

Connecticut College

Digital Commons @ Connecticut College

2013-2014

Student Newspapers

9-30-2013

College Voice Vol. 97 No. 2

Connecticut College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/ccnews_2013_2014

Recommended Citation

Connecticut College, "College Voice Vol. 97 No. 2" (2013). *2013-2014*. 12.
https://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/ccnews_2013_2014/12

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2013-2014 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.

THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

VOLUME XCVII • ISSUE 2



Government and International Relations Professors Shed Light On Syria

MOLLY BANGS
NEWS EDITOR

The Chu Room in Connecticut College's Shain Library was particularly crowded last Friday, September 27, given the noontime hour and overcast skies. The roughly eighty students, faculty, and staff — including President Higdon — who had gathered can be explained by their common desire to hear Professors William Rose, Caroleen Sayej, Alex Roberto Hybel and Tristan Borer of the Government and International Relations Department explain what options the world has in terms of the ongoing crisis in Syria.

Of the attendees, there were varying reasons and motivations for attending the panel. Zach Balomenos '14 explained that because of his experience studying Arabic in Jordan this summer, he is, at this point, quite personally invested in the Middle Eastern region. His classmate Charlotte Novak '14 expressed a much-echoed sentiment of striving to get a clearer sense of what is actually going on in Syria; she also was looking forward to learning the professors' predictions of outcomes in Syria.

Drew Majkut '14 agreed with Novak, saying that he was "looking forward to debating with the professors, as well as seeing what their opinions are as they come from such diverse backgrounds, the different lenses through which they view the [Syrian] conflict will be very interesting."

The talk was all the more timely given Friday morning's unanimous Security Council passage of its resolution requiring Syria to give up all chemical weapons.

Interim Director of the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts, Professor Marc Zimmer, moderated the session. He began by handing the floor to Professor Sayej, who firstly provided the timeline of the Syrian crisis, which began two and a half years ago in March of 2011. She clearly and concisely explained how the protests, which really began with a "handful of Syrian boys scribing on walls that the regime needed to be toppled", escalated to today's "flurry of diplomacy" and the United Nations discussion on how to rid Syria of its chemical weapons, which pose a serious national security threat to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

'SOCIAL THOUGHT GROUP' ALLOWS FOR MORE DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

DANA SORKIN
NEWS EDITOR

It's hard to deny that the student body at Connecticut College tends to lean more to the left than to the right when it comes to politics. What's more unclear, though, is if there are actually fewer students with conservative points of view, or they're simply not speaking up. In a survey done by the Princeton Review to find the 20 most politically active schools, liberal arts schools took home nine spots. Schools that are comparable to Connecticut College, such as Trinity, Vassar and Swarthmore, were all represented on the list. So what's stopping Conn from being as politically active as possible, and representing all points of view

on the modern American political spectrum?

Until last semester, Conn has had one main and long-lasting political group on campus: Connecticut College Democrats, or CCDems. As to be expected from a political club on a college campus, their focuses range from encouraging voter registration to more specific local and national issues. However, the Democratic Party doesn't represent everyone's views. To represent students who do not align themselves with the ideals of the Democratic Party, Ben Friedman '16 and Vladimir Chlouba '16 have together founded a new club on campus, originally named Conservative Thought Group, but now instead

called Social Thought Group. According to Friedman, the club isn't meant to be a Republicans club, but instead a welcoming and bipartisan organization for all members of the Conn community. "I want to welcome everyone," said Friedman. "I don't care if you're conservative, liberal, Independent, Democrat. Wherever you stand on the list, just come on in."

Though the original idea may have been inspired by the lack of conservative organizations on campus, this isn't the direction the club plans on taking in the future. Chlouba cited one of the meetings from last semester as a moment in which students from two different political points of view came together: "We always

want to hear diverse perspectives at our meetings. For example, we invited Fred McNulty '15, a renowned member of Connecticut College Democrats, to sit down with us." Afterwards, Chlouba and Friedman went on McNulty's radio show.

"When I went both times, I was the only liberal," explained McNulty. "There were sometimes one or two people who would have defined themselves as moderates, but they leaned conservatively. I have no issue debating with them. I had a good time. Obviously, I don't like their politics, but I do think there are a good number of people on campus who are Republicans. I ended up inviting both of them on my show at separate points to

continue this discussion." This idea of sharing perspectives is something that the club wants to focus on and highlight as what makes them unique. Friedman summed this up simply, saying: "This school talks about how diverse it is — when you have a bunch of Democrats in the same room, you're not going to learn very much."

While the club has yet to hold any meetings this semester, this past spring the Social Thought Group held a number of events, with the largest being a debate on gun control. The meeting was held in the Larrabee common room, and close to 30 people attended — an exceptional turnout

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

A Heavyweight Contender Against the Cro Dance

PETER HERRON
STAFF WRITER

"Going to the Cro Dance, I guess." These words of shame and resignation can be heard all the way from Ridge 1 to Johnson 301 most every Saturday night. Not that a Crozier-Williams party is always a bad thing; every so often we all enjoy the sight of a room full of people desperately trying to dance while avoiding eye contact (presumably in order to focus on the high-caliber live, pre-recorded music). But since the beginning of time — or at least since my freshman year — the question has always been asked: why isn't

there anything else to do on the weekend? Last Saturday, this question was finally answered.

By midnight, a large, sweaty crowd had assembled in Cro Pit. It was the first time since the outdoor Foam Party incident of 2012 that "The Pit," which is what no one calls it, was so full. But this time, there would be no dishwashing liquid. A mixed demographic of Keep Conn Weird-os, rugby players and wandering freshmen assembled to witness the first ever SNL: MOBROC Show. MOBROC (Musicians Organized for Band Rights

on Campus) shows have typically been on below-average nights of the week (hence, FNL) and in below-average venues (the fun-sponge that is Cro's Nest). To make matters worse, half the off-campus bands that have "headlined" MOBROC shows in the past have been boring nobodies. This time around, SAC (in particular, Music Chair Luke Walker '16) trusted campus bands to attract their fan bases (or at least, friend-bases) to the show. It paid off: most weeks, midnight on Saturday

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

IN THIS ISSUE

On a Community of Leaders

Editor in Chief Dave Shanfield questions the effectiveness of Conn's "divide and conquer" approach to student engagement

EDITORIALS - 2

Feministing.com Writer Visits Conn

Zerlina Maxwell presents "Rape Culture: Power, Privilege and Patriarchy"

NEWS - 5

Commercial Coffee

Julia Cristofano '14 shares her insight on Ruane's Den

OPINIONS - 6

Oasis Pub

Columnist Tim Hartshorn '14 on what he calls New London's hipster joint for everyone

SPORTS - 10

Editorial

On a Community of Leaders

I applied – and was accepted – to be a tour guide during the fall of my freshman year. For the following three years, the Connecticut College campus became my interactive map of visual cues for facts, statistics and small anecdotes about the school. At the Olin Observatory, I would talk about “my friend” who was completing an awesome interdisciplinary project for the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology. In Fanning Hall, I would laugh about funny interactions and awkward moments that I never had with President Higdon. And at Cro, I would talk about the wealth of clubs and organizations that students can get involved in here at Conn.

I would always end this spiel with a line that I picked up from my own tour guide when I was visiting our campus as a prospective student: “If there’s no clubs or organizations that you’re interested in, that’s fine, you can always start your own!” At this, parents’ eyes would glaze over and a hopeful smile would creep across their lips as they imagined their own child as a captain, a president, an editor or a founder.

Student action and organization is at the core of any college community, and Conn is no exception. We pride ourselves on the number of clubs here – there are currently 126 registered on ConnQuest – and encourage the foundation of new clubs to ad-

dress ever-changing global, national and local issues. With a small following and a little bit of paperwork, any group can become an organization, and any student can become a leader.

Leadership gives students the opportunity to not only promote change, but to make and execute the decisions that trigger it. They become liaisons to faculty, administration and trustees, and also help connect the student body as they work with all years within their organization. These individuals are vital for sustaining an active and engaged campus community, and all in all, they’re good people doing good things.

Before I tell you why I think that this is problematic, I think it’s important to explain that, up until the summer of 2012, I never considered myself much of a “community guy.” I had always liked the sense of selfish independence that permeated New York City – I found the competitive atmosphere energizing. But, when I began selling ice pops (fresh, local fruit ice pops, that is) for a small company at a trendy Brooklyn food fair, that all changed. I found myself thrown into a strange microcosm where vendors would cook free meals for each other after a long day’s work; where I could expect a delicious iced coffee at the start of a long, hot afternoon and a fresh, warm donut on chilly mornings. The vendors to the left and right

of my pop stand weren’t just my competition, but my neighbors, too, and the success of each day was equally dependent on their comfort and happiness as it was the quarters in my tip jar.

This worked because, as much as I’d like to be, I wasn’t an owner of the company for which I worked, and neither were most of the other individuals working at the fair. We each worked with an attitude of ownership – over our shifts, selling our products – but without an ownership stake, allowing us to look after one another and strengthen the community without having to stop and evaluate the profitability of each action (much to the chagrin of our bosses, I’m sure).

