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THE COLLEGE VOICE

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Volume XV, Number 5

Ad Fontes

October 2, 1992

F.W. Olin donates \$5.1 million science center

Connecticut College first institution in state to receive coveted grant

by Carl Lewis
The College Voice

In a dramatic leap toward fulfilling its goal to strengthen the sciences, Connecticut College has received a \$5.1 million grant to build a new science center.

The gift, to be announced officially this evening, is the largest grant the college has ever been awarded. *The College Voice* has learned it is to be given by the F.W. Olin Foundation, which awards two buildings to private institutions each year.

Claire Gaudiani, president of the college, said, "A grant from the F.W. Olin Foundation is a rare gem. For those of us in higher education, this is tantamount to winning a Pulitzer Prize or an Academy Award."

Since the Strategic Plan was drafted in 1988, strengthening the sciences has been a high priority of Connecticut College. With the addition of the new building to the current two science buildings, the college will have more complete science facilities than all but a few colleges of its size.

Lawrence W. Milas, president of the F.W. Olin Foundation, said, "Connecticut College has shown extraordinary institutional strength and has adopted the strategy of improving its already exemplary science program to become an even stronger liberal arts institution."

"The grant is expected to provide state-of-the-art science space that will enhance learning and student research opportunities. The grant is also expected to give the college a boost toward achieving its comprehensive campaign goals," he added.

The new facilities will allow the college to continue and enhance its approach to science education. Student-faculty contact through individualized classes and research projects will continue to a greater degree.

In addition, according to William Niering, acting president of the college and former chair of the botany department, the new science center may attract more students interested in science to the college.

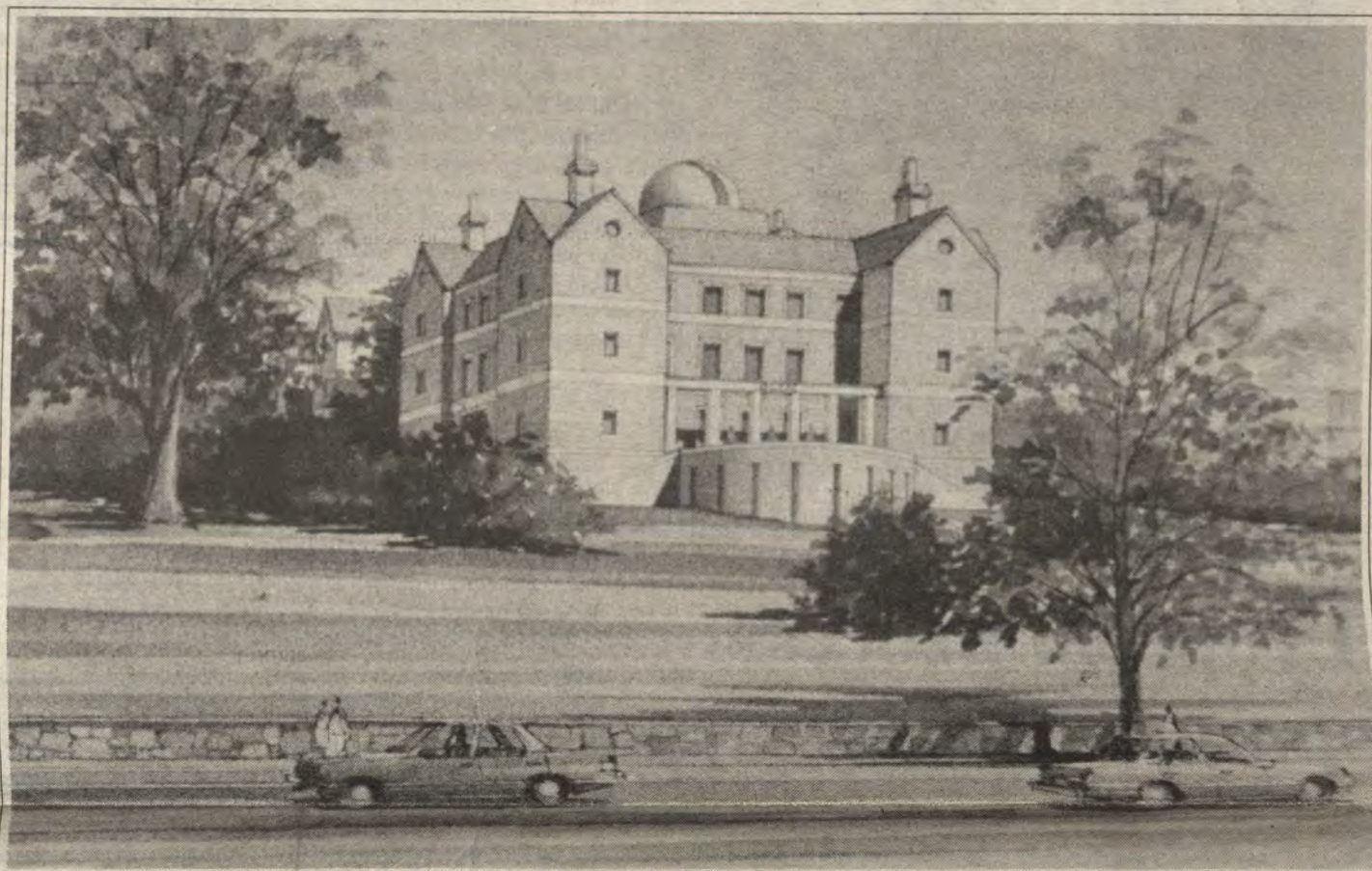
"When you compare us with other schools and what they have in sciences, when the parent and potential student walk on to campus, we have had a hard time showing off our sciences," he said.

