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A Subscription for Initiative

Connecting the dots between one alumna's gifts to the College

DAVE SHANFIELD
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Andrea Wollensak, Professor of Art with specializations in visual communication and graphic design, uses Adobe Creative Suite in her courses. Though hers are some of the few classes at Conn that require use of software like InDesign and Photoshop, Professor Wollensak views an understanding of the programs as a byproduct, not the main goal, of her teaching.

"The focus of all my classes is content," explained Wollensak. "The [Adobe Software] is something I introduce, but I really encourage students to take time on their own using online resources and Lynda.com to develop what they need."

Lynda.com is an online resource for video tutorials with 2,157 courses (and counting) on various software, design and business skills. A one-year

premium subscription to this service is priced at \$375 but, as of this summer, members of the Connecticut College community can enjoy unlimited access for free.

The subscription is a gift from Diane Y. Williams '59, the unseen benefactor behind many technological and skill development initiatives at the college. "To me, it's not what I have but what I do with it, and the value this [subscription] adds to the campus," said Williams. "I want it to be a gift that keeps on giving, and continues to be upgraded as is required by the speed of technological change."

Diane Y. Williams' career is marked by firsts. She was accepted to the Merrill Lynch training program after graduating from Connecticut College for Women in 1959. There, she became the first female officer and, later, the first woman in management. Before Merrill went public in June of 1971, Williams was the

only woman of the bank's 742 voting-member partnership and she was the first woman to be a registered principle for the New York Stock Exchange for Merrill, too. To top it off, she was the sole female trustee of the Merrill Lynch pension fund.

"It's important that students know that there are some of us - a lot of us - that think very highly of the College and the education you're receiving," said Williams. Though not tech savvy herself, Williams is keenly aware of the importance in developing skillsets (through Lynda.com or otherwise) to apply and articulate the liberal arts in the competitive job market. "Even though I came from the [technological] dark ages," Williams admitted, "my education was the game changer and launching pad for my career."

Chris Penniman, Director of Instructional Technology at Conn, has worked with Williams since 1995, when she donated funds for the economics

computer lab, now located in the basement of Becker House. "She's a very smart woman, she listens to everything," said Penniman. "It's very important to her that her money be spent carefully and the goals of a project are achieved."

Williams reached out to Penniman last spring, expressing interest in funding a project that Penniman thought would be important to the College and beneficial to the students. "Lynda.com was at the top of my list," said Penniman.

"[Williams] was a little worried about Lynda, not using a computer and not knowing how long it had been in business" recalled Penniman. However, after a trip down to Williams' home in New Jersey, where Penniman explained the company's services and gave her a tour of the site via iPad, Williams was convinced.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Getting to Know Wai Ying Zhao '14

An artist and a scholar



PHOTO BY KARIN YUEN

Wai Ying Zhao presenting her summer's work in New Haven

HELEN ROLFE
ARTS EDITOR

Wai Ying Zhao defies classification. She's an Art and Economics double-major, has studied Japanese throughout her time at Conn, plays the flute and completed a ConnS-SHARP (Connecticut College Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts Research Program) project about the Chinese art market. With this broad array of interests, it's no surprise that Wai Ying has a lot to talk about. *The College Voice* spoke with her recently about her myriad pursuits.

TCV: Have you taken classes in other media here as well?

WYZ: Yeah. We have to do 3-D art, and I also have done a collaboration with a video installation class. "Fine arts" at Conn College is quite broad. You can do art in any medium you want, pretty much.

TCV: By designer, do you mean an interior designer? A fashion designer?

WYZ: I was just nine years old - probably fashion design. But I applied to a lot of architecture schools when I was applying to college. I got into a lot of five-year programs thinking it'd be a good way for me to integrate art with practical stuff. I chose Conn because my parents wanted me to also study economics. I came thinking I'd double major, or do an Econ minor and Ar-

chitectural Studies major.

Along the way, I decided differently. I've been taking art every semester of my life, I think. Freshman year, I just took art for fun. I had this visiting professor, Brad Guarino. He was like, "I'm telling all the art professors that you should be an art minor." The fourth semester I was here, he was like, "I bet you're gonna be an art major." So I ended up becoming an art major second semester of sophomore year and have been doing art - mostly painting and drawing - ever since.

TCV: Have you taken classes in other media here as well?

WYZ: Yeah. We have to do 3-D art, and I also have done a collaboration with a video installation class. "Fine arts" at Conn College is quite broad. You can do art in any medium you want, pretty much.

All the professors here are practicing artists and all of them have fantastic artwork. There are so many different artists who are good at different things. Each of them is able to give you some aspect of what you should improve on to help you come up with the best artwork you can. I guess it's because they're all so experienced in the art world. Conn always has really highly educated professors, so... The art department is especially good.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

SGA Arts Task Force Seeks Greater Visibility

SAM NORCROSS
STAFF WRITER

Gabby Arengé '14 and Evert Fowle '14 came up with the idea for the Arts Task Force, an initiative to create more spaces of free expression on campus, while underground. There already exists a public artistic space at Connecticut College, but it also happens to be a subcutaneous tunnel connecting the basements of KB and Larrabee. It's a hot and humid

little room - a grungy, fluorescently lit, concrete echo-chamber. But the walls are covered in color. From scrawled *Lord of the Rings* quotations to stylized camel murals, students have taken it upon themselves over the years to layer the walls in paint and make the strange tunnel into something kind of special.

Fowle, current SGA president, and Arengé, Chair of Academic Affairs, were passing through the tunnel when they found themselves wondering

why there wasn't something like it at ground level. "People like that space and the concept of free expression," Fowle said. "We just thought about what it would be like if it weren't hiding under a dorm." Their idea spiraled outward from there.

By means of their positions in the Student Government Association, Fowle and Arengé formed the Arts Task Force, which Arengé describes as "a student collaborative to design, initiate and implement arts space projects in the college

community." That is to say that both Fowle and Arengé want to encourage some of the expression happening in the KB-Larrabee tunnel, but in a more public and productive way. "We see this as a collaborative effort to enforce campus goals and build campus community through art," Arengé said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

IN THIS ISSUE

Finizio on New Lo

Web Content Editor Fred McNulty sits down with the mayor of New London to talk about the city's future

How to use a Library

Opinions Editor Abbye Woodward teaches us how little we know about Shain

Einstein's Happiest Thought

Former professor Adele Myers returns to Conn to share her most recent work - photos by Miguel Salecedo, Photo Editor

EL N GEE

Columnist Tim Hartshorn bids farewell to New London's hardcore punk club

Editorial

On a Community of Leaders

The stretch between the first day of my Freshman Orientation and my first fall break felt like a horrible social experiment gone awry. Not because I was suffering from crippling homesickness nor because I was stuck in an intro-level science class at 9 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday mornings nor because I was punched in the stomach by a flailing bro on my way out of the first Rave. I was miserable because, as I realized when my parents picked me up on the second week in October, I had not set foot off campus since move in day. I was confined to the proverbial Connecticut College bubble for six weeks straight, left to wander from my triple in Larrabee to Harris to Shain to Cro to Blaustein and back again until I forgot that a world existed past the Campus Safety Gate and down Route 32.

My first year at Conn was the last year that the College allowed freshmen to register cars on campus, but due to my fear of driving on the highway, I wasn't able to enjoy that privilege. While there were several options that allowed (and still allow) freshmen opportunities to leave Conn and explore the world down the Hill, I (rather, foolishly) did not take advantage of any of those chances. I don't remember attending any school-sponsored, off-campus outings. Most of my friends were freshmen, and they also didn't have any modes of transportation unless you count a few longboards and a Razor scooter. And the one time I stepped foot on the Camel Van, I was so over-

whelmed by the loud music and strangers, I turned around and left.

I thought that my only chance at ever leaving this campus would be to volunteer in New London and ride in the OVCS van once a week. As bright-eyed freshmen with free time, Opinions Editor Jerrell Mays and I signed up to help organize archives at the New London Historical Society, a job that also involved us painting a fence and ripping weeds in the backyard; we lasted two months. But, we were afforded the opportunity to get off campus every Friday afternoon post-Fall break until Thanksgiving. It was not only fun but also healthy to be reminded that the world kept spinning outside of Conn. Now, in my last year of college — and aggressively planning for my future — I can't imagine a life separate from the outside world, in particular, separate from New London.

Many upperclassmen, seniors in particular, venture into New London (or further away) multiple times a week; getting off campus has become part of our normal existence. Despite its beauty, the Conn campus is small, and after three years, it can start to feel a bit suffocating. The novelty of freshman year wears off, and we ache to stretch and remind ourselves that the world we are studying at school is all around us — we just have to step outside the bubble to appreciate it. If not the urge to gain some distance, maybe it's just double salad bar night in Har-

ris — the perfect opportunity to drive downtown and pick up some Jasmine Thai or sit by the water with some burgers from Fred's Shanty. And for those of us who are 21 or older, the bars offer a nice change of pace from Cro Bar (though I do appreciate a good pun), as Tim Hartshorn '14 has been highlighting in a new weekly column for the Voice.

Through his research on bar culture and his experiences as an afterschool tutor at the New London Public Library, Hartshorn has become quite familiar with the city and its residents, echoing a sentiment felt by many seniors: "As a freshman, I barely spent any time in New London ... [but now] it is rare for me to go more than a few days without spending some time downtown."

Many upperclassmen have come to value the resources that New London offers, especially those who are in independent living. For me, the first time I realized that my relationship with New London had changed was last year when two of my friends living in Winchester brought me along grocery shopping; it was the first time I had stepped in a supermarket while at college, and it made me realize how secluded and sheltered we can be as college students, but for what reason?

