

Connecticut College
Digital Commons @ Connecticut College

Friends of the Connecticut College Library
Newsletter

Friends of the Connecticut College Library

10-1-2013

Fall Newsletter 2013

Benjamin Panciera
Connecticut College, bpancier@conncoll.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/fo>

Recommended Citation

Panciera, Benjamin, "Fall Newsletter 2013" (2013). *Friends of the Connecticut College Library Newsletter*. Paper 30.
<http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/fo/30>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Friends of the Connecticut College Library at Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Friends of the Connecticut College Library Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. For more information, please contact bpancier@conncoll.edu.
The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

2013 FRIENDS of the CONNECTICUT COLLEGE LIBRARY Fall Newsletter

CHARLES E. SHAIN LIBRARY ♥ GREER MUSIC LIBRARY ♥ LINDA LEAR CENTER FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES

HISTORIC CONNECTICUT COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS AVAILABLE ONLINE

This summer the Connecticut College Library purchased a new book scanner that will dramatically enhance our already active digitization program. Traditional flatbed scanners require objects to be placed on a flat plate of glass, allowing for excellent reproductions of photographs or other flat objects. However, they are inadequate for items that are too rare, large, or fragile to withstand such treatment. In contrast, the new scanner is an overhead system, which operates using two cameras placed about 20 inches above the book. No pressure is applied to the object being scanned, a built-in cradle supports fragile bindings, and the cameras even correct for the natural curvature of a bound book.

The result is a scanner system that will enable us to bring some of our rarest and most valuable holdings to a broader public. The scanner is extremely fast as well. It can take a high-resolution image from a large folio volume and turn it into searchable text in a matter of seconds.

Staff at the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections & Archives spent a portion of the summer putting the new scanner to work on one of the most heavily used collections in the Col-



Top: The first issue of the student newspaper carried the title Connecticut College Herald. The name changed to Connecticut College News with the second issue.

Bottom: The first Commencement issue appeared in 1920. It was also the first issue to feature a large photograph.

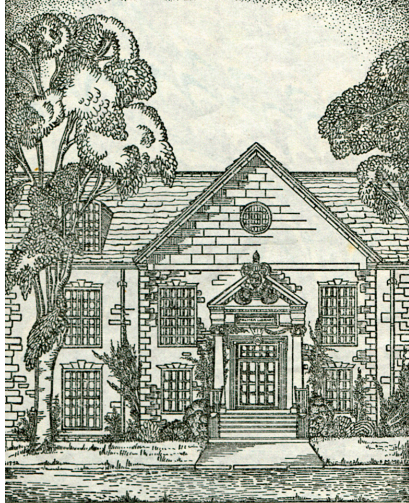
lege Archives, our student newspapers. Since 1915, the student newspaper at Connecticut College has been reporting roughly once a week on news, events,

concerns, and controversies on campus reflecting the intellectual, athletic, and social life of the College. It began its history as the *Connecticut College News* before becoming *Conn Census*, *Satyagraha*, *Pundit*, the *Courier*, and finally the *College Voice*, a name the newspaper retains to this day.

The scanning project has already made available approximately 40 percent of the volumes of the College newspaper. In the two months that the online archive has been active, over 1,500 users have accessed the newspapers. These include not just members of the College community, but the general public as well, because the collection can be easily searched by Google and other search engines. We have even heard from a student at another institution who is seeking to incorporate the online archive into his senior honors research, something that would have only been possible in the past through a potentially expensive and time-consuming visit to campus.

What have these researchers been discovering? There is a wealth of information in the pages of the *Connecticut College News*. Early issues of the newspaper document the names

continued on page 2



THE PALMER LIBRARY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

The Friends of the
Connecticut College Library
<http://www.conncoll.edu/is/friends-of-the-library.htm>

W. Lee Hisle

*Vice President for Information Services and
Librarian of the College*

Benjamin Panciera

*Ruth Rusch Sheppe '40 Director of the Lear
Center for Special Collections and Archives
and Newsletter Editor*

Charles E. Shain Library

Greer Music Library

Connecticut College

270 Mohegan Avenue

New London CT

06320-4196

This and other issues of the
Friends of the Library Newsletter
may be viewed online at

