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THE COLLEGE VOICE

LUCA POWELL
MANAGING EDITOR

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

EXTENDED EDITION!

Students Take Concerns to President's Door

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

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

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

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

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

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

When students left, Bergeron returned to campus in order to continue the campus conversation with the students that remained at the original forum. There, she spoke with a larger group of students in Cro's nest in order to more formally address the morning's occurrences.

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

"There is no way we can begin

to heal until we confront these issues head on", said Underhill. His statements were echoed by students Ramzi Kaiss '17 and Aparna Gopalan '17, who urged people to continue speaking out. Gopalan also pointed out that "since the instance that catalyzed this was made in a public forum, the administration's response also needs to be public."

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

The group closed the open session around 10:30 p.m., breaking into a smaller, more focused group of faculty and students in order to make solidify the next day's plans. The NBC news story broke at 11 p.m. EST. •



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I wrote the following editorial before spring break, when the current conversations were only just beginning. Since then, there have been two racist hate crimes on our campus in the span of four days. The destruction of my artwork (which you may read about below) pales in comparison to the hurt, fear and anger other members of our community are currently feeling. As you read the following editorial, please keep this in mind, and what these instances say about the values of our community.

On Monday, Mar. 2, I received an email from a project partner in my Design: Object and Environment class. Technically, our project was already finished and on display, so I knew it wasn't good news for her to be emailing me. And I was right; the email was letting myself and our third partner know that our projects were gone. Completely missing.

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

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

My partners and I built three cardboard chairs to be exhibited solely in this location; this is what made them site specific. Extensive historical research and analysis of the site was done by our group, including two students in Professor Morash's class. This project was no easy undertaking, and represented more than 15 hours of work from initial conception to bringing the chairs from the studio to their final location. The architectural students designed and printed informative posters about the history of this specific area of the Plex, and my design partners and I also created posters about our chairs, how they fit the space and how they fit each other. Like the chairs, these posters were also destroyed.

I know much has been said about the vandalism that oc-

curs on our campus; Sunday mornings find dorms littered with broken exit signs, cracked paper towel dispensers and more. As hard as it is for me to wrap my mind around why someone would want to break something that they're ultimately causing themselves (more likely, however, their peers) to pay for, it's even harder for me to wrap my mind around why someone would want to destroy something that was so clearly created by hand. There's nothing funny to be said about this. You broke an exit sign? Fine, brag about it to your friends, and ultimately cause the rest of the dorm to unfairly pay for it. Break three cardboard chairs my partners and I made? Congratulations. You broke folded cardboard.

I know my own chair wasn't the most stable; it was, after all, made of cardboard. But not only should the fact that the glue was beginning to come off and the pins starting to pop out be enough to convince people to not touch it, it was clearly labeled, "do not sit on." Perhaps that's the most frustrating part of this. I expected people to ignore my request and sit on it, and it was built to withstand a single person respectfully using it. Clearly, however, people didn't just sit on it. They kicked it, they tore it, they threw all their weight on it. And my partners' chairs, which were much, much sturdier than mine ever was, were also completely destroyed when they were found in garbage bins. This isn't just students trying out the chairs. This is a deliberate act of destruction, and an honor code violation. Above all, it's just disgusting.

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

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

- Dana

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

Join us.

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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

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THE COLLEGE VOICE

reaches out to the
Coast Guard Academy
to fondly remember

First Class Cadet
Soso Makaridze

and

Third Class Cadet
Bersarian Gorjoladze

Letter to the Editor: A Response from Professor of Philosophy Andrew Pessin

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

It was written last August in the middle of the war between Israel and Hamas, and sat quietly (if publically) on my Facebook page until a Connecticut College student, displaying courage and integrity, emailed me about it on February 18 and described in no uncertain terms how she felt about it. I acknowledged how much I respected her speaking up, apologized for my language in the post, and removed it that very day. But my initial apology to her, and then to many others since the Voice articles appeared two weeks afterward, was rather defensive in tone. I see now—particularly after a moving conversation with a group of bright, brave, and sincerely wounded Conn students—just how damaging and hurtful the language of that post was. I made a great mistake in writing in the inflammatory manner that I did, and deeply regret the injury that I caused and have now directly witnessed.

It's essential for me also to remark that I in no way hold and do not condone the terrible racist views that have been ascribed to me on the basis of

the language of this post. I hope that my past actions and words already demonstrate that I am not the person some now think I am; I know that my future actions and words will. Let my first such action be the reiteration of my deepest apology for causing such wounds.

Andrew Pessin

Professor of Philosophy

Dear Connecticut College Community,

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

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

"I accept membership into Connecticut College, a community committed to cultural and intellectual diversity. I understand my obligation to this community under the Honor Code and pledge to uphold standards of behavior governed by honor. I pledge to take responsibility for my beliefs, and to conduct myself with integrity, civility, and the utmost respect for the dignity of all human beings. I pledge that my actions will be thoughtful and ethical and that I will do my best to instill a sense of responsibility in those among us who falter." The pledge contains three central tenets—Community, Integrity, and Civility. These tenets are meant to govern how we behave, *each to the other, as well as each to the larger Connecticut College community*. The principles engendered by these tenets form a chain, and when any link is severed it severs the entirety.

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

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

Civility is the final tenet. Civility entails respect. Respect is the natural evolution of the first two tenets and it does not, indeed cannot, exist in the absence of the first two. Under the Honor Code, we pledge to conduct ourselves with the utmost respect for the dignity of all human beings. Racist words and sentiments lay in direct, flagrant, opposition to this idea. Racism is uncivil. As our community embarks on its efforts to

heal, improve, and push forward, we must all keep the principle of civility in the front of our minds. We must conduct ourselves with the utmost respect for the dignity of all human beings by listening to what others have to say, empathizing with their perspective, and exhibiting a care beyond oneself.

Sunday's incident and those like it, cannot, should not, and will not be tolerated. But those who are behind these egregious acts can only be held responsible if they are identified. The Honor Code fosters freedom, but it also entails an impressive amount of responsibility. The 1924-1925 Connecticut College "C" Book, which marked the first formal iteration of the Honor Code and its practice stated:

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

We have the responsibility to hold each other accountable. This responsibility is central to the functioning of our Honor Code system. With this in mind, if you have any information concerning Sunday morning's incident or any of the incidents listed on the bias incident log (available on CamelWeb) please bring it forward. You may report information to us at honorcouncil@conncoll.edu, Dean Cardwell, Campus Safety, or file a report using CamelWeb.

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

We implore each and every one of us to revisit the Honor Code pledge and to re-commit ourselves to all that it entails.

Sincerely,

The Connecticut College Honor Council

Letter to the Editor: Defining the Principles that Define Us

Dear Connecticut College Community,

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

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

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

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

When I (or any singular person) condemn the speech as hateful and racist, as I rightfully do, and when departments or other organizations on campus do, the condemnation does not carry with it the force to silence the voice of the condemned. We are each of us individuals operating beneath the umbrella of the institution we belong to, and as cohabitants cannot

exert this kind of influence over each other. However if the institution itself condemns the speech, regardless of the intent behind such an action, the very dimensions of the community change. The effect would be a narrowing of the umbrella, a de facto suppression of thought. It becomes impossible to freely express an idea within a system that has openly disallowed it.

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

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

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

But when men have realized that time has upset many fighting faiths, they may come to believe even more than they believe the very foundations of their own conduct that the ultimate good desired is better reached by free trade in ideas — that the best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market, and that truth is the only ground upon which their wishes safely can be carried out.

That, at any rate, is the theory of our Constitution. It is an experiment, as all life is an experiment. Every year, if not every day, we

have to wager our salvation upon some prophecy based upon imperfect knowledge. While that experiment is part of our system, I think that we should be eternally vigilant against attempts to check the expression of opinions that we loathe and believe to be fraught with death, unless they so imminently threaten immediate interference with the lawful and pressing purposes of the law that an immediate check is required to save the country."

Justice Holmes is speaking about the country as a whole, and we here are merely concerned with the state of our campus community, but the same principles still do apply. The ideas expressed in the Facebook post have no power here, the last few days have made that abundantly clear. The market of ideas which is our campus has spoken resolutely and in unison to declare that we want to be a place of learning and acceptance, where people can do better than hate. This has happened, and will continue to happen, without the administrative condemnation that so many seek, and I think we should be proud of that.

The greater institution, as I see it, and as I hope that upon reading this you will at least consider it, has a responsibility to provide a forum for this discussion to take place, and any failure on its part to do so can be addressed as it arises. But it is not the institution's task to steer that discussion in any direction, even we want it "with all our hearts." It does us no good to demand otherwise.

Concerning my second stated purpose, with respect to the events surrounding the passage of this resolution, I want to say that it is my opinion that the principles of shared governance were done a disservice. I, as a house senator, am bound by my responsibility to bring before my residents each week the resolutions that are on the SGA floor. In doing so I receive feedback and can have productive discussions with my constituency regarding the substance of the resolutions.

CC 14-15 #22 was proposed, voted on, and passed in a single meeting, allowing none but those present in the room a chance to view and comment on the bill before it was voted upon. In doing so, I believe that my house, and all the other houses, were deprived of their rightful opportunity to see and comment on the affairs of their government. It makes no matter that, as some

claimed, we might be able to guess at the disposition of the majority. I am prepared to vote for a resolution against my own convictions if my house has expressed a powerful desire for me to do so, if I have been able to engage with them regarding my own views and to hear theirs. I am not prepared to vote based on speculation as to what their desires are. This was a matter of due process. Though it may seem trite at times, parliamentary procedure serves a purpose, and abandoning it only hurts us all. One principle was sacrificed in pursuit of another, and in doing so we have netted nothing.

