Professor Sharma Denied Tenure

JULIA CRISTOFANO MANAGING EDITOR

On February 28 a group of faculty members received notice that they had been granted tenure. Shubhara Sharma, Vandana Shiva Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies, was not among them.

As current departmental chair for Gender and Women's Studies and one of only two full time GWS department faculty teaching this year, Sharma's tenure denial came as a surprise to many in the campus community.

"I was concerned and confused when I heard the decision," explained Henry Sincock '16, co-chair of the GWS Student Advisory Board and GWS major. He continued, "I joined the Student Advisory Board last year because Professor Sharma really made it into a force in the GWS department where it previously hadn't been. I don't know what will happen to the work she has done if she leaves."

Alia Roth '14 echoed Sincock's concern and affection for Sharma stating, "Working with Professor Sharma throughout this past semester, attending countless lectures, and reading her literature on The Feminist Wire I was in complete shock when I heard that she had been denied tenure.

At Connecticut College, tenure is granted on the basis of "excellence in teaching, scholarship and service," rather subjective guidelines that leave a great deal of room for interpretation. This may explain why Sharma, who was told last year that she was on track for tenure and moving in the right direction, could encounter such a different response just 12 months later.

Three main bodies are responsible for granting tenure: The Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure Committee (APT), composed of five tenured faculty members, Roger Brooks, Dean of the Faculty, and President Katharine Bergeron. Records of tenure, particularly those of recent denials and appeals, are confidential material to virtually everyone except the office of the Dean of the Faculty, yet anecdotal accounts from professors suggest that tenure denial has been rare in recent years. "I think this is due to better mentoring and more honest appraisals," opined Dr. Joan Chrisler, Chair of the Psychology. Chrisler recounted that in the past there have been times when a department decides they cannot recommend a candidate for tenure. In such a case, they typically advise the individuals not to go up for tenure review, and those individuals instead leave the College when their contracts expire. To deny tenure to an individual recommended by the department is "very unusual," she said.

In the weeks following the initial denial, students rallied around Sharma, collecting over 300 signatures and some 70 letters of support from students, alumni, parents, faculty and staff. An appeal was filed with the APT committee to review the decision, but on April 9th Professor Sharma received a letter from President Bergeron stating that the appeal had been overruled and appeal tenure denial would not be reversed.

Students have refused to accept this as the end of the fight for Professor Sharma. A sizable group of students, spearheaded by members of the GWS department, Women's Center executive board, and others who have worked in a close, cross-disciplinary manner with Sharma have held several meetings over the past few weeks to plan a course of action. "I looked into the archives to try and find other cases like Sharma's but there doesn't seem to be a precedent for this situation," said Kelley Kobuk.
I entered this year under the assumption that my art wards... an idea for all you juniors, sophomores and freshmen who are inclined to read them...

1. Have goals. Seriously, it's easy to just float on by school like this, but give yourself a purpose. I cannot imagine that the real world is nearly as saturated with opportunity as this campus.

2. Don't take no for an answer. That's how you reach your goals, dumb. But in all seriousness, it's a small school, and even though we register for classes online and email our professors more than we go to office hours, there's always a human being on the other end of any decision put before you. So if you don't like the decision, find out who made it and change his or her mind.

3. Talk outside the library. You don't have to be smoking a cigarette to step away from your work and just talk with your friends—or strangers—for fifteen minutes. Even if you're talking about your work, take a break, meet new people and learn about what your peers are working on. There are some freaking interesting people here.

4. Eat alone sometimes, dinner especially. This one's mostly practical. You don't have to wrangle a dozen friends together just to stuff a nasty Harry meal down your guile. Grab a New York Times and leave it unspared on your table. Instead, stare off into space and take a moment for yourself. Nobody is going to think you're a loser and if they do, it's probably not because you're eating by yourself.

5. Respect the Honor Code. Even if you don't think anyone else does (but always assume that they do). But still lock your door. That's just common sense.

"What are you doing after graduation?" It's a question that makes me cringe every time I hear it. Recently, I've been spending a lot of time with a switch, which leads whoever is asking to add, "Oh, should I not ask?"

"No," I say. "You can. But I don't have an answer." As April comes to a close, I'm still wondering what my next adventure will be post-graduation. Not having a plan, not having a job, not having any idea of my future after Conn used to terrify me. When I began college, I naively believed that I would graduate with a well-paying, sophisticated career. With a well-paying, sophisticated career (I'm not sure which), I've been back every Monday night. As Bedingfield and Shanfield play their final goodbyes and shed some tears on our last day mornings: Dave and Julia sing along to Natasha Bedingfield's "Unwritten," as I grumble about their performance. In short, we've come full circle.

Ruminating on the present when the future is a handful of Camel cookies, a few school-sponsored free drinks and a piece of paper away.

At the same time, I've noticed that in the past few weeks I have begun to shift from that of a frazzled college student to independent twenty-something-year-old. It's taken almost four years, but I finally feel 94% self-sufficient—that's part thanks to my responsibilities as co-editor in chief of the Voice and 16% in part due to the natural process of growing up (I never took a stats class).
FROM YOUR FUTURE EIC

During my semester abroad, while residing in a small, uninsulated cabin somewhere in the upper peaks of the Andes Mountains in Peru, I received an email from the Voice and realized there was no escape. I also realized that I didn’t mind that in the least.

When I joined the Voice as a first-year student, I made the mistake of sitting in on what is possibly the grimiest sofa in all of existence that calls the Voice office home. I watched the banter between the editors and older writers and was in awe of their advanced maturity, wisdom, humor and obvious mastery of the English language. They joked, they criticized (both the school and one another), they calmly mentioned jaunts to the mythic campus bar. These were the beautiful people.

And they still are. While the fame-worthy feelings have subsided to a point where I can stand to stare directly at Dave, Melanie and Julia without being blinded by their genius, in all seriousness, I completely admire and respect them as college journalists, intellectuals, and, overall, human beings. They turned the newspaper from a not-quite-charming campus tabloid to a legitimate source of news that I haven’t seen used to clean up spills in Cro lately. It contains things like words and ideas—good words and ideas. For lack of a better word: it’s sexy and I can only hope that I can maintain this progress.

In terms of the “vision” I’m supposed to have for the coming year to make the paper my own, I don’t think I’ve gotten that far. I’ve gotten to the point where the idea of running this paper is only slightly less horrifying than existential ennui-inducing than eventual graduation. All I know at this point is that I have a pretty fantastic staff of enthusiastic editors, as well as a few old-so-and-so’s from this year’s legendary staff. I think Dan Cokkin in advance for creating me as a stick-knot, an incapacitated babbling man in the face of Adobe InDesign. I promise I will tag-team you out when it gets to be past your bedtime. Thank you to Lucas, Matteo, Eleanor and Hallie for teaching me being graduating seniors and sticking around under a quietly, chair-crowded office. Even though there are moments I consider stealing you and Met’s diploma and making them stay forever, I don’t think there is anyone here that could have prepared me any better for the challenge that awaits.

Thank you for reading,
Molly

FROM COPY

Dear Campus Community,

People love referring to things as “an art.” For example, “editing is an art,” some editors would quip. I disagree. To me, art is fluid and irrational, adhering to rules set only by the artist (Dave can attest to that). The choice to set rules exists, and they can be dictated by inconsistencies: cultural climate, individual morals and precedent. Grammar, however, is consistent. It is elegant and relevant, and we should all take a moment to appreciate it.

Grammar allows us to be who we are by keeping us in check. We need its rules and regulations for the sake of professionalism, communication and consistency. Being able to express oneself adequately is the basis for everything. My love affair with grammar began during my freshman year of high school, when my English teacher imparted to us her knowledge of the positive correlation between grammar and employment. I wouldn’t go so far as to say that having good grammar will get you a job, but having a grasp of the Oxford comma will keep your resume clean and concise.

Language is, to say the least, very important to me because communication is also very important to me. Discovering channels through which we can reach one another is exciting and sometimes terrifying, but it allows us to embrace similarities and differences that we can learn from and experience. Language is the tip of the iceberg in terms of modes of communication, and it opens up a world of experience that few have had the chance to experience.

Access your own space. Explore your own channels. Deepen your knowledge and broaden your interests. Do so with proper grammar. It will only benefit you in the end.

Hallie

FROM OPINIONS

These sorts of pieces have one of two endings. The first kind ends happily—the message being that things at this school are improving, that we are being kinder to each other or more inclusive, that everyone is trying and things are working. The second kind is admonishing, usually, telling us that we need to change things aren’t looking good, someone messed up. But, on occasion, there is just a dose of reality. May that year, that year you were wearing crop tops with your friends. Sometimes there is nothing to write. Floralis is just such an occasion to put down our pens and put on cutoffs, stop criticizing each other just once.

Newer readers and writers of The College Voice might say, “But the rampant drinking!” “Oh, right? There’s an angle here!” Others will cry, “Misused funds!” or “Horrible, horrible music.” Believe me when I say it has been said before—J.K. Rowling is said I’ve said it before. There is no angle. It’s just a nice day. It can be so exhausting to be constantly nit-picking for the next thing to criticize.

On the night before our last Voice meeting, I was in a panic looking for things wrong with our school. I was pouring over other online college newspapers, I was thinking of everything that had bobbied up rage in me recently, and I was drawing a blank. I don’t know if it’s the calm resignation that happens as you approach the end of a year or the way things seem to settle, the people the best versions of themselves, but I began to know that there was nothing to say. We traffic in opinions. We have opinions about government and political correctness and language and food service. But there is something to be said for blankness, that kind of early-May, happy vacancy. It doesn’t mean we’re stupid or unengaged, dispassionated, or “complicit with the truth.” Whatever the critique may be, it just means we’re open.