According to Gaudiani, this gift may lead to other gifts from alumni and foundations. "This gift, in its magnitude and impact on the college, will also spark the imagination of our alumni and friend communities," she said. "Leadership gifts like this one will inspire donors to give chairs to support our faculty, name scholarships to assure access to education, and enable us to triple our endowment."

The foundation awards grants to institutions with academic programs of proven distinction. Of the 66 institutions that applied for the grant, Connecticut College was one of only two to receive funding.

Recent grant winners include Vanderbilt University for a chemical engineering building; Tufts University in Massachusetts for a language and cultural center; and The Johns Hopkins University in Maryland for an earth and planetary science building.

According to Gaudiani, "Connecticut



Plans for F.W. Olin Science Center place the building at the front, Mohegan Avenue entrance of Connecticut College.

College's F.W. Olin Science Center will not be strictly a chemistry building or a physics building or a botany or a zoology building. It will be a synergy building for the whole campus and has been planned as a model synergy building for this state, for the nation and the world."

The F.W. Olin Foundation will pay the entire construction cost and cover the cost of basic furnishings.

Construction will begin in May 1993, and is expected to be completed by July 1, 1994. The building is expected to be ready for use when students return in August 1994. Site surveys for the project were completed this summer. Tai Soo Kim, the project's Hartford-based architect, expects to have the final design drawings completed by December 1.

This is the first grant to be awarded to an institution in the state of Connecticut by the foundation, and the project will create more than 100 construction jobs.

"The new science center can only strengthen the role the college plays in stimulating local economic growth," said Phil Biondo, economic development coordinator for the city of New London.

Michael Gerber, president of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, said, "Connecticut College's ability to attract this grant is a fine example of what all independent institutions do to bring foundation and other private source grants into the state and create employment for Connecticut residents."

The F.W. Olin Foundation, incorporated in New York in 1938 by Franklin W. Olin, is the only United States foundation that has a regular and long-standing grant program to support the physical facility needs of independent colleges and universities with grants covering the total cost of construction and equipment.

Four-story F.W. Olin Center completes "science triangle"

by Jonathan Budd
The College Voice

The \$5.1 million F.W. Olin Science Center, to be located near the Campus Safety gatehouse, will serve as the third side in what the college plans to call its "science triangle."

The four-story, 34,000 square-foot building will be buffered by New London Hall and the chemistry department's Hale Laboratory.

Preliminary plans [see page 3] include lecture rooms, teaching laboratories, office space for the physics department and an observatory.

David Fenton, chair of the physics department, said his department is the only one to be completely relocated to the new building, occupying almost the entire second floor with the observatory on the roof level and research laboratories for students in the basement. In addition, all physics faculty offices and class laboratories will be located in the F.W. Olin Science Center.

A special aspect of the building is its 150-seat auditorium. According to Leslie Brown, professor of astronomy, this space will have up-to-date audio-visual equipment, located in the rear of the room and operable from the front. Introductory courses and the seminar series in biology, chemistry and physics will be taught in this room.

Lectures and special events, both science and non-science related, can be held also in the new facility.

The Connecticut College Arboretum will benefit from the new building as well. Glenn Dreyer, director of the Arboretum, will relocate his office from New London Hall to the

F.W. Olin Science Center.

The Arboretum will also receive a secretary's office, and a workroom/conference room to be used exclusively by Arboretum members. Dreyer believes the change will give the organization "more of a presence on campus."

All of the Arboretum facilities will be on the first floor. Dreyer hopes this central location will allow the Arboretum to be considered central to all the sciences at Connecticut College and not only the botany department.

Research and office space for the Center for Arts and Technology will also be included in the new building.

The F.W. Olin Science Center is expected to be completed in August of 1994, according to Joseph Silvestri, associate director for College Relations. The expected groundbreaking date is scheduled for mid-May of 1993.

