse. A true powerhouse.

It has been thirty-nine years since men’s basketball saw an undefeated season. The 1976 Indiana Hoosiers were the last, running the table and finishing 33-0 in their championship year. Through the good years and the great teams, no one has since finished unblemished, even if the blemishes were faint. But it will happen this year.

The Kentucky Wildcats are that team without blemishes. The undisputed heavyweights in a class of featherweights, Kentucky is tall and athletic, and nasty and impenetrable. If they were an NBA team, they would be the second-tallest in the league. And they would be vying for a playoff spot. Kentucky needs only a few more wins to finish their season 40-0, and they will win without issue.

But is this good for the sport? College basketball is flattering. Outside of the sensation around March Madness and the obligatory filling out of brackets, national focus on the sport is nearing null. 2008 had record low television viewership and this year was not much better. The National Championship Game in 2014 had half the TV audience that it did twenty years ago. Half. Why is that?

One can point to the movement en masse of freshman talent. The best in the sport often leave for the NBA draft after one year in college, leaving little room for the sport’s great players to become household names while still in school. That’s absolutely true, but in reality, that cannot be the sole reason—only nine freshmen entered last year’s NBA draft, not necessarily the mass migration that seems to be ruining the sport.

In a sense, with great players leaving early, it can actually create more attention. Last year, all eyes were on Andrew Wiggins and Jabari Parker, who were destined to be selected first and second in the upcoming NBA draft. The hype around Parker and Wiggins was actually magnified because their arrival in the NBA was imminent. People wanted to know if Parker and Wiggins would be worth the gamble of early draft picks. Their flash-in-the-pan careers created a sensation. If their tenures in college were more drawn out, the hype surrounding them would not have been as intense.

If these players leaving early are not the problem, is it the lack of scoring? Offense has steadily declined in recent years, and the drop in offensive numbers has been magnified because their arrival in the NBA was actually magnified because their arrival in the NBA was imminent. People wanted to know if Parker and Wiggins would be worth the gamble of early draft picks. Their flash-in-the-pan careers created a sensation. If their tenures in college were more drawn out, the hype surrounding them would not have been as intense.

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With the Kentucky Wildcats playing in four of this season’s six most-viewed games, Kentucky can do the same.

Kentucky has done the same, if only to a small degree. Television ratings are still down this year, but the Wildcats played in four of this season’s six most-viewed games. Kentucky’s game against Arkansas in the SEC tournament conference had the highest TV audience the conference has seen in five years. The team’s coach John Calipari has constantly kept interview requests and he nails them all. If Kentucky does lose in the Tournament, there will be national frenzy. If the team makes it to the championship game, it will without a doubt be the most-watched and most-talked about in those twenty long years.

Kentucky carries the burden that the UConn Women did. They must move the trend back to college basketball’s era of giants. Geno Auriemma made it work for his team, and he knew what it meant for the sport: “Like it or not, we made you pay attention.”

Senior Kelsie Fralick wrapped up her final season as goalie for the Connecticut College women’s ice hockey team with an astonishing amount of career saves, 2,016 to be exact. Her achievements this season, including a national caliber .947 save percentage, earned her a spot on the All-New England Small Athletic Conference Women’s Hockey First Team.
The Goodwin Neiring Center presents

Feeding the Future

This Saturday the Goodwin Neiring Center for the Environment hosted the landmark Feeding the Future conference. The conference, which kicked off on Friday with a talk from Dan Barber, author of The Third Plate, showcased many innovative speakers in the fields of sustainability and food systems technology. Led by Jane Dawson and student members of the GNCE certificate program, the conference entertained alternative approaches to big issues with a “broken” food system. Speaker Malik Yamini, for instance, illustrated the power of the urban farming movement in downtown Detroit, while technologist Andreas Fargiaci probed the world of cultured, “animal-free” meat production. The event also featured a capstone dining event provided by Chef Rama I of Miya’s Sushi, who tempted the mouths and taste buds of attendees with sushi dishes designed around invasive species and a maverick movement to redefine ecologically sustainable and nourishing food traditions.