Living in dorms on a college campus doesn't diminish our status as contributing members of society, though when we become reliant on the school to provide us with all of our meals and aren't responsible for cleaning

up the bathrooms that some of us destroy on the weekends, we sometimes forget that. For students housed in apartments and independent living—who are more self-sufficient than the rest of us—New London commodities become an important staple in their lives. Casey Dillon '14, a resident of the 360 Apartments, said that independent living has helped her appreciate more of what New London has to offer. She and her roommate often go downtown to buy groceries from Fiddleheads, coffee from Bean & Leaf or meals on Bank and State Streets. "It's a wonderful change of pace to get out into the community and interact with non-college people," Dillon said.

It's unfortunate, for me, that it's taken four years to establish a relationship with New London, to appreciate what the city has to offer to college students. Now with less than two semesters left, I have a long New London bucket list and little time to cross anything off it, and I suspect that I am not the only senior feeling this way. So, I encourage students of all ages to take a break from Conn and explore the city that has adopted us for four years of our lives. And for those of us with little time left to do so, the hour is ripe. Who knows, maybe a few years down the road we'll be sitting behind our desks in whatever city offers us a job, and we'll feel a pang of homesickness for that little city on the Connecticut shore.

- Melanie

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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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

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NEWS & FEATURES

OCTOBER 7, 2013

THE COLLEGE VOICE

A Subscription for Initiative: Connecting the dots between one alumna's gifts to the College

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

So, with the funds provided by Diane Y. Williams, the College purchased a two-year license for all faculty, staff and students to access Lynda.com. "If it proves to be a valuable resource, we can fund it for more than two years," explained Jessica McCullough, Instructional Design Librarian. McCullough works with faculty to help select the best technology for their courses, and helps to develop research assignments and processes as well.

"I've worked with Julia Browne in the CELS office and trained her and her staff on using Lynda," said McCullough. "They're

going to start going out into residence halls and showing students Lynda.com [which has] a category for business school applications, like how to do your resume and ace an interview."

Professor Wollensak calls the service "a perfect stepping stone. It empowers students to learn on their own."

"We don't want to be a tech school," Wollensak went on, "we don't want to be an art school. We want to learn how to communicate through different systems. We want to be able to articulate complex relations, visually." By learning technical, practical skills outside of the classroom, students can be better prepared to tackle the real content of their courses.

Diane Y. Williams considers Lynda.com part of a "three point initiative," in conjunction with the economics lab she donated years ago and the Academic Resource Center's "Now Hiring!" workshop, which was announced last Tuesday.

The workshop's pilot program will run during the last week of winter break, and enrollment is limited to 12 students only, plus four waitlisted seniors who may audit the workshop. The highly selective pilot will help gauge student enthusiasm and will help mold and design the program moving forward. Thanks to Williams, the

program will be at no cost to parents or students for housing or meals.

"It's focused. It's intensive," described Noel Garrett, Director of the Academic Resource Center. "A community is actually built in those five days. There will be individual presentations,

"We don't want to be a tech school. We don't want to be an art school. We want to learn how to communicate through different systems. We want to be able to articulate complex relations, visually."

Professor Andrea Wollensak

presentations with a partner and presentations with teams of four, and everyone is critiquing. The beauty of having it done over an intensive week is that you get to apply that feedback immediately."

Garrett also mentioned that the program will include a

series of speakers from outside of the College in addition to Conn faculty. "The result of this is not creating a resume and cover letter to put your best foot forward," said Garrett. "The idea is to make students more confident when it comes to communicating, not only about themselves but what

they do and what their interests are, from talking freely to formalizing a presentation."

"This is a first initiative for the Academic Resource Center to develop a workshop that will combine, in a total immersion, a superior skillset that, in my view, is sought

by the workplace," enthused Williams.

In addition to the Lynda.com subscription, the economics computer lab and the "Now Hiring!" program, the College has Diane Y. Williams to thank for the purchase and installation of eight dual-display high power computers that will be available in the library at the end of this month.

A new, state-of-the-art computer bank had been on Chris Penniman's radar for some time, but there simply wasn't funding for the project within the budget for the library renovations that will be taking place next summer. So, Penniman proposed the idea to Williams as a possible alternative to the Lynda.com subscription. Williams was impressed with both concepts, though, and generously decided to move forward with the two initiatives rather than just one.

Two screens and one powerful computer is a valuable combination, Penniman described: "A student could come down and

do their research, looking at information on the web on one screen, being able to write their paper on the other. Or, on Lynda.com, they could be learning InDesign on one screen and using it on another."

McCullough said that the computers would be set up by the end of October and that students would be able to use them through the end of this semester and through the transition period during the library's renovation.

Though her giving spans across disciplines and departments, Diane Y. Williams views her gifts to the College as working "hand in glove" towards the common objective of applied liberal arts.

"They provide not only added value, but a differential advantage, too," said Williams of the resources she's helped bring to Conn. "A differential advantage is hard to craft, but that doesn't mean it's not an objective... I'm not bunting, I'm swinging for the seats." •

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Fall Weekend 2013: Bigger than Ever Connecticut College: Better than Ever

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Friday = One.Epic.Night | Tempel Green, 7:15 p.m

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SHOW YOUR CAMEL PRIDE

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- Celebration to honor the 40th Anniversary of Unity House
- State of the college with President Higdon and presentation of the College Medal

Check out <http://fallweekend.conncoll.edu> for a complete schedule of events.

Mayor Daryl Finizio Discusses Current State and Future of New London

FRED MCNULTY
WEB CONTENT EDITOR

The Providence Journal recently published an article highlighting the City of New London as a new “it” destination under the headline, “Destination New London: Seaside haven has quirky shops, trendy eateries and a funky hipster vibe.” In doing so, the piece touched on what many view as a rebranding of the town. I sat down with New London Mayor Daryl Finizio at the beginning of the month to ask him about this.

“I don’t think that it is a rebranding,” he told *The College Voice*. Rather, the mayor believes that the city is simply experiencing more “accurate branding.” He explained that indie art shows, hip music festivals and other attractions have always been present in New London, but simply did not receive fair media attention.

Finizio deemed the marketing approach under his administration as vastly different from attempts in the

past: rather than changing New London, they are making efforts to highlight the attractions that are already there. Previous projects were “very forceful initiatives, involving eminent domain, bulldozers and bringing in large corporations,” said Finizio, adding that such initiatives were attempts “to force New London to change into something else based on a model that exists elsewhere.”

One example of this approach can be illustrated with the 2005 case of *Kelo v. City of New London* which made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The ruling stated that New London could legally seize privately owned land to make way for Pfizer to build a new headquarters. Only eight years after moving to New London, Pfizer ended up relocating, leaving many citizens jobless and many more incredibly displeased.

“I think what’s going on now is that the city has reversed that and said, ‘No, what we’re going to do is showcase who we are already,’” Finizio said.

“We already are a diverse community, we already are an arts community, we already are a college town, we already are a progressive town, we already have a great independent music scene, we already have a large gay community.”

In August 2013, the *Hartford Courant* ran an article on our school’s city, suggesting we “Call it Provincetown on the Thames.” Provincetown, Massachusetts — often referred to as “P-town” — is recognized as one of the top gay destinations in the United States.

“If you go from Providence to Hartford to New Haven and shade in all of the land area [in between], there is only one municipality with a gay or lesbian bar; New London,” Finizio remarked in the *Courant*’s piece. “And we have two.”

However, the openly gay Finizio was not pleased with the *Courant*’s coverage. While he maintains that he is proud of New London’s LGBTQ community, he does not think that New London fits the

description of a Connecticut P-town.

“I didn’t move to Provincetown, I didn’t move to Algonquin [Maine], I didn’t move to Chelsea in New York City,” he remarked. “I moved to New London because I want to be involved in a city where there’s integrated diversity. I don’t want to see that change.” He says that his plan for development includes gay pride events (such as a 2014 pride festival hosted by OutCT), but is not solely comprised of them.

The Family Institute of Connecticut — a socially conservative organization that explicitly stands in opposition to homosexuality — sees things differently.

In response to the *Hartford Courant* article, Director of Public Policy at the FIC, Peter Wolfgang, wrote, “buried deep in the *Courant*’s story is the acknowledgement that ‘a few gay pride events will [not] be enough’ to turn the city around, in other words, that the main point of the article is bunk.”

Wolfgang went on to

complain, “There are no pro-family cultural festivals in Connecticut similar to the pro same-sex ‘marriage’ ones frequently promoted by the *Courant*.” Requests by *The College Voice* to get a comment from the FIC were denied.

The mayor said that he took issue with the *Courant*’s framing of the article, reaffirming that New London is not trying to emulate Provincetown. He had not seen the criticism by the FIC.

“I think that ‘family’ is more broadly defined than the view that certain right-wing groups tend to give it. It’s appropriate that communities like ours embrace the broader view of what it is to be a family, because all families should be valued equally,” said Finizio.

“The vast, vast majority of New Londoners have progressive values and celebrate diversity. That’s why we live here. That’s why we stay here, in spite of the many challenges that the city has,” the mayor argued. “So, I’m not overly concerned what the Family Institute of Connecticut

or anywhere else really thinks about us.”

When asked whether he thought that the recent shutdown of the United States government would have an impact on New London, Mayor Finizio voiced concern for the federal workers that live in the city who have been furloughed. He also worried that events at the Coast Guard Academy could be adversely affected.

Despite this, New London has fought hard to be more attractive to tourists. Mayor Finizio explained that “major violent crime is lower in New London than in any other city in the state and... we’re approaching one of our safest years in a decade.”

New London’s cultural offerings benefit students as well as tourists, and the reduction in crime, as well as support from the mayor’s office helps make these events even more successful. As Finizio puts it, “This is New London. It’s wonderful. It’s different. It’s unique.”