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

Sincerely and respectfully,

Cory Scarola, 2016 •

Department Statements Against Dehumanizing Speech

Date: Mon, Mar 23, 2015

Subject: CCSRE clearly states that we do not condone dehumanizing speech

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

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

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

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

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

Date: March 24, 2015

Subject: History Department Statement on Hate Speech

March 24, 2015

To the Campus Community,

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

The history department would like to note the particularly salient tactic of dehumanizing language as a means to justify brutality and lull otherwise "well intentioned" people into silence and, effectively, complicity in racism, sexism, discrimination, colonialism and the numerous genocides throughout human history.

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

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

David Canton, Chair, Associate Professor of History
Sheetal Chhabria, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Assistant Professor of History
Ann Marie L. Davis, Assistant Professor of History
James T. Downs, Associate Professor of History
Marc Forster, Henry B. Plant Professor of History
Leo J. Garofalo, Associate Professor of History
Eileen Kane, Associate Professor of History
Jen Manion, Associate Professor of History
Frederick Paxton, Brigida Pacchiani Ardenghi Professor of History
Sarah A. Queen, Professor of History
Catherine M. Stock, Barbara Zacheo Kahn '72 Professor of History
Lisa H. Wilson, Charles J. MacCurdy Professor of American History

Date: Wed, Mar 25, 2015

Subject: Holleran Center and OVCS clearly state that we do not condone dehumanizing speech

The Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy and OVCS (Office of Volunteers for Community Service) join with the CCSRE and clearly state that we do not condone dehumanizing speech filled with bigotry and hate. As noted in the CCSRE statement we will collaborate with others to help move the College forward in achieving our goal of full participation.

Sincerely,

Penney Jade Beaubrun, Assistant Director Alumni Development/Publications, HC
David Cruz, OVCS Community Learning Coordinator
Jennifer Fredricks, Holleran Center Director and Professor of Human Development
Kiesha Henry, Staff Administrator HC and OVCS
Megan Hulsart, '14, AmeriCorps VISTA OVCS
Rebecca McCue, Associate Director HC
Tracee Reiser, Associate Director HC, Associate Dean, Community Learning, Director OVCS
Ariella Rotramel, Gateway Course Professor, HC
Kim Sanchez, Associate Director OVCS
Chris Soto, Instructor, HC
Diana Whitelaw, Associate Director, HC

Date: Wed, Mar 25, 2015

Subject: Education Department Statement against dehumanizing speech

To the Campus Community,

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

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

Members of the Department in Alphabetical order:

Lauren Anderson
Charlie Cocores
Sandy Grande
Mike James
Dana Wright

Date: Wed, Mar 25, 2015

Subject: Global Islamic Studies

In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to and during spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, the Global Islamic Studies Program joins CCSRE in denouncing speech filled with bigotry and hate particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language and incites or celebrates violence and brutality.

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

Sufia Mendez Uddin, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Global Islamic Studies Program

Joseph Alchermes, Associate Professor of Art History and Director of Architectural Studies

Sheetal Chhabria, Assistant Professor of History

Denis Ferhatovic, William Meredith Assistant Professor of English

Seema Golestaneh, C3 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Anthropology

Afshan Jafar, Associate Professor of Sociology

Eileen Kane, Assistant Professor of History

Karolin Machtans, Assistant Professor of German

Fred Paxton, Brigida Pacchiani Ardenghi Professor of History

Caroleen Sayej, Assistant Professor of Government and International Relations

Date: Wed, Mar 25, 2015

Subject: Message from the Department of Human Development

March 25, 2015

To the Campus Community,

The Department of Human Development would like to clearly state that we condemn speech filled with bigotry and hate particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language and incites or celebrates violence and brutality. In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to and during spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, we join the CCSRE in condemning hate speech.

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

From the following members of the Department of Human Development (arranged alphabetically)

Sunil Bhatia, Professor and Chair of Human Development

Michelle Dunlap, Professor of Human Development

Jennifer Fredericks, Professor of Human Development

Loren Marulis, Assistant Professor of Human Development

Date: Thu, Mar 26, 2015

Subject: Statement from Department of Art History & Architectural Studies

To the Campus Community,

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

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

Members of the Department (in alphabetical order):

Joseph Alcherme, Associate Professor of Art History

Robert Baldwin, Associate Professor of Art History

Karen Gonzalez Rice, Sue and Eugene Mercy Assistant Professor of Art History

Emily C. Morash, Visiting Instructor in Art History

Qiang Ning, Chu-Niblack Associate Professor in Asian Art

Christopher B. Steiner, Lucy C. McDannel '22 Professor of Art History

Date: Thu, Mar 26, 2015

Subject: Statement from the Department of Sociology

Dear colleagues,

In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to and during spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, the Sociology department unanimously joins CCSRE and other departments in denouncing speech filled with bigotry and hate, particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language.

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

Department of Sociology (in alphabetical order),

Ana Campos-Holland

Ron Flores

Robert Gay

Cherise Harris

Afshan Jafar

Date: Thu, Mar 26, 2015

Subject: Statement to the Community from the Department of Theater

March 26, 2015

To the Campus Community,

The faculty and staff of the Department of Theater would like to clearly state that we condemn speech filled with bigotry and hate particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language and incites or celebrates violence and brutality. In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to and during spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, as well as other reported acts or incidents prior to this, we join our colleagues in condemning hate speech. We are calling upon ourselves and others to act in order to strengthen our community and to move away from indifference.

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

From the following members of the Department of Theater (arranged alphabetically)

Virginia Anderson, Assistant Professor

Donna Holman, Academic Assistant

David Jaffe, Associate Professor and Chair

Stephen J. Luber, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Sabrina Notarfrancisco, Assistant Professor

Ken Prestininzi, Associate Professor

Date: Thu, Mar 26, 2015

Subject: Religious Studies statement

In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to and during spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, members of the Department of Religious Studies joins CCSRE and other departments in denouncing speech filled with bigotry and hate, particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language.

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

David Kyuman Kim, Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Gene Gallagher, Rosemary Park Professor of Religious Studies

Lindsey Harlan, Professor of Religious Studies

Sharon Portnoff, Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Sufia Uddin, Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015

Subject: Statement to the Community from the Ammerman Center

To the Campus Community,

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

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

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

Joseph Alchermes, Associate Professor of Art History and Architectural Studies Program

Ginny Anderson, Assistant Professor of Theater

Nadav Assor, Assistant Professor Studio Art

Greg Bailey, Associate Professor of Art

Catherine Benoît, Professor of Anthropology

Lyndsay Bratton, Digital Scholarship and Visual Resources Librarian

Bruce Carpenter, Director of Technical Support and Information Security Officer

David Dorfman, Professor of Dance

Libby Friedman, Assistant Director of the Ammerman Center

Karen Gonzalez Rice, Assistant Professor of Art History

Anthony Graesch, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Charles O. Hartman, Professor of English

Ted Hendrickson, Associate Professor of Art

Lee Hisle, Vice-President for Information Services

Shawn Hove, Assistant Professor of Dance

Ozgur Izmirli, Associate Professor of Computer Science

David Kyuman Kim, Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Priya Kohli, Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics

Art Kreiger, Professor of Music

James Lee, Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Steve Lubner, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theater

Jim McNeish, Adjunct Associate Professor of Music

Emily Morash, Visiting Instructor of Art History and Architectural Studies

Ross Morin, Assistant Professor of Film Studies

Denise Pelletier, Professor of Art

Chris Penniman, Director of Instructional Technology

Robert Richter, Director of Arts Programming

Ariella Rotramel, Visiting Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies

Joseph Schroeder, Associate Professor of Psychology

Andrea Wollensak, Professor of Art, Director of the Ammerman Center

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015

Subject: Statement from the Art Department

To the Campus Community,

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

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

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

Studio Art Department (in alphabetical order),

Nadav Assor

Greg Bailey

Chris Barnard

Ted Hendrickson

Pamela Marks

Tim McDowell

Denise Pelletier

Andrea Wollensak

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015

Subject: GWS Statement

To the Campus Community,

The Steering Committee, faculty and Associated faculty members of Gender and Women's Studies would like to clearly state that we condemn speech filled with bigotry and hate particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language and incites or celebrates violence and brutality. In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to and during spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, as well as other reported acts or incidents prior to this, we join our colleagues in condemning hate speech. We are calling upon ourselves and others to act in order to strengthen our community and to move away from indifference.

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

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

Ginny Anderson

Sunil Bhatia

Joyce Bennett

MaryAnne Borelli

Blanche Boyd

David Chavanne

Sheetal Chhabria

Shani Collins-Achille

Ann Marie Davis

Amy Dooling

Michelle Dunlap

Leo Garofalo

Heidi Henderson

Candace Howes

Michael James

Suzuko Knott

Julia Kushigian

Manuel Lizzaralde

Karolin Machtans

Rosemarie Roberts

Ariella Rotramel

Suffia Uddin

Lina Wilder

Lisa Wilson

Dana Wright

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015

Subject: Statement from Botany, Environmental Studies, and Goodwin-Niering Center

Dear student, staff and faculty colleagues,

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

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

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

Robert Askins

MaryAnne Borrelli

Jane Dawson

Anthony Graesch

Kristine Hardeman

Pam Hine

Chad Jones

Manuel Lizzaralde

Michelle Neely

Page Owen

Jen Pagach

Peter Siver

Rachel Spicer

Sardha Suriyapperuma

Douglas Thompson

Marc Zimmer

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015

Subject: Statement from Biology

Dear Connecticut College campus community,

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

We make this public statement with particular attention to those students, staff, and faculty whose identities and affiliations position them as the targets of such speech and to support the well-being of all members of the Connecticut College community, their right to educational opportunity, and their right to work and live in a non-hostile environment. We will continue to play our part in creating spaces for productive engagements around full participation by all College constituents.