It’s a common enough thing to be sitting on the third floor of the library and thinking about how the four people talking loudly next to you have committed the most unforgivable of Conn sins and is most definitely getting to the darkest depths of hell for it. More common still is feeling that wrenching in the stomach when you have a particularly uninspiring meal (literal wrenching) or class (figurative wrenching): What is clear is that some things are worth writing about and getting angry about, and some things aren’t. You’ll know it when you see it.

And despite what Conn College marketing might have us believe, maybe this is a place like any other; sometimes it is a little painful to be a part of it and irritating too. We all have our critiquings. But this is for a less predictable kind of culture that first made me fall in love with Conn’s social life. Good bathrooms—especially that of the second floor of Freeman and the first floor of Windham still in their original, early 20th century glory—have made me a stronger person.

RIP, Stash’s. In tandem with this thought, I will only benefit you if I've gotten to the point where the idea of running this paper is only slightly less horrifying than existential ennui-inducing than eventual graduation. All I know at this point is that I have a pretty fantastic staff of enthusiastic editors, as well as a few old-so-and-so’s from this year’s legendary staff. I think Dan Cokkin in advance for creating me as a stick-knot, an incapacitated babbling man in the face of Adobe InDesign. I promise I will tag-team you out when it gets to be past your bedtime. Thank you to Lucas, Matteo, Eleanor and Hallie for teaching me being graduating seniors and sticking around under a quietly, chair-crowded office. Even though there are moments I consider stealing you and Met’s diploma and making them stay forever, I don’t think there is anyone here that could have prepared me any better for the challenge that awaits.

-Ayla

FROM NEWS

I would say it’s impossible to fully prepare oneself for the waves of emotions brought about by the end of senior year at Conn. Faced with less than three weeks remaining of calling New London our home; it’s become increasingly evident how precious every minute is. Even once recognizing the legitimacy of the looming May 18, the prospect of actually saying goodbye seems surreal. In light of this, these memories—slightly skewed outlook on life, I’ve tried to collect the bits and pieces of my Conn experience I hope will resonate with the members of my class as well as our younger camels we’re about to leave behind.

Firstly, long live the floor party. While 75% of this school knows nothing of a graduating seniors and President Higdon escorted by SGA to the third floor of Freeman and the first floor

The professors and students of the Department of Government and International Relations have brought the caliber of my education to an incredibly high point, which I am so appreciative of. Trying new things my senior year was one of the best decisions I could have made. Two of these experiences both culminated in Evans Hall. The 2014 Valentine Monologues and of course, the third annual TEDxConn College was lucky enough to join the amazing executive team.

But sticking with old habits pays off as well. After writing for The College Voice for four years, I can honestly say becoming an editor of the News. Section has been an honor and a privilege, I will miss it, as all of the aforementioned, uncompromising ambitions that have made this place home for me.

Thank you for reading.
Molly
Second Language Acquisition Class: learning through Community Involvement

ELEANOR STORCK STAFF WRITER

Every year, after the excitement of Floralia and the rush of commencement, seniors reach the bitter-sweet end of their journey at Connecticut College and are great sources of advice for the next class. As seniors graduate, they reflect on their experiences and share insights on how to make the most of college. This year, Senior Week, which is sponsored by the Junior Laurel Chain and Usher Committee's dedication and hard working on the committee has helped me realize just how much goes into planning night events which has helped me appreciate SAC, the class and evening activities, some Planning on the most important events for the week is packed with day and evening activities, some exciting for the graduating class and some including family members. "The Final Tour '14" will kick off on the evening of Tuesday, May 20, which will conclude on Saturday, May 17, with the Firefly Music Festival Gala for family and friends to celebrate the night before the 96th Commencement on Sunday.

The senior week co-chairs both share the sentiment that working on the committee has been very rewarding. "Working senior week has been absolutely phenomenal," said Tajea. "I never thought that it would result in closer bonds and connections with so many juniors.

The committee meets two weeks to plan and plan each event of the much-anticipated week that represents the culmination of a senior's college experience. We devote a lot of time and dedication, but I know once it all comes together it will all be worth it," said Tajea. "It has helped me realize just how much goes into planning night events which has helped me appreciate SAC, the class and evening activities, some exciting for the graduating class and some including family members. "The Final Tour '14" will kick off on the evening of Tuesday, May 20, which will conclude on Saturday, May 17, with the Firefly Music Festival Gala for family and friends to celebrate the night before the 96th Commencement on Sunday.

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Floralia: A Recent History

Memories of the Past and Upcoming Excitement

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Professor Sharma Denied Tenure

"14, a GWS major currently in class with Professor Sharma.

Despite this, the group is com-
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Retention & Rigor
in the Center for Art and Technology
CONTINUED FROM FRONT
in 1998, but Friedman has been managing the day-to-day operations of the center since she took her post in 1996 after having graduated from the College in 1980. She is responsible for recruiting students, helping them through the center’s application process and advising them on their projects, since they’ve been accepted. “I’m very much into the logistics,” said Friedman. “I ask them what they envision their final project to be, and then work backwards from there.”

When Tony Knapp ‘14 arrived at Conn, he was strongly interested in technical theater, though he says “less as an artist than as a technician problem solver.” The Center for Arts and Technology seemed like a good way to merge his interest in lighting, sound and technology, so he applied and was accepted to the program during his sophomore year. However, Knapp says that he “didn’t really have anything much to do with the program until senior year, and then I kind of sat down, picked a project, and realized at some point that I was an awful artist—mainly because I’ve never been an artist.”

Though all of the interdisciplinary centers induct students during their sophomore year, CAT is different from the others in that it focuses heavily on the students’ senior year projects. Students apply with a general idea of the types of projects they might pursue, but these rough concepts are usually far removed from the projects the students end up with. Up until senior year, much of the students’ involvement in the center consists of advising, making sure that students are registering for classes that align with their own goals and the center’s requirements, and ensuring that students are getting valuable, immersive experiences through their summer internships. But “the goal and beauty of the program,” said Friedman, “is the senior year project.”

Because of so much of the work up until senior year is preparatory and does not relate directly to the students’ final projects, the weight and rigor of the yearlong assignment can come as a surprise. “When that reality hits some students, they may find that their project is no longer aligned with their interests,” explained Friedman.

During what Friedman describes as “an intensive year of student study and research,” CAT students would come together for a weekly seminar run by Ross Morin, Assistant Professor of Film Studies. The seminar serves as a workshop, where ideas are discussed and students are given the opportunity to both present and defend their projects to a group of peers and advisors. Though each CAT seminar may come from any major and each work with a multitude of different advisors, the seminar provides some continuity among student experiences and focuses among their projects.

However, some students who dropped and those who followed through with the program say that the seminars tended to be extremely frustrating. “People were much more critical this year about peoples’ projects,” said Bruce Haik ‘14. “The truth is a lot of time you explain your idea to the seminar, and people don’t get it but are trying to be critical at the same time. People get upset about it. I think that the advisors themselves need to be part of the seminar in some way, so you get that sort of backlog for your ideas—especially early on.”

Despite this, Haik continued with the program, saying, “as we approach the end I’ve become less frustrated. Most of the people quit during the first period where there was a lot of heated discussion.” For his CAT project, Haik compiled 800 pop songs from the past four years from four different genres. Using Python—a computer coding language—Haik created a running file of the lyrics from all 800 songs that he could manipulate to perform analysis, like finding out which words are most commonly used in each genre.

“You can enter a set of lyrics and it can tell you what genre those lyrics are most connected to. You might find a country song with lyrics that are more reminiscent of rap, but because of the song’s other qualities it’s in the country genre,” explained Haik.

Haik, along with Georgiana Naumann, Sara Russo, ’13, and Dan Wight, ’14, supervise the four CAT students who will be graduating as CAT scholars this year. “The four students—although we would of course like [the program] to be larger—it’s solid. They’ve accomplished amazing things, they set out with goals,” said Friedman.

Friedman and Haik both described a “breakthrough” point, where students’ projects begin to take shape, and they can move through their individual studies more swiftly without having to worry about defending their ideas against criticism so adamantly. For Jake Jusda ‘14, though, the breakthrough did not come soon enough.

First and foremost, I left the program because my goals had shifted and they weren’t in line with the program,” said Jusda. But Jusda also expressed exasperation with the slow rate of progress that occurred as a result of having so many different sources of feedback and direction, Jusda, who admits that he wasn’t “super confident” in his project to begin with, felt as though he was “being pulled in all different directions.”

Knapp echoed this sentiment, adding, “I’ve talked to people outside and inside the department—CAT is cognizant of how hard it is to make a good project. They just aren’t cognizant of a solution. If you really get your butt in gear and figure it out on your own, everyone is willing to help if you ask the right questions of the right people. But if you don’t know the right questions to ask, that dropout looks pretty good.”

“It is a problem in some ways,” said Friedman, speaking of the discrepancies between students’ career goals and the feedback delivered through the seminar. “But in the work world—the real world—you have to wear many hats. To be getting assignments from so many different people is very beneficial.”

“We talk to alumni all the time who are talking about the amazing training and experience [they received through CAT]. The working world is all about synthesizing information.” That’s what employers are looking for—different perspectives, people who can work in a team. It’s really good training.”