“Get Out” of Town with SAC

RACHEL MATSON
CONTRIBUTOR

Much to the dismay of students, far too often the weekends are filled with one thing: studying. We groan from under a pile of books that there is nothing to do. There is, however, a program at Conn designed for just this issue. The Student Activities Council and the Office of Student Engagement & Leadership Education routinely fund events called “Get Out” trips — or GO — in which free transportation is provided for exciting off-campus trips. In the past, GO trips have included a Providence Bruins hockey game, productions of *Spring Awakening* and *Sweeney Todd*, shopping trips and a tour of the USS Nautilus nuclear submarine. There are also smaller trips, like an apple picking event on Sept. 21, and an excursion to Newport, RI on the last weekend of September.

The GO program provides both all-day events, such as the trip to Newport, and brief adventures, but all trips share the same goal. Cassandra Saimond ’14, director of the program, said that the aim of each trip is “for students to be able to get off campus” and to “learn about and enjoy the surrounding areas.” Each trip is unique and aimed for students to have fun in a low-stress and low-cost environment. Saimond explained that the GO trips also provide opportunities that students may not have otherwise, such as “going

to the midnight premiere of Harry Potter in a rented out theater” or “going to *Jersey Boys* for a very discounted price.”

Each year the opportunities change and morph as directors try to discover what students are really interested in. Most events are located in the surrounding area, though some go as far as New York City. Trips are usually organized events, such as a show or an opportunity to shop and explore. In any scenario, the GO trips offer the benefit of presenting trips at a significantly reduced price. In addition, by going on the trips, students support school-sponsored events because they are planned by and provided for students.

On Sept. 29, students had the opportunity to travel for free to Newport, RI, a seaside city south of Providence, known as a beautiful summer destination. Newport is home to famous mansions, the Cliff Walk and Salve Regina University. For Brooke Safferman ’16, going on the trip to Newport was important in order to temporarily escape from the Connecticut College bubble. Newport makes for a special trip because it is “such a lively town with so much to offer” ranging from local treats such as Rosemary and Thyme Artisan Bakery and Island Books. It also provides “classic favorites such as Panera, Ben. & Jerry’s and J Crew.” On the trip, Safferman hoped to have an enjoyable break from campus to view the boats and

the water, and also a chance for leisurely shopping and walking. Saimond said that providing a trip to Newport at least once a year is important because it makes for a great day trip, and along with being a scenic environment in and of itself, also has a lot to offer such as shopping, museums and wandering.

Safferman suggested that future trips could be during a day when an event, such as a festival or an opening, would be going on in Newport so that there was more opportunity for structured events. She still went on the trip last year, and plans to go on any future Newport trips. Safferman relayed that the trip was not only time well spent, but also allowed her to feel rejuvenated and refreshed upon arriving back to Conn.

For some students, a daunting element of some of the GO trips might be the length; the trip to Newport, for instance, took from about 11 AM to 6 PM on Sunday. GO, however, also hosts shorter outings, such as a two-hour trip to Clyde’s Cider Mill in Mystic that took place on Oct. 6, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Students who are interested in these off-campus trips should sign up in Cro the week before each outing. Upcoming events include trips to the Fall Food Stroll on Oct. 16, Providence and WaterFire on Nov. 16 and the midnight premiere of *Hunger Games: Catching Fire* on Nov. 21.

Conn’s New Amnesty International Club Looks Forward to a Productive Year

ELEANOR HARDY
CONTRIBUTOR

Amnesty International is a widely recognized non-governmental organization and serves as one of the top human rights-focused groups around the world — it’s also one of Conn’s newest clubs. The club has big things in store for the upcoming year and is looking forward to establishing itself on campus while also addressing many issues.

The club begins its bi-weekly meetings with a discussion of current events and media articles pertaining to human rights issues. After attending this week’s meeting, it’s clear that the club members are passionate and excited about the availability of such a recognized human rights club on campus. Julia Enos ’16, the club’s news reporter, gathers and posts articles each week to foster the group’s discussion. An International Relations major, she joined the club after taking a class with Professor Borer. “She had a huge influence and really made me passionate about human rights,” Enos said.

Professor Borer of the Government and International Relations Department is the faculty advisor of Amnesty International, and serves as a notable influence for many club members. Support from faculty on campus is what has allowed so many clubs like Amnesty to establish themselves. Professor Borer said, “it has always been clear to me that there is a large student interest in human rights on this campus.” She is also “happy to have the club back. Many years ago there was a very active Amnesty International student club. But, as

is sometimes the case, the students who were most involved graduated, and the club sort of petered out.” The club is back on campus due to “an amazing group of dedicated and hard-working students who bring tremendous energy to the club,” which will hopefully continue once the current student leaders graduate.

Of these “dedicated and hard-working students” is co-President Conor McCormick-Cavanagh ’14. His interest in amnesty issues stems from his studies in Morocco. McCormick-Cavanagh said, “I worked firsthand with the prisoners of war which made me more sensitive to human rights issues.” McCormick-Cavanagh wants to “be one of many to improve the international reputation of our country,” and sees Amnesty as an effective place to start.

Another senior executive board member, Cole Delbyck ’14, attributes his interest in Amnesty to Professor Borer as well: “After taking several classes it made me ask ‘what can you do?’” After studying abroad in China and working with CISLA, Delbyck has found a niche focusing on LGBT issues in China. He is excited about the club’s docket and hopes to generate discussion. “The club won’t solve world hunger, but it will raise awareness on campus and is a platform to talk about issues outside of the classroom,” he said.

The club has both enthusiasm and dedication. To top it off, they’ve already made plans for several exciting events, like an a cappella concert on Nov. 14 in the Chapel. “It’s a fun and interesting way to address something more serious and also give out information,” Delbyck said.

As the theme of the concert is “Refugee Rights,” songs about unity and harmony will be sung by groups such as Vox Cameli, CoCo Beaux, Conn Artists and the Conn Chords.

This coming spring marks the tenth anniversary of the Abu Ghraib torture scandal. The club is prepared to take full advantage of such a big event, with plans in the works for a film screening, outside speakers and a host of other things. Co-President Alanna Jamner ’14, also a member of the Vagina Monologues executive board, hopes to put on a co-sponsored event in the spring as well.

The most difficult part for any new club once initiated is to keep its momentum. Professor Borer “hopes that when [the current leaders] graduate there are lots of students in the pipeline to keep the club going,” and currently, it looks like that may be the case.

Remy Cipriano ’17, Amnesty International’s freshman class representative, became interested in human rights issues after doing Model United Nations in high school. With a specific interest in women in society and the Middle East, Remy is a part of the club’s solid “pipeline.”

McCormick-Cavanagh expresses that to keep the club going he feels the need for a good time. “Talking about these important issues can be dark sometimes, so it’s important to [try and] make it enjoyable.”

Through their well-planned upcoming events, their strong and enthusiastic executive board, as well as underclassman membership, it’s clear that the club has already established a solid framework and great initiative to enhance the human rights narrative on campus.

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OPINIONS

THE COLLEGE VOICE

OCTOBER 7, 2013



CAROLINE DYLAG

There is in fact a Third Floor: Shain's Best Resources

ABBYE WOODWARD
OPINIONS EDITOR

"Is this where I check out books?"

"How do I get a book on reserve?"

"There's a third floor?"

We've all been to Shain. Whether you're a die-hard library junkie or someone wandering in to print a paper a few minutes before class, pretty much everyone on campus has used library resources in one way or another. But based on these overheard conversations on the first floor of the library, students aren't making the most of what Information Services has to offer.

Most students are introduced to Shain as first-semester freshmen, when many First Year Seminars incorporate a library visit that includes a tour of the building and a run-down of the resources offered by Information Services. Maybe it's because a lot of information comes to them at once, or maybe it's the wavering nervousness we all experienced as newbies to Conn, but by the time students reach the point in their academic career where they need library assistance, most of this information has been lost. In light of the upcoming library renovations, I've chosen to highlight some of Shain's best features in the hopes that, post-renovation, students, faculty and staff alike will benefit from even the most underutilized of library resources in the new and improved setting.

The reference desk may be one of the best-kept library secrets, despite it being one of the first things you see upon entering the library's first floor. We all know to go there for research help, but most students don't know that you can also call or text the reference librarians with questions. The librarians on duty will do

whatever it takes to help you find whatever research materials you need. Molly Longstreth '15 found the reference desk helpful in ways she didn't expect, remembering a point last year when "we didn't have a book and it wasn't [available through] ILL but they found it for me at the Coast Guard library and I was able to check it out there." Julia Cristofano '14 echoed this statement: "Interlibrary Loan has been extremely helpful and efficient especially now that I've been working on my thesis." And ILL doesn't have to be used solely for scholarly undertakings— as long as a participating library has a copy of what you're looking

...most students don't know that you can also call or text the reference librarians with questions. The librarians on duty will do whatever it takes to help you find whatever research materials you need.

for, even if it's a DVD to watch with friends on a Friday night, all you have to do is submit a request and you'll usually have it within a week.

Though Shain is primarily an academic library, it does also have resources for those looking for less-scholarly material. The leisure book and DVD section in the library basement is a great underutilized resource on campus, with current movies and books that are updated regularly. The Dewey Decimal section, which I'll admit I've never explored, is also in the library basement. Emily Aylward, ILL supervisor, says

"The Dewey section has some stuff that is funny and cool and that people don't get a chance to look at" in their four years at Conn. Also in the basement, is the IT service desk, where most students find themselves at least once in their college careers. But less known is the new-this-year "customer kiosk" set up downstairs where students can work with IT desk staff to solve their technical issues. Amy Narducci, IT Service Desk and Training Manager, says the kiosk enables desk staff to "show [students] where the information they're looking for is and encourage them to start the process for themselves."

Although we all are familiar with the way the library's floors are categorized by sound level, there are places in the library where one can work on group projects or as noisily as required outside of the booths in the library basement, which can get crowded, especially towards finals season. Cassandra Saimond '14 said, "I like the viewing rooms because you can work with friends or on a project in a smaller space where it's more open to talk without disturbing people." And when finals season approaches, it's not unusual for students to camp out in the Dilley Room, the seminar-style classroom in the library basement that can be especially helpful for larger group projects.