At Conn there is enormous pressure to achieve a leadership position. The pressure comes, in part, from our parents and our career counselors who tell us that a few nice titles can really beef up our resumes, and from an “everyone else is doing it” mentality as well. Furthermore, with so many clubs comprised of so few students, common causes are divided. Broad initiatives and causes are categorized and itemized, which is great for getting things done, but perhaps students get so caught up in the specific purpose of their club that community goals fall to the wayside (take the failed mug share program, for example). This could explain the disappointing attendance at many

events on campus, too.

As more clubs are introduced, organizations also become more financially competitive, each vying for funding from the same SGA pool. Fewer clubs with greater funds may be able to put on more impressive events and serve a greater function. Even stronger communication between organizations and co-sponsorship of events could help more organizations and students further advance the college.

Perhaps being co-Editor in Chief of *The College Voice* devalues my opinion (in which case spelling “chief” in my and Melanie’s first issue only further discredits me) but I rely on leaders without leadership titles to make this newspaper possible each week. The section editors and writers who take ownership of their work, whether holding a title or not, produce the most groundbreaking results, whether article, photo or illustration. These individuals also seek involvement and pursue interests outside of the *Voice*, creating a stronger community at Conn and performing a greater service through the newspaper. It’s my hope that, with a staff like this, *The College Voice* can expand to include the work of students with a diverse range of interests and activities and in doing so, help to better support and inform our community.

Dave

THE COLLEGE VOICE

“The views and opinions expressed in *The College Voice* are strictly those of student authors, and not of Connecticut College. All content and editorial decisions remain in the hands of the students; neither the College’s administration nor its faculty exercise control over the content.”

Dave Shanfield
&
Melanie Thibeault
Editors in Chief

Julia Cristofano
Managing Editor
& *Business Manager*

EDITORIAL STAFF

Molly Bangs
Dana Sorkin
News

Jerell Mays
Abbye Woodward
Opinions

Mark Ferreira
Helen Rolfe
Arts & Entertainment

Alex Cammarata
Luca Powell
Sports

Chiara Cafiero
Head Copy

Fred McNulty
Web Content Editor

CREATIVE STAFF

Zander Asplundh
Art Director

Ben Meyers
Miguel Salcedo
Photo Editors

Wesley Coner
Emily Moran
May Moribe
Sarah Wiley
Layout & Design

Thank you for reading

&

Thank you for writing

CONTACT US

eic@thecollegevoice.org
270 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320
thecollegevoice.org

Fall 2013 Writers Meetings & Production Schedule

The College Voice holds writers meetings on Wednesday nights at 9 PM in our office on the second floor of Cro. Join us.

ISSUE NUMBER	WRITERS MEETING	PUBLICATION DATE
1	9/11	9/23
2	9/18	9/30
3	9/25	10/7
4	10/14*	10/21
5	10/16	10/28
6	10/23	11/4
7	10/30	11/11
8	11/6	11/18
9	11/20 & 12/2*	12/9

*meetings dates marked with an asterisk imply that the meetings will take place on Mondays to accommodate the academic calendar

ADVERTISE

your event, club or on-campus organization with

THE COLLEGE VOICE

Contact Julia Cristofano at
business@thecollegevoice.org
for rates and other information

NEWS & FEATURES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

THE COLLEGE VOICE



KURT VONNEGUT DAY

— 9 / 28 / 2013 —

BY THE CLASS OF 2014 CLASS COUNCIL



PHOTOS BY PHOEBE PAPADEMETRIOU

THIS WEEK UNDER THE PATCH...



Connecticut College runs on Higdon

ZANDER ASPLUNDH

'Social Thought Group' Allows for More Discussion of Political and Social Issues

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

For any up-and-coming club on such a small campus like ours, and the overall large turnouts to all meetings have surprised Friedman. At the meetings, Friedman moderates the discussion, but typically leaves it up to the members to do most of the debating. For the gun control meeting, Friedman explained that "I would ask 'should AR-15s be banned, and why?'" and obviously a lot of people would say no, yes, here's why and give their reasoning for it. So that's kind of how we get started, and I would ask some questions and then people would ask follow up questions." Though a turnout like that could be indicative of growing support for a club such as this, Friedman said that most of the advertising consisted of him simply sending around emails and talking to his friends. The meetings, too, seem to have a similar kind of organic feeling, with Friedman describing them as "open floor discussion[s]."

Like any organization, there are often differences of opinion even between members. In the Social Thought Group, Chlouba and Friedman encourage these differences as a way for students to grow as thinkers and members of the larger community. Friedman explained that they're "just trying to build social capital. That's the most important thing. That's what facilitates democracy: people talking together and learning about issues and forming opinions. We go to such a small school and you can really get to know people and learn so much."

Throughout the years, Conn has had a few conservative groups on campus (along with a couple far-left groups, such as CCLeft and CCDissent), but nothing that seems to have lasted, according to CCDems co-president Matthew Mitchell '14. However, Mitchell is looking forward to this new club, and "a chance to collaborate for student debates, general discussion events or help with voter registration." He added that he is excited for an overall working relationship with the club. Friedman seemed a little more hesitant when asked about the possibility of a debate between the two clubs, but their overall goals do seem to mesh. Chlouba said that the long-term goal for the Social Thought Groups is "ensur[ing] that the ongoing debate on campus, not only about political issues, remains diverse and thus enriching to the whole community."

Friedman was unsure about what form the club would take this semester, but added that his goal isn't to change the political climate on campus, but to create another outlet for student discussion. Mitchell had similar aspirations for CCDems, saying, "promoting civic involvement on campus and opportunities for open dialogue on issues is also key."

In the end, Friedman stressed that the most important thing students can do is find whatever issue they're passionate about and talk and learn more about it. As an economics major, the issue that is most important to Friedman is the economy. With a campus community that is continually growing and evolving, everyone will hopefully be able to find a comfortable environment for continued discussion. •

ELEANOR HARDY
CONTRIBUTOR

You may have obsessed over her contributions to the New York Times blog, "The Choice," when you were an aspiring Camel trying to do all the right things to get in to college. Or perhaps you were welcomed into your daunting interview by her bright smile, meanwhile sweating beneath your over-thought interview outfit. What you might not have known, though, is that Martha Merrill, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, has been through it all herself. A Conn alumna, Merrill has been immersed in the college community longer than its current students have been alive. Since graduating in 1984, she has witnessed many changes to the institution, but there are also many things that have remained the same.

Take, for example, the view from the top of Tempel Green. Taking the "long way" to work, Merrill drives along Chapel Way en route to Admissions so as not to miss the breathtaking view of Long Island Sound. She's relatable, friendly and down-to-earth, and she can truly say she loves her job.

However, at the end of this academic year, Merrill will be taking up a new position in the Office of Advancement.

"There comes a time when you wake up one morning and realize you're ready for a new challenge, and the timing is right," Merrill said. Despite an itch for change, Merrill saw no reason to leave Connecticut College behind her, stating: "I'm happy to continue to work for the institution; there was really never a question in mind to leave [as] I've always felt a strong tie to this institution."

A psychology major during her time as a student, Merrill entered the working world first as an advertising manager at a Boston investment firm. Then, truly exploring the op-

working the front desk or filing, I was in that little house right behind Admissions."

Following this quick stint, Merrill took some time off from work to start a family, and then returned to Conn to start a career in the Office of Advancement (then referred to as The Alumni Office) in 1996. Now she's headed back to Advancement to commence her newly established role as Director of the President's Council and Volunteer Engagement.

Merrill explained that the new position comes "in a time of transition. With a new president and soon-to-be new leadership in Admissions and

the College. Merrill is looking forward to "cultivating" the council, which she explained would serve as a "sounding-board, so to speak, that will keep trusted and knowledgeable alumni engaged and allow them to try something out without being involved as a trustee." Being a trustee takes a large personal commitment, so this new council will allow for everyone to offer ideas and make changes. As Director of Volunteer Engagement, Merrill expresses that "it's important to build a base and to look at ensuring communication and strong relationships with those involved as volunteers whether it be in Becker House, CELS or Admissions."

Not only has this new position been created at an exciting time in terms of College development and transition, but it also comes directly following the closure of the recent \$211 million fundraising campaign for the College. "It's a wonderful success and will be exciting to celebrate over Fall Weekend," Merrill said.

When asked what she would miss most in Admissions, Merrill was quick to respond. "The community. The students, guidance counselors and occasionally the parents I connect with daily." She followed this up with "my parking spot," laughing that the laziness of college students is one thing

that hasn't changed since she has been a student herself.

Although this will all be missed, it's clear that her time and experience at Conn will offer her tremendous success in her new position. Merrill explained that her "extensive knowledge of this institution and serving on the senior administrator team has allowed [her] to see the broader context of what's important and the over-arching goal and priorities [of Conn]."

Merrill stressed that her "understanding of students and ability to speak to who the students here are" will allow not only for alumni to be heard, but for the students themselves to be heard as well, fostering an even deeper relationship between the two bodies.

It's an exciting time for change on our campus; all the while, the dedication and positivity that radiates from Merrill provides a comfort and trusting feeling. What's kept her here for so long is the "broad sense of community" and "enriching academic and interdisciplinary program offerings that continue to change." With her new work as Director of the President's Council and Volunteer Engagement, she will undoubtedly build a solid foundation and further establish Conn's community. •

"I'm happy to continue to work for the institution; there was really never a question in mind to leave [as] I've always felt a strong tie to this institution"

Martha Merrill, Dean of Admissions

tions her liberal arts education provided, she returned to Conn — her second home — to work as a temp in admissions. In her new job, Merrill did whatever was needed and asked of her, "whether it was giving tours,

Financial Aid, it's a very exciting time."