Dan White considers his experience with the program to be “one of the more positive.” White came into the program with a very clear idea of what he wanted to do—create an audio-based video game for the blind. Unlike those who joined the hoping to find inspiration through the center, White approached the center with a fully-formed concept, which he has brought to realization throughout this year.

White recognizes the intensity of the deep immersion the Center places on its students. “If I didn’t have something that I was personally invested in, I wouldn’t have stayed on the program,” he said. “But I didn’t mind working on it late into the night, I enjoyed coding and I’m visually impaired myself.”

Of the seminar, White mentioned that Professor Morin held people to high standards—more so, he believes, than in past years. Additionally, Morin “comes in things with more of an arts perspective. If you’re a technological person, that can be very jarring. He expects you to know why you’re doing something. ‘[That stayed] can really defend why we’re doing this,’ he said. ‘It’s really important for people to understand that these projects are strong. But that can be a lot for people to handle if you don’t quite know what you’re doing or why you’re doing it.’”

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Students Reflect on Trips to Taiwan and Japan

MARINA STUART
STAFF WRITER

On April 16, students from two classes within the East Asian Studies department gathered in the atrium above Harris to share their experiences about visiting Taiwan and Okinawa, Japan over spring break. The symposium was sponsored by the Academic Resource Center.

The Taiwan trip was led by Seung-Geun Kim and included students from the Intermediate Chinese class. "We chose to take these students because they are pre-ahead students in the Chinese language who have been studying the traditional Chinese characters, which are only used nowadays in Hong Kong and Macau," said Professor Kim. "This was an opportunity for the students to see and use characters they are familiar with." This trip was one of the Traveling Research and Immersion Program (TRIPS) at Connecticut College, and is traditionally done every four years, however this time it had been eight years since the last trip.

The trip to Okinawa was led by Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese Takane Watanabe for his course centered around Post-World War II Japan. "I wanted to take them to a smaller Japanese island, one with more diversity within the culture," said Professor Watanabe. "Okinawa has a different culture and different problems compared to Japan, and I wanted to show that to the students."

While on the Taiwan trip, each student had to focus on a different project while away; and each April poster dedicated to his or her topic at the symposium. Projects included "Theater in Contemporary Taiwan" by Amy Glidden '16, "The Time: Taiwan's Tea Culture" by Lily Ky '16 and "Taiwanese Street Food: More Than Snakes, Bugs, and Monkey Brains" by Erika Wu '16.

As Wu-Leung said about his topic, some people may see this food as strange or exotic, yet Wu-Leung grew up with this cuisine and wants to show why and how it is used in Taiwanese culture. "One thing you'll notice all this food has in common is ... that the people are not picky, everything is made out of necessity and leftovers. Bubble tea was invented because someone had tea and tapioca pudding, and they put it together." He went on to say that because of food scarcity, most snacks are made to use up all parts of the plant or produce, much like sausages.

Wu-Leung appreciated how lucky he was to grow up with this culture and be able to enjoy helping people who were uncomfortable with these unique foods and saw it as a unifying experience.

Another goal of this trip was for students to experience a part of Taiwanese culture they wouldn't be exposed to during their regular studies. "The rest of China uses simplified characters, so it was important to take the students to a place that uses traditional characters and speaks Mandarin," explained Professor Fong-King. "Also, I grew up in Taiwan so it better serves the students to go there."

Part of Professor Watanabe's goals for the research excursion was to let students experience the multiple opinions and unique culture within the island. "We visited an American military base, protest site, peace memorial, university, the US Consulate General and met with high school and university students," said Ian Rathkey '14. "It was a varied, educational, yet also fun experience."

Watanabe echoed his student's opinions. "I was very inspired by the survivors of WWII and wanted to show them the stories to the students. We also went to a small, untainted island off of Okinawa, which has a very sacred religion. I think the students really enjoyed learning about that as well."

Sara Gildersleeve '15 went on the trip hoping to learn more about the relationship between Japan and Okinawa. Her project was titled "Okinawan Identity as a Political Force" and focused on the political and economic forces that influence the Okinawa identity today.

What she found, however, was a trip structured around learning about all the different aspects of Okinawa and hearing stories from all sides of the issues there. "We went to a cave where Okinawan school girls worked as nurses during the Battle of Okinawa in World War II; at one point we turned off all the lights to experience what it would have been like for those girls. Afterwards we went to a peace memorial and then heard a survivor's testimo-
y. I couldn't imagine being trapped in such a claustrophobic space."

Said Gildersleeve, "My most profound moment on the trip was seeing how much my views about the world changed, the general picture was more complicated, and the more I heard, the less I knew."

SCOTT KALUNZY
CONTRIBUTOR

This article is a follow up to a previous article on the occupation of the Taiwanese legislature. The students who have been studying in Taipei by Taiwanese students has come to an end after more than 24 days of continuous protest and intense political maneuvering on the part of both the protesters and the government. Though the threats of hand have been lifted temporarily down the road, the dynamic and unprecedented events of the past six weeks will no doubt affect the political trajectory of Taiwan and the East Asian region for years to come.

Taiwanese student protesters forced their way into the legislature in Taipei on March 18 to protest a controversial trade agreement with mainland China. The agreement, called the "Cross-Strait Services Trade Agreement," was signed between representatives of the Taiwanese and mainland Chinese governments in Shanghai in June 2013. The agreement was controversial in Taiwan from the outset, with many, especially the younger generation, fearing that closer economic integration with the mainland would disadvantage Taiwanese economically and put Taiwan's democratic political system in danger of being undermined by politicians in Beijing.

Mainland China views Taiwan as a breakaway province and has made clear its intention to integrate the island into the sphere of influence, using force if necessary. Despite a recent improvement in relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, many Taiwanese remain distrustful of mainland China.

The leaders and students participating in the occupation, now called the "Sunflower Student Movement," decided on April 7 that their occupation of the legislature would end, effective April 10. Political issues surrounding the protests, however, are far from resolved. In making the decision to evacuate the legislature, protest leaders made clear that the decision was the result of a shift in strategy, not a change in goals. When first occupying the legislature, they had made it clear that their goals were twofold. First, they intended to force the government to withdraw or severely modify the trade pact with mainland China. Second, they wanted all future deals with Beijing to be put under close scrutiny by a supervisory body that would determine if and how the deals would compromise Taiwan's political system, economic strength and national security.

Republic of China (Taiwan) President Ma Ying-jeou had made clear that while a future mechanism for reviewing cross-strait agreements would be considered in the future, it would not be able to negotiate, and had to be accepted as-is. However, Weng Pin-Jing, the legislative speaker, had promised to delay ratification of the pact until a clear review process was decided on. Therefore, the students decided that enough of their demands had been met to justify ending the protests in the DPP, although they have promised future demonstrations of a more traditional nature in the future.

Connecticut College Professor of Government and International Relations John Tian, author of "Politics of Interdependence against Government, Business, and the Politics of Interdependence and Conflict across the Taiwan Strait," has studied the development of economic and political interaction between Taiwan and mainland China. He attributes the protests to a failed "psychological adjustment to a new reality," in which Taiwan, once an economic powerhouse of the Asia-Pacific region, is now falling behind rivals like Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea. In his opinion, economic integration is inevitable among a worldwide movement toward globalized markets. Even without the passage of a trade pact, Tian believes, Taiwan will still likely become more and more politically and economically dependent on mainland China. The new pact, he said, is an inevitable result of global economic movement that will have to be passed eventually if Taiwan is to remain competitive in the global market.

Nevertheless, many Taiwanese remain deeply skeptical about the effects of the trade pact on their way of life. The trade pact has an expected positive contribution to GDP of just 0.03% over ten years, and would involve an influx of mainland media and capital that some fear would serve to slowly force Taiwan to come under the control of the mainland government. Many in Taiwan are deeply concerned that along with this re-

integration will come an eventual erosion of the civil liberties and rights Taiwanese have gained over decades of struggle and civil action.

The date the protesters vacated the legislature, April 10, was chosen because 35 years ago on that day the United States enacted the Taiwan Relations Act which suggested - but did not guarantee - that the United States would come to Taiwan's aid in the case of aggression by the mainland Chinese government. As tensions increase between the two sides, many in the United States have watched warily, fearing that the "Taiwan Issue" could damage relations between the world two largest economies, and its impact on the uncertain future of Taiwan. Views on the pact and the protests are still in flux, with both being found controversial and undemocratic by certain sectors of Taiwanese society. Municipal elections, scheduled for November, will give the Taiwanese people a chance to voice their opinions on both issues. Until then, it may not be possible to say if it was the government or the protesters who won this latest round of political upheaval in Tai-
wan. *
COLIN LANG
STAFF WRITER

Conn is a residential college with on-campus housing guaranteed all four years; we all came here, well aware of this fact. The 2014-2015 housing lottery booklet clearly states, "Students are expected to live in residence at the College unless a parent, guardian, spouse or dependent is within a 50 mile radius of the campus." For the past several years, however, due to a housing crunch, a select few full-time, senior status, students, who are not married and do not have any siblings, have been able to rent homes in the New London area independent from the College. For the ’14-’15 academic year, our class alone tripled the number of off-campus students. Thus, the New London area independent living is well aware of this fact. The on-campus housing guarantee that afforded to them in the past. This is not the only community that their request was denied.