With the renovation fast approaching, *The College Voice* will be chronicling what to expect both during and post-construction in the near future. In the meantime, we still have a year left with the untouched building, and hopefully, by the time this school year ends and renovations begin next summer, students will be less surprised to discover that the questionable door on the second-floor landing does, in fact, lead to a third floor. •

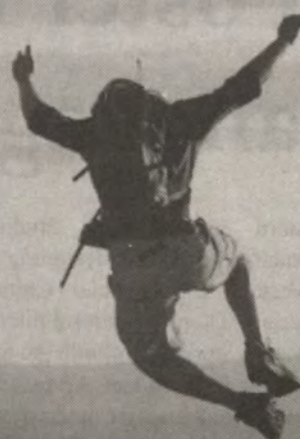
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A Freshman's Perspective on New London



COURTESY PHOTO

EVA CZAPSKI
CONTRIBUTOR

As much as we freshmen love our beautiful and tight-knit campus, we also know, after a month of being students here, how stifling it sometimes feels. Wherever we come from, chances are we all covered a lot more distance back home — because we felt more able to get away for a few hours, and we knew where we wanted to go.

Fortunately, there are plenty of opportunities open to us, which many of us have yet to discover. The eclectic city of New London exists just a few miles from our campus. While it is known to upperclassmen who are allowed the convenience of cars, New London understandably seems more distant to the freshmen of Conn.

But we have options, too. For one, a phone call to Harry's Taxi will summon a car within ten minutes, and the ride to the city center only costs about \$9 (less than three

dollars per person when split among four friends). Plus, all of the drivers at Harry's will take a student ID card in the place of cash, and charge the ride to your student account. Freshmen who have had a driver's license for one year without any "incidents" can join Zipcar for \$25 a year plus \$8.25 per hour of driving, which includes gas and insurance. By logging onto zipcar.com, students can get a special Conn discount. As a third option, New London is cycle-able in less than fifteen minutes via Williams and Huntington Streets.

Once you've made the trip into New London, there are many ways to spend your time in the city. The New London Waterfront District, a center full of personality and intrigue, lines the coast of New London Harbor. The district lives up to its name by opening a long boardwalk to the public, complete with seating and an inspiring view. The main streets of downtown — Bank, Water and State — feature go-to spots for dining, shopping

and days or nights out with friends. Most of the businesses aimed toward college students participate in "Friday Nights in the District," by keeping later hours on Friday nights, making for a great evening atmosphere.

There's something for everyone downtown, and a store to fit every need. Fiddleheads Co-op at 13 Broad St. sells not only locally-grown produce, but natural snacks, craft supplies and organic bath products as well, rather like a smaller version of Whole Foods. One freshman I talked to raved about Mangetout Organic Cafe, located on State Street. "It's adorable," she said of the breakfast and lunch spot. "[It's] worth the trip. It's homey, comfortable and hospitable...it didn't feel like I was being served at a restaurant. Plus the menu changes every day, so people always want to come back." Mangetout sells fresh foods, gluten free and vegan desserts, local coffee and features a fresh-squeezed juice of the day.

A classic favorite on Bank

Street is Muddy Waters, a high quality cafe and lunch spot, whose interior is conducive to work, conversation and hanging out at any time of day or night. Down the street is a lesser-known gem called Sweeties, where everything is 100% homemade from scratch. Try it out for fresh soups and sandwiches with homemade bread; grilled cheeses and other comfort foods; and baked goods and ice cream made entirely by hand. For many of us at Conn, this kind of homey, independent business is a new attraction, having been a rarity back home. Now just down the street from campus, they offer an inviting atmosphere and the kind of comforts we all look for, while being a welcome departure from our everyday surroundings.

When going out for dinner, freshmen might feel we have limited options because we can't get into bars. But for those of us under twenty-one who still want the feeling of a crowded sports bar, Hot Rod Cafe has an all-ages dining area right next to the bar. It's

on the other end of Bank, and prides itself on "wings, beer and atmosphere." "It is a really nice place," said Sarah Parker '17. "The food is great and it has a local vibe, so everyone there is really friendly." Another student recommended the fresh sushi and tempura served at Little Tokyo, 131 State St. "You can easily get a table long enough for 15 people," he said. "It's a great time."

Students with varying interests have many opportunities to shop in the city. Greenlight on Bank is a great place to look for a birthday present; it caters to men and women, and one freshman said that it "tries really hard to meet the college student's budget." Pine! Boutique on State Street is a unique store that features crafts by local artists and tons of items for dorm rooms and for life in general. The boutique is closing for good on Dec. 7, so hurry and take advantage of their discounts. State Street also boasts one of New England's largest comic and game stores, Sarge's Comics. Here, one can

find not only a huge selection of comic books, but also board games and party games. Eclectic antique stores are found on every street, and there's a decently-sized Salvation Army at 170 Bank St.

Finally, for a wide array of film, vocal or orchestral performances, comedy, dance and theater, check out the Garde Arts Center, all the way up State, past the train station. Tickets for students are as low as \$10; a full listing of programs can be found at www.gardearts.com.

Whether you are the type to gather everyone you know for a Thursday night out, spend an afternoon meandering through aisles of antiques or simply leave Harris behind to enjoy a sandwich and a chai by the water, you need not feel that New London is out of your grasp. Whatever it is that calls to you about your new city, go to it — exercise your right to explore. •

Students Foster Burgeoning Interest in Arabic Language and Culture Studies

ANDREW SHAW
STAFF WRITER

The Middle East is perpetually in the news. Between countries such as Iraq, Egypt and Syria, it's hard to get through a day without hearing at least one mentioned. The United States government always seems to be asking how we can remake these countries in our image, when we should be asking a different question: "How can we understand these countries' points of view?" That's exactly the question that the burgeoning Arabic club Yalla Bina and the developing Arabic Studies program (currently housed in the Classics Department) want to help Connecticut College students answer.

Yalla Bina, which was created in the fall of 2009 by students in the Arabic 101 class, celebrates

the cultures of Middle Eastern countries. Through events such as last year's Middle East Week and the dinner to support Syria, members educate the student body and work to dispel stereotypes associated with the region. They also hold fundraisers to support the Syrian American Alliance, and work closely with other student groups on campus, such as Connecticut College Hillel. Susanna Mathews '16, a Government major with a self-designed focus on homeland security, decided to join Yalla Bina because the Middle East is a huge item on the United States' foreign policy agenda. She explained that, "for someone who's never been to the region, [the club is a fantastic way] to learn from people who have [been]."

As an Arabic Studies major doesn't currently exist, many of the students in the club are

either Arabic Studies minors or are self-designing an Arabic Language and Culture major. There is a strong interest among students for both the option of an independent Arabic department and a major in the near future.

Both the minor and the self-designed major include two years of language study. The minor requires one additional course in the literature, politics or culture of the Middle East, while the self-designed major requires at least four additional content courses, plus a research component.

Kaitlyn Garbe '16 plans to overlap her Arabic Language and Culture major with her International Relations major to study the Levant, a region that includes the eastern part of the Mediterranean, its islands and the adjoining countries. Vanessa Correia '16, a Biology major,

explained, "I fell in love with Arabic and the Middle East first semester of my freshman year, and felt I had to incorporate it into my future, despite my pre-health focus." Correia plans to work with Doctors Without Borders after college.

One of the most appealing aspects of Conn's Arabic Studies program is its summer session in Jordan. Last summer, ten students traveling with Professors Waed Athamneh and Muhammad Massud (both of whom are from the country) spent six weeks studying intensive Arabic at Jordan University of Science and Technology in the city of Irbid, in northern Jordan. The students took classes — conducted entirely in Arabic — in spoken Arabic, reading, grammar, media and writing. They also had the opportunity to travel around the country, visiting Petra, Wadi

Rum, the Red Sea and the Dead Sea. Of the experience, Correia said, "I have never learned so much before in my life. It was absolutely incredible, and I'm already planning on returning."

While talking to students in these programs, what struck me most was the enthusiasm and passion each felt for the Arabic program and the experiences it has given them. Eager to share their knowledge and love of the language, both Garbe and Correia tutor first-year Arabic students through the new Academic Resource Center. Through her tutoring, Garbe has loved being able to "create friendships and relationships throughout the entire department." She's been "amaz[ed] how each of [the students] has been able to help [the others] out." She added that, "even after one year, I have made so many valuable friend-

ships." Garbe has also enriched the larger New London community as the coordinator for the Arabic Language Program for the Extended Learning Time program, an initiative in all of New London's public schools. Each school day, she works at Jennings Elementary School with her fellow Arabic students, exposing children in kindergarten through second grade "to regions of the world and language they may have never even heard of before."