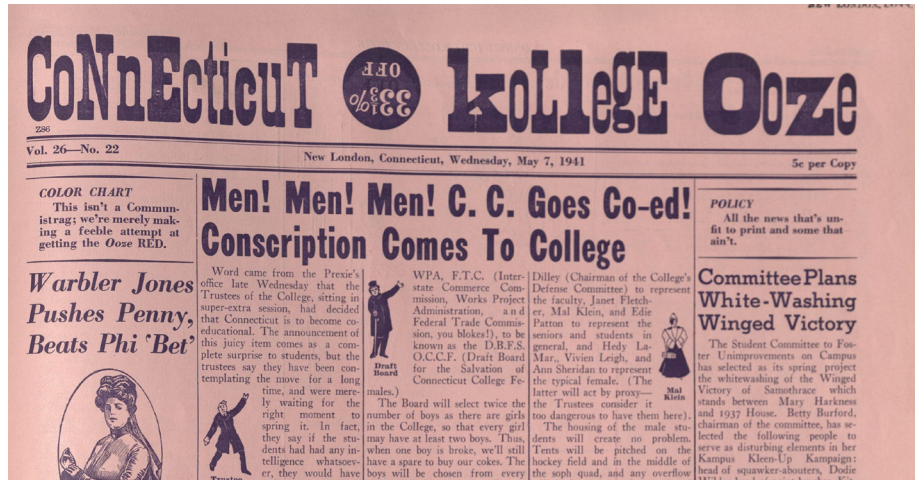
<http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/fo/>

This newsletter was designed by Susan Lindberg.

October 2013



CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE



Satirical editions were published about every other year from the mid 1920s to the early 1940s. Alcohol and coeducation were popular subjects.

COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS

continued from page 1

of all of the students in each entering class, often listing not just hometown and school, but hobbies and academic interests as well. New appointed faculty are also documented, together with their academic credentials and previous appointments. The social life described in the *News* provides information on teas, chapel lectures, and intramural athletics. The most important dates on the social calendar, however, are the dances. Helpful hints are provided to the men coming to campus, and some years the *News* gave the names of the men together with the colleges they attended.

The newspapers bring to life the astonishing rate of growth of the College over its first four decades. Every year brings reports of new construction planned or executed, larger incoming classes, and more faculty hired. As the College grew in size, it also grew in prestige, attracting speakers and visiting faculty of national or even international prominence. Prominent academics like Reinhold Niebuhr was a frequent lecturer, as were first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Vice-President Henry Wallace. Connecticut College became a cultural hub as well, with concerts by world-renowned performers like Yehudi Menuhin. Artie Shaw and his orchestra even brought the new craze of swing to campus for the sophomore hop of 1937.

Most importantly, we see the events

of the day through the eyes of Connecticut College students. The newspaper typically focused its attention on campus concerns, chiefly the curriculum and social life and regulations. Nevertheless, students' strong engagement with the world off campus shows itself in opinion pieces on political subjects like Prohibition and presidential elections, fund drives for foreign relief, the student pacifist movement of the 1920s and 1930s, and the effects of both World Wars.

In coming weeks, we will be uploading newspapers from the 1960s, featuring the years leading up to coeducation. The new online newspaper archive makes this tremendously rich resource of Connecticut College history easily accessible to all for the first time.

The Connecticut College Student Newspaper Online Archive

[digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/
ccnews](http://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/ccnews)

New issues added weekly with the
goal of all student newspapers
available online by the end of 2013

DAVID POGUE TO GIVE SOUND LAB LECTURE, OCTOBER 10

David Pogue will be the speaker at the sixteenth annual Sound Lab Foundation Lecture. The lecture will take place on October 10 at 7:30 pm in Ernst Common Room in Blaustein Hall. The title of the talk is “How Smart Can We Get.”

David Pogue has gained renown as a communicator of high tech trends to a broad audience as a columnist for the *New York Times*, author of several books in the popular *For Dummies* series (including not just *Macs* and *iBooks*, but *Magic* and *Opera For Dummies* as well), and creator of clever, highly produced short video clips

on the Times website. He is also currently a host of PBS’s popular *NOVA* program and writes and hosts several segments a year for the *CBS Sunday Morning News*.

David Pogue came to his technology media celebrity through an unusual path. After studying music and computer science at Yale, he went to make his name in the world of New York musical theater as a conductor, arranger, assistant, and syn-



thesizer programmer on and off Broadway. At the same time, Pogue used his technology background to teach computing skills to actors and directors. This led to the opportunity to write about technology and his present career.

David Pogue is a consummate entertainer and has requested a piano for his lecture (a first for Sound Lab!). He will take questions after the lecture.

NEW ACQUISITIONS:

Hocus Pocus

Werner Pfeiffer is one of our favorite book artists. His *Woo_den\c·loud}s* and *Abracadabra* have been profiled in previous Friends of the Library newsletters and are among the most heavily used items in our substantial collection of artists’ books. So when he came to visit with some of his new experiments in book construction (and deconstruction), we knew it would be hard to resist adding his latest offering to the collection.