The President's Council exists at other schools, such as Brown, where Conn College President-elect Katherine Bergeron is currently Dean of

Conn Coll Oceana Cleanup at Ocean Beach

MOLLIE REID
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, Sept. 21, Conn College Oceana — the first ever college chapter of Oceana — in conjunction with the nonprofit organization Save Ocean Beach took part in International Coastal Cleanup Day. This is not the first time Conn Coll Oceana has taken to this event; they have worked with Save Ocean Beach, which seeks to preserve and protect the beach and its surrounding areas through various renovation projects and cleanups, for several years. Together, for around three hours on Saturday morning, Conn students and members from Save Ocean Beach collected bags of cigarette butts, pieces of plastic and other trash.

Several groups of about four people armed with garbage bags, gloves and an inventory checklist, patrolled areas of Ocean Beach, searching for pieces of trash and informing a scribe of their findings. The most frequent items found were cigarette butts and pieces of plastic, which were tossed to the side of paths or hidden in the sand. Students also uncovered a few questionable items among the ocean grasses and by the observation deck, including a pair of boxer briefs and half a bikini. Last year, the Ocean Conservancy calculated that about 561,633 participants picked up 2,117,931 cigarettes and 1,140,222 plastic food wrappers and containers. In total, according to the Ocean Conservancy, volunteers picked up 10 million pounds of trash in 2012.

Within the first ten minutes of the cleanup, Conn students saw how quickly garbage accumulates. One group of Conn students collected 148 cigarette butts at the end of their walk alone.

International Coastal Cleanup Day, the first Oceana event of the academic year, exemplifies

how dedicated Oceana and Conn students are to protecting marine life. For Jessica Wright '16, the treasurer of Conn Coll Oceana, the beach cleanup meant giving back to the New London community. She also finds participating in Oceana and in the beach cleanup a good way to become immersed in one of her passions: marine ecology. Meeting others who share similar interests in environmental activism is also an added bonus to participating in International Coastal Cleanup Day.

"We had a great start this year with our attendance at the Ocean Beach Cleanup...in conjunction with several local non-profit organizations and volunteers from all over the state" said Oceana co-president Sarah Schnitman '14. "The opportunity to be a part of an effort that was taking place on the day of the cleanup all over the world was something really special, and many of the students who attended remarked they felt good that they were able to do something that gave back to oceans right in our backyard."

Oceana's participation in this worldwide event demonstrates the club's constant devotion to protecting the environment. In the past, Oceana has educated the college community on many environmental topics, including the pervasiveness of disposable water bottles, the causes and impacts of the Gulf of Mexico's hypoxic zone and the harmfulness of dolphin hunting culture in Japan. They have held panel discussions with esteemed experts on environmental science, hosted informative documentary screenings and recently conducted a mock oil spill demonstration outside of Shain Library complete with caution tape, tarp and scrub brushes.

A favorite among the club's members and the college community is the annual Polar Plunge, during which participants brave the frigid ocean waves in

the middle of the winter to raise money for charity. Conn students can look forward to similar events this academic year. At the same time, new members can enjoy the company of a group of easy-going, fun and passionate students who all bring something different to the group.

Oceana member Janan Shouhayib '16 said, "I joined Oceana because it seemed like such a proactive and community-oriented organization. They host a lot of hands-on trips to places like Mammachon Island and Ocean Beach, so that its members feel like we affect the direct relationship between our goals and our output to ocean conservation...And with a campus right off the Sound, ocean conservation [should be] a deep-rooted issue for all Camels."

Wright encourages new or prospective members to join Oceana because they are always looking for students "who are excited about the ocean and who want to give back in whatever way they can."

Students seeking even more involvement in preserving and protecting marine life can also look to the Office of Volunteers for Community Service (OVCS) to work with local environmental organizations. Such places include Mystic Aquarium, where students have cared for marine animals and assisted on research projects, and Save Ocean Beach, Inc., where groups of students can work to plant trees, restore natural grounds and actively participate in various beach clean-ups.

Much of what the campus community teaches Conn students revolves around learning through community action. For those interested in either marine biology or the larger environment, Conn Coll Oceana provides an informative and engaging way for students to get involved in what are unavoidable issues. •

**OFFICE
ASSISTANT
NEEDED
TO ORGANIZE
& ASSIST**

**BASIC COMPUTER AND
ORGANIZATION SKILLS
NEEDED**

\$580 PER WEEK

**INTERESTED PERSONS
SHOULD CONTACT:**

GWORKDONE4@GMAIL.COM

FOR MORE INFO

NEWS & FEATURES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

THE COLLEGE VOICE

Government and International Relations Professors Shed Light On Syria

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

United States and the international community.

Professor Sayej, who specializes in macro- and micro-level analyses of authoritarian political systems in the Middle East, then set out to contextualize the Syrian crisis by looking to other regional actors such as Iran and Israel in light of the Arab Spring. She spoke of the similar nature that all of the protests encompassed by the Arab Spring appeared to have begun with. However, she then cautioned that Syria is the only country in which "violence has gotten so out of control... so through the roof" that the common sentiment is that there is no end in sight for this Syrian civil war.

She continued by pinpointing another way in which Syria is crucially different than other countries in the region: domestically, there is an enhanced rhetoric about Israel, pan-Arabism, imperialism, and Western dominance in the Middle East. Therefore, "There is really no leverage on the part of the United States to be able to step in and tell the Syrian president to step down," Professor Sayej explained. On a regional and international level, Syria is supported and armed by Russia and China. Despite recent US-Russian tensions regarding the conflict, Professor Sayej explained that the rise of the Shiite Crescent – composed of Syria, Iran, and Hezbollah (the Lebanon-based Shi'a group) – has really replaced lingering Cold War sentiments in the region. Because Iran could potentially use Syria and Hezbollah to dominate the region and threaten Sunnis, the national security issues this conflict has brought to the forefront are only reinforced.

Professor Sayej cautioned, "We must be very suspicious of the grand ways in which we are couching issues in the region such as the War on Terror and the Shiite Crescent, because it is not clear that every Shiite leader does [in fact] align with every [other] Shiite leader. The Syrian state is not secretarian in nature."

Professor Borer, who specializes in human rights and transitional justice, focused on the primary reason President

Obama gave in calling for action and intervention in Syria: the violation of international norms, namely, Syrian President al-Assad's use of chemical weapons against his own people. She challenged the audience, "Why is this issue of chemical weapons as a violation of international norms so egregious that it calls for the use of force? What makes chemical weapons so much worse than conventional weapons? Why was it the matter of death that seemed to make such a difference to the administration?" Given that the 14,000 chemical deaths constituted "less than 1% of the total deaths in Syria" over the course of the past two and a half years, her questions were extremely pertinent, and received as so by the audience.

She explained the strong history the international community has in prohibiting chemical weapons, beginning with the Geneva Protocol in 1925, of which Syria is a signatory.

"However," Professor Borer added, "the Geneva Protocol only applies to interstate conflict, not civil war."

Professor Borer went on to speak of two other international norms that President Obama failed to recognize despite his rhetoric about their importance. The first is the question of one country taking another by force with bombs; it is not an international norm to do so, yet President Obama was prepared to do so in Syria without UN Security Council approval. The other is a theory referred to as the Just War Theory, which Professor Borer explained as the notion of the "US somehow being morally obligated to do something" in cases of crisis. However, the Just War Theory is meant to be an absolute last resort, which is why "most people felt as though [Syria] did not fit the theory."

After having communicated that because the international norm of chemical weapons seems to be the only one of importance to our President, Borer left us with a quote of *New York Times* columnist Nicholas Kristof's that communicates the idea that al-Assad would be more successful in slaughtering his own people in ways other than chemical weapons.

Professor William Rose next stepped up to the podium, garnering appreciative laughs from



Professors Tristan Borer, Caroleen Sayej, Alex Hybel, and William Rose (from left to right) of the Government and International Relations Department

the audience as he admitted what he was about to discuss was a bit of a "new thing" for him given that he would have to express his views in just five minutes and that he would actually be giving his audience his opinion, rather than probing students for theirs!

Among Professor Rose's specializations are ethnic conflict, the security dilemma, and prospects for war and peace; as well as Post-Cold War and post-9/11 challenges for American foreign policy. He began by expressing his interest in the US foreign policy implications of Syria: "Should we blindly follow the president's lead?"

He emphasized that constitutionally, Congress is the body that has the power to declare war. Professor Rose then prefaced the rest of his piece by explaining he would focus on the empirical side of Congressional involvement in US interventions. He asked, "What are the consequences to American core values based on when Congress gets consulted and involved [with these conflicts] as opposed to when they don't?"

To answer these questions, he turned to the comparative case study of American intervention in Lebanon between 1982 and 1984. Congress was not consulted on American peacekeeping or peace enforcement

there. However, in 1983, when American troops were sent to Lebanon in the name of peace enforcement, they took a side in what had then escalated to be a civil war (as opposed to peacekeeping missions, for which troops should not take sides). This mission was profoundly unsuccessful – Congress was not consulted regardless of the high risks the situation presented. "This was a big mistake," Professor Rose reiterated. Because of the heightened loss of American troops, Congress was finally consulted; they decided it was "time to pull the plug and withhold funding."