With all that has happened in the region in recent years, I don't think there's ever been a better time to build up an Arabic program that exposes both Conn and the larger New London community to the culture of the Middle East, and, to quote Mathews, its "beautiful language." •

SPORTS

THE COLLEGE VOICE

OCTOBER 7, 2013

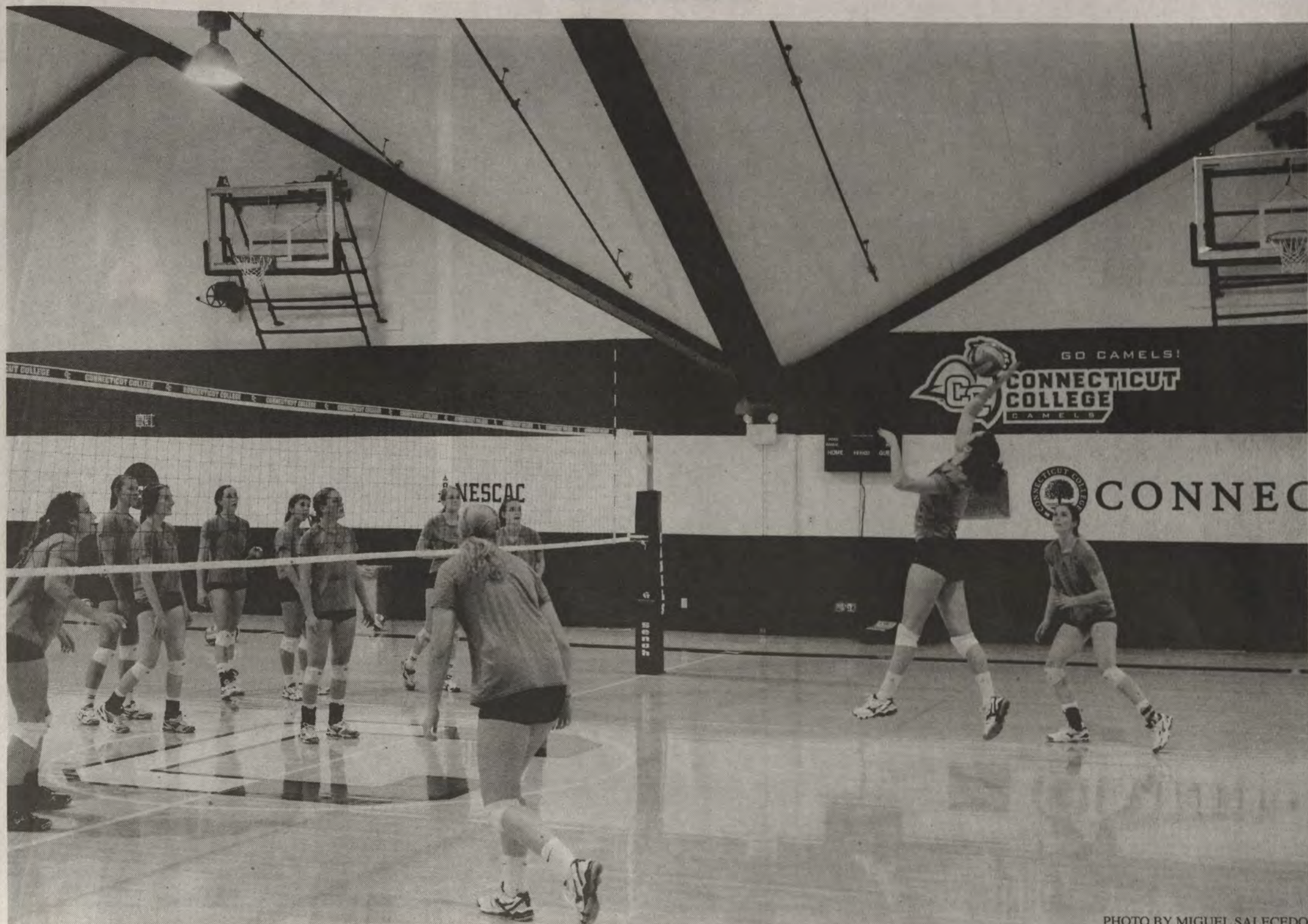


PHOTO BY MIGUEL SALECEDO

MID-SEASON UPDATE

Volleyball Looks to Turn it Around on the Road

IGGY STERLING
CONTRIBUTOR

Halfway through the season, it is already clear that the women's volleyball team will have their work cut out for them. This season will not be the dominating campaign of last year, in which the Camels went 25-3, ranking number one in New England and hosting the first weekend of the NCAA tournament. They made it to the second round before losing to powerhouse UMass Boston.

This season has been a different story. Having graduated three of their seniors, two of which took home All-American honorable, the Camels find themselves with a very young team. Only three players are upperclassmen.

While many of the current seven sophomores saw significant playing time in last year's post-season games, they are no longer on the periphery. So far, this lack of experience in big time roles has shown. The Camels post a 7-6 record at the midpoint of the season.

But there are plenty of upsides to this season. While the team's 7-6 overall record is strikingly mediocre compared to last year's, they are 2-1 in NESCAC play. At home, they command an impressive 6-0 record. With only 4 home games left in the season, they must improve on the road, where they are 1-6. As the season progresses, it will be vital that Captains Anelise Hohl '15, Melissa Kohl '15, and Erin

Barker '14 find a way to keep the team's confidence up away from Conn.

On the court, however, the younger players have been the standouts. Sophomore Caroline Martin has been explosive, leading the team with 116 kills. Martin has also been tremendous on defense, tallying 128 digs, the second most on the team. Two weeks ago she was named NESCAC Player of the Week.

She has been joined at the front of the net by two strong offensive freshmen: Chloe Ainley, who has accumulated 106 kills, and Alex McDevitt, whose deadly hitting has brought her 94 kills. Sophomore Jamie Balkin has also stepped up as the teams' defensive specialist, leading the team with 165 digs.

Two weekends ago the team went 3-0, beating two NESCAC opponents in Wesleyan and Trinity. The second game was also a great lesson for the younger players. Trying to put the Bantams away 3-0, the Camels found themselves down by a score of 22-13 in front of their own crowd. At that point the team seemed to switch into a whole new gear going on a 11-2 run, before coming back and winning 27-25.

To improve their season, the Camels need to harness that determination for every match, especially away from home. Teamwork, consistency, and confidence will be key for this young team.

MARINA STUART
STAFF WRITER

This Fall Weekend, in addition to attending Harvestfest, eating camel cookies, and exploring the beautiful Connecticut College Campus, students and families can enjoy a variety of sporting events. Here is what you need to know about what, where, and when sporting events are happening, plus notes from the captains on their feelings about competing this year:

All events are taking place on Oct. 9 unless otherwise specified.

Women's Cross Country Connecticut College Invitational

11 a.m., Harkness State Park

Since beginning their season, the Women's Cross Country team has finished first, first, fourth and fifth at the meets they have competed in.

Sarah Huckins '14: This Fall Weekend will be my fourth and final home meet, which is bittersweet, but I'm excited for how much progress my teammates have made already this season, as well as proud of the progress the team as a whole has made over the course of my four years on the team. This year's team is bigger than in the past with 29 members, 26 of which are first and second years, so not only have I been very grateful for the opportunity to get to know so many wonderful new people, but I also look forward to see how far they can go in the future.

Heather Rochford '15: This is my second to last Fall Weekend home meet. I am very excited to be racing at Harkness Park. Having the opportunity to race at such a beautiful park with our families and friends present to cheer us on is an awesome experience.

Being a captain this year has been very fulfilling so far thanks to our success as a team, as individuals, and as friends. We have a lot of underclassmen who will hopefully lead the team to more progress in the coming years.

Men's Cross Country Connecticut College Invitational

2 p.m., Harkness State Park

Since September, the men's Cross Country team has competed in four meets where they have won first, second, third and sixth place over all.

Andrew Majkut '14: This is actually the first time in the last four years that our home meet will fall on Fall Weekend, as in the past three years it has been during fall break. This will allow family, friends, and alumni to be able to attend both the race at Harkness State Park as well as the Fall Weekend festivities... The home meet at Harkness has always had a special place in my heart, as it is an opportunity to represent Connecticut College at one of the most beautiful sites in the area. This won't be as bitter sweet as it could be, though, as we will also be hosting the NESCAC championships on November 2... Being a captain on this team has been an absolute pleasure. The guys on the team make it incredibly easy for me to do my job, and the team chemistry is the maybe the best it's ever been. We still have a long road ahead of us if we are to fulfill our goals, but at this point I am confident in this group to achieve the very high standards we have set.

Women's Field Hockey vs. Bowdoin

12 p.m., Silfen Turf Field

Through the month of September, Field Hockey has been

3-3 with wins against Springfield, Wellesley and NESCAC rival Hamilton.

Laura Sanderson '14: I could not ask for a better team to be on for my final year of field hockey. We are a team of fighters and will be ready to give Bowdoin a battle on Oct. 19. When it comes down to it, the team that wins is the team that wants it more. Thus, my goal for the team is to outwork Bowdoin the whole 70 minutes... It's crazy that it is already my last parent's weekend game. When you're a freshman, four years feels like a long time but in reality it is over in a heartbeat. My goals are to hold nothing back, give 110% every practice and game, and have no regrets.

Women's Soccer vs. Bowdoin

11 a.m., Harkness Green

So far this season the women's soccer team has a 2-2-2 record with wins against UMass Dartmouth and the Coast Guard Academy.

Rebecca Raymond '14: I am really excited to play Bowdoin on Fall Weekend, even though it will be bittersweet knowing it will be my last Fall Weekend game at Conn. I think the team has come so far and it is a great feeling to be a part of the atmosphere, especially as a senior captain.

Women's Volleyball vs. Middlebury

October 18, 8 p.m., Athletic Center

vs. Hamilton
2 p.m., Athletic Center

In the month of September, the volleyball team posted a 6-6 record with wins against Wheaton, Keene, Simmons, Johnson and Wales and NESCAC rivals Trinity and Wesleyan.

Anelise Hohl '15: The whole

team is very excited to be playing at home for Fall Weekend this year. Middlebury and Hamilton will be great games... Being a co-captain for CCVB is a huge honor. We are looking forward to the team growing throughout the season and continuing to see the team come together to achieve success.