Hammond has recently announced that the Class of 2015 will be the last senior class to have the convenience of live-in area farms, Amherst, Bates, Bowdoin, Colby, Middlebury, Trinity and Williams all accept a limited number of on-campus apartments and locations; most remind students the implication of off-campus living and encourage students to consider returning to campus. Initially, I believed that this decision was a result of behavioral incidences; parties at off-campus homes are still broken up by the New London Police and in October four students were issued criminal summons for breach of peace. Sara Rotenberg-Rogerger, Director of Residential Education and Living (REAL), assured me that the behavior was not the reason for removing off-campus housing as an option; she recognizes that the health and safety of students damaged breakfast sandwich, or anything for that matter, from Sweeties. Everything is homemade and delicious is themselves. They give students discounts during delivery Tuesday. Thursday, nor is it unusual to find yourself returning to the same breakfast spots every Sunday morning. It is to be expected that you will form favorite places, and eating there a slight chance that off-campus will hold over the summer? Even after the number of off-campus neighborhoods could encourage more active and engaged community members. However, only 20 percent currently live off-campus and continue to offer community immersion through housing, off-campus housing would have to dramatically expand, a plan that would only permanently destroy the ideals of being a residential college leaving students disconnected from the campus community and culture.

Off-campus housing forces students to think differently about food, cleaning, utilities, maintenance - and being indisputably in the New London Police Department jurisdiction. I am not sure I could or would want to handle the responsibility of renting a home and completing my three terms perfect, and study-away students have solidified but as Rotenberg-Rogerger said, "so many students would have to align."*

The Places You’ll Go, Here in New Lo

KAT BARKER & LILY PLOTKIN
CONTRIBUTORS

We’re sure by now almost everyone has read (or at least heard about) the article “Shame on Connecticut College” written by David Collins in The Day, or the read the response published in The Voice (and later, The Day) by Sam Norcross last week. And we’re sure some people have also found a community between New London and Connecticut College. Despite this recent debate, however, we have found that the community of New London is eager to get to know Conn students. And we believe, now in our fourth year at Connecticut College, it is extremely important for students to get to know the greater community.

Because of our geographic location, high up on this hill, separated by Route 32, it is easy to feel a bit disconnected from downtown New London. This, however, should not be a reason to stay away, but rather, a reason for the students of the College to make a more conscious effort to engage with the community. Obviously, many students already frequent a few of the favorite spots. But are we covering all the bases? So, we set out on a quest to venture down the hill and discover all that New London has to offer.

Last month, I, Kat, sat down with two representatives from the Oasis Bar, the owner of Angel’s Pizza in Mystic, and Mario, the owner of Prime Steakhouse in Norwich—and although the reason for the visit was centered around organizing the TFC conference that took place a few weekends ago, we inevitably strayed off topic. At one point they asked me, “Where do Conn students typically go out to drink?” My answer was predictable, I found myself listing off some of the usual suspects, to which they exclaimed, “Engage yourself. I’m on your overnight list of other places! You have to go check out so many other places!”

They mentioned Mi Cava first, a traditional, hole-in-the-wall Mexican place right off of Bank Street, followed by North End Restaurant, an Italian restaurant right downtown New London. How had I never heard of these places? When I confessed, they were shocked. I had gone through nearly four years at Conn and had failed to step outside of my off-campus comfort zone. It’s not unusual to hear “Tiki” or “Exotic” restaurants as places students get to know during their college career.

There are currently 1, 805 beds on campus and only 7, 112 of those beds are on-campus apartments that is a lot of extra space. As the lottery booklet states, this decision is simply about need. For the 2014-15 academic year we do not anticipate needing to release seniors from their campus housing contract as we have in the past few years.

Having never lived off-campus, my initial thoughts are, “How wonderful! I could cook for my friends! No Harris food! I could live with my friends and not be bothered by fire drills or noisy, drunk strangers!” However, this plan seemed to make sense for the ever-senior-senior, but I came to Conn because I wanted my academic experience to meld together.

Living within New London neighborhoods could encourage more active and engaged community members. However, only 20 percent currently live off-campus and continue to offer community immersion through housing, off-campus housing would have to dramatically expand, a plan that would only permanently destroy the ideals of being a residential college.

Seniors can always submit an off-campus housing petition, but as a proactive measure, Rotenberg-Rogerger and REAL staff want must know that their request will most likely be denied due to multiple conversations and decisions within the Administration. Is there a slight chance that off-campus housing will open up over the summer? Even after the number of off-campus neighborhoods could encourage more active and engaged community members. However, only 20 percent currently live off-campus and continue to offer community immersion through housing, off-campus housing would have to dramatically expand, a plan that would only permanently destroy the ideals of being a residential college.

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Lost in Translation

Difficulties with the transfer of credits taken abroad

It is a privilege to have the option to study abroad, so the process of finding a program that fits your needs should be taken seriously.

"It should really be like looking at colleges all over again. There are so many resources to inform yourself about whether the program is right for you," said Parson.

An element of the experience of Study Away as a whole is being surprised by where you will find yourself. For some, the culture itself is confusing and new ("Culture Shock" is one of the many issues covered in the Study Away manual.) Kemsey, as well as fellow juniors, Abigail Stevenson and Will Pisano, say that they felt relatively unprepared for their transition into UCT. "We were really not given any information about the grading system or other aspects of the university program," said Pisano. It is unclear whether the Study Away Office gave these students any indication that past students had issues studying at UCT. This would have been worth mentioning during the application process.

That said, I agree with Parson that it is really the student's responsibility to do all the possible research on their selected program to be sure that they go in with at least a rudimentary sketch of what their experience might look like. It is a privilege to have the option to study abroad, so the process of finding a program that fits your needs should be taken seriously. Part of the search should include looking at the size of the university, the location, housing options, and offered courses, among other things. For sophomores in college, the process should really be more independent, more than when students applied to college, and that should come with the basic responsibility of knowing the fundamentals of the program.

Pisano, Kemsey, and other students that recently returned from study away passed a resolution in SGA that may lead to policy changes in a way that would allow students to take their classes abroad as Pass/Fail rather than for a grade. This idea has some merit: allowing students to take classes Pass/Fail would alleviate some of the academic stress added to the initial anxieties of immersion in another language. This could give students more opportunity to travel and fully commit themselves to exploring the culture.

Colby College does not count credits taken abroad toward the students' overall GPA as stated in their student handbook. "The policy to grant credit, but not factor grades into the GPA for non-Colby programs stems from the inherent impossibility of controlling the curricula of all the programs that we approve for credit transfer." It is a fair point that counting credit hours at another institution that cannot be exactly equivalent to Colby's curriculum seems ridiculous. Studying away is not part of the Conn experience if we are physically leaving campus to experience the outside world. Why should grades from classes we take elsewhere be so fully integrated into our Conn records?

Again, though, how useful can this resolution be if, as the Study Away handbook mentions, even if we were to be given merely a chunk of noncommittal, Pass/Fail credit on our official Conn transcripts, graduate schools and employers are still perfectly within their rights to expect students to provide an additional transcript from their foreign university that shows the actual, numerical grades? Opting out of immediate responsibility for the specific grades catches up if employers are also likely to use the abroad transcripts as part of their hiring process. "It is, after all, an academic experience," concluded Parson.

Overall, I think these issues reflect deficiencies on everyone's part. The Office of Study Away should include more information as to how they go about changing (or really, not changing) grades from foreign grading scales, and students should take responsibility when it comes to looking at what system their chosen program uses. At this point, many NESCAC schools no longer calculate abroad credits into overall GPA. Colby now stands at the precipice of either making the choice to join the majority of the conference, or to maintain the current system. After reading the Study Away handbooks of nearly all of the NESCAC schools, I found that all of the programs are inherently the same. They all expect their students to take charge in deciding to study away and molding their own experience while still being mindful of academic challenges in the midst of new, cultural ones.
Calculating Worth: Conn’s Value As More Than a Price Tag

SARAH HUCKINS
STAFF WRITER

Two weeks ago, a friend told me about one of the hardest questions she’s faced as a Tour Guide. She was showing a prospective student and her parents around campus when the student’s mother asked, “What makes the Conn experience worth $60,000?”

The story was told over dinner amidst light conversation, but after leaving J.A., the question stayed with me, gnawing at the back of my mind. The question, or rather my lack of an answer, shook me. I was disconcerted that after four years I couldn’t clearly articulate a response, even to myself.

But the next day the answer came to me. I was in Castle Court as the sun set, watching Mayra Valle’s senior thesis dance piece, and I thought to myself that this day was the perfect example of the Conn experience, and what it is truly worth. It had been a quintessential spring afternoon but students had flocked inside, eschewing the radiant sunshine to fill Evans Hall. For the better part of the day, I sat alongside my peers listening to inspiring and thought-provoking TED talks, dashing out to attend a friend’s senior voice recital, finally ending up at the Dance Department Concert.

It was a predominantly sedentary day, but one that highlighted the incredible abundance of talent and dedication amongst my fellow Camels. Standing there in the twilight, letting the circulation come back to my feet, I realized that, for me, Connecticut College is defined by the incredible students and the opportunities the school provides them to pursue and showcase their passions. But the question still troubled me. Conn may cost $58,780 a year, but does that really indicate its worth?

Reflecting on my four years at Conn, it is difficult to quantify the value of my experience. You can break down the cost of room, board and tuition, but it’s much harder to account for friendships, bonds and shared experiences. To answer the question of what makes the Connecticut College experience worth $60,000 a year implies that I agree that the Conn experience is indeed worth $60,000. This is hard to say. Can I really put a price on the relationships I have made and opportunities I have been afforded as a result of being a Camel?