We publicly recommit ourselves to, as stated in the Connecticut College matriculation pledge, "take responsibility for [our] beliefs and to conduct [ourselves] with integrity, civility, and the utmost respect for the dignity of all human beings." We look forward to collaborating with others to help move the College forward in achieving our goal of full participation.

Robert Askins

Phil Barnes

Anne Bernhard

Deborah Eastman

Marylynn Fallon

Martha Grossel

Kristine Hardeman

Steve Loomis

Sardha Suriyapperuma

Sue Warren

Stephen Winters-Hilt

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015

Subject: Statement to the Community from the Department of Anthropology

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

In response to recent events on campus regarding racism, bigotry, and intolerance, the Department of Anthropology at Connecticut College wishes to publicly voice its opposition to all speech and acts that dehumanize any member of our community or incite suffering, violence, and/or brutality.

We recognize that the rights to free speech are indivisible, but we stand against speech acts, non-verbal forms of communication, and actions that attack the dignity of students, staff, and faculty. Statements or acts directed at students, staff, and/or faculty that are homophobic, sexist, bigoted, or hateful are protected by the First Amendment, but we passionately support the capacity of others to identify, interpret, and scrutinize such acts. Indeed, we believe that all speech and acts that are bigoted and hateful should be made public and subjected to thorough and thoughtful consideration with respect to the ways that they harm individuals as well as our broader intellectual community.

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

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

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

Joyce Bennett, Visiting Assistant Professor
Catherine Benoît, Professor
Seema Golestaneh, C3 Postdoctoral Fellow
Anthony Graesch, Associate Professor and Chair
Manuel Lizarralde, Associate Professor
Chris Steiner, Professor

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015

Subject: Connecticut College Hillel issues statement of unity

Dear Connecticut College Community,

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

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

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

It is of the utmost importance to us that constructive conversations and dialogue are continued with respect and dignity.

Thank you for standing up for your beliefs. We pledge to do our part in fostering an open, engaged and supportive community at Connecticut College.

Sincerely,

Connecticut College Hillel Executive Board

Date: Fri, Mar 27, 2015

Subject: Statement to the Connecticut College Community from the Dance Department

To The Campus Community,

The Dance department in an aspirational wish for all levels of safety and access on our campus unanimously joins CCSRE and many others in denouncing speech filled with bigotry and hate, particularly when that speech uses dehumanizing language.

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

Shani Collins-Achille
Susan Connelly
Aimee Couture
David Dorfman
Heidi Henderson
Shawn Hove
Lisa Race
Rosemarie Roberts
Richard Schenk
Greg Surman
Marya Ursin
Derrick Yanford

Date: Sat, Mar 28, 2015

Subject: Statement to the Community from the Department of Psychology

To the Campus Community,

The undersigned members of the Department of Psychology want to express that we strongly condemn hate speech and bigotry. We join with the CCSRE, the Centers, and the academic departments that have likewise expressed their condemnation of racist, dehumanizing speech.

We greatly value the sense of community at Connecticut College and are mindful of how destructive hate speech can be (and has been) to our sense of community. The campus forum on Wednesday highlighted the extent to which we are all affected by acts of racism over time, and we are especially concerned about the effect of bigotry on the well-being of those who have been the targets of such hateful speech.

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

Ann Devlin
Jenny Gorman
Ruth Grahm
Taleb Khairallah
Nancy MacLeod
Jill Marshall
Jason Nier
Joe Schroeder
Jefferson Singer
Audrey Zakriski

Date: Sat, Mar 28, 2015

Subject: Statement to the Community from the Department of English

To the Campus Community,

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

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

Courtney Baker
Blanche Boyd
Denis Ferhatovic
Janet Gezari
Charles Hartman
Michelle Neely
Julie Rivkin
Phil Ray
Steve Shoemaker
Lina Wilder

Date: Sat, Mar 28, 2015

Subject: Statement from the Department of Slavic Studies

Yes to free speech, no to racist language. This is the position of the Department of Slavic Studies in response to recent events on campus, and to ongoing reports from our students about anonymous attacks aimed to harm, discredit and oppress others. Such language in no way advances the civil, public discourse that is so vital to any academic institution, indeed, to any open society. We are committed to working with others across the campus to create a better, more just environment for students, staff, and faculty who are alienated and harmed by the current climate.

*Christopher Colbath
Petko Ivanov
Andrea Lanoux
Tony Lin
Laura Little*

Date: Sat, Mar 28, 2015

Subject: Statement from Hispanic Studies

Dear Connecticut College campus community,

In response to the many events that transpired on campus prior to, during, and after spring break regarding a Facebook post by a member of our faculty, the Hispanic Studies department joins many others in stating that we condemn speech filled with bigotry and hate—in all of its forms and particularly when these communications use dehumanizing language or imagery and incite or celebrate violence and brutality.

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

*Luis González
Aida Heredia
Julia Kushigian
Jennifer Rudolph*

Date: Sat, Mar 28, 2015

Subject: Statement from the Department of Italian Studies

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

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

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

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

In alphabetical order:

*Carmela Patton
Frida Morelli
Robert Proctor
Paola Sica*

Date: Sun, Mar 29, 2015

Subject: MUSIC DEPARTMENT STATEMENT

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

Sincerely,

*John Anthony
Art Kreiger
Wendy Moy
James McNeish
Mark Seto
Midge Thomas*

Date: Sun, Mar 29, 2015

Subject: Statement from the American Studies Program

As the oldest interdisciplinary program at the College and a founding partner of the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE), the American Studies program condemns all hate speech and any other representations, expressions, or actions that denigrate human beings and their communities, whether close to home or across the world. We also applaud the courage of the Connecticut College students who have brought forward their concerns in the tradition of non-violent student protest, despite the very real risks they face by doing so. In expecting the College and its officers to uphold its own mission, core values, and honor code, student protesters have in fact "put the liberal arts into action." Furthermore, they have shown that they believe the highest purpose of their educations is not to obtain a credential or assimilate into the corporate structure of the global economy but rather to actively participate in advancing principles of peace, justice, equity, and inclusion. We stand with our students in this pursuit.

Program Director
Catherine McNicol Stock

Program Advisers
*Courtney Baker
David Canton
James Downs
Karen Gonzalez Rice
David Kim
Jen Manion*

Affiliated Faculty
*Lauren Anderson
Ginny Anderson
Chris Barnard
Joyce Bennett
Sunil Bhatia
Tristan Anne Borer
Ron Flores
Leo Garofalo
Anthony Graesch
Sandy Grande
Cherise Harris
Afshan Jafar
Michael James
Emily Morash
Michelle Neely
Denise Pelletier
Julie Rivkin
Rosemarie Roberts
Christopher Steiner
Sufia Uddin
Lisa Wilson
Dana Wright*

Date: Sun, Mar 29, 2015

Subject: A message from the Philosophy Department

Dear colleagues, students, and friends,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, we reaffirm our department's commitment to helping all to participate fully in the shared aspects of college life. We believe that our discipline has a special contribution to make to building an inclusive community of inquiry. We will work hard to try to understand how different members of the campus community experience things in different ways. Our doors are open to any and all students and colleagues who would like to talk with us.

Yours,

*Simon Feldman
Kristin Pfefferkorn
Derek Turner
Larry Vogel*

Mexican Non-Profit Speaks to Conn Community

A conversation about human rights

MAIA HIBBETT
CONTRIBUTOR

On Mon., Mar. 23, Connecticut College hosted Pablo Obando and Stuart Schussler, two representatives from the non-profit organization, Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center—Frayba, for short. Frayba is affiliated with the Mexico Solidarity Network, an organization that promotes social change in Mexico and facilitates students' involvement in solidarity activism.

Frayba's center has been located in Chiapas, the southernmost state in Mexico, since 1989. Obando explained that aside from being Mexico's southernmost state, Chiapas is also its poorest state—but in a financial sense alone. He noted that due to the presence of indigenous tribes including the Tzotzil, Tzeltal, Chol, Tojolabal and Zoque peoples, Chiapas is culturally rich. According to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), this richness can potentially be used to further develop the area. As a result, conflict has arisen because, in the name of "development," the Mexican government ignores the "indigenous right to consent." Obando explained that this means that permission must be given before taking an indigenous group's land, resources or freedom. Therefore, development without permission is a violation of basic human rights.

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

In order to provide deeper context for his talk, Obando discussed several atrocities that have been documented by Frayba. He prefaced these accounts, however, with the assertion that his intent was not to scare the audience nor to instill pity for Mexico's indigenous people. Rather than focus on the negative, Obando

challenged listeners to concentrate on the ability to organize, demonstrated by the people of Chiapas, and to view the situation with hope. "Come to Mexico and share hope with us," he said.

Obando quickly condemned Mexican former president Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, who approved a counter-insurgency plan that killed 45 and injured 26 people in the Acteal Massacre at a refugee camp called Las Abejas, or "the bees." This massacre was only one of many attacks by Ponce de León, and since his presidency Mexico's "low-intensity war" has continued to be perpetuated, while not by officially recognized paramilitary, but by civilian groups working to oppress the people of Chiapas. Frayba documented a recent case in August of 2014, when one of such groups eliminated Caracól de la Realidad, a unit of the Zapatista movement that promoted autonomy.

Chiapas wants autonomy, Obando explained, but the Mexican government aims to suppress the movement. Therefore, Obando posed the question: "What does autonomy mean? Why is it so dangerous?"

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

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

Obando's aim was not to guilt the audience, however, but rather to reinforce the impor-

tance of solidarity on a global scale. To the audience, he said, "Please don't ask me 'how can we help you?'" reminding them that Frayba's purpose was not to seek charity, but rather solidarity. The non-profit's power stems from the notion that with solidarity, "We can make the same noise in 30 different countries."