Men's Soccer vs. Bowdoin

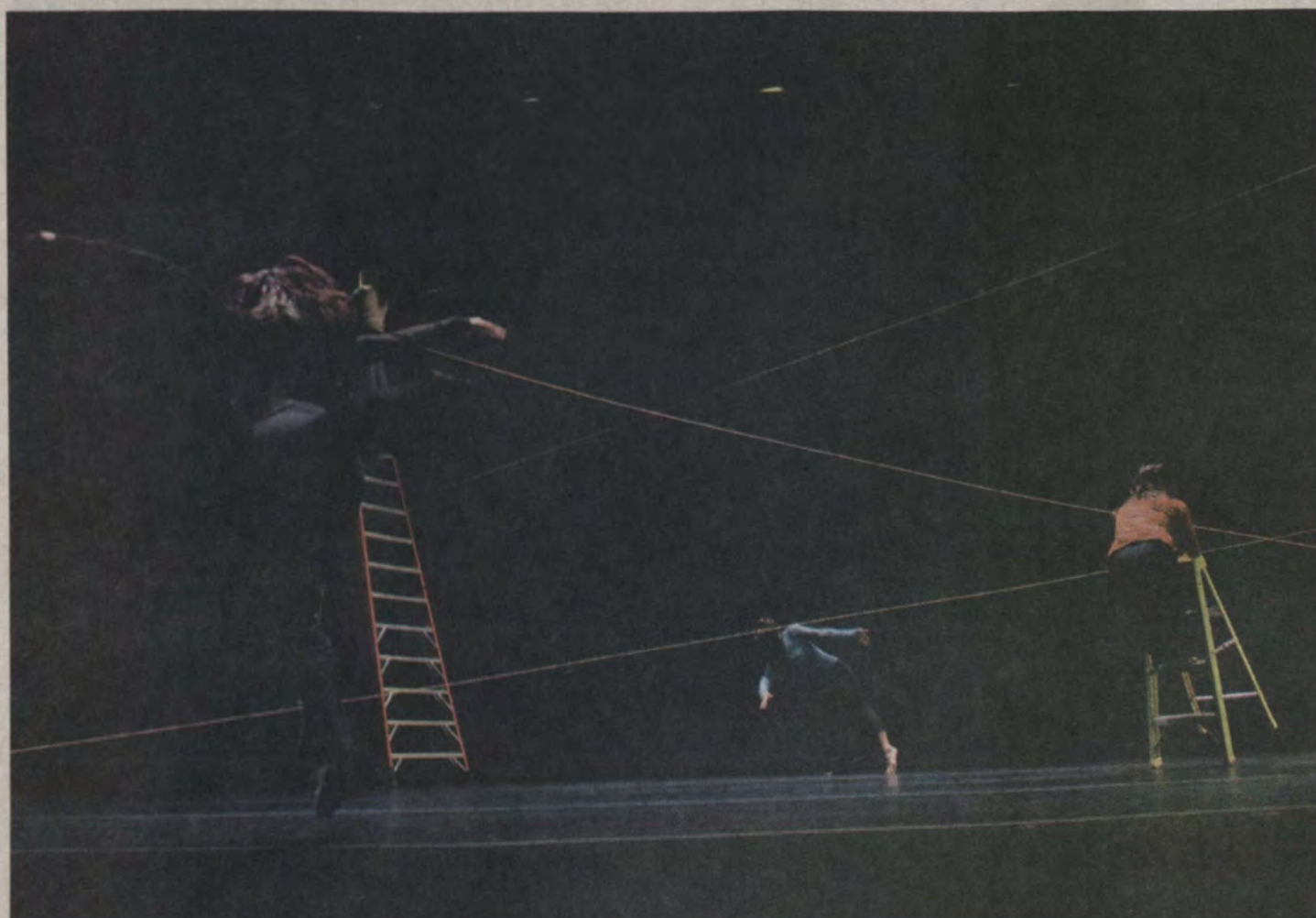
2 p.m., Harkness Green

This season the men's Soccer team has a record of 3-2-2, with significant wins over Mitchell, UMass Dartmouth, and Coast Guard Academy.

Billy Hawkey '14: I am excited for my last Fall Weekend game at Conn. We always have a big crowd, which is a lot of fun to play in front of. It is crazy to think this will be my last Fall Weekend game; it seems like yesterday I was playing in my first. Being a captain of this team is a true honor and I am lucky to have the teammates that I do.

Paul Bacigalupo '14: I'm proud to be a captain of this team and am going to miss playing on Tempel Green in front of the best crowd in the NESCAC. The other seniors and I will cherish playing in our last Fall Weekend game. We have competed and battled in years past and look forward to the match-up against Bowdoin this year.

Casey Marni '14: Fall Weekend is special because of the families, alumni, and current student body that we are lucky to play in front of. We hope to make our last Fall Weekend game a memorable one with a winning result in front of the best support in the NESCAC. I am very proud to be a captain on this team and help lead my teammates in representing Coach Murphy's program.



"Einstein's Happiest Thought" Lights Up Palmer Auditorium



PHOTOS BY MIGUEL SALECEDO

ZOE HALPERT STAFF WRITER

A yellow string was draped diagonally across the back of the stage and a tall red ladder with silver rungs sat in the corner. The scene was set for Adele Myers's performance entitled "Einstein's Happiest Thought." Myers was on the dance faculty of Connecticut College from 2006 until 2013, and "Einstein's Happiest Thought" has been a project-in-residence at the College for the past two years.

The performance focused on the themes of falling and flying, particularly the moment before a fall. Myers explained the performance as addressing "the anticipation of taking risk." She asked: "What does that sensation feel like...can we perform that sensation and can the audience experience that sensation as they watch?"

The project started a few years ago as part of a Sherman Fairchild Foundation Grant to the College, which brings faculty from various departments together to teach a series of interdisciplinary courses. This is how Blanche Boyd, Connecticut College's Weller Professor of English and Writer-in-Residence, became involved in the process.

At one point the group of faculty was throwing ideas around when Boyd said in exasperation, "Let's just jump off a plane!" This idea didn't get approved. Instead, they took the students to trapeze school.

After the Fall 2010 semester was over, Myers wanted to take the project further with her company. It is now embarking on a national tour. Many people were involved in the process, and Myers even received input from her students here at Conn. Professor David Dorfman, chair of the Dance Department, mentioned how inspirational it is to be working in the environment of a college, where knowledge is truly at one's fingertips. Dorfman said of Myers, "I saw her work change, and I think that some of it had to do with being pleasantly ensconced in this academic institution that really encourages interplay among different departments and disciplines."

With modern dance, people have a tendency to instantly react with, "I don't get it." Myers' response to that is, "Yes, you do. You just need the permission to say that whatever you experience is what it is." In the program, Myers provides an explanation of her performance, but she pref-erences it: "If you want to know the

answer, read on. If not, skip this part." This enables the audience to discover the intended meaning behind the performance or to come up with their own interpretation.

The cast of "Einstein's Happiest Thought" consisted of four dancers: Tara Burns, Raphaëlle Kessedjian, Kellie Lynch and Amber Morgan. Each comes from a different background in dance; despite this diversity, they worked together coherently onstage — at times, perfectly in sync. "They can occupy space with such force and such power and such abandon," Myers said.

These four dancers weren't the only ones onstage. Recent graduate Morgan Griffin '12 was featured in the performance as "The Walker." Her role was to slowly walk across the stage and up the ladder throughout the entire performance. As she walked, she held onto a second yellow string, which followed her as she moved across the stage. Griffin's movements were so small and infrequent, and I was so distracted by the motion of the other dancers that I barely noticed she was moving. Before I knew it, she was already halfway across the stage.

Myers explained that Griffin represented "a measure of time

and space and its consistency." The dancers reflected what was going on inside her. Clad in yellow, Griffin acted as a kind of yellow string herself, threading the performance together. In fact, one of the audience members later commended Griffin on her role, saying, "Standing still is the hardest thing in the world."

The presence of the color yellow was no coincidence. Myers explained that a single color is usually a part of her work, and when she first heard the words "Einstein's happiest thought," the color yellow came to her mind. Yellow was symbolic to Myers and she said, "It became more about hope and wonder."

The title originally came from Boyd. Myers asked Boyd for any material she had written on the subject of falling or flying. Within this collection Myers came across a quotation referencing Einstein's happiest thought. This refers to a "thought experiment" that led to Einstein's Theory of Relativity. Specifically, it's about the different ways we each can experience the same quantity of time and space and gravity. Myers said, "I would call this whole thing a thought experiment." The whole creative process was itself a thought that developed continually.

Physics was clearly an important aspect of this work, in keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the piece. Dorfman said, "I think that this notion of where physics and the physical world impact our emotional and intellectual world is really interesting, fertile ground."

Myers said, "Let's say, you right now...in ten minutes you have something so fun you're about to do, and you're so excited, and then in ten minutes I have something that I'm dreading, right? The way we're going to experience that ten minutes is totally different because of what is at the end. It's going to go really slow[ly] for you because you can't wait, and for me it's going to go really fast because I don't want it to happen. We're experiencing the same amount of time but we're experiencing it completely differently."

Myers has a fear of heights, but describes it as an "excited fear." Regarding her experience at trapeze school, she said, "I was surprised by the fact that as I was climbing the ladder, that's when I had the most fear. And I noticed that my sense of time, and my sense of the space around me and my heartbeat got altered as I got closer to the top...That moment became more interesting to me

than the actual trapeze." Dorfman pointed out, "Adele is dealing with all those different states: the anticipation of a fall, the start of it, the free-fall, the recovery."

For me, the moment of letting go is the scariest part. Whether it's going on a zip line, plunging into icy water or ripping off a Band-Aid, that moment when you force yourself to leave the ledge is the most terrifying. Myers said that's the part she loves most. She admitted, "I am a little bit of a thrill-seeker, so as much as I have the fear, I kind of like that sensation. The scariest part for me is anticipating. In this work I am making myself sit in the anticipation of a risk." Doing what makes you uncomfortable is a very powerful way of creating art.

Myers recounted an experience she had as a freshman in college, when she was in her first modern dance class ever, with Viola Farber. She was going across the floor when she fell down. Viola stopped the class and the piano and said, "Now that is dancing." Myers said that those words have always stuck with her. She said, "Why not? If you fall down and you get embarrassed or you get a little bit hurt, wasn't it worth the thrill?"