Tai Soo Kim, a local architect, has been hired to design the building. Although Gilbane Construction did preliminary estimates for the construction, several local contractors will be allowed to bid on the project. Bids will be given out on April 1 and will be due on May 1.

The firm which receives the job will be chosen jointly by the college and the F.W. Olin Foundation.

The science building will be the fourth major campus construction project undertaken in three years. Since 1990, Connecticut College has invested \$14 million in projects to build an alumni center and renovate the college center and athletic facilities.

F.W. Olin will not share expenses with other donors:

College estimates \$500,000 will round out extra costs

by Rebecca Flynn
Editor in Chief
and April Ondis
Associate News Editor

As the college toasts the receipt of the F.W. Olin Foundation grant and a further advance in Connecticut College's push for the sciences, it simultaneously gears up to fundraise approximately \$500,000 in bills to make the new facility complete.

"I would say that's a preliminary estimate because we are in discussions right now with Olin and the architect over the design schematics for the building, so those things could change and we're learning more about what Olin pays for and what they don't pay for," said Lynn Brooks, vice president for finance. "The chances are it may go up a little bit."

While F.W. Olin will cover the entire costs associated with construction and furnishings, there are some other costs to consider, such as landscaping above the ground.

Brooks said the foundation grant provides for landscaping up to five feet from the building and "one foot down." According to Brooks, the foundation pays for "landscaping" in the form of bringing utility lines five feet out from the building.

Brooks explained that there is a

The foundation grant is limited to covering up to seven percent of the architect's fees. "And you don't get good architects for seven percent, so there's a component above that that we'll have to pay for," said Brooks.

William Niering, acting president of the college and former chair of the botany department, pointed out that the new building is vital to encouraging potential science students to choose Connecticut College over other schools.

"To me, I can have a very small corner someplace and it can have cobwebs in it... but the public image is that you must have modern laboratories and one must be able to see a lot of modern equipment standing around there because that is how science is portrayed today," he said.

Another cost could be equipping the new science classrooms and laboratories with modern equipment or updating old equipment.

According to Brooks, "All the equipment in the building is either currently available or is provided for in the Olin contract," but at least one science department is hoping for new equipment. David Fenton, chair of the physics department, said, "There is some hope that before the construction, we will be able to raise funds to buy a new accelerator

"There's not a large budget for that, but there is a budget," he said.

According to Bruce Branchini, chair of the chemistry department, the department's needs will be small, including items such as balances, pH meters, small instruments, and UV and GC spectrometers.

Chris Louis Sardella, '93, chair of the botany advisory board, said,

'There is no doubt this will be a state-of-the-art building, but the question is will it have any test tubes?'

— Chris Louis Sardella, '93,
chair of Botany Advisory Board

"There's no doubt this will be a state-of-the-art building, but the question is will there be any test tubes?"

According to Brooks, equipment will be brought over from present introductory labs to outfit the new classrooms with free-standing laboratory equipment.

"There's no issue as far as I'm aware of with us having to buy a lot of extra furnishings or equipment. That is provided for in the budget," he said.

The administration has been confronted in the past with student concerns that increased emphasis upon the sciences detracts from the institution's traditionally-strong departments.

According to Loomis, the college intends to fundraise all monies necessary for defraying the additional expenses of the F.W. Olin Science Center.

"That money will not come out of the operating budget," said Brooks.

According to a press statement to be released this evening by the Office of College Relations, the F.W. Olin Foundation will not share the cost of a project with any other donor.

According to Brooks, the building is being designed to minimize maintenance costs. "We don't see any reshuffling of the resources of the college on an annual basis as a result of this building coming on line at all," said Brooks.

The \$500,000 estimate does not include the funds for the renovations of space made available by the new facility in our older buildings.

Anne Devlin, chair of the psychology department, estimated the cost of renovating space in Bill Hall to be \$100,000 for her department alone.

'We don't see any reshuffling of the resources of the college on an annual basis as a result of this building coming on line at all.'

— Lynn Brooks,
vice president for finance

general practice in construction in which "one person constructs the building and another is contracted to bring utilities to the building." The F.W. Olin Foundation will pay to bring the underground utility lines five feet out from the building, but the college will then have to hire another contractor to attach those lines to existing pipes.

Any surface landscaping will have to be funded by the college. "The top foot right up to the building we have to do. Sidewalks, paving, landscaping right up next to the building: we have to pay for that," said Brooks.

According to Stephen Loomis, associate dean of the faculty and chief writer of the F.W. Olin grant proposal, the existing parking outside Hale Laboratory can likely be re-designed without having to build new parking lots.

and telescope."

Brooks believes the old telescope still has "very good optics" and so the need for a new one is not substantial.

"We can use still use the present equipment. It would not cripple us," Fenton added, but Michael Monce, professor of physics, also expressed discontent with the present accelerator.