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

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

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

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

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

New SEAT Stop for Conn



DANA SORKIN
MANAGING EDITOR

bus schedule, and GPS tracking of the bus which can be viewed live on SEAT's website.

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

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

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

This year has been a big year for students involved in the Office of Sustainability. Grisham explained that four other students involved in the Office attended over spring break the Eco Practicum in New York City, a conference involving multiple workshops designed for giving students interested in sustainability leadership training and ideas to bring back to their institution. These new initiatives include the donation of all the old furniture from Shain Library to local non-profits, to the announcement from the Office of Sustainability that the College will host the 2015 Student Sustainability Leadership Symposium in the fall semester. •

"HATE CRIMES AND FEAR OF ISLAM IN THE US:"

Students and faculty gather for an important discussion

MOLLIE REID
NEWS EDITOR

On Friday, Mar. 27, approximately fifty students gathered in Coffee Grounds to engage in a critical discussion on "Hate Crimes and Fear of Islam in the United States," with Professors Bhatia, Borer, Hammond, Jafar and Campos-Holland. Professor of Sociology Afshan Jafar opened the talk by commenting on how, although the event was originally supposed to take place in February, its content is still very much relevant today, globally and locally. She told the audience that what prompted her to want to hold the event was the murder of three Muslim students (Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha and Razan Abu-Salha) by Craig Stephen Hicks near the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on Feb. 11, 2015. In particular, the lack of media coverage of the murders in Chapel Hill interested Professor Jafar because the few times it was covered, it was done in a "very roundabout way," in that some people wondered if the UNC murders could be considered hate-crimes. Jafar said: "Why have we been going around in circles trying to avoid calling this a hate-crime? When it seems that there are very obvious clues leading us to this is a hate-crime...so why are we trying not to label it as a hate-crime?"

After opening the talk, Professor of International Relations and Government Tristan Borer discussed another incident related to the talk's title, the attack by Hamyd Mourad, Said Kouachi and Cherif Kouachi on the French satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo, that occurred in Paris in January. She noted that in the same week that the Charlie Hebdo attacks occurred, Boko Haram committed acts of violence in the Nigerian towns of Baga and Doron Baga on Jan. 3, yet the former was less discussed by the media and by students. Professor Borer then mentioned that one way the media has reacted and covered the Germanwings incident has been through stereotypes and wrongful framing that attempt to connect the co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz, to terrorism because Lubitz's girlfriend is Muslim: "The reports immediately [wondered] 'oh is he Muslim? Was this an act of terrorism?'" Professor Borer also used the capturing of trophy photographs of Mus-

lim prisoners at Abu Ghraib by American military personnel as another, yet earlier example of the ways in which the process of dehumanization of groups leads to violence.

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

Another prominent theme that filtered throughout the talk was the need for more conversations on campus, nationally and globally that seek to educate everyone on various levels. Several students of differing class years agreed that it is essential to gain a better understanding of groups and ways of thinking that people may not be familiar with. In keeping with the constant need to engage in dialogues, students at the talk believed that in order to address hate crimes and need for a thriving multicultural world, people must question the notion of hybridity, framing and American exceptionalism.

In relation to "hybridity," many students felt that by addressing people as say "Irish-American," feelings of difference occur that cause those understood by the public through "hybrid labels," to be seen as "non-American."

As a Residential Education Fellows (REF) event, floor governors Molly Rosen '17 and Molly Tuohy '17 worked with REF Professors Bhatia, Borer, Hammond and Jafar to plan a meaningful event for students. According to Tuohy, coordinating the event was a "very collaborative process because the professors are truly invested in organizing productive events that will spark discussion in our community." Tuohy feels "particularly excited" about "Hate Crimes and the Fear of Islam in the U.S.," because of its "definite relevance in our community right now." She feels that in light of the all-campus forum that took place on Wed., Mar. 25, the talk acts to "provide a setting to continue discussion about this topic." Like many other REF events that deal with social issues, Tuohy says that "the overall goal of the event is to encourage and further constructive conversation in our community and I look forward to listening and learning more from continued dialogue."

After the audience was told that Coffee Grounds was to close at 6pm, Professor Bhatia and others continued the conversation in the KB common room. As students filtered around Coffee Grounds, Professor Jafar passed out a handout that was brought by Professor Campos-Holland and was written by Jasmine Linnea Kelekay '15 entitled, "Refining Boundaries: Hate Crimes and Racialized Informal Social Control Post-9/11." •

"What is the CCSRE?"

ANDREW SHAW
STAFF WRITER

Due to recent events in the College's community, its Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE) has been mentioned quite frequently in conversations across campus. It started in 2005 through the work of its first director, David Kim, Associate Professor of Religious Studies and chair of that department; Sandy Grande, Associate Professor and Chair of Education; and Tracee Reiser, the Associate Dean for Community Learning; among others. It "comes out of activism" regarding diversity on campus, said the current director, Associate Professor of History Leo Garofalo.

Located in "The Pink House" (740 Williams Street) its purpose is "to create an intellectual space for the generation of ideas [about race and ethnicity]" Garofalo said. By bringing "faculty, staff and students together in [the Pink House]," research concerning race and ethnicity in and across multiple disciplines is "centered" in one place instead of being fragmented across the College's academic departments and programs, and thus weakened. Although, as Associate Professor of English Courtney Baker said, the CCSRE does call "the administration [into] account" sometimes, "cultivating a set of standards for what it thinks an intellectual community that is equitable" should follow, it is not in place only – or even primarily – to handle crises.

"It's not," Professor Baker said, "just people talking about their experiences and feelings." Rather, it's "a safe space" for research relating to race and ethnicity that recognizes that those topics, and the sociality of Conn, benefit from "intellectual support." Interested since its founding in furthering inclusive excellence, the CCSRE steering committee is vocally involved in how Conn will concretely support its advertised goal of inclusive excellence.

It does this work of improving Conn's inclusivity and working to achieve full participation by serving as a "think tank," Garofalo said, for topics of race and ethnicity and, as its mission statement notes, "other categories of difference." As such, it doesn't offer a certificate, major or minor. Instead, it supports "knowledge production" across the campus community: faculty and student research and programming (lectures, film screenings and other events) related to issues of power, structural inequality and social justice. It helped to start the new Global Islamic Studies program, which, like the Center itself, is transnational and aware of how identities intersect with one another. Associate Professor of History David Canton and Professor Baker are working to revitalize and restructure the Africana Studies major.

The Center hopes to make

these and other interdisciplinary programs permanent, to "seed ideas, seed initiatives [and] to plant them broadly," Professor Garofalo said. The goal is that "categories of difference" become ever more widely addressed at Conn; the CCSRE is, for example, considering ways that it can be a part of the eventual general education requirements. As a past director, Professor Canton said that the CCSRE wants "to get everybody thinking." It does not matter where someone starts, "[they] can get engaged."

While faculty involvement in the Center is generally through research and planning programs, students can become involved mainly through Comparative Race and Ethnicity (CRE) courses. The designation allows "faculty across campus," Garofalo said, "to flag that they actually deal with race and ethnicity directly" in a given course. This semester, for example, American Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, History, Dance, English, Anthropology, Art History, Education, Religious Studies and Psychology all offer CRE courses; a CRE course about theorizing race and ethnicity is also offered.

As the variety of departments offering CRE courses suggests, the CCSRE is not dependent upon a given department. It's comparative, "inviting multiple studies of race [and ethnicity]," Baker said. Race and ethnicity are "useful and helpful discursive paradigms ... that benefit multiple objects of study;" while faculty members in different departments are "not looking at the same object of study," they can use some of the same lenses. Professor Baker offered a couple of examples where the paradigm of race and ethnicity can prove invaluable: her own department, English; and Math. English offers a concentration in Race and Ethnicity (as do other departments, including American Studies and History). But the English concentration "[is] not taken advantage of." Baker wants "more students to recognize that literature and art ... are places to study race and ethnicity." There is "a misconception," she said, that one needs to work in the social sciences in order to study race and ethnicity. That's not the case. The history of mathematics, she offered, is another example of where the paradigm of race and ethnicity could prove invaluable – despite math being a field that an observer wouldn't necessarily think of as one that involves questions of race and ethnicity.

Power, privilege and otherness impact every field and every country; "all the [oppressive] language is the same across fields and countries, or at least similar," David Canton contended. The work of the CCSRE allows the college community to realize this. •

Complicated Contemporary Politics in Venezuela

ALEX MILOFSKI
CONTRIBUTOR

After former Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's death in March 2013, current President Nicolas Maduro, Chavez's hand-picked successor, took office. President Maduro has spent almost his entire tenure dealing with the monumental problems facing his country. These dilemmas have sparked widespread riots and protests. The opposition is protesting mainly because of the 68% inflation rate, alarming crime rate and the scarcity of basic and medical commodities. President Maduro has reacted to these protests with an iron fist. According to the international organization Human Rights Watch (HRW), 41 people have been killed as a result of violent clashes with protesters, "almost all of them civilians," and there has been "strong evidence of rights abuses in 45 cases involving 150 civilians in Caracas and three states."

Just two weeks ago, Rodolfo Gonzalez, also known as "El Aviador," was found hanging from a rope in his cell at the headquarters of Venezuela's Bolivarian Intelligence Service (SEBIN). He had been detained on accusations of plotting against the government by President Maduro. Gonzalez is one of an unknown number of political dissenters detained by Mr. Maduro and SEBIN on charges of attempting to overthrow the government. Other big names include Leopoldo Lopez, the former opposition leader who was jailed about a year ago on charges of inciting violence and protests that lasted four months and led to the death of 43 Venezuelans. Antonio Ledezma, the mayor of Caracas, was most recently jailed on accusations of plotting violence against President Maduro's government.