Conn is an expensive school. It makes sense for prospective students and their parents to think critically about the cost of attendance. But to equate Conn’s worth with its price tag seems to me to undermine its true value. Important to consider are the unquantifiable aspects of the Conn experience. The inspiring friends and peers I’ve had since my first day at Conn, and will continue to treasure after graduation, the professors who will continue to serve as mentors long after I leave the classroom, the moments that have long since passed but will remain forever in nostalgic reminiscence; these elements of Conn transcend the cost of attendance.

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A sense of security may be lost at smaller colleges, which may hinder students from signing up for a session.

I may or may not know when I walk into the session. Forster legitimized my thoughts: "You can walk into the group and know someone there, which is anxiety-producing. The group has to deal with that and figure out if it's going to work or not."

I respect and adhere to the Honor Code and believe that many of my peers do as well, but human nature allows for mistakes and slip-ups. And so, I have yet to attend a session of group therapy. I have seriously thought about it, I signed up for a slot a few weeks ago. But the day before, I called to cancel.

Timing was the initial conflict. I felt that I had worked when the group was planning to meet. But when debating whether or not to reschedule for a group on a different afternoon, I decided against it. I was afraid. I didn't know which of my classmates would be sitting on the couches when I walked in. I didn't want to if I opened up to people I had met and had classes with or heard with or dined with. The smallness of the Conn community is something that I treasure, it is one of the main reasons that I chose to enroll. But sometimes that smallness feels a little too small.

I know that I am not alone in this feeling.

Many higher-education institutions are implementing group therapy in addition to offering one-on-one sessions with a counselor - Forster called it a "trend." But are students more reluctant to attend group meetings at smaller institutions, such as the NESACs, or is this a bigger challenge of encouraging students to share and open up to peers that span colleges and universities of all population sizes?

At least at smaller schools, "the odds are greater that you will run into roommates, exes, and classmates," said Randy Perry, the College's counseling services team. To my personal dismay, an LGBTQ group has yet to start up due to a lack of participants. But according to Forster, general support groups are the ones that work best.

"Groups are a place to share, and get support," said Forster. "Understanding that is the whole group process - what you can learn about yourself during the process in a safe confidential space. It's an interesting and powerful experience.

"The success rate of these group sessions fluctuates each semester for a variety of reasons, including that it is not limited to that particular student population and the timing of the sessions. My hypothesis for why more students haven't taken advantage of group therapy is that it focuses on possible real life fears and anxieties surrounding confidentiality issues, especially on smaller campuses like Conn.'

Despite being perceived by many as Perry, a first-year psychology major at Conn's Counseling Services at Trinity College, a sense of security may be lost at smaller colleges, which may hinder students from signing up for a session. Forster assured me that she has never had any issues of confidentiality breach in any group at Conn. "Once students are in the group, they recognize that everybody signs an agreement, that everybody is there to get support, and everybody is anxious about it," she said. "It's a trust you will keep things confidential.

Three criteria on the group agreement form that students must sign when they join a group include: "to keep what is talked about in the group and who is in the group confidential," to attend week-to-week, and to attend at least three meetings and let the group know if you decide to stop attending.

Forster believes that the hesitation of students to attend groups lies more in the practice of sharing than in anxiety about who will be in their group. Counseling services encourages students who attend groups to try not to censor themselves, which might be easier said than done. Even if students feel comfortable on a professional level, counselors in their group may be a personality trait or internal anxiety that hinders them from fully delving into a discussion of their feelings.

Despite the initial hesitations, group counseling can offer students many benefits that an one-on-one counseling session cannot. "The biggest thing is that group therapy may not. "In groups, you can interact with peers and don't feel alone in the process, and get good, realistic feedback and support," said Lane Lee, Director of Connecticut College's Counseling Services. "But you can also challenge your beliefs," by hearing other people's perspectives.

In an article for the International Journal of Group Psychotherapy, Dr. Elliot M. Zeisel describes group therapy as "a verbal gym where you can strengthen certain emotional muscles and emerge with a better defined capacity to process your emotional life as it unfolds." Hearing from group members contributes to personality integration and maturation, he continues.

The notion of relatedness is important to the success of any group. "It is an opportunity to become part of the same age...it's an opportunity much different from the classroom experience," said Margie Bowen, a psychologist intern at Conn's Counseling Services. "It's much more intimate, interpersonal experience. Groups can even develop friendships and support systems that last outside of group counseling sessions."

That said, each group must decide how to deal with interactions outside of meetings. "The students get to decide how to handle if they run into each other outside of group," Forster said. "Is it okay to become friends? Each group decides, and it can be different every time."

The characters in Go On began in an instant every aspect of each other's lives, turning into a modern-day Brady Bunch family who get into all kinds of hijinks, probably inappropriate considering the context of their connections. But their ability to form relationships outside of group is important for both the plot of the show and the development and personal healing of the characters. Realistically, and for students on campuses like Conn and Trinity, the lines between group and every interaction outside of group seem more complicated given the size and constant, fortuitous proximity of group members.

For a true process group to work, attendance needs to be consistent. "It's difficult to obtain the benefits if you're there one time or if the membership is changing," Forster said. "It's important that when people agree to be in a group, they are committed to coming every time."

In "Emerging Trends in College Mental Health," Dr. Ken Marsh writes, "We stand to lose the confidence of several forces: increasing number of students, with increasingly severe emotional problems; students and faculty who look increasingly to colleges to provide mental health and other supportive services for their students."

Given the increased demand of mental health services at colleges and universities, an added benefit of group counseling is that it provides students with a guaranteed opportunity to meet weekly. If a handful of counselors are in high demand, students may not be able to meet them quite as regularly as they need.

Simply put, maybe the reason that more students don't take advantage of (free) group therapy is a lack of awareness that such services are offered. According to Forster, most people have never been group counseling services. But these opportunities are available to all students. If you have even the tiniest curiosity about group therapy could be beneficial for you, stop by the Health Center and inquire about meeting times. Go ahead, go on."

OPINIONS
Fundraising for and awareness of cancer has skyrocketed since the idea of fighting cancer became paramount. It’s marketable. It’s popular. It sells. But it can distract us from the amazingly complicated science and the ambiguous emotional issues related to the illness.

The Elvis of this war was clearly Lance Armstrong. Boy, did he make it cool to punch testicular cancer in the balls! As a result, we have “fighters,” “survivors” and implicitly, “losers” in this war that entitles hundreds of thousands of people against their will. Relentlessly, “Pink Ribbon Culture” has often been criticized for the commercialization of this “fight or die” attitude to cancer (specifically breast cancer), while many people with metastatic conditions simply hope to live a better life, maybe even take their battles, these victims, and others who have no interest in “the fight,” are ignored by the branding of mainstream cancer prevention. Of course, Livestrong and Komen have done incredible good for millions of people, but the point is that the desire to attract maximal pops feels good anyway, and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves. The invention of the Cover Band was a logical but short-lived way to popular appeal of the original Bluesman of Connecticut. This indicates that original thought is less valued than ever before, and we’re all about respecting any intellectual think-tank like our 1940s about misogynists in the universe, but they can certainly get 200 hundred drunk ’90s

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It sells. But it can distract us from the amazingly complicated science and the ambiguous emotional issues related to the illness.
16 Teams, 4 Rounds, 1 Cup

The road to the Stanley Cup

Matt Orenstein
Contributor Abroad

With the NHL Playoffs underway, 16 teams will vie for the Stanley Cup in a grueling two-month tournament, which is considered by many to be the most exciting in sports. Unlike the NBA, the NHL playoffs are extremely unpredictable due to the greater level of parity between teams and the greater focus on complete team efforts rather than that of individual players. Each year, the teams that survive the Stanley Cup Playoffs provide the greatest all-around performance in every facet of the game, while limiting physical and mental mistakes. This season has seen an imbalance between the East and West conferences in terms of Cup contending teams.

Out West, six teams realistically have a chance at hoisting the cup come June. Leading the pack is the defending champion Chicago Blackhawks. The Hawks have put together another solid season, yet their dominance in the conference has been significantly diminished. The other top teams out West have closed the gap between themselves and Chicago and it appears as if Chicago's less than stellar goaltending will finally catch up with them. Don't expect a repeat performance from the Hawks.

The west is also home to two young up and coming teams, the St. Louis Blues and Colorado Avalanche. What both teams lack in experience they make up for with immense talent and exceptional coaching. The Blues are led by Americans David Backes, TJ. Oshie and Kevin Shattenkirk, among others. Expect a deep playoff run by the Blues, who are hot entering the playoffs and have the depth to beat anyone.

One man to watch out for on Colorado is 18 year old Nathan Mackin-non. Mackin-non is an exceptional skater with immense vision; he will be a household name sooner rather than later.

Next we have a match up of perennial cup contenders in the Los Angeles Kings and San Jose Sharks. Both teams are blessed with elite goaltenders, a necessity for teams hoping to make a deep playoff run. Expect an upset win by the Blues, who are hot entering the playoffs and have the depth to beat anyone.

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The Hawks have four solid lines and a talented core of young defensemen. With the acquisition of Ryan Miller at the deadline, the Blues have put the pieces together to make it all the way. In the east, I expect Boston to prevail so long as they play the way they have all season long. The Bruins have great experience and leadership, and always seem to limit their mistakes when it counts. Expect the most complete team to win it all.
Suits and Gowns:

Why rugby is more fun in formal garb

Students and alumni get together for the 2013 Suits and Gowns games

LUCA POWELL
SPORTS EDITOR

There are few activities that accompany themselves like rugby and drinking. Perhaps boce and cigars. Shoes and socks. Maybe, even, Tinder, and a lonely night in a 4-walled bedroom. But signed, sealed, and delivered, a rough game of rugby and a cold brew have had an eternal companionship.