The lesson from this case study? "When you take a side in a civil war, it's much harder to keep the peace," Professor Rose said. The eventual "congressional involvement in Lebanon – once they got it – helped to cut down the number of American lives being lost." Because of the similarities between the Lebanon case study and present-day Syria, he concluded the absolute necessity of Congressional involvement when considering American action in Syria.

Among Professor Hybel's expertise are International Relations Theory as well as US foreign policy. The last to speak, he declared of the Syria crisis, "I'm going to speculate and try to understand why Obama did

what he did."

He began by emphasizing that "Obama does not rely on his intuition" largely because former President George W. Bush was the last person who relied extensively on his intuition. He continued, "Obama is an exceedingly prudent individual who demands information and never stops asking for more information, which after receiving multiple sources thereof, he himself analyzes... He takes his time and his time. Why do I want to emphasize that?"

"The first thing every president will do will look to the domestic political arena. He knew there was going to be tremendous opposition [to the prospect of American intervention in Syria]. So WHY?"

Professor Hybel then explained that in the US posing a direct threat to Syria; Russia (which has strategic ports in Syria) and Iran (which as Professor Sayej mentioned, wants to use Syria and Hezbollah as a means to fuel their dominance in the region) automatically become quite concerned with this American threat. Iran, of which there is growing international concern regarding their development of nuclear weapons, has a significant strategic importance in the conflict (along with actors such as Israel and Saudi Arabia).

Because of Russia's strategic interest in Syria, the US and Russia have begun negotiations. "Now," Professor Hybel added, "Iran seems more likely to engage in some negotiations with the US. The gamble Obama has taken may not have been a bad gamble at all."

Following Professor Hybel's assessment of Obama's foreign policy strategy, the session was opened up for a question and answer session, in which many audience members were eager to get their word in.

On Friday's UN resolution, Professor Hybel addressed a question posed by Majkut by declaring, "The US accomplished what it wanted to – it brought the discussion of chemical weapons to the table."

Professor Rose commented on the increasing American attitude towards "war as a last resort rather than a first resort" and the population's current "isolationist tendencies".

Following the intense hour of discussion, Gaby Dann-Allel '14 commented, "More of these types of talks should happen in regards to foreign policy debates... As we are at the hands of all these different media outlets, [panels such as this one] really clarify the information overload we experience daily."*

Feministing.com Writer Zerlina Maxwell Addresses Rape Culture

CASEY DILLON STAFF WRITER

On Sept. 25, Connecticut College Women's Center welcomed Zerlina Maxwell to campus for a presentation that filled the Ernst Common Room. Maxwell, a political analyst and writer for such websites as *Feministing* and *Ebony*, delivered a speech entitled "Rape Culture: Power, Privilege and Patriarchy." Maxwell is a frequent political correspondent on a number of television programs. Her experience on *Hannity*, a political program hosted by conservative Sean Hannity of Fox News network, served as the basis for her presentation.

Maxwell began her presentation by defining rape culture, which, she argues, is far too prevalent in our society. She said that in rape culture, rape and sexual violence are common and are normalized, tolerated and

even condoned by the attitudes and practices of the media and the general population. Maxwell cited numerous examples of rape culture, including Rick Ross's verse in Rocko's song "U.O.E.N.O.," which references date raping a woman, and reactions to the Steubenville trial, in which two 16-year-old football players were convicted for raping an intoxicated peer. Maxwell asserts that this prevalence of rape culture in the media we consume influences the ways in which we go about the world.

The reality of these statements is reflected in our national assault statistics. As Maxwell cited, one in four women will experience some form of sexual assault in college, one in five women will experience sexual assault over the course of their lifetime and one in six men will experience sexual assault during his lifetime as well.

Alarming, 97% of rapists never spend a day in jail for their crimes, in part because over half of all rapes are never reported.

Maxwell appeared on *Hannity* in March of this year to debate whether carrying a weapon can help prevent rape. *Hannity*, a proponent of carrying guns for protection argued that women can prevent rape by being armed. Herself a survivor of sexual assault, Maxwell said, "Don't put it on me to prevent the rape" meaning that women should not be the ones carrying the burden of crimes committed against them. Rather, she argues, we need to focus on the root of the problem stating, "I think we should be telling men not to rape women, and start the conversation there, with prevention."

Connecticut College is fortunate to have strong sexual assault prevention and support programs, but

Maxwell argues that this is not enough to end rape culture. She argues that people – especially men – are learning about sexual assault too late in life. Shayne Kinsella '15 echoed this sentiment declaring, "The importance of a regular, comprehensive, wide-reaching approach to changing the perspective and behavior of young boys cannot be overstated." In an article Maxwell wrote for *Ebony* shortly after her debate on *Hannity*, she lists five ways in which to educate young men how not to be rapists. To list:

- 1) Teach young men about legal consent.
- 2) Teach young men to see women's humanity, instead of seeing them as sexual objects for male pleasure.
- 3) Teach young men how to express healthy masculinity.
- 4) Teach young men to believe women and girls who come forward.
- 5) Teach males about

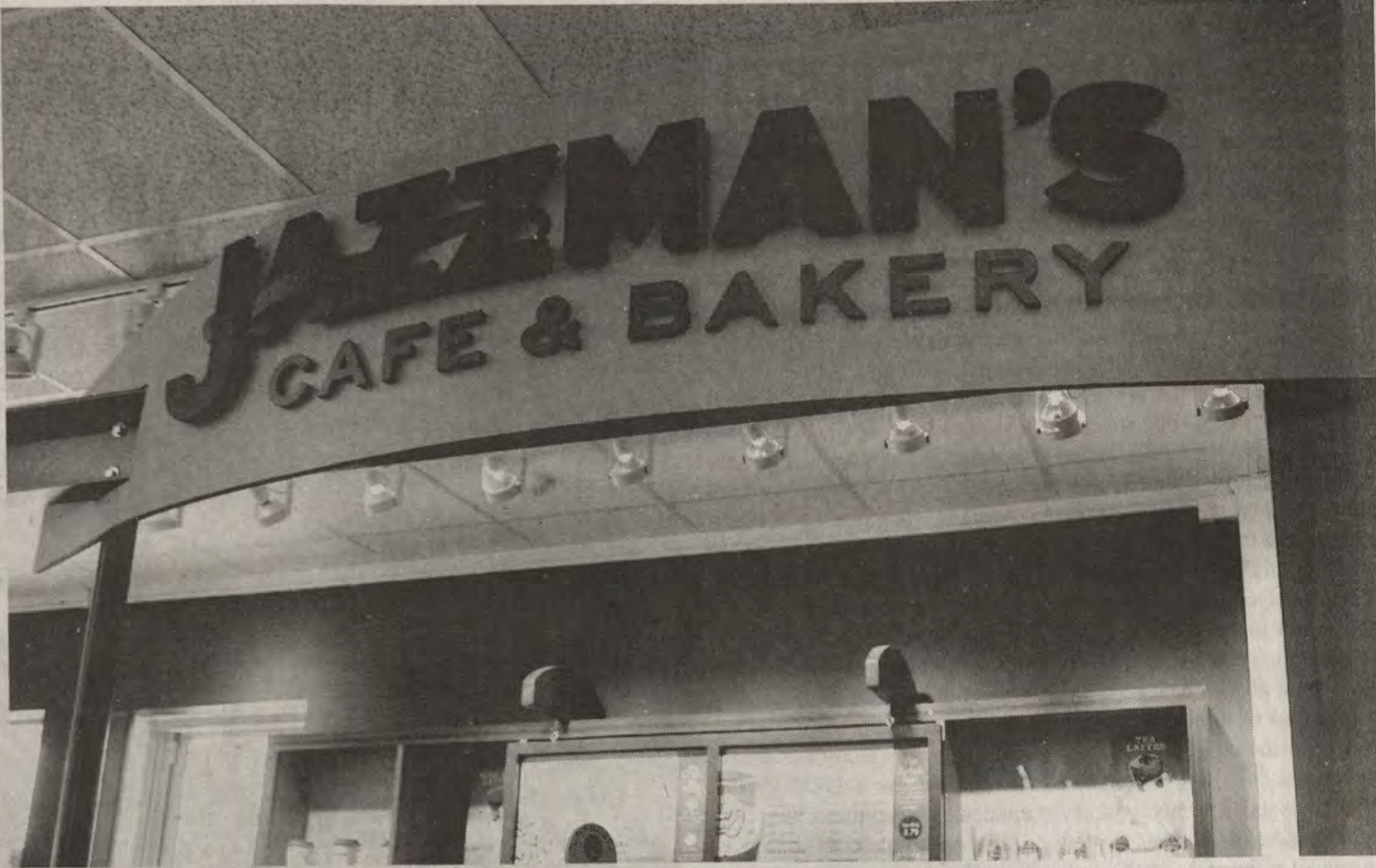
bystander intervention.

To achieve these, Maxwell recommends including rape culture and consent as topics in sex education for middle and high school students. By educating teenagers about the emotional aspects of sex alongside the physical components, we can help them understand what consent is and why it is important for all persons involved. Alongside this, teenagers can learn about bystander intervention, which encourages such strategies as including telling an adult or helping someone leave a situation. This can be critical during teenage years and would certainly be useful information upon entering the adult world.