The president's socialist policies, nationalization of large industries and falling oil prices have plunged the economy into inflation. Coupled with this is a new exchange rate that attempts to ease devaluation of the bolivar, Venezuela's currency. Some businesses, students and priority imports can be approved for an exchange rate of either 6.3 or 12 bolivares per U.S. dollar, while the market has been trading at about 170 bolivares per dollar, and the black market right around 190 bolivares per dollar. The incredible devaluation has hampered an economy fueled by oil exports, which have decreased following oil's recent price fall. As a result, importers have had serious difficulties purchasing basic commodities, which has enraged the public.

Ines Finol '15, and William Wuyke, Connecticut College's first appointed Athletic Strength and Conditioning Coach, both Venezuelan natives, presented two Venezuelan perspectives on

the economic climate of the nation.

Finol and Wuyke both explained that it was commonplace to see customers fighting over items in stores and carrying purchased items such as flour, oil and sugar in massive quantities.

"When walking on the street, you tend to look at other people's bags who walk past," Finol claimed as Wuyke nodded in agreement. She said that this was to mentally account for items they have that subsequently might be out of stock at the supermarket. As she showed me a picture of the industrial sized toilet paper rolls used at her home in Venezuela, Finol told me she purchased them in the United States at the request of her parents because it was easier to access such items here. The newest rule, they told me, requires an ID or fingerprint to gain access to stores in order to control purchasing.

The Wall Street Journal recently wrote an article describing the effect of the country's scarcity crisis on health care. Goods ranging from medication and medical devices to condoms and blood supplies have crippled the health care system and left individuals with easily treated conditions and diseases in mortal danger. Patients are being turned away due to a plain inability to provide treatment. They are forced to resort to bargaining on the black market, hope for a special favor from a connected source, beg and plead on social media for donations or patiently waiting in a state of paralyzing fear and grief for death to take them.

Inflation and commodity scarcity are real and scary dangers in Venezuela, yet they almost pale in comparison to the abundant fear of crime and the police-state-like atmosphere described by Finol and Wuyke.

Wuyke, a former Venezuelan Olympic runner and relatively well-known national figure, explained, "from the hours of 8 p.m. to 5 or 6 a.m., I do not go out running. I grew up in a somewhat tough but safe area, but now I do not run there ever," Wuyke said, explaining that this is due to the rampant robbing, kidnapping and murdering that occur.

"I do not take my phone out in public," said Finol, fearing the possession of a simple smart phone could lead to an onlooker assaulting her for the technology.

Another criminal practice is called express kidnapping, wherein kidnappers research a potential victim's family money, their movements and even receive tips from bank tellers in order to cleanly pick them off the street and demand a hefty ransom within hours. Failure to produce such a ransom results in a quick death for the victim in order to ensure the kidnappers notoriety and policy of non-negotiation. People especially concerned and equipped with the ability to purchase kidnapping insurance do

so.

According to the Venezuelan Violence Observatory (VVO), Caracas, home of the recently imprisoned opposition leader Ledezma, has a murder rate of 100 for every 100,000 citizens. Venezuela had around 24,000 murders last year. In comparison, the U.S. has a murder rate of 4.3 for every 100,000 citizens according to Reuters. In the poverty-ridden slums, known as barrios, where Chavez's movement gained most of its followers, guns are commonplace as crime has increased. Civilian paramilitary groups, some supported by Mr. Maduro, patrol the areas and will disallow residents from leaving to attend protests. Cops and military members are quick to crack down on dissent and perceived illegal behavior. Wuyke and Finol both described an atmosphere of constant fear in terms of both crime and criticizing the government.

The turmoil may spell uncertainty for the future of the citizens of Venezuela, but U.S. relations with Venezuela provide an interesting framework for how the upcoming diplomatic battle between the two nations will proceed. In recent months, tensions between Venezuela and the U.S. increased substantially. President Maduro has accused the U.S. of backing opposition groups in attempting to overthrow the current government, a claim he has used in connection with the imprisonment of political opponents such as Ledezma. The U.S. has denied these accusations, reporting they are empty rhetoric deployed to hide his country's economic woes, crime rates and lack of basic products.

Recently, President Barack Obama signed an executive order saying that Venezuela posed an "extraordinary threat to the national security of the U.S.," and imposed sanctions on seven Venezuelan military and intelligence officials, accusing them of human rights violations. These sanctions were also put on members of their families and barring them from doing business with American citizens, traveling to the United States, and possibly having their assets in the U.S. seized. In response, Mr. Maduro has required the U.S. to reduce their embassy size, placed new restrictions on U.S. visa applicants and have even taken out a full page ad in *The New York Times* condemning President Obama's actions and declaring that Venezuela is not a threat to the United States national security in any way.

While the U.S. denies Mr. Maduro's accusations of backing opposition efforts to overthrow the government, it is interesting to note that Freedom of Information requests and Wikileaks cables have shown a history of the U.S. funneling money to Chavez opposition groups. Agencies such as the United States Agency for International Development (US-

AID) and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) had given up to \$20 million dollars to organizations in Venezuela. The goal of these organizations is not regime change, but rather "democracy promotion." The U.S. was also quick to be one of the first nations to recognize the opposition during the failed coup against Chavez in 2004. Declassified CIA documents revealed that the U.S. knew of coup plans in 2004, but refrained from making them known to Chavez or his people. There is no evidence to support Mr. Maduro's claims that the U.S. is backing coup efforts, it seems likely that he is trying to distort what the U.S. calls democracy promotion, in order to prove they are attempting to replace his government.

Adding to this funky web of diplomacy, the 11 other members of the United South American Nations (USAN) and Cuba have all backed Venezuela in condemning the actions of the United States.

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

Amid a severe economic crisis, widespread civil unrest and increasingly hostile diplomatic relations with the strongest power in the western hemisphere, Venezuela's future looks bleak. President Maduro has received the power to legislate by decree in response to the U.S. sanctions, a move that could also give him greater power over political dissenters as well. The turmoil is evolving, but having to contend with all these crises in such a condensed format will prove difficult at best for President Maduro and for the citizens of Venezuela. •