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

OCTOBER 7, 2013

THE COLLEGE VOICE

Goodbye (for now) to “the GEE”



PHOTOS BY TIM HARTSHORN

TIM HARTSHORN
COLUMNIST

This week's column is going to be slightly different than others in that it concerns a bar (a hardcore club, to be more accurate) that, regrettably, is scheduled to close its doors in the near future. Indeed, as of November 2013, New London will be forced to go without the dynamic musical scene offered by EL N GEE. Until someone offers to buy and reopen this club, local – and national – bands that often grace their stage will have to take their business elsewhere.

So why write this column? In part, I do so as a testament to a truly unique and compelling environment, which – as is the case with so many New London establishments – few Conn students have ever had the chance to visit. But my motivation is not entirely nostalgic. A highly notable feature of EL N GEE

(simply known as “the GEE” by locals) is that its patron base extends far beyond the city that it calls home. Music fans – most notably members of various underground punk scenes – come from a multitude of places to see performances at this venue.

Many students on campus describe Conn as a “bubble,” but there also seems a pervasive – if less explicit – tendency on our part to characterize New London with the same metaphor. More often than not, the city is perceived as a stop between New York and Boston, rather than an active destination for travelers. Who would go to New London?, you may ask. In EL N GEE, we find an answer to this question.

Situated on the corner of Green St. and Eugene O'Neill Drive (past the large whale murals, if you are coming from State St.) EL N GEE is recognizable by the large red capital letters spelling out its name. Next to these

letters is a sign featuring upcoming musical acts. Although generally known as a “hardcore” or “underground punk” club, EL N GEE has been open to hiring musicians who play in a variety of styles and genres. The club is the only all-ages venue in New London and encourages underage individuals to stop by and enjoy a good show (albeit while sober). Generally, there will be a cover charge of between five and ten dollars on a concert night.

The EL N GEE consists of a single, large room split up into two sections. To the right (of one who has just entered the establishment), is the bar. Because EL N GEE opens its doors to patrons of all ages, the bar area is separated from the rest of the club by a partial wall. A staff member checking IDs will generally be stationed at the entryway to this space. The EL N GEE has a number of beers on tap (mostly standards – Bud

Light, PBR, Guinness, etc.) as well as a large fridge storing bottled beverages. The bar table is quite large, and fits about twenty stools quite easily. There are also several booths – positioned against the partial wall – directly across from the table.

To the left of the bar area, on the other side of the wall, is a short passage which leads to the second section of EL N GEE: the stage. EL N GEE – relative to other New London bars – features a spacious dance floor and a massive stage. During nights featuring hardcore bands, the dance floor generally develops a mosh pit feel – with a core group of dancers stationed front and center, and a larger crowd of less active listeners surrounding them. The atmosphere of this space is subject to change, however, with the style of music being played. More eclectic sets give rise to the sort of dancing common at FNL concerts

and MOBROC shows here at Conn. (Although if you do want to check out a hardcore concert, no need to fear the dance floor – I've never seen or heard of anyone getting hurt).

Décor in EL N GEE is fairly minimal. Several signs for various beers hang from the walls, and a small statue of Jesus is amusingly perched atop the fridge. The club's dark walls, however, create most of the atmosphere and help to create an immersive musical experience for both performers and audience members. EL N GEE has only one window (positioned on the front wall), but patrons are granted access to a large fenced-in patio area – if you feel the need to momentarily remove yourself from a concert and reconnect with the outside world.

So let's return to my initial promise: that EL N GEE presents a great example of New London's far-reaching appeal.

In the short time (only about three months) since I first visited the club, EL N GEE has welcomed patrons from Massachusetts, New York, Canada, and all parts of Connecticut. Undoubtedly, individuals from a number of other locations also visited the club during this time, and simply flew under my radar (it is, after all, difficult to keep track of activity at 21 bars).

Much of this widespread popularity is due to EL N GEE's strong reputation. The club – in one incarnation or another – has been open for about seventy years. The Ramones and Nirvana have both graced its stage, along with a host of lesser-known but still highly regarded acts. I can only hope that a musically oriented entrepreneur will purchase EL N GEE in the near future, and continue this wonderful tradition. •

SGA Arts Task Force Seeks Greater Visibility on Campus

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Fowle and Arenge expressed their thoughts to other members of SGA, and used the house senators from each dorm to test how well the task force would be received by students, and to see what sorts of ideas students might have. Their efforts proved fruitful. “I've been in SGA for three years,” said Fowle, “and this is some of the most excitement I've seen from the student body.”

The task force is still in its early stages, but its potential is exciting. Ideas include the creation of student murals in Harris, rotating gallery exhibitions in Cro, splatter-painting some of the blander buildings on campus and installing chalk boards or white boards around campus where students can draw in response to questions or prompts. “The response we've gotten is really great. People really want more art,” Fowle said.

There seems to be some evidence for his assertion in Conn's recent past. Not long ago, the KB-Larrabee tunnel was painted over, whitewashing away multiple generations of student expression. Student reaction was negative and the walls didn't stay white for long, but something seems lost now that the layers and layers of student art have been re-

duced to just one. Recently, the administration almost repeated this mistake with Earth House.

Anyone who's ever been in Earth House will be immediately struck by the years of student painting crowding the walls, doors, cabinets and ceilings. Last spring semester, REAL had plans to wash all this free expression away, and might have done so if not for the protests of Earth House

residents and other students on campus.

“The paintings in Earth House are from years of not only those who have lived there in the past, but also from many alums who were welcome to hang out and paint with friends. We didn't want those memories to be erased,” said Phoebe Papademetriou '14, a resident last semester of Earth House who worked with her housemates to

organize an event encouraging Res Life to leave the art within the house as it was.

The event was a success, as students, faculty and staff were invited to Earth House to see the art for themselves and encouraged to leave their own artistic mark somewhere within the house. The effort required from the Earth House members in order to protect their free artistic expression is exactly the

sort of thing Fowle and Arenge want to overcome with their work in SGA.

“We want to work through the bureaucracy to promote free expression on campus,” said Fowle. Both Fowle and Arenge hope that this free expression will be a campus-wide collaboration. “We're really looking to partner with other art groups on campus and even other areas of SGA,” Arenge said. For

example, they've already made plans in conjunction with the Environmental Affairs Committee to explore replacing the concrete slabs around the bike racks (soon to be installed in South Campus) with ceramic mosaics made by students.

Furthermore, the task force has considered collaborating with New London artists to create a mural in the surrounding city. “It's about building a community through art,” said Arenge, something with which she is familiar, having conducted a Davis Peace Prize project this summer in Kenya, where she collaborated with members of multiple ethnic tribes in a community arts space.

“It was an experience that showed me how the arts can bring people together,” she said. On our campus, Arenge hopes that the efforts of the task force will engender a strong community and perhaps allow the campus to become more personalized for students both present and future.

Art lends itself to creating places of permanence, where the past can be immortalized. The Arts Task Force is an initiative focused on strengthening the present campus community through art, but if such a project results in a campus space where future students can see goals, aspirations and issues expressed by past campus communities, “Well, that's kind of the dream,” Fowle said. •