Maxwell's personal experience with death and rape threats that followed her debate with *Hannity* helped convince her about the need for consistent and effective vocalization against rape

culture. When asked what advice she would give to students on how to help defeat rape culture in everyday life, she had one main suggestion: be a vocal, public ally. "Public support expressed by the privileged for historically oppressed groups... is critical," she argued. The support she received after her sexual assault, as well as the threats post-*Hannity*, was critical in her moving forward. She believes that by continuing to speak in public forums that she can serve as an ally, and hopes that students will as well.

Olivia Dufour '16 left the talk inspired by Maxwell's explanation that "being activists can be tiring and frustrating, but that structural change in society is an ongoing process." Attendees left the talk hopeful that change is in the works, armed with new confidence to be public allies and to encourage others to do the same. *



PHOTOS BY KRISTEN FORRESTER

The Deal with the Den

JULIA CRISTOFANO
MANAGING EDITOR

As a faithful resident of central campus for the past three years, I don't often find myself in the vicinity of The Den, our newest café located in south campus. However, with the beginning of this year, advertisements for The Den seem to be cropping up around campus, putting it back on my radar. I decided to take a closer look at how Conn students feel about The Den and the services it provides.

Through a series of informal conversations with students, feedback about The Den proved to be lukewarm.

Students frequently cited location convenience, variety and the ability to use Cro money and credit cards as perks of The Den. Will Hardy '14, a resident of Harkness, said he prefers The Den to other coffee spots on campus, explaining, "The coffee is quite good and when you are looking to grab a hot cup, it's always quick." Yet others pointed to the "industrialized interior," incessant flashing of TV

screens, and the fact that it is run by an outside business as drawbacks. While few people had any zealous feelings one way or another towards The Den, many felt strongly about student versus corporate businesses on campus. "I don't really like buying the coffee [at The Den] because I like buying from places that are student-run and get their products locally," explained Julia Pope '14. Hallie Selinger '14, echoed her friend's comment, explaining, "I would much rather support the Coffee Closet... I know the people that work there and I would rather buy the baked goods made by students."

Proponents of Coffee Grounds felt similarly about supporting sustainable practices and student groups. Jocelyn Reaves '15, the manager of Coffee Grounds, described the ways in which a student-run business caters to the interests and values of the student body. Reaves explained, "Coffee Grounds is built on the idea of sustainability. We buy local coffee, milk and as many ingredients for our

baked goods as possible." Sarah Pincus '14, a resident of Jane Addams back when The Den was new on campus recalled, "I was excited when it opened because it was so convenient, but I didn't like the sterile environment... it wasn't cozy like Coffee Grounds. I would rather spend my money supporting a student organization that's great than use my Cro card at a place I don't like to study in." While many of these objections are a matter of personal preference, it became clear that some students are misinformed or simply unaware of some of the policies and practices of The Den.

In a conversation with Joanna Baker, The Den's general manager, the energetic and impassioned Baker was able to help clear up some of these shared misconceptions. First, while some seem to think that The Den hasn't been doing well financially, Baker reports that this year has been the best since the café opened in 2011. The Den currently serves over 100 customers each weekday and about 320 each weekend. Baker believes that this in-

creased success is partially due to the menu changes, extended hours (now open seven days a week: Sunday to Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Thursday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.), and more late night programming in the space, such as trivia nights and jazz performances.

Additionally, Baker is striving to make the physical space "warmer and more inviting" to students. In late August, Baker got approval from the College to select student art to frame and hang in The Den. She hopes that this addition of student work, along with new rugs and a community board for campus announcements, will help students feel more involved in the space. This commitment to students is also echoed in the people employed by The Den; of the twenty-four employees, twenty-one are Conn students. "It is important to me that the staff be a majority of Conn students," insisted Baker. "I think it is important to embrace where you are and to feel like you have pride and ownership of a place."

On the matter of sustainabil-

ity, I admit that I was among the uninformed about the source of The Den's products and refuse. I simply assumed that all of the products were pre-packaged and commercialized. While this is true for many of the food items, all of the coffee used at The Den is fair trade and their milk brand, Farmers Cow, comes from dairy farmers right here in Connecticut. Additionally, all of the used coffee grounds are given to the Sprout Garden to be used as fertilizer.

While many of my misgivings about The Den were assuaged by this conversation, the matter of an outside company running The Den continues to be a complex issue for me. Baker is not blind to student reservations about Sodexo's involvement, stating: "[I know] there is a consensus that there is a corporation that is managing this café... I am a part of that corporation, however, I work for Connecticut College as well... and it is important to know 100% of the money that comes into The Den goes back to the College."

While it is unclear what ex-

actly is done with the money once it is absorbed by the College, I feel that my continued reservations about The Den lie in my personal opinions on all large-scale corporations. I believe that The Den is on the up-and-up; it demonstrates a clear commitment to Conn's value of sustainability, student engagement and community, yet I just can't get myself to be completely comfortable knowing I am just one of the 75 million consumers that utilize Sodexo's "quality of life" services daily. This is clearly not a concern shared by others on our campus, as roughly six students, four of which were specifically tasked with getting campus opinion, were part of the committee that selected Sodexo to run The Den. Perhaps my reservations about Sodexo betray my discomfort with a world that is increasingly endorsing multinational business conglomerations. Honestly, I'd rather be a faithful customer to a coffee shop serving a campus population of 2,000 than just another profit figure on a spreadsheet of billions. •

Spokespeople Gears Up for Fall in Spite of Challenges

CAROLINE LAZAR
STAFF WRITER

Spokespeople, Conn's campus bike share, has unwillingly cycled through three locations in as many months. This past spring, Physical Plant evicted Spokespeople from its then-headquarters in Winthrop Annex, an airy workshop with plenty of storage, with little warning. The Annex was converted into office space over the summer and Spokespeople relocated to their current home in the Prayer Room off the KB Graffiti Tunnel.

This location is less than ideal, as there isn't enough space for a workshop and seventy bikes to coexist. Spokespeople's first location in the basement of 360 House was an adequate, if cramped, collection of dimly lit rooms, the stairs to which made it difficult to transport bikes in and out of the shop. The current location faces similar problems, as patrons are required to haul their bikes down a staircase, a winding hall, the tunnel and into a tightly packed shop.

After fighting for a more suitable space than 360 and speaking with President Higdon, Jim Norton (Director of Physical Plant) and Vice President Ulysses Hammond, the group was briefly granted the Annex

for about two months. This was with help from the group's sustainability resource, Josh Stoffel, whom the group calls "their infinitely helpful administrative liaison."

Since 2007, the club has had a history of terrific contributions to student life. The CC Cruisers program, a joint venture with Shain Library allowing patrons to borrow a bicycle in the same way one checks out a book, offers a low commitment rental option at no charge. The standard bike share program exchanges fixed up bikes (with locks and helmets) for deposits of \$20, which are returned when each bike is brought back at the end of the year. Last year saw the successful raffle of a painted bicycle, the proceeds of which went to Bikes for Kids, a charity run out of Old Lyme. Spokespeople fan Mattie Barber-Bockelman '16 said, "The convenience of Spokespeople is ridiculous. I have class in Palmer on Friday mornings and a bike is pretty essential to my timeliness."

The club's constitution outlines their goals to cut down on carbon emissions while connecting Conn to the greater New London community. Their materials are almost all used or recycled. Conn has every reason to brag about the organization's good work, but these past few months have shown

the Administration's true estimation of the club's value. "It's really frustrating that the College so readily touts Spokespeople as this unique organization on campus but has no problem shuffling us around," said treasurer Chris Giri '15. President Bo Clay '15 added, "Admissions loves us. The College advertises us but we don't have adequate resources. How can we work out of a basement with poor ventilation and a lot of traffic through the space?"

Spokespeople has been featured heavily on Conn's website and the ConnCollLive YouTube series as promotion for the College, yet they fail to reap any benefits. With 95% of Spokespeople's bikes currently in use and 15 to 20% of campus supplied, the group is a huge part of Conn's green initiative. "What would be ideal," said Giri, "would be something like the Barn, with lots of rooms for storage and a shop. When we're in season, we have plenty of space to use for the shop but none for storage."

Steps are being made to rectify the situation, but the group requires more administrative attention than they are being granted. "Dean Arcelus has expressed a lot of interest in helping us find an adequate space where we can live permanently," said Clay, "but nothing has been done yet and we're still

undersupplied. Our goal is to supply the whole campus and we don't get a very big budget. Our equipment costs run much higher than [what we've got]."

The executive board, comprised of Giri, Clay and head mechanic Jules Tamagnan '16, encourages anyone to join and promises that no experience in bike maintenance is required. Students can look forward to programming including bike-themed movie nights (featuring "Breaking Away" and "The Bicycle Thief") and merchandise sales at HarvestFest. The team welcomes anyone to drop by shop hours (Sundays and Fridays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. with bike issues, questions, comments or for any reason at all.

I suggest that we, as a college, get serious about our dedication to sustainability and quit displacing important campus resources like Spokespeople. By treating our centers of sustainability as negligible or taking them for granted, the College sends a message that our dedication to environmental causes is of the same import. Rallying around the cause by donating spare parts, supporting the group's need and participating in the bike share programs emphasizes the campus reliance to the Administration. Spokespeople is the students' organization to protect. •



PHOTOS BY JYOTI ARVEY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

THE COLLEGE VOICE

A HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENDER AGAINST THE CRO DANCE



KRISTIAN MAESTRI

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

is a time when a majority of Conn kids (or, more likely, a perceived majority) are inside Cro. Last Saturday, they were beside it, in a BBQ garden. And it was a blast.