Hocus Pocus is an exploration of the Dada movement, its approach to art, and the somewhat curious phenomenon that Dada works today command extraordi-

nary prices in the art market. Dada was an avant-garde art movement embracing chaos and irrationality that flourished in the years after the First World War. Pfeiffer’s title comes from a line in the Dada Manifesto, “the gigantic hocus-pocus of being fires the nerves of the true Dadaist.” At the center of *Hocus Pocus* is a substantial catalog from a major exhibition of Dada art held in Paris, New York, and Washington, D.C. The catalog has been cut into twelve pieces, which have then been rebound as miniature books that then can be reconfigured into any of hundreds of random arrangements. The

dismembered catalog is enclosed within a box held together by a knife. Like all of Pfeiffer’s experiments, *Hocus Pocus* encourages readers to play with the form of the book and we expect that it will provide students with the opportunity to reflect on the nature of books and art.



Crandall and Daboll map from 1915

A NEW HOME FOR OLD MAPS

This past spring James McGuire, whose family law firm represented Connecticut College for much of its history, informed us of some discoveries made while preparing to move his firm’s office out of its former New London location — a collection of maps, aerial views, and plans of the College from its very beginnings through the 1950s. The collection consists of over a dozen items, many of which likely survive in only a single copy. Among the most interesting materials is a 1915 plan of the College drawn up by the firm of Crandall and Daboll showing the existing private property owners around the campus and details of the Branch and Bolles gifts of their land. Other maps show the expansion of the Arboretum and College property on Williams Street. The maps have already been used in a project for a landscape architecture course and will be a valuable resource for students and researchers in the future.

FALL EXHIBITS

In the Charles E. Shain Library Exhibit Area

Living Thinkers: Harriet Jacobs' Attic

September 19 – October 18

Roxana Walker-Canton studies the intersection of race, class, and gender in the experiences of contemporary Black women professors and administrators through their education narratives from girlhood to their present status in academia. Despite gains, progress continues to be slow and the numbers of Black women in these positions continues to be low. In spite of the continued struggles facing this community, African American women in the academy have used the university as a space to find personal identity, give voice to global and community issues facing the Black community at large and Black women more specifically, and make significant contributions to American intellectual history. The exhibit will feature archival items from Professor Walker-Canton's research.

Art of Latin America: Identity & Culture

October 24 – December 18

The Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity in partnership with the Latin Network of Visual Arts and the Provenance Center will present an exhibit featuring pieces from the LNVA's permanent collection and from the private collection of Gaston and Mimi Daumy. The exhibit will focus on the theme of race and ethnicity presenting the works of artists from across the Latin world. This exhibit marks the 10th Anniversary of the LNVA and the campus celebration of Latino Heritage Month. An opening curator's talk and reception will take place in the Chu Room on October 24 at 4:30 p.m.

In the Charles Chu Reading Room

Capturing Animals in Motion:

Paintings from the Chu-Griffis Collection

September 3 – December 20

The Chu-Griffis Collection is home to a wide range of paintings featuring animals both fanciful and realistic. This exhibit will present watercolors of mammals, birds, and fish in their natural environments in traditional *literati* paintings displaying animals as featured objects and as elements in a harmonious landscape.

In the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections & Archives

Recent Acquisitions in the Artists' Books Collection

September 3 – December 20

The Lear Center has been aggressively collecting artists' books for over a decade, amassing a substantial collection widely used in student learning and projects. Highlights of materials collected in the past three years will be displayed in this exhibit. Some of the books feature unusual structures or formats; others fine technique in printing or illustration. Selected artists included are Werner Pfeiffer, Maria Pisano, Angela Lorenz, and Laura Russell.



FRIENDS OF THE CONNECTICUT COLLEGE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Friends of the Connecticut College Library runs from January 1 to December 31, but it is never too late to join or renew your membership. Dues from the Friends are used to support the acquisition and preservation of materials, lectures, exhibitions, receptions, mailings, and scholarships.

If you wish to join, download a form at <http://www.conncoll.edu/information-services/friends-of-the-library> or contact Benjamin Panciera at bpancier@conncoll.edu or by calling 860-439-2654.

Membership has the following levels, named for important benefactors at the College's founding: Bolles (\$500), Palmer (\$250), Plant (\$100), Gildersleeve (\$50), and Wright (\$25). For recent graduates there is also a Young Alumni level (\$10). All members receive the newsletter and invitations to lectures and other events. Those who contribute more than \$50 will also receive borrowing privileges at both the Charles E. Shain and the Greer Music libraries. Those who contribute at or above the \$100 level will receive a set of Friends of the Connecticut College Library bookplates; for a gift of \$250 or more, we will personalize the bookplates.