"The machine we have is 30 years old. It's getting hard to maintain," said Monce.

In addition, Monce also said the department could use a new laboratory magnet, computers, and advanced electronics.

According to Brooks, the grant contract does provide "for a certain amount" of furnishings and will also provide monies for some equipment such as audio-visual machines.

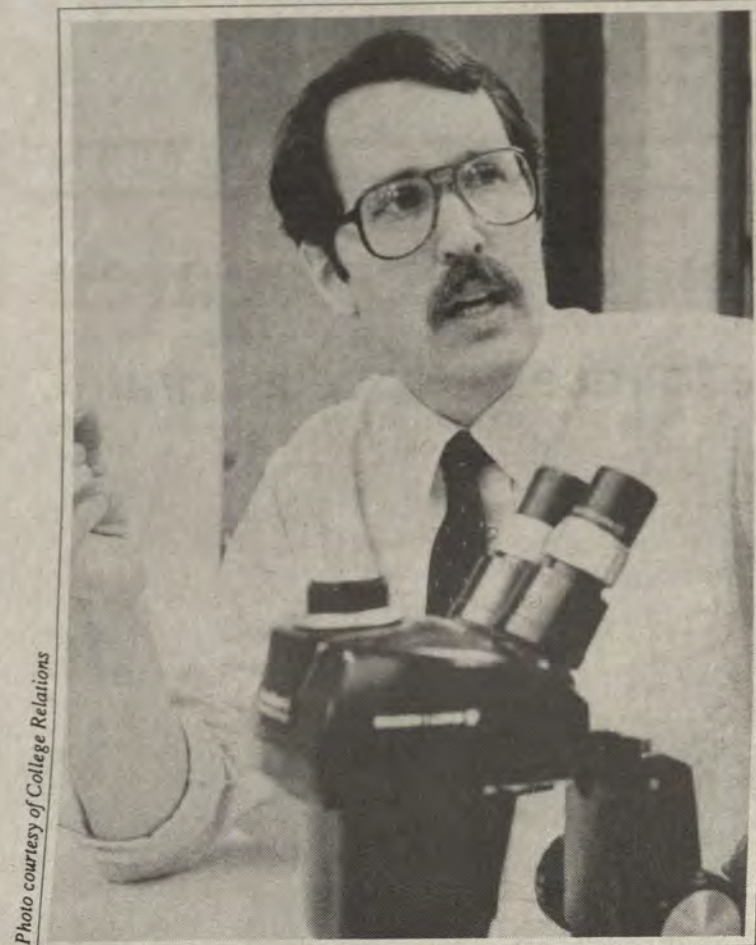


Photo courtesy of College Relations

Stephen Loomis, associate dean of faculty and professor of zoology, was instrumental in writing the F.W. Olin grant proposal.

Proposal process spanned four years

by Glen A. Brenner
The College Voice

For four years, Connecticut College's administration, alumni, and students have deliberated over enhancing and increasing the college's science facilities, particularly the physics department.

Although Connecticut College is known best as a school for the humanities, the institution has cited enhancement of the sciences as a Strategic Plan goal.

The F.W. Olin Foundation has awarded the school a \$5.1 million grant in recognition of the college's reputation and educational programs, the largest grant in the history of the college and the first in the state of Connecticut.

The original grant proposal was written by Stephen Loomis, current associate dean of faculty and former chair of the zoology department.

The proposal was the result of two years of discussion among members of the science departments, and the main points of the plan included space for the entire

physics department, much-needed facilities for introductory science courses, facilities for the Center for Arts and Technology and space for the Arboretum offices.

These four goals remained in the final draft of the proposal. Originally, the college asked for \$5.6 million, but that amount has been negotiated down to \$5.1 million.

The F.W. Olin Foundation's grant proposal process is competitive and includes visits to the campus by foundation officers and a strong feeling of support within the college community.

Loomis sought Student Government Association support last year when he presented the project proposal to the Assembly.

Harold K. Juli, the associate dean of faculty when the proposal was first launched, was involved from the outset in the search for an architect who had "built academic science buildings."

Tai Soo Kim, a Hartford native and successful local architect who is familiar with Connecticut buildings, was chosen to present a draft by his friend Juli.

Kim made his initial proposal to the science chairs, with the help of several faculty members, on August 22, 1989.

Following this presentation, Kim made several revisions suggested by the science chairs, such as a change in the aesthetic quality of the building, which "did not fit in well with the rest of the architecture on campus," according to a brief written in the early stages of the grant proposal process.