Before I describe how awesome this event was, a bias must be admitted. I was granted the esteemed role of "Hype Man" for the headlining band "The Banditos" and hence spent a considerable amount of time during the concert crowd-surfing. It's difficult not to enjoy an occasion under these circumstances. But here's how I remember the evening. Montreal Protocol, a new outfit on campus, impressed the early onlookers and ambitiously closed with a freestyle-live-beat version of Notorious B.I.G.'s "Hypnotize." Next up was Mollusk, a well-rounded group of very capable musicians, sounding smoother and more confident than in performances last semester. The first thing that catches your eye when you see this band is the talented lead flautist. The instrument works surprisingly well with the rest of the band, reminiscent of the groundbreaking band Jethro Tull.

And then there was the country-music party band, with that ukulele. That is the description of our Yankee campus's most popular student band. I'm serious. The Banditos are Rock 'n Roll in Cut-off Flannel, and they've replaced Liz DeLise '13's Camp as the student band to know at Conn. In fairness, this might be more because of their onstage antics (or on-

then-quickly-off-stage antics, in the case of Floralia 2013) and gung-ho stage presence. But this year, you can see much more musical ambition complementing their fun-loving performance style. Half of their set Saturday was made up of original songs, including the opener, "Banditos Anthem," which set the folksy-country tone but also got everybody's knees lifting and elbows swinging. Their other originals kept the camel crowd engaged, perhaps due to the relatable nature of the lyrics; they include "Jim Beam," "Drinking Song" and "Whiskey"... well, all I can say is the song grapples with the turmoil of erectile dysfunction. Yes, one can detect a pattern in the content.

The loudest audience reaction came from the shameless sing-along crowd-pleaser "Wagon Wheel." The Banditos — more party-starters than *artistes* — aren't afraid to pull out songs we all know and love. "Country Roads" and Johnny Cash's "Folsom Prison Blues" whipped up a frenzy as Cro Pit turned into a musical magnet for party seekers from all over campus. Many of these wanderers stumbled past Cro into a completely unfamiliar scene of outdoor mayhem. But as the set came to a close, many of them wished they hadn't played that one last game of beer pong.

As shallow and borderline-alcoholic as this might sound, Saturday night is in many ways the most important time of our college week. Sure, the educational and extracurricular experiences of college are huge. But there's no denying

that an essential part of being here is social. We laugh, we cry, we run into glass doors and we grow most on Saturday nights. And more importantly, that's when we have our fun. I doubt that a lot of us would easily admit how many hours we spend looking forward to the social climax of the week. So why not look forward to something awesome, not something kind of embarrassing? Cro Dances can be funny, maybe even fun at times. But real live music is *awesome*: real instruments (sorry EDM fans), real singing and real dancing.

On the subject of encores at last week's show, The Banditos had no choice in the matter. By the end of their scheduled set, the stage was jam-packed with uninvited stage guests who actually almost ruined the sound system. This mosh insisted on not one, but two last songs, which led to an on-the-fly closer: fan favorite "The Weight" by The Band. Bandito Collier Gray '15 would later comment that "Everyone in the crowd knew that song... Except me!" He hadn't played it enough to know the guitar chords, but it was not a time for excuses. The Texan pushed his head through a few stage-climbers and around his uke' player Erik LaFrance '14 to get a look at the chord progression from Toren Ballard '15 on the banjo. A few moments later, Gray darted a look to fiddler Nate Wallace '14 through the chaos, to send him on a wonderful solo.

Now, that's live music. And I hope we'll be seeing a lot more of it around here. •

Mariachi ConnCamellos

LANA RICHARDS
CONTRIBUTOR

Just in time for Latino Heritage Month, Conn's first mariachi band is here to shake things up. The band's name, Mariachi ConnCamellos, roughly translates to "mariachi with camels," "con" meaning "with," and "canello" meaning "camel" in Spanish. The brainchild of sophomores Krystal Moreno and Eduardo Araujo, Mariachi ConnCamellos is in its premier semester, although the idea for starting a group first came about last year.

"It was a thought last year but we never really got to it. We didn't really know how to as freshmen," Araujo said. "But now that it's a brand new year we're ready to get it started." Moreno and Araujo went to high school together in Southern California, where they both played in a mariachi band. Both have been playing instruments ever since elementary school. It was this positive experience with mariachi in high school that encouraged Moreno to start a group on campus.

"I just really love it in general," Moreno commented. "I knew about mariachi in high school but it wasn't until I started playing that I got more in love with it. Over the past years I've fallen in love with it. I'm kind of obsessed." Mariachi is traditional Mexican folk music and is typically played on violins, guitars, trumpets and basses, all accompanied by a vocalist.

Moreno and Araujo found that it was the strong connection to culture found in mariachi that first drew them in. "My grandpa really liked mariachi and he got me into it too," Moreno said. "It's an emotional attachment as well."

"I really like the cultural aspect as well," Araujo added. "It's very raw. It's just music. There are no tricks to it. You just sing, you just play... There's something different about it from other types of music or genres."

The common instruments used in mariachi allow it to be very accessible to musicians. "Anybody can join," Araujo said, "as long as you can play an instrument that's for mariachi." Even so, the style of mariachi is all its own. According to Matthew Luciani '16, who will be playing guitar in Mariachi ConnCamellos, the music itself is not extremely challenging, but the musicians must be precise because the music is heavily based on rhythm. Luciani, who has no previous experience with playing mariachi music, has found mariachi to be an exciting change from classical music.

"The whole style, the whole feel of playing the guitar [for mariachi] is very different from stuff I've played before," Luciani said. "But it's really exciting. I feel like it's kind of making me a better guitar player, a better musician: more open-minded."

Luciani, a member of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MECHA) at Conn, is especially excited that Mariachi

ConnCamellos will be able to play music for the folklórico — traditional Latin American dance — group on campus, which in the past has had to use recorded tracks as a substitute. In this way, Mariachi ConnCamellos will be adding a new dimension of the arts to the already-established Latino groups on campus. In fact, adding diversity to the school as a whole is a long-term goal of Mariachi ConnCamellos. "We hope we can diversify the school with music," Araujo said, "not just by color or class or gender."

Luciani agreed that the mariachi band will provide an opportunity to integrate the arts into diversity programs at the school.

"I'm really passionate about issues of race and diversity on campus," Luciani said. "So I wanted to get involved in stuff that involves diversity and heritage, especially in the arts... so when I heard there was going to be a mariachi band that my friends were forming, I got really excited about it."

Although a great deal of interest in the band has been displayed — ten members have joined so far — Mariachi ConnCamellos is still in need of a trumpet player. "Mariachi without trumpets isn't really mariachi," Moreno said.

Once a trumpet player is found, the band will be up and running and ready to set a formal performance date. According to Luciani, the members of Mariachi ConnCamellos hope to be able to perform for the closing of Latino Heritage Month. •

WHAT'S MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN OUR STATS? OUR GRADUATES.

At Quinnipiac University, our students are our main focus. It's why we offer graduate degrees in fields ranging from business to health sciences.

It's also why Quinnipiac was ranked among the top master's-level universities in the North by *U.S. News & World Report* and first in the northern region in *U.S. News' Up-and-Coming Schools* category.

Education

Elementary
Secondary
Educational Leadership
Teacher Leadership*

Communications

Interactive Media**
Journalism
Public Relations

Health Sciences

Anesthesiologist
Assistant
Biomedical Sciences
Cardiovascular Perfusion
Occupational Therapy
(post-professional)*
Pathologists' Assistant
Physician Assistant
Radiologist Assistant

Nursing

Law

Medicine

Arts & Sciences
Molecular & Cell Biology
Social Work

Business

Information Technology*
MBA**
MBA-CFA® Track
(Chartered Financial Analyst)
MBA/HCM (Health Care
Management)**
MBA-SCM (Supply Chain
Management)
MBA/JD (Joint degree in business
and law)
Organizational Leadership*

*Program offered only online

**Program offered on campus or online

To find out how Quinnipiac can help you succeed in your career, call 1-800-462-1944, e-mail graduate@quinnipiac.edu or visit www.quinnipiac.edu/gradprograms.

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY
1-800-462-1944 | Hamden & North Haven, Connecticut



A Hipster Bar for Everyone

TIM HARTSHORN
COLUMNIST

If you ask a New Londoner to describe the Oasis Pub, it is almost certain that the word hipster will come up. Indeed, with its emphasis on underground DJs and up-and-coming indie rock bands – as well as an impressive beer selection – Oasis is generally classified as being among the most “alternative” bars in town.

By one token, this image is quite positive; it suggests good music, cool patrons, and an enticingly subversive vibe. But several potent concerns are also likely to arise as one contends with the idea of entering a particularly “hip” venue, especially – as was often the case in my own bar-hopping this summer – if one is alone. Will there be an air of exclusivity? Will my clothing, or other elements of my appearance, make me stick out in an obvious and alienating way? How will bartenders react to a patron whom they have not seen before?