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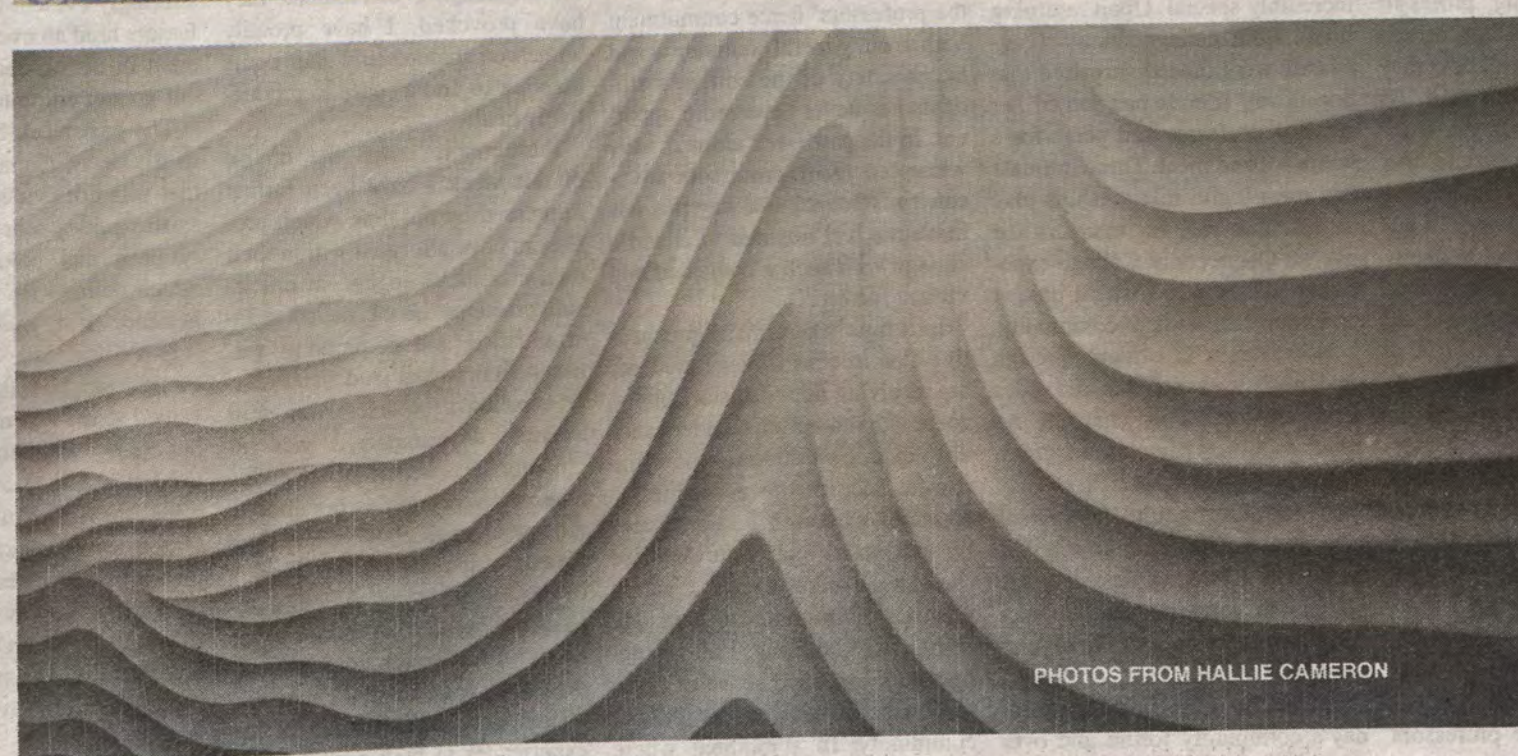
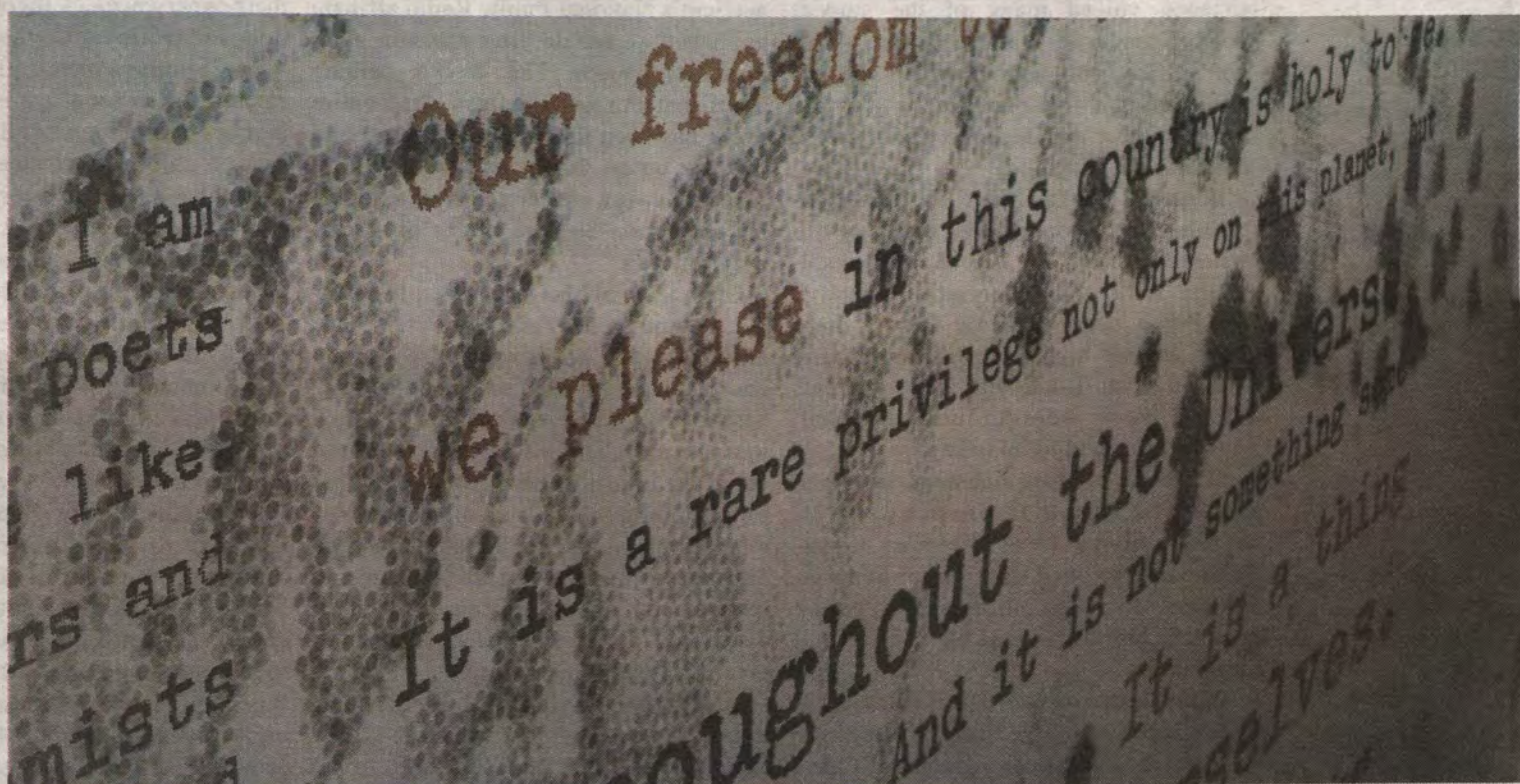
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PHOTOS FROM HALLIE CAMERON

Campus Forum Leaves Concerns Unaddressed

LUCA POWELL
MANAGING EDITOR
&
FRED MCNULTY
MEDIA EDITOR

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

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

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

Ayla Zuraw-Friedland, editor-in-chief of *The College Voice*, spoke as an individual in solidarity with marginalized groups on campus, specifically calling out President Bergeron, asking her to

speak off the cuff and to condemn hate speech by name. Zuraw-Friedland’s insistence voiced many of the student body’s concerns: that the forum would not suffice, and neither would the administration’s five-part agenda if it did not recognize and decisively address the rights of the offended.

Bergeron pushed back on the implication that anyone, other than herself, writes her emails for her. “I stand in solidarity with you,” Bergeron remarked, “[...] you need to know that. I don’t think anyone stands more in solidarity with you than I do.” But many students felt the words were too non-committal, too political, and ultimately unsatisfying.

Citing the First Amendment, Bergeron attested the right to free speech of the individual, even in cases of bigotry. Equally, she championed the right of other individuals to speak out against it, noting that this bigotry is part of a “structural problem.”

While Bergeron called out “bad speech, hate speech, extreme speech,” referring to them as “challenging things,”. Certainly the entire student body was feeling challenged, but more present was the desire for some guidance in navigating the charged complexity of race issues on campus. Specifically, students were disappointed with her avoidance of the term “racist” to specifically identify the incidents that prompted this forum.

“We’re disappointed that Bergeron didn’t come out there and openly condemn hate speech,” Michael Fratt ’15 told *The College Voice*, “it was the overarching desire for students.” Fratt was the first student to speak at the forum, and he noted that he was proud of the way his

fellow students conducted themselves.

This defense comes a day after Connecticut’s National Public Radio affiliate published an article after speaking with Professor Pessin. The WNPR column notes that Pessin told them, “the entire event has been taken out of context and that the outcry is not about his alleged racism, but is a concerted effort to attack his reputation because of his pro-Israel point of view.”

Out of all of the speakers, two students stood up for Professor Pessin. One argued that his words were misconstrued and taken out of context, while another bashed *The College Voice* for “yellow journalism.” Connor Wolfe ’16 spoke out about the injustices of anti-semitism, before detailing some his opinions about Israel’s political and militaristic situation. Subsequent student speakers channeled his concerns about anti-semitism into a discussion about the well-being of the greater campus community.

The Professor’s claims of bias because of his pro-Israel political stance never factored into the discussion. Arguably, the whole event was only indirectly about him, although one Palestinian student who’d had the words ‘pitbull’ spray-painted on his car did sarcastically thank the professor for providing the ammunition. The student told the story of being a refugee from a war-torn country, ending his contribution with a concise “free palestine.”

Largely, however, the forum was mostly concerned with the visibility of the underrepresented at Connecticut College. “Why did it take this incident for us to start talking about this,” said one student, who urged that we use the recent events

to address a larger problem: the stories and experiences of minority students and their experiences of bigotry, discrimination, and racism at Connecticut College.

The campus conversation quickly became a forum for these experiences, but perhaps more importantly, it became a space for all in attendance to listen to and empathize with their peers.

Many stories emerged detailing incidents of being stopped by campus police on the suspicion of not being a student, or of bias reports going largely unconsidered by the administration. Jamie McKay ’15 commended the courage of the student speakers, but says that “stories of pain and of anguish” were the motivating factor in her choice to speak up.

One student, Jason Hamburger, at first intended to defend Professor Pessin, a favorite professor of his. However in hearing narrated the emotions of the student body changed his mind and instead took the microphone and apologized for ‘his ignorance.’ He was met with a roaring applause. Alumnae Max Nichols ’14 used the forum to bemoan the college’s policy of ‘risk-aversion,’ suggesting the College use this opportunity to take definitive, progressive action rather than remain ambiguous.

At one point, Bergeron did eschew diplomatic language, expressing a sincere, “I love you,” to the many in attendance. The proclamation, however, seemed to fall flat on the ears of the students, particularly those feeling estranged from an administration unwilling to openly denounce the elephant in the room. •

The Critical Role of Professors in our Shifting Community

SARAH ROSE GRUSZECKI
STAFF WRITER

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

It is difficult to deny that there are many fantastic professors on our campus. The fact that we live in a community where professors

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

However, it is evident through this week’s events that the tides have most certainly changed. As our campus has been turned upside down to engage in critical discussions on racism, equity, freedom of speech and our mission to full participation, I have witnessed many professors support students in a manner that transcends far beyond academic borders. As evidenced through the events of Wednesday’s community forum and over

(AYLA WILL INSERT CURRENT NUMBER HERE) signed department emails condemning racism and dehumanizing speech, the professors’ fierce commitment both to our general community and to the safety of the college’s students has never been more apparent. In the past week alone, I have witnessed many professors advocate for students in a way that has made me feel honored to attend a college with such a dedicated and vibrant faculty.

In a time where many prospective Connecticut College students are receiving their decision letters, some individuals have understandably expressed concern about the current state of our academic institution. Although I can certainly understand and relate to these student perspectives, as I sat in this week’s forum and at Thursday night’s SGA meeting, I also experienced a profound sense of pride to be part of such an exceptional community. In a moment where

many students, faculty and staff are struggling to recover from the pain of this week’s incidents and the challenging discussions they have provoked, I have proudly witnessed students and staff come together to find a space to productively heal.

Furthermore, over the course of this week I have been further impressed by the time which professors have allocated within their own classes to engage in crucial conversations about racism, discrimination and community values. As a first-year student currently enrolled in courses from four separate departments, I was incredibly surprised to discover the majority of my professors allotted at least one full class strictly dedicated to processing this week’s events. Interrupting their pre-determined syllabi to address the needs of our community and student body is an act that I sincerely appreciated. Unlike many of my experiences in high school where

instructors appeared solely fixated on the courses they were responsible for teaching, it has become strikingly evident that Conn’s professors hold an overarching investment in the success and safety of our greater community.