But boozing can only ever accompany the sports dynamic and fraternal qualities. On the morning of Floralia, the Suits and Gowns game is everything that makes rugby great. For the College, they are even more than that.

The tradition of the Suits & Gowns games date back at least a decade. Essentially, the games are a showdown between the current teams and a smattering of returned alumni. Both the Men’s and Women’s teams play the entire game in thrift-sourced formalwear of their choosing: suits and gowns.

‘The ritual of the game begins as early as 7:00 a.m.,’ stated Dana Sokink ‘16, on the women’s team, with both teams hosting pre-match socials in anticipation. Even before Floralia, however, Sokink highlighted the level of preparation required for the event. ‘For us at Conn, team organizes a day usually a week in advance that we all go to the Salvation Army in New London to buy the most ridiculous looking gowns — the uglier, the better.’

The choice of Suits and Gowns reconnects to an age-old rugby tradition. But it would be safe to assume that the costumes themselves are relatively arbitrary. Just this Thursday two players on the Men’s team were overheard in a heated debate over the merits of a kimono against a cocktail dress, if one were to cross-dress the event. No clear consensus was reached.

‘The true purpose of the game is to unite the teams and cap their competitive season. ’Because the gowns game is after the end of our academic year requires the team to maintain consistency and energy every day on the water. Practicing with the Coast Guard Academy’s teams and a smattering of 13th in the country,’ said Benjamin Meyers ‘15. “With the Coast Guard Academy’s races of 13th in the country,’ said Benjamin Meyers ‘15. “With the Coast Guard Academy’s races, it is evident that what provides safer (although perhaps not for the heated dangers of idle drinking and liberties the event is relatively sober. More often than not, players would be re-miss without its own ironic. The tenn is 11:00 a.m. headliner.

“The true purpose of the game is to unite the teams and cap their competitive season. ‘Because the gowns game is after the end of our season, it’s a great way to go on a high note and finish the year with your teammates,” explained Sokink.

But what makes it more than an aggressive two-hour reunion is the crowd it pulls. Every year the Suits & Gowns event attracts on-lookers in the hundreds. Men’s Rugby captain Tom Olson confirmed the intentionality behind orchestrating the phenomenon that pulls students from the comfort of tents, music, and games.

“We try to get as many people as possible. We love a good turnout,” said Olson, and then further suggested that much of the fun is inherently bound in the involvement of a student audience. It is evident that what provides context to the game is tradition: perhaps purely for tradition’s sake. That the event even comes together is remarkable: these games not as lawless as a good episode of Game of Thrones. They can’t help but become consuming, as any sporting event both organized and attended by drunken people tends to be. They also tend to be highly competitive, with a high price to pay in bragging rights and collegiate rugby lore.

‘There is only one rule: shenanigans,’ confided Olson. The term is meant both literally and as a particular trademark of a game that hardly lends itself to being played sober. More often than not, players on the field might be competing with their own motor skills rather than the team. ‘If we weren’t enough booze on Floralia...’ joked another source from the team.

‘But more beer on Floralia is just another drop in the ocean. Attempting to curb drinking on the day would be a herculean task to complete, let alone propose, for our sanctified day of release. In all likelihoods the event is relatively safer (although perhaps not for the battered players) than the well-cited dangers of idle drinking and listening to Based God.

‘It is worthwhile considering too, how the day’s excitement is tempered by the anticipation of events. Collegiate belligerence notwithstanding, Floralia is a celebration of school unity. The music, tent ground, and events like the game are ways by which we celebrate it. And for some, a day that starts as early as six in the morning would be re-miss without its own 11:00 a.m. headliner.

Perhaps we should consider how a morning of theatrical warfare characterizes our spring fling. The irony of suits and cleats rings true. As the dirtiest tuxedos you may well ever see. But most of all, expect a tradition with character like no other at Conn.

DYLAN STEINER
STAFF WRITER

The Camel sailors have braved a rough and prolonged winter on the Thames River to propel the success of their Fall season into the Spring. The team now steers toward a pinnacle national regatta after the academic year concludes in order to secure a spot as one of the top 20 teams in the country, according to the ICAsa Gill Dinghy Championship.

“We finished the Fall season strong with one of our best performances at a New England Championship in several years and a ranking of 13th in the country,” said Benjamin Meyers ‘15. “With the return of a few juniors from abroad this spring we have been working hard with several top finishes in some of the early regattas of the season by both the co-ed and Women’s teams.

Two seasons of racing in one academic year requires the team to maintain consistency and energy every day on the water. Practicing with the Coast Guard Academy’s sailing team has provided a unique training opportunity to work drills and simulate racing strategies. This season on April 6 the extremely competitive New England Team Racing Championship proved particularly challenging for the Camels; only four colleges achieved national berths.

“The hardest regatta of the season has been Team Race New England’s,” said junior Lee Bushnell. “Although it was at Conn where we have more knowledge of the venue, we had wind from directions we rarely see and shitty conditions made it hard to get races off. We sailed hard but were unfortunately not able to make it into the final round.”

Although the team-racing season is over, and with it, hopes of qualifying for the IC3A Team Racing National Championship, the first racing season continues. On April 20, the Women’s team finished 12th out of 17 teams at the New England Flett Racing Championship under ideal conditions, while the co-ed team finished in ninth place at the CGA-hosted event.

“Looking forward, we will be graduating five seniors who all play an integral role on the team. But with some of our younger teammates stepping up to fill their shoes we hope to hold on to our top 20 ranking next year and continue to build on the improvements we have made as a team this year,” said Meyers.

This year, the team has dealt with a smaller roster consisting of 23 sailors and has found itself spread thin in the face of demanding weather conditions weekend after weekend, but remains undeterred.

“Our greatest strength is definitely our team as a whole,” said Bushnell. “At practice and at regattas we push each other to be the best we can be, but at the end of the day we are all great friends who support each other.”

This past weekend, the team competed at the co-ed New England Dinghies, finishing 8th. This weekend also marks the final opportunity for the National Championship in Maryland this June.

SAILING ON TO NATIONALS

THE COLLEGE VOICE
APRIL 28, 2014

COURTESY PHOTO
Can the United States win the World Cup?

Playing in the "group of death" with teams like Portugal, Germany and Ghana, the US proceeding past the group stages will be no easy task. All three teams have brilliant players on top-notch club teams but also operate well as an aggregate team. Even if the US manages to escape group stages, the team may not have the depth to compete with teams like Spain, Brazil, or even Belgium.

Though striker Jozy Altidore has had an amazing run of form in 2013, Altidore has had a horrific season with relegation bound Sunderland, only scoring two goals in 35 appearances. Stars Clint Dempsey and Michael Bradley, have moved from top teams to MLS squads. It is uncertain how the weaker competition but increased playing time will affect their international performances.

The last major narrative comes from how Landon Donovan fits into the equation. He and brilliant tactician, Jürgen Klinsmann, have had their spells of disagreement, however it is undeniable that Donovan, at 32, is and continues to be the greatest player in U.S. Men’s National Team history.

Other teams have players, who have resumes as long as Sergio Ramos’ discipline record (soccer fans know what I’m talking about), The USMNT, on the other hand does not have a single world-class star. They rely on a solid team dynamic and excellent coaching. Their stars align when they are on the pitch together. Yes they are underdogs, but we as fans wouldn’t have it any other way.

The Potential Dark Horse

Germany, Brazil and Spain are naturally the favorites based on their talent pool and excellent coaching. Though not making the trip to South Africa in 2010, Belgium has developed into quite the team in the past four years. The sheer abundance of diverse Champions League quality talent thrusts them into the conversation. Eden Hazard (LW, Chelsea) is like a медиум буряй man’s Neymar. He can maneuver his way through a screen door without touching a wire. The rock that holds the Belgian team together is captain, Vincent Kümpey (CB, Manchester City). Kompany is the indelible muscle that bullies top class strikers off the ball. The quality is obvious on this team. However, the only thing that can prevent them from making a run in the tournament is themselves. Will the pressure be too much for the young team or will their confidence push them to heights they were never allowed to strive for?

Other dark horses: Chile, Colombia, England and Switzerland.

Who is the Player to watch?

Any person who owns a television already knows to look out for Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney. Though they are top players, their peak performances have not emerged on the World’s stage. One player who achieves with his club as well as his country and is eerily off the radar of the general public is Yaya Toure (MF Ivory Coast). He is the most endeared player on one of the World's most hated teams (Manchester City). For club and country, he is the brain and the brawn of the midfield. Watching him gain momentum on a sliding run is like overlooking an elephant lead a stampede. His tree trunk thighs caution you from challenging him when the ball is at his feet, but his twig-like calves remind you that he is capable of switching direction if you get too close. Any observer, regardless of soccer IQ, can understand his intelligence, power and grace.

Other Players to Watch

Marco Reus (MF Germany), Sergio Aguero (ST Argentina), Diego Costa (ST Spain), Paul Pogba (MF France), Arjen Robben (RW Netherlands), Daniel Sturridge (ST England), Luka Modric (MF Croatia), Xherdan Shaqiri (MF Switzerland).
Women's Track Runs the Show

NICOLE PREMUTICO STAFF WRITER

Once known as the most popular athlete in the world before LeBron James' explosion into the limelight in the mid 2000s, Tiger Woods currently finds himself immersed in another field of adversity as he has nearly called it quits for this year's PGA tour season after undergoing back surgery in late March. The 38-year-old has not won one of professional golf's prestigious major championships since June of 2008 at the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines. It has been nearly six whole years since Tiger has been relevant as potentially the most dominant athlete of all time, and likewise it has been six years since millions upon millions of TV's across the world have tuned in on Sunday to watch another Tiger victory at a major championship.