To those for whom such questions may accompany the prospect of entering Oasis, rest assured that this bar is neither pretentious nor exclusive. Although many of its patrons may identify – or be identified by their peers – as hipsters, the establishment’s crowd is fairly eclectic. Particularly on weeknights, one can expect to see a diversity of ages and cultural backgrounds (to use a term which is terribly vague but, for my purposes here, effective) represented. Put more bluntly, Oasis is not just a kid’s club. It is also an after-work destination for individuals from a number of vocations. The bartenders are friendly and open to all patrons, young or old, new or regular.

Located on Bank St. (two store fronts away from Captain’s Pizza, between Y-Knot and Lost Soul Tattoo), Oasis is made easily recognizable by its large, white-lettered sign and a semi-cylindrical window – adjacent to the front door – which juts onto the sidewalk. There will generally be a few people smoking

out front. (Prof. Graesch and I collected great samples here).

When you enter the establishment, you will find yourself in a single rectangular room, approximately 20 x 100 ft. Along the left wall is the bar, which spans roughly half the length of the room, lined with roughly 20 stools. Behind the bar (against the wall) are several shelves featuring various hard liquors (Maker’s Mark, Johnny Walker Black Label, Kettle One, etc.), a 20 tap system, and a mini-fridge featuring an array of bottled beers.

Oasis places great emphasis on its wide – and continuously changing – selection of beers, which range from PBR (which, along with Guinness, is always on tap) to various craft and seasonal brews. Among the beers that have been available during my visits to the establishment are Grumpy Monk (a Sam Adams craft beer), Pump King (a Southern Tier product) and several varieties of Dogfishhead – just to name a few. And if you don’t trust me on this wide selection, stop inside Oasis one night and look up. Along three of the establishment’s walls, close to the ceiling, run double-rows of taps, all of which were – at one point in time – featured among the twenty available draft beers at Oasis. I would estimate that well over 100 taps are displayed.

Perhaps the most striking element of these unusual decorations is that they are far from retired. Oasis consistently returns to each of the taps that peer down at patrons from its walls.

On the off chance that nothing available on tap is to your liking, more hard-to-come-by beers can be found in the fridge. These include Innis and Gunn, Stone, and Woodchuck Hard Cider. Also available in bottle are Corona Light, Bud Light, and several other standards.

Beyond the bar is a large floor area with a single pool table. Further back, against the rear wall, is a stage. During concert nights, the pool table is disassembled and tucked beneath the stage so that patrons can dance in the floor area.



The interior, façade and impressive keg tap collection (from top to bottom) at Oasis Pub in Downtown New London



Perhaps even more than its beer selection, the defining characteristic of Oasis is its commitment to booking high-quality musicians. Because the bar has no televisions, music is its primary form of entertainment. Every Thursday, Oasis plays host to a local DJ hired by Sean, the bar’s manager, who has been involved with New London’s diverse and highly active music scene for nearly a decade. The

first Thursday of each month is dubstep night, while following Thursdays feature less dance-oriented DJs who perform fairly eclectic sets abundant with deep cuts.

Fridays and Saturdays often see both local and national bands – generally grouped under the designation of “indie rock” – perform on the Oasis stage. Although many patrons choose to dance, there is no stigma on

sitting at the bar and enjoying some quality tunes over a slow drink.

Even on non-performance nights, one can expect good music at Oasis. The establishment has no jukebox (so no worries about someone dropping \$50 to hear the entire Creed catalogue), and places bartenders in charge of song selection. All bartenders have (in my humble opinion) great taste in music, and consis-

PHOTOS BY ZANDER ASPLUNDH
tently try to play tracks that their patrons will enjoy.

Overall, Oasis has the makings of a perfect space for college students. The bartenders (as well as the patrons) are friendly, the music is the fantastic and the changing beer selection keeps people interested. I’ve visited the bar alone as well as with friends and have always had a great experience. •

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

THE COLLEGE VOICE

Traversing the Western World (and Some of the Last Century) Through Music

ANDREW SHAW
CONTRIBUTOR

About a week-and-a-half ago, the music faculty presented their biannual showcase concert in Cummings' Evans Hall. Classical guitar, violin and harp, and clarinet and bass were featured, and faculty members performed chamber music together under the baton of Prof. Mark Seto, who's always fun to watch.

The majority of the music was composed in the first half or so of the twentieth century, and represented works from Spain, France, England, and the United States. Prof. Jim McNeish started the concert, with a couple of classical guitar works composed just before the turn of the last century by Spanish guitarist and composer Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909): the pensive, beautiful reverie "Recuerdos de la Alhambra," and "Márgen" (presumably named for his daughter), a short mazurka. A mazurka is a piece written to accompany the lively country dance of the same name that originated in Poland. The performance was a nice opportunity to hear a rather esoteric instrument performed very well, and an introduction to some wonderful new repertoire (that I highly recommend researching).

From Spain, we moved north-west to France and Camille Saint-Saëns' (1835-1921) "Fantasie for Violin and Harp, Op. 124," which was composed in 1907. Two faculty members, violinist Theodore Arm and harpist Megan Sesma, performed. The "Fantasie" is an absolutely gorgeous piece (at times reminding me of a film score) with a violin part that, while quick in sections, always returns to a lyrical and achingly beautiful line. It's that line, which, as I think about it more, just might make the piece my favorite on

Avalanche Performance Brings Musings of Childhood and Maturity to Conn

RACHEL MATSON
CONTRIBUTOR

This past Saturday, Conn welcomed the dance/theater performance *Avalanche* from Headlong Dance Theatre. Directed by David Brick, the performance featured five assistant and associate professors of dance and theater from Bates and Colby Colleges in Maine.

I attended the performance as a dance amateur, having reaped most of my knowledge from credible sources like *Step Up* and *Dancing with the Stars*. Not long into the performance, however, I realized that this was something original and special. The troupe came to Conn as part of a two-year tour. During this time, the professors have performed in cities like New York City and Portland, Maine, returned to their teaching schedules after the show and then resumed rehearsal months later.

They performed as part of the Connecticut College Dance Department's pledge to bring in outside performers; many dance students were in the audience. The group offered more than just comparative dance knowledge for

students. The performance asked the essential question of what it means to be a performer, particularly an aging performer.

This message was first seen in the set. The pieces themselves were simple: plaid mattresses, card tables, lamps of various sizes, oriental rugs and chairs. Although the pieces themselves were unremarkable, the way in which they were manipulated was clever and thought-provoking. Rugs were unrolled, then rolled, then transported; tables were knocked over and danced inside; lamps were carried and switched on and off. These movements finally culminated with a grandiose finale in which the performers assembled a massive fort out of all the materials, climbed inside and gradually turned off all the lights. This childlike way of playing with the set — moving, climbing, jumping, crawling — provided a surprisingly youthful air to the performance. After the show, Julian Gordon '14 remarked that for him, the movements inspired feelings of childhood that he hasn't experienced since that time in his life.

Perhaps one of the most

memorable elements of the performance was the theatrical montage in which the performers touched on what it takes to become an artist. As two of the eldest members of the cast sat at a table and mimed the actions of a simple breakfast, two younger performers hovered nearby with microphones, performing a deadpan narration of personal anecdotes and trials that they went through. The younger man orally recounted the experience of trying out for a cereal commercial: being able to miss school, having a "flipper" fitted for his teeth to hide their imperfections (and forcing himself to think of the dolphin called Flipper), trying the cereal beforehand so as to better impersonate happiness at its appearance. Similarly, the woman's most memorable anecdote was simple: "Wear your hair in a high ponytail so people will know that you are into 'D-A-N-C-E.'"

But what does it mean to be "into dance"? For these performers, being a dancer is also about theatricality and the ability to dance to silence. Unlike typical dance performances, music was not the dominant force in driving the performers' rhythm or speed.

It was not uncommon for the performers to dance in silence, or to dance heedless of the music being played around them. Performers would vacillate between the two mediums, demonstrating that their performance was larger than anything that could be determined by a beat. Instead, the driving force of sound was the noises that the performers made by stomping, snapping or breathing. When music was used — such as in a memorable segment featuring AC/DC's "You Shook Me All Night Long," in which a male performer vigorously imitated the band's drummer Phil Rudd — it was to invoke a childish, careless atmosphere.

Throughout the performance these interplays of maturity versus youth ran, or danced, wild. The play of silence as serious and sound as silly presented a curious dilemma of what it is to mature as an artist: should a seasoned performer be able to dance without sound, and use music only as an occasional crutch? Similarly, what is the role of a set for an accomplished dancer? The set's greatest act was to create the epitome of childhood: a play fort made of chairs and

blankets in which the lights could be extinguished and the players could hide from the reality surrounding them. Does this mean that a set, like sound, is an amateur's prop? Or is the trick in learning how to manipulate it carefully and effectively?

The performers also offered sage advice to the students in the audience after the performance was over. Among the most useful was that a "good run cannot happen alone." Also notable was the suggestion that a performer can only have a good run by "responding to, not [simply] executing" the choreography. Perhaps the most helpful advice to students was the encouragement to develop a performance with a group of peers over many years. The collegiate atmosphere, they advised, is unique in that you are surrounded by like-minded artists in a concentrated space. The opportunity to have "people you can check in with about your greatest projects and when that project changes," they recommended, is invaluable. •

the concert. Jesse Guterman, '16 agrees that are "always going to be a couple of pieces from each faculty concert that just stick with you." This time, "the Saint-Seans piece [kept] playing in my head." Throughout the piece, Sesma accompanied Arm beautifully; the timbres of the two instruments, which I hadn't considered in combination before, complement each other nicely.