KRISTIAN MAESTRI

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

OCTOBER 7, 2013

THE COLLEGE VOICE

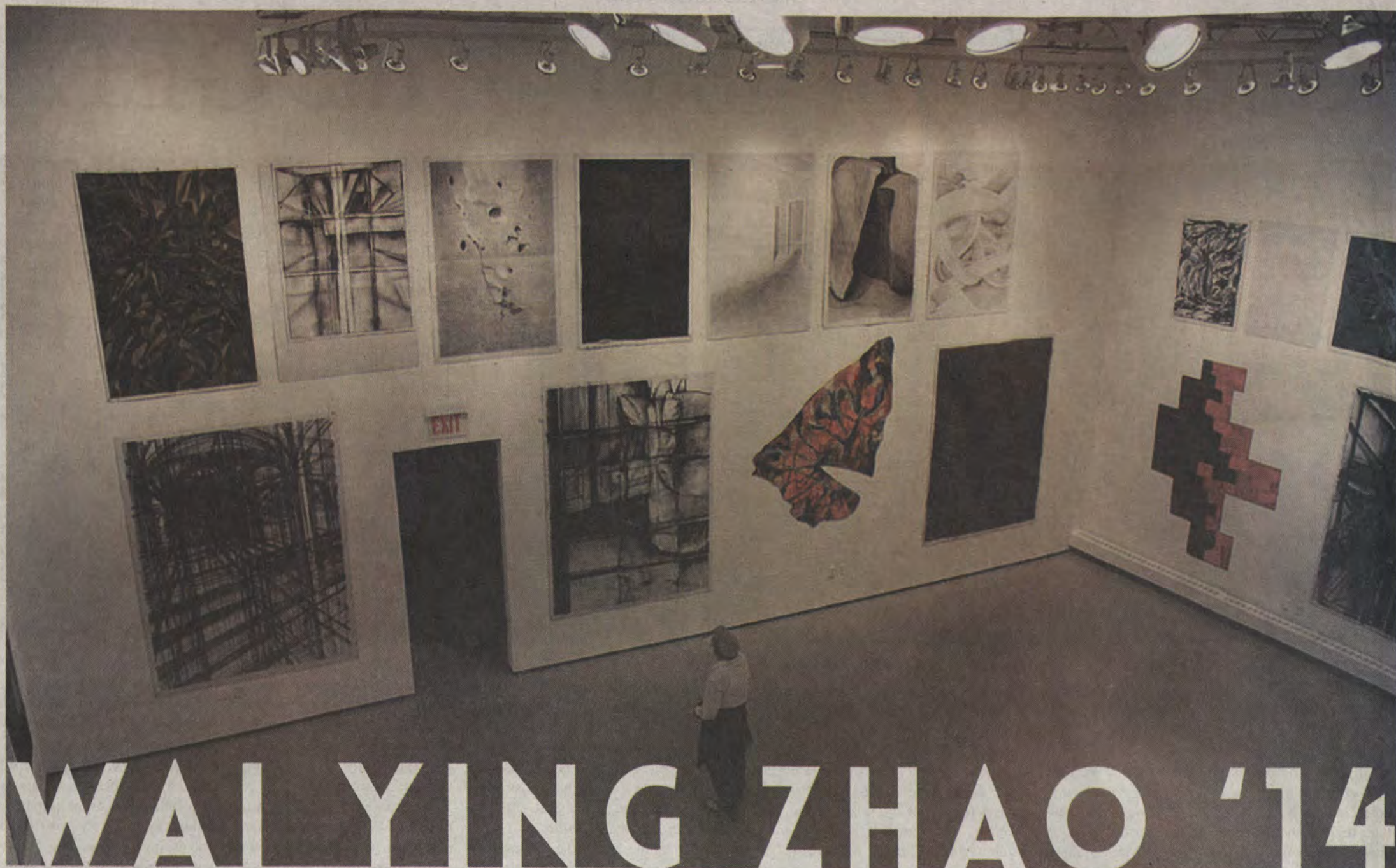


PHOTO BY KARIN YUEN

Getting to Know an Artist and Scholar

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

TCV: Some of your artwork is on exhibit in New Haven right now. Where and when did those pieces originate?

WYZ: I went to France this summer with Assistant Professor of Art Chris Barnard. The program was about idea imaging: imaging whatever idea we had and drawing it in a two-dimensional way. In one month, each of us did more than 500 pieces of artwork: drawings or paintings.

TCV: Was that your goal, a certain number? Or did it just happen?

WYZ: It just happened. Overnight, we'd have to do 20 or 30 drawings. One day last semester, Professor Barnard and Associate Professor of Art Pamela Marks came to me and said, "You should do this program with Professor Robert Reed at

Yale" — because both of them are good friends with Professor Reed. They said, "It's going to be a life-changing experience." Here, a lot of people do artwork and in one semester, they'll only do four pieces of good art. That's probably pretty much what each student does, every semester.

But the [Yale] program has a different pedagogy. They try to have you image one idea and then generate your next drawing or painting off of that first image. It's a sequence of development, a retrospective of what you were thinking. The show at the gallery at Yale showed the work of all 13 fellows, including me.

A lot of Professor Reed's ideas are about studying life through the art imaging process. It's really abstract... At first we weren't allowed to use a pencil sharpener. He wanted us to think outside of the box. It's about the skills you can gain. This program was pretty much just an intensive in idea imaging practice.

TCV: Can you explain idea imaging a little bit?

WYZ: Usually when an artist starts to create a piece of artwork, you have an idea to con-

uation like during the program?

WYZ: We were working in a little town in southern France. We students were divided into two apartments that were really

"I feel like art is more of a spiritual thing. You practice to elevate and transform yourself. For me, it's less about production, but more about self-discovery, finding what I don't know."

Wai Ying Zhao '14

vey. If people wanted to show the traumas and emotions when 9/11 happened, you have to image that. Like, some people would choose to paint a jet and buildings — you have to translate the idea into something visual.

TCV: What was the living sit-

close to our studio. We had studio hours every day from 9 a.m. to noon, and then we were required to have a two-hour lunch and two-hour dinner. And then 2 to 6 p.m., and 8 p.m. to midnight. We didn't use cell phones or anything; no distraction. Professor Reed's team would set

a goal for all of us — "Do ten drawings by tonight" — and everyone would do that. So it was a practice in time management too, and knowing when you work best and fastest.

TCV: You're an art and economics double major, which is an unusual combination, to say the least. My first guess was that your parents wanted you to major in something other than art — is that true?

WYZ: Economics was a compromise. My parents were entrepreneurs. In their minds, knowing how to earn money is the most important thing. They consider art more a hobby than a profession. It's such a complicated thing I was thinking about before France. I wanted to be an artist, but I've been confused about how I could combine skills I've learned from economics into my art. It's been a conflicting issue that I've been thinking of in my way of finding out what I want.

They wanted me to do economics for a long time and I've been doing it because it's within my capability, but I always wanted to be an artist.

In France, I realized that if you're able to manage your time, you can still make art while you are a businesswoman. For me, art is just about life — you could do art and it's one thing that helps you express your passion, but it's not supposed to be something that gives you income. I feel like art is more of a spiritual thing. You practice to elevate and transform yourself. For me, it's less about production, but more about self-discovery, finding what I don't know. After France, I felt like art and economics are not that different. It's strange. Right now, I agree with my parents a lot more than I used to. Art for me is a practice instead of for commercial use. It's something you do to comfort yourself instead of something you must do for a living. •

"Breaking Bad" Does Good

MARK FERREIRA
ARTS EDITOR

SPOILER WARNING: If you haven't watched all of *Breaking Bad* put aside this article and do so immediately.

"I'm in the empire business," Walter White told Jesse Pinkman as he argued why the iconic duo should stay in business. "I am the danger," he told his wife when she threatened to go the police. "Say my name" he demanded of rival drug dealers to make sure they knew exactly whom — and what — they were dealing with. Walter White has drifted far from his days of being a middle-aged chemistry teacher. He has devolved into his alter ego or, perhaps more accurately, his second personality, Heisenberg.

The conclusion to one of television's greatest shows aired last Sunday night to the thrill and dismay of fans everywhere. To honor the occasion and gain more insight into the financial feasibility addressed in show, I spoke with Professor David

Chavanne of the economics department who specializes in behavioral economics, economics and psychology and public choice.

The large sums of money leisurely thrown around as the plot unwinds seemed hyperbolic at best. Over the course of the entire series, Walter accumulates \$80 million in profit. In the second to last episode, "Granite State," as he hides from police in an isolated cabin in New Hampshire, Walter's loneliness becomes so insufferable that he offers an associate \$20,000 for a mere hour of company.

To get my head around the sheer scale of real meth operations I asked Chavanne if the amount of money that White earns throughout the entire show seemed at all plausible. Chavanne concluded that meth costs "\$60 a pound [on the show] and that's within the realistic range and the money they make given the barrel of methamphetamine was in a realistic range... the \$80 million that he made... was realistic." However, as fans of the show may have picked up on, Walt never really cared

about the money or, at least, not about its purchasing power. He originally calculated that he needed less than 1 million dollars to fund his healthcare costs and his children's college costs. Professor Chavanne keenly noted, "that for Walt, money is a signal of power."

Similarly, the operation spearheaded by the show's most notorious villain, Gus Fring, appeared, to me, as larger than life. I asked Chavanne to comment on money laundering operations and how a business might exist as a front for a cartel. Professor Chavanne recalled his time living in Washington D.C. and speculated, "there were all kinds of companies and restaurants that no one was ever inside, paying tons of rent in a really high rent area the only possible thing that would make sense was that they were fronts for something."

By extension, Chavanne agreed that the fast food chain fronting for a meth distribution center, Pollos Hermanos fried chicken, might not differ all that much from how drug businesses actually operate. The idea being that "if you're good at this cer-

tain thing for your business [it] lead[s] to being good at a drug trade. It's a natural evolution."

Professor Chavanne's comments about the potential fronts in D.C. and the ease of entry to an underground economy addressed the collision of two worlds seen throughout the *Breaking Bad* series. Both Gus Fring and Walter White constantly tread the line between two very separate and contrasting worlds. On surface, Gus is a well-mannered franchise owner and philanthropist, while Walt appears as a kind teacher and father who is slowly dying from cancer. Both of these fragile illusions shatter easily in a single scene as Gus, without saying a word, cuts the throat of one of his own henchmen in order to intimidate Walt and Jesse.

Similarly, Walt's worlds collide as Hank finds an inscribed copy of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* in the White family's bathroom. Using this evidence, Hank connects Walt directly to Gus Fring's operations. The final season plays in out in a blurred state between the two universes Walt created for

himself. In arguably the best episode of *Breaking Bad* "Ozymandias," Walt loses his family, his one justification for all of the horrific wrongs he committed throughout the series. He stands facing wife, protected by his son, and screams "What the hell's wrong with you, we're a family!" Walt spends the next two episodes alone and dying before coming back to Albuquerque to avenge the murder of Hank.

The final season of *Breaking Bad* gathered a tremendous amount of hype and anticipation. Vince Gilligan, the show's creator and executive producer, said countless times that everything wrapped up without loose ends. After the finales of shows like *The Sopranos* and *Lost* disappointed fans and critics alike, Gilligan wanted to make sure that people could expect a more conclusive and appropriate ending for *Breaking Bad*. Gilligan certainly did not come up short.

"It was a brilliant way to wrap it up...it was a gutsy move," agreed Chavanne. Perhaps the most staggering quote from the finale came as Walt admitted to

Skyler, "I did it for me. I liked it. I was good at it." Those words put the final nail in the coffin for fans that, up to that point, argued that Walt's actions were justified based on his selflessness for his family.

Personally, I desperately wanted Jesse to not only survive, but also find a way to heal from the damage inflicted by Mr. White. As he drives away from the neo-Nazi compound with tears of joy streaming down his face, Jesse seems in control of his own destiny for the first time. At the same time, Walt makes his way to the meth lab that Jesse had been kept hostage in. With a bullet hole in his side, White looks longingly around at the equipment he became so familiar with before collapsing to the tune of Badfinger's "Baby Blue" with opening lyrics, "I guess I got what I deserved." the song continues as the shot pans out from Walt's body. The cold machinery of the lab may seem like a strange place to die, but Walt was surrounded by his ultimate achievement — his crystal meth — the catalyst that engineered his transformation. •