The past week has exposed me to a side of Connecticut College that was not evident in the enthusiastic guided tours, informational sessions and colorful pamphlets which defined my application experience last year. Wednesday’s forum and the consequential events which followed have revealed to me and many others that our college and community remain in a vulnerable state. However, this week has also illustrated the real reason Connecticut College is the place I chose to be my home. At the end of the day, our professors truly care about creating a community where all individuals feel safe, respected, and above all, genuinely heard. •

Exploring Research in the Social Sciences

SHATRUNJAY MALL
STAFF WRITER

Connecticut College, just like other small, liberal arts colleges, takes the number of opportunities that it provides for undergraduate level research with faculty as a point of pride. These opportunities aim at facilitating a close level of collaboration between the faculty and students. Through these, students gain valuable experience that opens up a wide range of avenues for their future. However, "student research" may appear to be rather vague and unfamiliar to the outside observer. This is especially the case for research in the arts and humanities, where traditional notions of "legitimate research" are challenged. I was interested to learn what exactly the term "student research" is used to refer to.

To find out more, I visited Deborah Dreher, Associate Dean for Fellowships & Scholarships. She emphasized that there are "different kinds of opportunities" in the disciplines, given that in the natural sciences research is "continuous" and "intensive". In the arts and humanities in particular, the prevailing popular, rather more orthodox conception of research as being something conducted in

a laboratory with copious quantities of data does not suffice. As an example, she referred to the performing arts where questions have always arisen about what can be considered "legitimate research". She noted that the display and practice of the art is considered by some scholars in the field as being within the purview of research, something that "not most creative arts students think of". To discover students' perspective on their research, I reached out via email to Sal Bigay '16, who received the opportunity to do research in art over the summer before his junior year. His research internship appeared in line with the more orthodox notions of research although he conducted it off-campus, beyond the walls of Connecticut College. He said "I interned with alumna Kate Gilbert '96, who is a visual artist and curator located in Boston, MA. Kate focuses on the development of public art within the Boston community, and works very closely with artists and art enthusiasts of Boston. Through her connections, I was able to talk with many important public-art related people in Boston. I conducted surveys of three public art projects, and had many productive conversations about the development of public art in

Boston." He was funded by the Mellon Undergraduate Research Program (MURP). To qualify for this research grant, students need to take a research seminar in their sophomore year. Bigay took his sophomore research seminar with Professor Leo Garofalo of the History department.

I reached out to Professor Garofalo to get a faculty angle on the issue. He noted with great enthusiasm the several grants offered by the Mellon Foundation that offer "wonderful opportunities for research by students" and the promise that students have shown for their capacity to engage in research. He said "As CCSRE Director, I have read dozens of excellent student research proposals from all disciplines over the last three years. These projects ranged from local, to US home communities, to overseas research sites. The best developed in dialogue with faculty advisers and community partners, responding to the latter's needs and desires to see research unfold in conversation with professors." His hope is for the college to understand the importance of these research opportunities, so that in the future, possibly all students could participate in sophomore research seminars. Professor Garofalo visualizes the

future of the college as "a community of researchers", as a consequence of a vast expansion of student research.

The influence of contemporary neoliberalism with its emphasis on private accumulation over public benefit is leaving its mark on education as well. Education is increasingly being seen as a means to an end. The end is newer and better products for the market, and more financial gain for students competing for their place in the competitive labor market. A question that has long concerned me is how market driven demand now influences the types of research that students can undertake. Research in the natural sciences is especially useful from the point of view of industry in our market driven world with its aim to develop new products and technologies. That leaves the social sciences, arts and humanities, with their emphases on the collective over the individual, in a rather precarious position in our neoliberal world. I posed a question to Dean Dreher about how market demand influences the kind and the level of research being conducted by students. She did concede that my impression was correct for the external world outside of Connecticut College that put

students in the natural sciences in a more favorable position. These trends especially influence the degree of competition and types of opportunities that students who engaged in research while at Conn, would have to face after graduating from Conn. However, she emphasized that Connecticut College had the resources and remained committed to maintaining and even expanding existing student research opportunities in the social sciences, arts and humanities. Further, those students who make use of available research grants at Connecticut College are put at a distinct advantage when competing for market driven options in the external world, post-graduation.

My hope is that students from Connecticut College engaging in research in the social sciences, arts and humanities use their privilege of studying in an elite liberal arts institution and some of their relative advantage in the market to reverse the very market driven trends that are forcing individuals in society to ignore concern for the collective. Our work can change the world. •

Rocking the Dot

CIARA HEALEY
ARTS EDITOR

Scores of students shuffled into the pews of Harkness Chapel on Friday evening to hear six A Capella groups "Rock the Dot." As April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the concert was the first of several planned on-campus events highlighting the importance of activism on campus. The Green Dot program teaches violence prevention strategies to students, encourages bystander action, and focuses on cultural influence to change abusive behavior. Since the program was implemented in September of 2010, more than 645 students have participated in the 6-hour Green Dot training, vowing to be thoughtful and ethical and establish a sense of responsibility in others.

Before the groups took the mic, Darcie Folsom, the Director of Sexual Violence Prevention & Advocacy on campus, read a quote by Frank Zappa, stating, "Music is always a commentary on society." Much of what is heard on the radio today is degrading and disrespectful towards women. The seemingly constant sexual objectification of women in the media does not help to create a moral atmosphere on campus, or anywhere else in the world for that matter. Recognizing this, the A Capella groups

wanted to celebrate love rather than lust, and chose to sing songs from the 2000s that exemplify healthy relationships.

Featuring songs such as "Lucky" by Jason Mraz and Colbie Caillat, "Beautiful Soul" by Jesse McCartney, and "Everything" by Michael Bublé, the concert was an endearing kickoff to a month of very important advocacy. A TEDx event, lacrosse game, several discussions, and Green Dot training are among some of the events planned for April by the Think S.A.F.E. Project (Sexual Assault Free Environment). "The main reason that Green Dot has been so successful at Conn is because students from across the entire community have been invested. Prevention of power-based personal violence cannot be done by one entity all on its own; this is a cultural issue that everyone can be a part of to make the crucial change that is necessary," Folsom said. Green Dot continues to partner with different organizations across campus, including SAC and A Capella groups, in order to reach more students and deeply root the values of the organization into the campus culture.

As a bonus at the end of the concert on Friday, SAC announced the Floralia 2015 headliners. MisterWives and Cash Cash are set to perform at the all-day music festival in May, among several other

artists and bands. Both of the groups feature pop and electronic dance music, and are quickly gaining wider fan bases.

MisterWives is an indie-pop band based in New York City, most famous for their song, "Reflections." With upbeat music doused in hypnotic melodies, MisterWives is said to put on a great show and undoubtedly will not fall short at Conn. Cash Cash has a similar sound to MisterWives, with their highest charting song being "Take Me Home." Cash Cash has produced three full-length albums and also has provided official remixes for artists such as Krewella, Katy Perry and Bruno Mars. Having performed at several music festivals including Firefly and Lollapalooza, Cash Cash is worth getting excited for.

SAC, A Capella, Green Dot and SafetyNet are among many of the on-campus organizations that collaborate to put on student events such as Rock the Dot, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and an amazing and safe Floralia. While so many schools struggle with sexual assault on campus and do not know how to go about fixing the problem, it is good to know that here at Conn, we have events and discussions planned to make a change, and that at least 645 students will be actively looking out for one another while singing along to Cash Cash and MisterWives. •

Student Poetry

Iridescence

Past breakers
beyond the fishing boats
where gentle winds
mold quiet waves
and nothing to do
is plenty,
the seaweed swaths are drifting.

Ruffled edges
in sprawling dance
wash a glass tabletop and weave
like needles through wet cloth
all shimmering
in the black button eyes
of a bobbing marble seal.

How lucky they are
to have this to themselves
in the vast and swinging volumes
of a hushed sovereign sea.

Samantha Brown

Panther

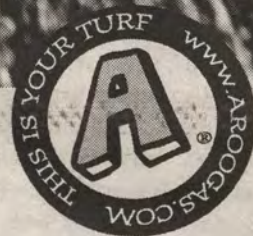
Meeting her
in a worn gaze,
I wish I could
shatter and hone
my bumbling stare
of daggers into a million
pretty needles, gingerly
prick and explore
each star
in the galaxy
of freckles adorning her
impossible skin,
every one a souvenir
from a sunbeam
that has kissed her
lightly across a history
just out of reach
of curious claws,
then move on
to her blank spaces,
eager and gentle points
holding black ink,
and dive in
with the heat of a solar flare,
and the smooth ferocity
of a wild cat.

Connor Storms

The College Voice is seeking student poetry for publication.
Please send all submissions to arts@thecollegevoice.org

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After an Icy Preseason, Camels Sailing Plans to Head Up Nationals This Spring

WELLER HLINOMAZ
STAFF WRITER

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

sailing teams and Sophomore Cooper Nefsky feels "these conditions in New England will give us an edge, as we are one of the only teams in New England able to practice at this point." Another sophomore, Rebecca Quirke, said "the spring training preseason was rewarding. Although mid 30 degree weather is not ideal for our water sport, the team bonded over breaking the ice and even sometimes swimming in the frigid water." They both concluded that the Connecticut College Sailing team had "successfully beat out Mother Nature." Although the conditions were strenuous, Nefsky believes "the squad had a very strong preseason and is looking very encouraging for the rest of the spring." Quirke also added that they "hope to use this momentum, going forward, as preparation for the spring season," saying, "spring training

was a massive success and the first year sailors have brought excellence in both skills and attitude."