Tiger Woods is a golfer unlike any other, and the TV ratings for this year's Masters Championship at Augusta support that point. In the 2013 Masters, with Tiger seemingly on his way to a stunning 15th major championship, (which would put him three behind Jack Nicklaus for most all-time), ESPN drew a TV rating for its second round tournament coverage of 3.5 million viewers. Now compare this to ESPN's ratings for this year's second round coverage, which of course Tiger missed because of his back surgery. Without Tiger in attendance, the second round of the 2014 Master's drew only 2.2 million viewers, nearly a 40% drop in ratings. This statistic intimates that a whopping 40% of 2013 viewers were tuned in for the sole reason of watching Tiger's pursuit of a 15th major, and his pursuit of the title of the best golfer of all-time.

The drastic comparison of ESPN's master coverage with and without Tiger's presence reaffirms the idea that a Tiger Woods' victory at a major championship is not just a victory, but so much more. It is visible just by watching Tiger hit one shot in a tournament and then comparing it to watching any other golfer. When Tiger plays in a major tournament, he is followed religiously by hordes of spectators, turning a Tiger Woods approach shot from the fairway, followed by the roar of applause, into what traditional golfers would deem as anarchy.

Our country craves dominance, especially when it makes a bunch of rich, white guys look really stupid at the hands of a man dubbed by his father as 'Tiger'. When the average person watches a major golf tournament they see the pretty grass, the sponsors, the money, the exclusivity, the old people, but then they see Eldrick Tiger Woods. When the average person watches Tiger Woods (the Tiger Woods of the mid 2000s), they see the intimidation factor, the dominance, the flair, the red and black clothes, the Nike swoosh, the money, the diversity, and most importantly, the excitement. Golf needs Tiger like the average American needs their regular caffeine fix, without caffeine, quite frankly, we are worth nobody's time, and it's the same for a Tiger-less PGA tour.

Without the ferocious dominance, excessive fist pumps, and roars of the crowd, what is there for the average American to care about? No offense to the incredible talents that have occurred this season, as there have been numerous personal records set and reset, but also the growth that will occur in the coming years. As and if Tiger wants to regain Jordanesque dominance, it starts between his ears. When he dabbed in baseball, and if Tiger wants to regain Jordanesque dominance, it starts between his ears. When he dabbed in baseball, and if Tiger wants to regain Jordanesque dominance, it starts between his ears.

The State of Our Tiger Woods

When the average person watches Tiger, this statement hits multiple sore points to night club owners, eventually leading to years past, and that the Women's team depth across events has strongly contributed to their success. Frame expressed her excitement for the upcoming championship meets and the opportunity for the team to have strong competition. In that she can be pushed to perform at her best.

The team is heavily comprised of first-years and sophomores, and thus it is existing to contende with not only the improvements that have occurred this season, as there have been numerous personal records set and reset, but also the growth that will occur in the coming years. As and if Tiger wants to regain Jordanesque dominance, it starts between his ears.
MELANIE THIBEAULT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The greatest irony of this weekend's Canopy Dance... Ocean and his little-known secret BFF Wiz Khalifa. Some seriously swaggalicious featurettes in Bonnaroo's line-up, including...

BISTENKARROO!

Festival fanatic Molly Bistenko offers her take on how to do this summer's music festivals right.

MOLLY BISTENKARROO

CONSTRUCTOR

Have you bought your tickets yet? Tis the season to spend the money you've saved on a weekend of music with friends and an unexpected company at the summer's best music festivals. Unbelievably incredible beats that you have to know where to find them.

There's, a like of peeps who are on tour for the first time as a while, and there presence is kickin' ass on the docket for this summer. We're talkin' Outkast, mostly. The headliner will be headlining Firefly Music Festival in Dover, DE, from July 19-22, with a crew of the Foo Fighters, Beck, Pretty Lights, Jack Johnson, Broken Bells and Chiildish Gambino.

Outkast will also be hitting the stage in New York City's Gov't "Lovin" the Beach & Chill - Jon (6-6-6-6) with The Strokes, Phoenix, Grimes and Sleek Bells (who will hopefully end a show with a song and a little- handedly making them famous after their show here in 2010). I seriously can keep going, but I'm afraid i've already talked too much.

Another sweet festival in the month of July is the appropriately named Camp Bisco, is The Hudson Project in Saugerties, NY. In my personal and absolute expert opinion, The Hudson Project is just drenched in awesomeness. Just a taste of some of the headliners that will be making memories in New York: Phish, Donny Osmond, L-Train, L-Mary, L-Johnson, Broken Bells, to name a few. I'm sure their presence will be kickin' ass.

Some other artists that premieres on Memorial Day will also be attending. I'm sure there's a lot of peeps who definitely want to purchase fun memories (who doesn't love a band tour in fantastic party pack? I'll tell ya, don't you fret (there's a music joke in there somewhere)... I never go to a concert without grabbing a little water bottle and sneaky back pack. Never forget to stay hydrated in the heat of the moment, because you never know, you might be the only star in the sky, so also bring some Zink, kids! In addition to your sax fix, you'll also need that water bottle. The food is mostly fun at festivals, but it can also be pricey, so set aside some bills for your favorite food truck or vegan taco stand.

"A little money you've saved on a weekend of..." is also the recipient of much self and your buddy-guy-pals. (thank you Grimes), so time to assemble for an approaching show. The food is mostly fantastic at music festivals, but it can also be pricey, so set aside some bills for your favorite food truck or vegan taco stand.

Need I say more? Okay, I will, of course, because what in the H-E-double hockey-sticks are you going to bring with you besides your righteous, vibrant, summer/summer fakey pack? I'll tell ya, don't you fret (there's a music joke in there somewhere)... I never go to a concert without grabbing a little water bottle and sneaky back pack. Never forget to stay hydrated in the heat of the moment, because you never know, you might be the only star in the sky, so also bring some Zink, kids! In addition to your sax fix, you'll also need that water bottle. The food is mostly fun at festivals, but it can also be pricey, so set aside some bills for your favorite food truck or vegan taco stand.

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Breakfast on Bank Street
(and elsewhere, too)

CASEY DILLON
STAFF WRITER

Breakfast is the best meal of the day. no matter what time it is. Luckily for Com students, there are a number of restaurants that serve so-called “breakfast foods,” (a.k.a. the only foods) around the clock. Muddy Waters Cafe, Bean & Leaf and Washington Street Coffee House are among the closest restaurants to campus with some of the best breakfast food. If you’re looking for less for a coffee shop and more for a diner, you can check out Norm’s. Groton Townhouse and Mystic Diner. But what else does the shoreline have to offer?

This semester, a small group of friends and I decided that we would go out for brunch every Sunday, as a last-ditch effort to explore the region that we have called home for the past four years. After trying out a number of places in New London, Waterford, Groton and Mystic, I think we’ve found our favorite: when Pigs Fly off of Route 1 in Waterford. When Pigs Fly is the second restaurant owned by Sarina and Gaven McGugan. The restaurant’s name refers to their reaction when asked if they would open another restaurant, though it seems that the second time is the charm in this case! It might be the self-serve coffee, or the super-friendly staff, or the awesome breakfast specials, but the small restaurant decked out in cute flying pig paraphernalia won our hearts.

For slightly more than the price you might pay at a diner, the staff at When Pigs Fly serves up hefty portions of breakfast favorites and fun, new spins on classic dishes. A number of their dishes feature the ever-popular avocado, including their Breakfast Quesadilla, a mixture of scrambled eggs, veggies, and bacon in a crispy tortilla shell. Their pancakes are completely customizable — fresh cranberries and blueberries take the plate-sized dish from great to OMG.

The Weekly Specials board always makes ordering the hardest decision ever. The variety of French toast, omelets, pancakes and “healthy” selections are always interesting and sound incredible — think peach bread French toast, s’mores waffles, and pecan pancakes... yum! If you haven’t yet made it to this incredible restaurant, the pigs are flying — go now!

Other notable mentions:

Somewhere in Time, located in Mystic, is the first restaurant opened by the McGugans. It has the same menu as its sister restaurant, but its distance from campus and slightly poorer quality of service make it inferior to its Waterford neighbor.

The York Cafe on Montauk Avenue is a tiny little place with big character. Doreen Brett, the owner, is extremely outgoing and genuinely cares about serving her customers with excellent food and a good time. The major downside: it’s definitely hard to get a table. Get there early, and be prepared to wait.

Kitchen Little on Mason’s Island in Mystic is all-ways delicious, though it’s new-ish location does not hold the same charm as it did on the main drag near the Seaport. The servers are really friendly, and the food arrives quickly and deliciously.

Sweetie’s Bakery and Cafe is located on Bank Street and is well-known for its delicious, gourmet desserts. Our little brunch group hasn’t checked out Sweetie’s yet, but we have heard some raving reviews about their homemade sausage and bread.

PAIGE MILLER
COLUMNIST

George Rickey (1907-2002) was an American kinetic sculptor. After completing a degree in History from Balliol College in Oxford, England, Rickey traveled through Europe and became fascinated by the art he encountered. Against the will of his father, who was an executive at the Singer Sewing Machine Company, Rickey went to Paris to enroll in painting and drawing classes at Academie L’Hote and Academie Moderne.