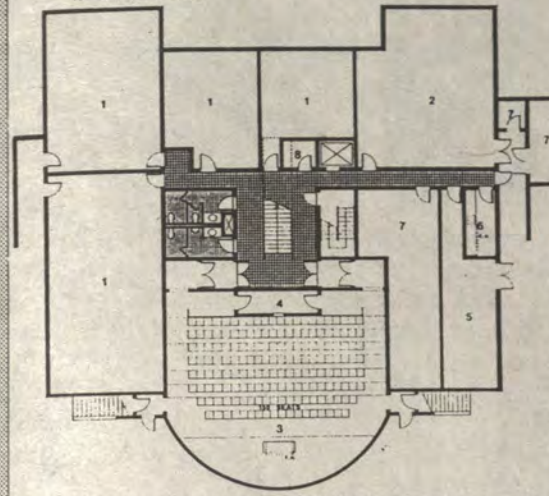
The final schematics were completed one year later.

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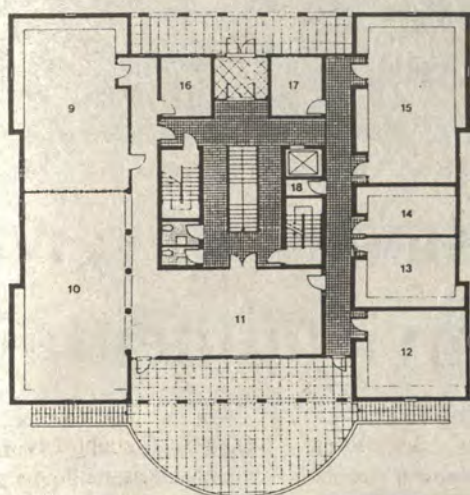
The
College Voice

- 10 Reading Room
- 11 LOUNGE
- 12 MEDIUM CLASSROOM
- 13 CONFERENCE ROOM
- 14 ARBORVITUM DIRECTOR
- 15 LARGE CLASSROOM
- 16 Computer Rooms/Monitor's Office
- 17 ARBORVITUM OFFICE & RECEPTION
- 18 JANITOR CLOSET



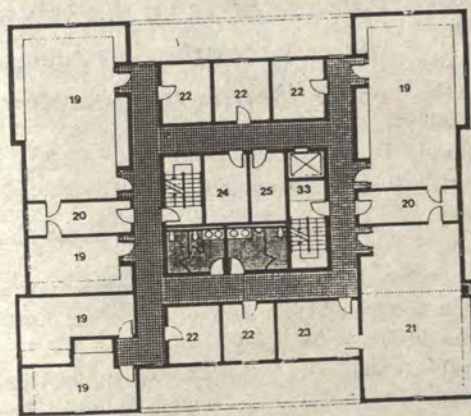
Basement

- 1 PHYSICS RESEARCH LAB
- 2 MECHANICAL
- 3 AUDITORIUM
- 4 PROJECTION ROOM
- 5 WOOD / METAL SHOP
- 6 HYDROGENATION ROOM
- 7 CHEMICAL STORAGE
- 8 ELEV. ROOM
- 9 COMPUTER AREA



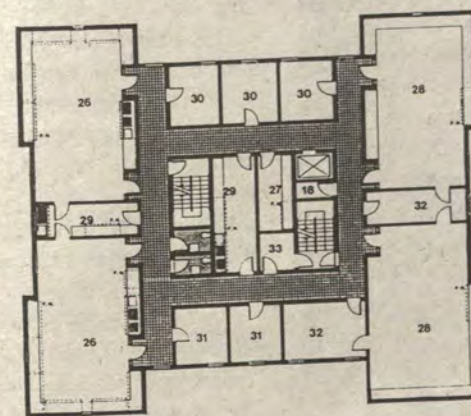
First floor

- 18 JANITOR CLOSET
- 19 PHYSICS TEACHING LAB
- 20 PHYSICS PREP ROOM
- 21 ART & TECHNOLOGY TEACHING LAB
- 22 PHYSICS OFFICE
- 23 ART & TECHNOLOGY OFFICE
- 24 DARK ROOM
- 25 PHYSICS STORAGE



Second floor

- 26 CHEMISTRY TEACHING LAB
- 27 CHEMISTRY INSTRUMENT ROOM
- 28 BIOLOGY TEACHING LAB
- 29 CHEMISTRY PREPARATION
- 30 CHEMISTRY OFFICE
- 31 BIOLOGY OFFICE
- 32 BIOLOGY PREPARATION
- 33 AREA OF REFUGI



Third floor

Preliminary drawings for the inside of the proposed F.W. Olin Science Building at Connecticut College

All blueprint graphics courtesy of College Relations

Astronomy reaches for the stars

by Jonathan Budd
The College Voice

The F.W. Olin Science Center will not only allow Connecticut College to attract new science students, bring in subsequent donations, and enhance its research capabilities; it will, in a very real sense, help the college reach for the stars.

According to plans for the new building, the astronomy branch of the physics department will be most visibly affected by the changes.