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

England finish in B division, locking up 3rd place after 4 races on March 15.

The Connecticut College Sailing Team strives in a division comparable to NCAA Division I sports and has had major success with both the current squad and with the alumni. Of the 16 American sailors competing in the 2012 London Olympics, two of them were Connecticut College alumni. Amanda Clark in the class of 2005 and Bob Willis of 2009 made not only the United States, but also Connecticut College Camels proud in the Olympics. This has set the tone for excellence at Connecticut College, and the sailors continue to compete at an extremely high level to meet these standards. The high standards in the sport, however, come with the responsibility and rigor of a Connecticut College education. Rebecca Quirke said, "The cal-

iber of competition we encounter has students travelling as far west as Oregon, south as Texas and north as Maine for regattas weekly, while trying to juggle the NESCAC caliber of school work." As the sailing team is consistently ranked in the top 20 teams in the country, the Camels plan to continue their success and move up the ranks this spring season. With spirits up from the successful preseason, the Camels plan to build on last year's achievements. Quirk said, "This year I believe we will improve on last year's finish considering our success in the preseason and the talent on this team." •

Women's Water Polo: 14 Wins and Counting

AIMEE MAMDERLINK
STAFF WRITER

With an undefeated conference record of fourteen wins and no losses, Connecticut College's Women's Water Polo team is the team to look out for on campus this season.

The Camels began their conference play last week with a tournament at Monmouth College in Illinois in which they opened the first day with three consecutive wins. The team first beat Macalester College 16-6, then went on to gain victories against Penn State-Behrend University and home team Monmouth University beating both teams by wide margins (16-2 and 19-2 respectively).

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

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

score of the last game.

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

Several members of the team walked away from the final four games with an impressive number of goals. Jacobson and Jasbon netted another ten goals each, and fellow senior classmate Isabelle Baneux earned eight goals.

On the defensive side, the Camels also made waves. In the team's victory against Washington & Jefferson, junior Ashley Amey made ten saves. Sophomore Susan Doetsch managed ten stops in the day's next game against Carthage. Freshman Sarah Pursley demonstrated the Camels' unstoppable, triumphant momentum by gathering nine saves and one steal in the victory against Utica.

The Camels proved their immense stamina as they emerged with seven consecutive wins after the weekend. This weekend at Connecticut College the Women's Water Polo team swept the tournament winning seven games and keeping their 14 game winning streak alive. •



Track and Field Athletes: Sprinting into a new Season

LIZ VAROLI
CONTRIBUTOR

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

eight inches; the 1500 meter run in which Joyce finished in eighth with a time of 4:22.14; and the 60 meter hurdles in which Cort finished in eighth with a time of 9.50 seconds.

The season is far from over, the men have some important, exciting events to train for in the upcoming weeks. In April, the team will compete at the Amherst College Invitational, the Silfen Invitational, the MIT Invitational, the NESCAC Championship, and at the New England Division III Championship. In May, they will compete at the NEICAAA Championships and at the ECAC Division III Championship.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with the three graduating seniors, Patrick Dermody, William Barnes and Michael Joyce to talk a bit about their perspectives as seniors running in their final season as Connecticut College athletes.

When I talked to Dermody, he explained to me that his mentality has changed somewhat since

when he was a freshman on the team. Dermody said, "I have been worried less about stressing over specific races or workouts, and focused more on working hard while running, and enjoying the competition with the other runners." Barnes also explained how this season feels just a little bit different than the previous ones. He clarified that his personal goals have remained the same, do well in the 800-meter and contribute in relays, but this season, he has developed a new sense of how important reaching those goals really is. Barnes' mentality is, "this is the last time I'll ever get the chance to do it (reach his goals)" so he's going to give it his all. Joyce revealed he has a similar outlook on his final season, that this is his last chance to accomplish his goals.

All three revealed how much they are looking forward to the Silfen Invitation-

al on April 10th and 11th, which will be their final chance to compete on their home turf. Dermody, Barnes, and Joyce are all excited to compete in front of their friends and family members that are coming to watch the meet. Dermody and Joyce both expressed that they are looking forward to competing in and seeing how successful they can be, individually and as a team, at the NESCAC Championship and at the New England Division III

Championship in April and May. Barnes said he is simply "looking forward to the later meets when the weather gets better." All three seniors clearly seemed proud of their team and the beginning of their season, with high hopes for their potential success at the end of the season. Each acknowledged that these next few weeks are their "final chance", so they hope to do well and to have a good end of the season. •

Women's Hockey Coach Named NESCAC Coach of the Year



COURTESY OF CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

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

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Following the NCAA Tournament

PETER BURGE
CONTRIBUTOR

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

It has been thirty-nine years since men's basketball saw an undefeated season. The 1976 Indiana Hoosiers were the last, running the table and finishing 32-0 in their championship year. Through the good years and the great teams, no one has since finished unblemished, even if the blemishes were faint. But it will happen this year.

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

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

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

In a sense, with great players leaving early, it can actually create more attention. Last year, all eyes were

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

If these players leaving early are not the problem, is it the lack of scoring? Offense has steadily declined in college since 2000, leaving the NCAA to experiment with a reduced shot-clock of 30 seconds (down from 35), in theory creating more possessions and quicker opportunities to score. The decrease in action on the court could certainly be keeping viewers away, but teams scoring in the low-50s and 60s can't be the reason that half the number of people tuned into the 2014 Championship game than the one in 1994. Were half of those people so disgusted and bored by a few fewer points that they refused to tune in?

In all sports, what keeps viewers away is a simple lack of interest. What turns them away is the knowing that no one else really cares, that there is no public attention and therefore little reason to watch. What draws people in is a team that has a story behind it and is worth watching because it matters in the grand scheme of the sport.

Even without rooting interest, people have watched and will continue to watch Kentucky this year simply to witness. To wonder if this is the team that can go undefeated. To say that they saw this team play and it was the greatest they've ever seen. College basketball needs this. Just ask the women's side.

2010 was a banner year for women's college basketball. It saw record attendance, high television ratings, front-page press, and the greatest run of success it may ever know. Through the course of 2010, the UConn Women's Basketball Team challenged UCLA's venerable 88 game winning streak, an unreachable record that had stood in front of college basketball for nearly four decades. But the team played an underappreciated sport, a sport that garners hardly any national attention for even its greatest accomplishments, with the excep-

tion of maybe "two paragraphs in USA today and one line on the bottom of ESPN" as Huskies coach Geno Auriemma sees it.

Popular momentum blossomed into a national story as the year moved on and it seemed all too obvious that UConn would in fact break UCLA's record. But the nation was not holding its breath to see if UConn could in fact pull it off (the team outscored opponents by an average of 33 points during the streak). They tuned in simply to see it happen.

In their record-breaking game against Florida State, the Huskies played in front of 16,000 people at the XL Center in Hartford, beyond the arena's capacity. In an ensuing game against Stanford, the game in which UConn's streak ended, ESPN2 broke its record for viewership. More people watched the game than two simultaneous NBA games on TNT and a college football bowl game on ESPN.

It was a low-scoring game. Neither team had what could be called superstar or household names. But people watched to see something happen. They watched because they knew that they would be reading about it, talking about it and watching its highlights the next day. They watched because it was sensational, because there was a story. UConn brought interest back to the game. And Kentucky can do the same.

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

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



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

First year Mairead Hynes of the women's basketball team has been honored as this year's NESCAC Rookie of the Year. She has been the only conference player this year to average a double-double and set the College's single season record with 132 makes from the free throw line, among her many accomplishments. •

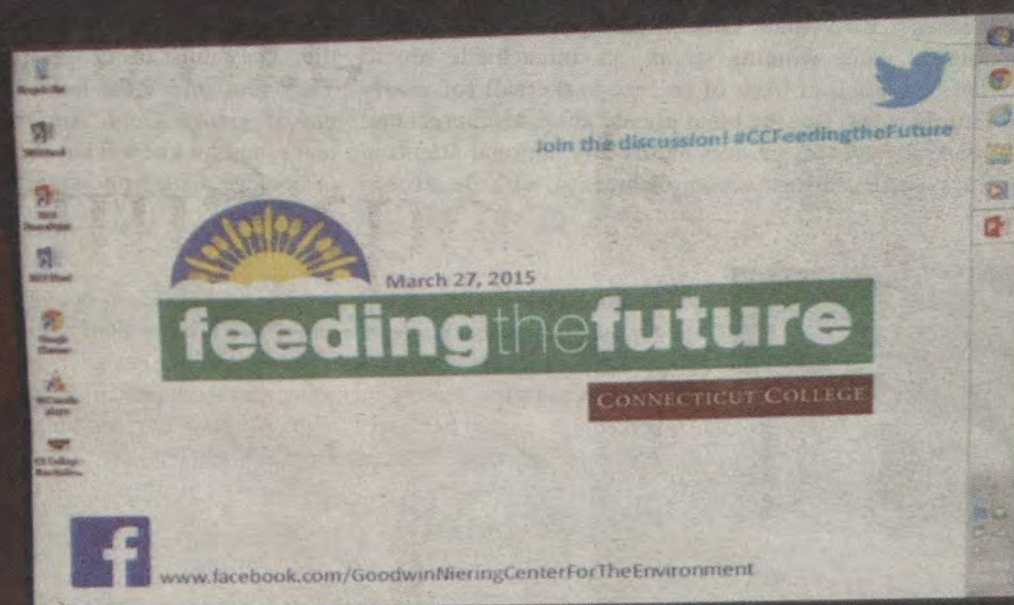


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The Goodwin Neiring Center presents



Feeding the Future



LUCA POWELL
MANAGING EDITOR

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

PHOTOS FROM LUCA POWELL