Next, we crossed the English Channel to reach England and Benjamin Britten (1913-1976). A chamber orchestra comprised of faculty members and other musicians, with flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, French horn, two violins, a viola, cello and bass, played Britten's "Sinfonietta, Op. 1," published in 1935. The three-movement work started fast, then had a lyrical central movement, and ended with a spirited tarantella (a fast piece meant to accompany the dance of the same name). The entire fabulous piece was written in three weeks. There was some demanding technical work for the entire orchestra, but the

best instrument in the entire performance for my money was the French horn, played

It was composed for the jazz clarinetist Benny Goodman to perform on his 1962 tour

In a stylistic note, in a nod to Goodman and jazz, Labadorf added significant vibrato to his tone, a rarity among classical clarinetists.

by Jaime Thorne. The gorgeous timbre of the horn took over the entire hall at times. It was glorious. Good horn is heavenly.

Following an intermission, clarinetist Tom Labadorf and bassist Mark McCormick played American composer Morton Gould's (1913-1996) fun and jazzy "Benny's Gig."

of Soviet Russia, at a time when the style wasn't fully appreciated in the U.S.S.R. The eight short, vignette-like movements (seven written for the tour plus an additional one composed in 1979) alternate between slow, and fast, jaunty tempi. Looking past the political implications of Goodman visiting Soviet Russia,

the piece is notable in its own right for its instrumentation: The combination of clarinet and bass is rather unusual. I can't think of a time that it occurs in classical music; and in a combo (that is, a small jazz ensemble), clarinet and bass do play together, but a piano is usually present as well. Despite its uncommonness, the combo was wonderful, with each musician supporting the other well. In a stylistic note, in a nod to Goodman and jazz, Labadorf added significant vibrato to his tone, a rarity among classical clarinetists.

To end the program, the applied music faculty plus a couple of other musicians remained in the United States, performing Samuel Barber's (1910-1981) "Knoxville: Summer of 1915, Op. 124" (composed in 1947). It's a piece featuring soprano (Jurate Svedaite-Waller sang stunningly) and a chamber orchestra of flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, two French horns, trumpet, harp, two violins, viola, cello and bass. The work is a setting of American novelist,

screenwriter, journalist, poet, and film critic James Agee's (1909-1955) "Knoxville, Summer of 1915." The prose-poem is a nostalgic remembrance of a summer evening in the poet's childhood in Knoxville, Tennessee. The soprano narrator is a child, but sounds almost like the voice of a child who is living on in the memory of an adult. In a wonderful reflection of narrator-memory, Barber's piece is, while sad, at times tense as well. Jurate Svedaite-Waller's musical line floated lyrically over this alternately sad and tense orchestration throughout the entire piece absolutely beautifully.

All in all, the concert was a wonderful mix of programming, covering a wide range of styles and instruments — all performed so enjoyably well. In Guterman's words, "[Faculty performances are] a great way to get inspired as a musician, and I'm grateful to have such a talented and personable music faculty that can move you in that way." •

If you have an interest, concern or passion that you'd like to explore outside of your classes, consider writing for

THE COLLEGE VOICE

It's good for the soul.

Student-Athlete Psychology

A Balancing Act

RYAN FRIEND
CONTRIBUTOR

On Sept. 23, as part of the psychology department's colloquium series, Tristan Coulter, a doctoral candidate at the University of Queensland Australia, discussed sports and psychology in a presentation entitled "Tackling the Herculean and Holy Grail Ideals in Sport: Lifting the Psychological (and Contextual) Lid on Mental Toughness."

He elaborated on his points by presenting his PhD Thesis, a case study on the Captain of the Australian Football League's North Melbourne Football Club. His hour-long presentation gave a brief history of his fledgling dance career that followed after his attempt to become a Golf Recruit at the University of Arizona.

He began his presentation by talking about his golf aspiration: he wanted to play collegiate golf in the United States. He explained how every time he would play in a tournament, he would be overcome with anxiety, worrying about how he was going to let down his friends, family, coaches and teammates, as well as his own future. It was hard for him to control the anxiety, and he simply fought it head on.

"What is mental toughness?" Coulter asked the audience. "How do you define it? Who is mentally tough?"

As Coulter explained in his lecture, everybody can see physical strength through the size of one's muscles and the amount of work an individual can do, but not everybody can see the mental anguish one faces on the field. It is difficult to convey to someone else the pressures you feel as soon as you realize that you are

not playing for yourself, but for everybody around you.

Coulter knows that student athletes aren't alone in their anxiety: "Some of the toughest people in sports, business and politics might be riddled with hidden anxiety," he said.

Mental health awareness is one issue the Connecticut College community prides itself on. Nearly half of the college campus visits counseling services at least once during their four years here, demonstrating the importance of maintaining good mental health.

While every college student will experience stress and anxiety during his or her undergraduate career, student athletes face immense pressure before they even arrive on campus. They are expected to begin their recruitment process early in their high school careers. The pressure of impressing college scouts, maintaining college coach relationships and navigating admissions is sometimes too much for the average individual. Add in the factors of surviving high school, achieving good grades and having a social life, it is amazing that these athletes continue to do it in college.

So what does this mean for the athletes here on campus? Coulter addressed this concern after his presentation: "Being a student athlete is one of the most challenging things, even more so than being a professional athlete, as you have to compartmentalize your time more so than the average person." He continued explaining that professional athletes just have to focus on their sport. They do not have to worry about school, maintaining an ever-changing social life or time management. In this way, student-

athletes are the most stressed of anyone in sports.

There is great pressure on student athletes in today's world, as Division I athletes have their faces plastered all over ESPN, and people who they don't even know have opinions about their abilities. Coulter said that many athletes need to restructure their thought processes and keep them completely separate from the visits counseling services at least once during their four years here, demonstrating the importance of maintaining good mental health. While every college student will experience stress and anxiety during his or her undergraduate career, student athletes face immense pressure before they even arrive on campus. They are expected to begin their recruitment process early in their high school careers. The pressure of impressing college scouts, maintaining college coach relationships and navigating admissions is sometimes too much for the average individual. Add in the factors of surviving high school, achieving good grades and having a social life, it is amazing that these athletes continue to do it in college.

Coulter has a lot of experience in profiling athletes and understanding their mental needs as they become part of a team. Seeing as the mental well-being is significantly more important for a student-athlete than a professional, he was asked if college coaches and admissions should start creating psychological profiles for their recruits. On paper, it sounds like a good idea. Anybody can create a façade off and on the field while coaches and scouts are watching, but what will they do once they enter the College? Having a psychological profile of a player would help coaches decide how the player will work with the team. If the rest of the team is

highly determined and vocal, but one player is reserved and looks to others for instruction, the team will not work as well.

When asked about profiling for college recruits, Coulter replied, "There is a real ethical issue when psychologically profiling students right out of high school and for a college team. What can the coach do with the information? Is the information even enough to make a valued opinion on the individual? What is the test? So, there are issues present that, for me, make it nearly impossible to ever approve of colleges psychologically profiling high school recruits."

Coulter acknowledged that while sports psychology has made some immense strides over the past few years in terms of acceptance and progress, there are still many uncharted waters.

Coulter has spent a good portion of his life around sports and psychology. It only made sense for him to delve into the subject and research it with a passion. He does this work not only because he finds a great satisfaction in it, but because it helps individuals who were once in a similar position. Coulter spoke eloquently about the topic and wanted everyone in that room, which was mostly filled with psychology students and athletes, to know that there is an invisible hindrance many people feel, and those people are not alone. Student athletes, those who may be considered the physically strongest on campus, are also some of the most susceptible to stress and mental anguish. It is important to ensure that every individual feels secure and confident, regardless of his or her physicality. •

SEPTEMBER 24 - 29 IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

2-0

Conn v Coast Guard
Men's Soccer

2-1

Conn v Coast Guard
Women's Soccer

2-1

Wellesley v Conn
Field Hockey

7-2

Bryant v Conn
Women's Tennis

SO YOU DON'T MISS IT

Women's Soccer
at Eastern Conn
October 1, 7 PM

at Amherst
October 4, 8 PM

vs. Bates (Home)
October 5, 11 AM

at Williams
October 5, 2 PM

at Framingham State
October 2, 3:30 PM

Field Hockey
vs. Bates (Home)
October 5, 12 PM

Men's Soccer
vs. Bates (Home)
October 5, 2 PM

Cross Country
Pre-Nationals
at Hanover College
October 5

Men's Water Polo
at Brown
October 4, 7:30 PM

Sailing
Women's Invitational at
Bowdoin
October 5, 6
9:30 AM

vs. Harvard (Home)
October 5, 12 PM

vs. MIT (Home)
October 5, 7 PM

Danmark Trophy at Coast
Guard
October 6, 9:30 AM

vs. St. Francis (Home)
October 6, 12 PM

Women's Volleyball
at Clark
October 2, 7 PM

Women's Tennis
Connecticut College
Invitational
October 6
Time TBA

Get to know

TED

Watch our favorite TEDtalks
with Indian food

7:00 Wednesday, Oct. 2
Blaustein - Faculty Lounge

TED^xConnecticutCollege
x = independently organized TED event