While David Fenton, chair of the physics department, pointed out that although astronomy will always be tied to the physics department because of their similarities, astronomy courses will expand considerably upon completion of the F.W. Olin Science Center.

Leslie Brown, professor of physics and astronomy, hopes astronomy will receive "research-grade quality" instruments when the discipline makes its move into the new facilities. Because the present facilities in Bill Hall were constructed before the era of laser discs and video capabilities, said Brown, astronomy classes have been unable to maximize their audio-visual potential.

In addition, the F.W. Olin Science Center will give astronomy more laboratory space, as well as expanded classroom and telescopic space.

Plans include an observatory, which will be physically about the same size as the current observatory and will have a long-awaited dome placed over it. According to Brown, the college has, since 1939, hoped to cover Bill Hall's observatory, but it lacked the necessary funds.

Also, a computer center will be put near the observatory to give students better means to gather data.

Brown would like to see the college invest money in a modern telescope to work in conjunction with the Alvin Clark telescope presently being used. Although the Clark telescope holds historical significance, a more modern telescope is needed for contemporary astronomical purposes. Such a telescope would cost, according to Brown, approximately \$100,000; however, she believes the use it

would receive would outweigh the cost.

In the long term, Brown hopes all the sciences, and particularly astronomy, will strike a balance with the college's liberal arts profile.

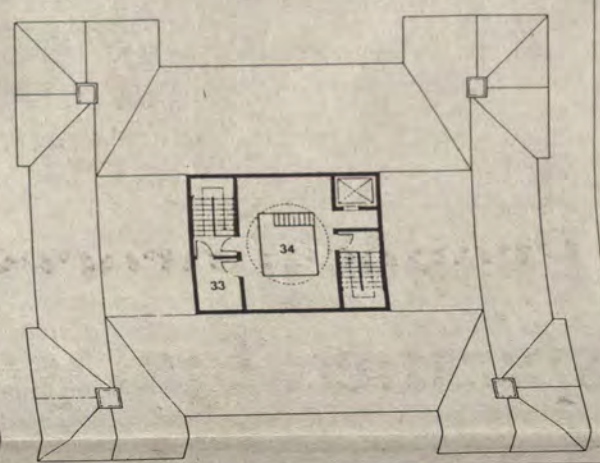
She plans to offer more courses in astronomy, particularly ones dealing with astrophysical techniques and use of research instruments.

It is hoped that eventually an astronomy minor or a physics major with an astronomy concentration will be created. She points out, however, that these changes were not entirely contingent upon the Olin Building; similar ones would have taken place regardless.

Brown, a new professor at Connecticut College, believes these changes are essential to compete with colleges like Vassar and Wesleyan. Conn must exhibit a "general interest in doing astronomy," she said.

The astronomy dome on top of the F.W. Olin Science Center, from this discipline's perspective, means more than an effort to enhance telescopic abilities; it focuses everyone on the strengths of the sciences at Connecticut College.

- 33 AREA OF REFUGI
- 34 OBSERVATORY



Roof plans exhibit a new domed observatory.

Science Center frees up existing space

College committee to be established to assess needs

by Sulin Ma
The College Voice

As Connecticut College's science departments prepare to move into the new science building, badly needed space will become available in Hale Laboratory, New London Hall, and Bill Hall.

Departments are now in the preliminary stages of putting together a plan, to be submitted for approval, to allocate extra space to the departments.

In addition, the plan will address renovations needed to convert this space for its new uses.

According to Steven Culbertson, vice president for development, proposals will not be finalized for at least six months, at which time he will advise the different departments on funding.

A campus-wide committee of students, faculty, and administrators will be formed to address the issue of the available space.

"It will be looking at the space needs across the board on campus, and trying to then figure out what the optimum and best use would be for the space that is freed around campus," said Lynn Brooks, vice president for finance.

One of the departments likely to benefit most from the newly-available space is the psychology department. The psychology department, currently located in Bill Hall, has requested expansion room for nearly a decade.

Brooks pointed out that Bill Hall had

been slated for renovations already.

"There has been some work done, in particular by the psychology department, about renovations that needed to take place in Bill Hall, for example, before there was even an Olin building, and some of that will undoubtedly come into play," he said.

According to Anne Devlin, chair of the psychology department, the walls and floors of the building need work.

She also believes laboratories, storage rooms, classrooms, and the animal colony room need to be renovated. Devlin estimated that the cost of such extensive renovations may be as high as \$100,000, and stressed that anything less would be inadequate.

The psychology department's past submissions for renovation funding, said Devlin, met with "no response from any segment of the administration."

She cited the inadequacy of the animal colony room, the lack of lighting in the hallways and the general disrepair of classrooms as examples of why renovations are a "pressing need to be addressed." Psychology is the college's fifth most popular major.

The third floor of Bill Hall will probably also afford space for a new computer lab as well as office space for computing services when the physics department relocates.

"There's also considerable pressure for some expansion of computer de-

partment space because they are very cramped over there," said Brooks.

Bruce Branchini, chair of the chemistry department, hopes to have four teaching labs in Hale Laboratory updated for the upper division chemistry courses which will continue to be taught there.

Branchini also cited the need for more research space for present and new faculty, as well as the need for installation of fume hoods in laboratories, new laboratory tables, floor facing, benches and updated ventilation.

According to Scott Warren, chair of the botany department, the departments of zoology and botany will participate in looking into how the available space can be best utilized.

The botany department, said Warren, is looking for lab space for the limnology class and needs space for four courses that need permanent rooms.

The botany department needs twenty extra dissecting microscopes, a waterbath and spectrophotometers.

Warren estimates that approximately 2,000 to 3,000 square feet will need to be renovated for his department.

Because no committee has yet tackled these requests and developed a plan, there is no estimate as to how much renovations and new facilities will cost.

NEWS

College plans gala to announce F.W. Olin grant

Outside consultant plans event

by April Ondis
Associate News Editor

Approximately 850 students, faculty, and guests are expected to gather in the Charles B. Luce Field House for a gala this evening which will announce and celebrate a \$5.1 million grant from the F.W. Olin Foundation to Connecticut College.

The event, set to feature science speakers, several arts performances, displays of academic projects, a buffet dinner and bar, was designed by "In Any Event," a special events consulting firm in New Haven. Most Connecticut College functions are arranged by the college's Conferences and Scheduling Office.

While the exact cost of the gala could not be determined, Lynn Brooks, vice president for finance, said the cost will come from the college's endowment and not the operating budget.

"The reason for that is the event is designed as a fundraising part of the campaign and therefore it is to raise money for the endowment and therefore the endowment ought to pay for it," he said.

"In Any Event" also coordinated a gala dinner at which Yale University announced its capital campaign for over a billion dollars.

The event is set to announce and celebrate the grant. "This grant is what Claire [Gaudiani, president of the college] would call a 'turning point.' It is the culmination of our efforts to get this college recognized as a top educational place," said Cory.

He added, "For the past four years, everyone on this campus has been busting a gut to start new programs and bring the traditional strengths of the college to the attention of the outstanding students and teachers who may be interested in coming here. So we deserve to celebrate a little bit."

"The third goal of the event is to help the campus shake hands with

itself — to help every segment of the campus know a little more about the other segments," said Cory. The event committee had originally planned to invite only some portions of the college community, but later decided to issue invitations to everyone. Because of fire code regulations, however, only those who responded affirmatively before the deadline will be admitted.

More than 30 displays of student and faculty projects from every discipline, athletic displays, and several "impromptu" dance, theatrical, and vocal performances are scheduled.

The college's collection of original art, including works by Rembrandt and Albrecht Dürer, will also be on display for a limited time.

"The fourth aspect of the celebration," continued Cory, "will be the recognition of all alumni and past presidents who have built the base of science here."

The College Voice has learned that several supporters of Connecticut College will receive Presidential Awards of Merit: Diane Buchanan Wilsey, '65, Margaret Abell Powell, '39, Julia Winton Dayton, '49, Kenneth Nelson Dayton, Judson MacDonald Dayton, '80, and Duncan Nelson Dayton, '81.

Receiving the Connecticut College Medal will be: Ruth Hale Buchanan, '39, and Florence McConnell Knudsen, '38.

Honorary degrees will be conferred upon Barry Bloom, Barry Commoner, and Lowell Weicker, Jr., governor of Connecticut.

"Putting the college on display is an investment in future excitement and donations," said Cory. This, he said, is the fifth goal of Friday's celebration — to communicate to future donors that their gifts will be put to good use by the college.

"We need their gifts to continue to do a terrific job of educating young men and women to be leaders of the future," he said.

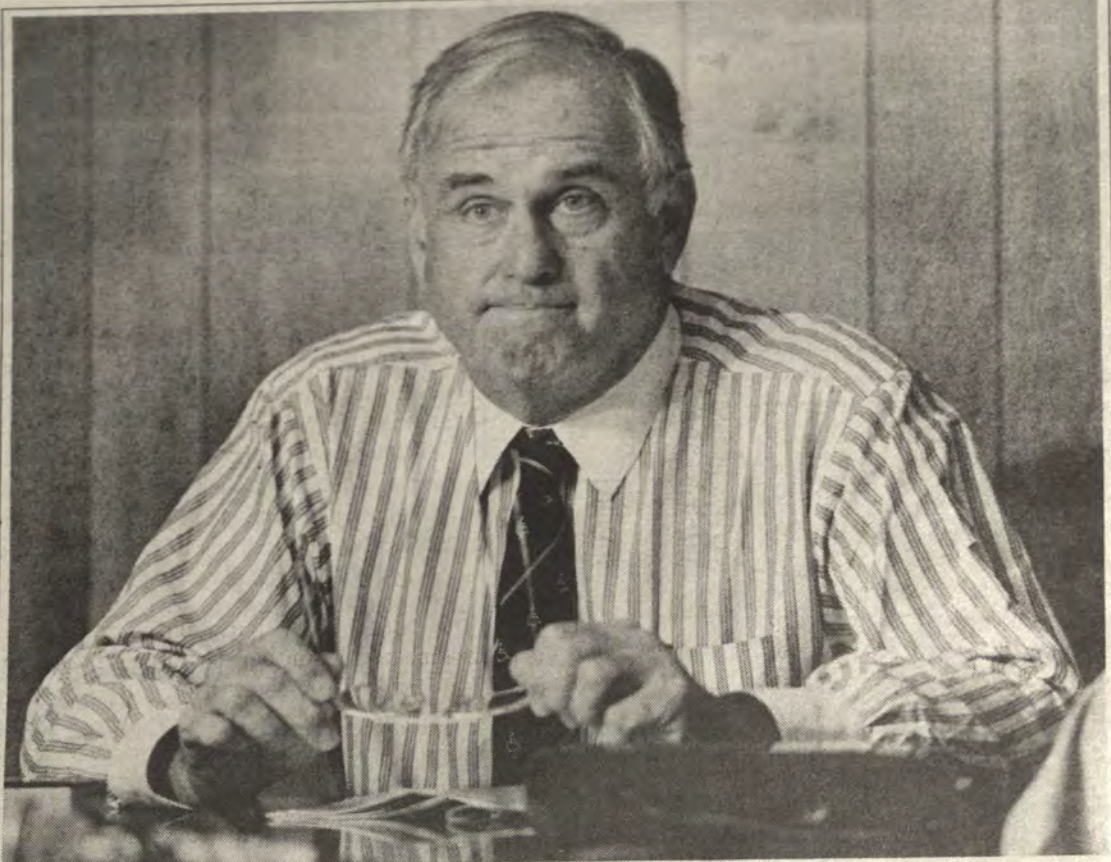


Photo Courtesy of William Burrows/The Day
Governor Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., will help celebrate the first F.W. Olin science building award in Connecticut.

Event itinerary boasts governor and renowned environmentalist

by Emily Strause
The College Voice

Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., governor of Connecticut, and Barry Commoner, noted environmental scientist, are slated to deliver addresses at tonight's banquet celebrating the donation of the F.W. Olin Science Center.

Weicker, the first governor of Connecticut not to be affiliated with either major political party in this century, has put issues such as education, health care, transportation and the environment on his list of top priorities. In the face of vociferous opposition, he reformed the Connecticut state budget and also instated an income tax.

Previous to his tenure, Weicker was president and chief executive of *Research! America*, a non-profit organization stressing the importance of medical research.

Christopher Cory, director of College Relations, said it is "particularly nice to have a governor who is interested in science, and actually knows what he's talking about."

Commoner, director of the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems at Queens College, has concentrated his research on the relationship between energy and the environment. His studies vary from topics such as alternative methods for the disposal of municipal waste to biochemistry. Three of his books have won literary awards. His most recent literary accomplishment is titled *Making Peace with the Planet*.

Known internationally for his work and research, Commoner was made a Commander in the Order of Merit by the Italian government for his environmental work in that country. He focused his research

'[Commoner] is the model of balance between the arts and the sciences that we seek in a good liberal arts education.'

— Christopher Cory,
director of College Relations

on the inter-relationship of economic and environmental problems.

Commoner earned his bachelor's degree at Columbia University and received his masters and doctoral degrees from Harvard University. Before accepting a position at Queens College in 1981, he taught plant physiology and environmental science at Washington University.

Describing Commoner as "both a scientist and a humanist," Cory said, "He is the model of balance between the arts and the sciences that we seek in a good liberal arts education."

Lawrence W. Miles, president of the F.W. Olin Foundation, will also address the audience.

The speakers were chosen by Claire Gaudiani, president of the college, and William Niering, acting president of the college and professor of botany, in consultation with the Dorothy James, provost of the college and other senior administrators. No students served on the committee because the selections were made in the summer.

The speakers will be featured at the 5:30 p.m. grant celebration in the Charles B. Luce Field House.



Photo Courtesy of College Relations
The gala features Dr. Barry Commoner, a noted environmental scientist.

This special issue of
THE COLLEGE VOICE
was compiled by:

Sarah Huntley
Rebecca Flynn
India Hopper
Carl Lewis
April Ondis
Glen Brenner

Jonathan Budd
Sulin Ma
Alyson McKnight
Emily Strause
and
Yvonne Watkins