After returning to the United States some time later with an interest in practice and appreciation for art, he taught art classes, maintained an art studio and was socially active in the New York art scene. According to his obituary in The New York Times, Rickey served in World War II and was assigned to “work with engineers in a machine shop to improve aircraft weaponry, an experience that reawakened earlier interests in science and technology.”

When he was discharged, Rickey returned to the United States and studied at the Chicago Institute of Design where he first began to experiment with geometric form and movement, and in 1949 he used glass to make his first kinetic sculpture.

Two Lines Oblique (1969) was installed at Connecticut College in 1969 in the middle of Castle Court shortly after the Joanne and Nathan Cummings Arts Center was completed. Sometimes prior to 2001, the 50-foot tall work was moved to the top of the Castle Court stairs so that it wouldn’t interfere with the flow of traffic through the courtyard.

Crafted from stainless steel, Two Lines Oblique is a dynamic piece, featuring rotating arms that react with movement in the air. While the two steel arms look the same, one of them is intentional-ly one inch shorter than the other; and in 1994 it was bent from contact with another object. In a 2008 kinetic sculpture exhibition, curator Brigitte Mie- macker from Sculpture Site Gallery commented, “The George Rickey work... is a classic example of the monumental work composed of blades that became Rickey’s best known legacy. The long, tapered blades used as pendulums are a wonder of empirical engineering. Lightweight sheet stainless steel is wrapped around a structural core and lead weights are distributed unevenly to slow down the blades individually, a procedure Rickey used to create as much as a tenfold difference of tempo within the same sculpture.”

According to the 2009 Sculp-ture and Decorative Arts Conserva-tions Services LLC report, the entire arms were moved into storage for the winter months. The report continues to fast the sculptor, “While a pure cosmetic condition due to a bent arm and extremely dusty surface in storage. The report recommends, “The current condition is part of the sculpture. The artist’s intended location. As the piece should be straightened, the hole repaired, the fastener replaced, and the entire piece should be reassembled, balanced and cleaned.”

Additionally, “During the sur-vey, some members of the staff recalled that the arms moved too quickly for safety during windy weather and its position within the courtyard may have enhanced this wind effect. It may be for this reason that the sculpture was placed in an area with more trees. However, the sculpture should be relocated back to the center of Castle Court as it was apparently designed for this setting, and as an environmental piece, the location is part of the sculpture. When the piece was moved from its original setting and motion, this piece cannot be really understood.”

While the report does not continue past 2009, Two Lines Oblique has since been restored and brought back to an appro-priate condition, although not in the artist’s intended location. As members of this campus commu-nity, we ought to be good stewards and take care of our belongings and support the historical significance they stand to serve.
Let me
Take a
#Selife
How nobody's favorite
DJ become everyone's favorite concert

CALI ZIMMERMAN
STAFF WRITER

In a great Seinfeld episode, the gang uses the phrase 'yada, yada, yada' to abridge stories and downplay suspicious behavior. The colloquial is still mostly used in a similar fashion, and it is pertinent to the story in this article. This is not to say that what happened on a rainy Tuesday is of the utmost interest to the readers of The College Voice, but instead to protect those moments left in privacy categorized under 'yada, yada, yada.' The gossip that could flow throughout this article is not the target, instead like the gang in Seinfeld, this is a tale of hodgepodge camaraderie.

...But let me be clear: I couldn't imagine going to my 10:25 the next morning, let alone my 2:45. (Side note: totally went to those classes and was a shining example of student excellence.) The only thing I could focus on was the night ahead of me. On the night of Tuesday, April 15, my closest 75 Conn friends (slight exaggeration) and I got ready to take a #Selife. Not even the monsoon outside could diminish my good mood. Around 8:30 p.m. four mini school buses pulled up outside of JA. As much as it seemed they were preparing to take us to the asylum; these buses had been ordered to ship the hordes of Conn students to Foxwoods.

I would say one of the most impressive aspects of the night was the way Conn students self-organized. Several students spearheaded the campaign for buses, and the rest should owe a great deal of gratitude to them. As the students boarded the buses, the rain continued. One of my friends said, "We were about to confine ourselves to the deepest, darkest hollows of Foxwoods, lost in a wolf pack of despair and high rollers."

The four buses pulled up to Foxwoods releasing the animals. The students charged into the casino like they were part of the wolf pack. The students were part of the hordes that filled Shrine, a colorful group of Dalmatians. Shoes and makeup slipped off with ease. There was a new atmosphere amongst the group of Conn kids determined to find any place to kneel or sit as we waited to get herded like sheep back into the buses.

The bus ride back was joyous as everyone started nostalgic thinking about the night. Back at Conn the mood was still elated, but the exhaustion had finally overpowered everyone. I have never felt closer to my class; physically, in the tight dance space of Shrine, and mentally. We bonded, we conquered and we took a #Selife.

Arcelus in the House... of Cards

JULIA CRISTOFANDO
MANAGING EDITOR

Warning: contains spoilers

Staring in our beds, struggling to stream Netflix on the Conn Internet, there is a tendency to look at the actors and actresses in our favorite shows as having attained success instantaneously, somehow jumping straight from childhood onto the silver screen. We don’t think of them as college students, majoring in political science at a liberal arts college like our own, working for international business firms and volunteering for the Clinton-Gore campaign in the summer. However, this is exactly the path that Sebastian Arcelus found himself on as an undergraduate at Williams College. He described his time at Williams as "an amazing four years" and even decided to forgo studying abroad to spend as much time at Williams as possible, saying that small schools "light a fire under you."

Arcelus explained that growing up in a politically charged family has given him a lifelong interest in politics. "It wasn’t until after graduating did he believe that a career in the arts might be possible." He explained, "I didn’t lose that fire to make a difference, but [looked] into making a difference through the arts."

Arcelus, who plays Lucas Goodwin, The Washington Herald editor on House of Cards, is the brother of our very own Dean of Student Life Victor Arcelus. "I was always fascinated with politics and that whole world," said Arcelus in an interview with The College Voice, "but by the end of my college career I found myself studying the drama of politics rather than the art thereof." Arcelus’ graduation from college in 1999 coincided with the release of Aaron Sorkin’s television show The West Wing, a series, said Arcelus, "that compiled all of my interests into one perfectly constructed piece of art told through a political world."

Though he got his acting start on Broadway, appearing in musicals ranging in content from Rent to Wicked and originating the role of Buddy in Elf: The Musical, Arcelus said he always found himself "circling back to the political world." When he landed the role of Lucas in the first season of House of Cards, Arcelus was overjoyed. "To end up in a political series, albeit with some what have called the anti-West Wing, has been a total dream for me," he said.

While there have been a good number of drama series that have a political focus, none have been met with the success that House of Cards has found in since its premiere in February of 2013. House of Cards happened to come about at a time when confidence in Congress is at an all-time low, and Arcelus suggested that the show presents "a stark, ruthless and extreme kind of realism at a time in [our country] when we wish we could have more hope but we are disillusioned with our government."

That said, Arcelus deftly points out that HOC has also come to "carry the banner in a timely fashion in the entertainment world where the anti-hero has become the hero." Characters like Walter White of Breaking Bad or Don Draper of Mad Men are characters you love to root for but in many ways are "despicable or unlawful or downright evil." The actor noted that HOC follows this trend of anti-hero but "takes it to a new level by having Frank [Underwood] directly talk to the audience, in a way, in his dealings.

The series also comes at a time when the world of journalism is shifting from traditional printed news to the online social-media world, a complex relationship between the two mediums juxtaposed by the characters of Lucas Goodwin and reporter Zoe Barnes. In Lucas and Zoe’s relationship, Arcelus asserts, the viewer can “see two generations colliding in the middle ground - one born out of traditional reporting and the other that comes with a top line daily newspaper and a new wave of folks more interested in headlines” regardless of the truth of the content.

Lucas and Arcelus struggle with the same conflict of immediacy and the debate between sacrificing either accuracy for time or sacrificing time for substance. Arcelus expressed his intrigue with the role of journalists, being able to “blow the whistle” and create real change. Journalists, he said, must find “[their] way through the noise... and really get at the heart of a social discourse.” Journalists have an amazing ability and platform to do that. "As an actor, Arcelus recognized that he has a platform to create change, as well."

He continued, Lucas “is a man of reason, practicality and idealism but he gets swayed away from his own center by the basics of love and redemption.” By this, Arcelus is referring to Goodwin’s downfall in the second season where he is imprisoned after he tries to illegally obtain information about the death of Zoe Barnes. When asked if he thought this was the end for his character, Arcelus was hopeful that “there is an avenue through which Lucas can reappear” in the third season, but admits the writers and playwrights are “very secretive, so none of us really know.”

While we’re left with little reassurance as to the fate of Lucas Goodwin, Sebastian Arcelus’ career is certainly on an upward trajectory. The actor is currently in New Orleans working on the film adaptation of Nicholas Sparks’s novel, The Best of Me alongside Michelle Monaghan and James Marsden. But despite his success, Arcelus hopes to honor his connection to Connecticut College. Be on the lookout for an on-campus event in the future featuring the House of Cards star.

Additional reporting by Dana Sorkin and Hallie Grossman.
Highlights from the Senior Art Minor Show

PHOTOS BY MIGUEL SALCEDO

The senior Art minor and all student show ran from March 24-April 1, with a reception on Wednesday, April 16. In case you missed it, here are some highlights from an impressive exhibition.

The Voice's own Julia Cristofano depicted the inner workings of the human body through anatomical drawings, prints and a delicately embossed paper spine. Cristofano is an EMT who had planned to major in Biology and has "always been interested in the medical aspects and the physical makeup of the body." She commented that through her art, she's "tried to capture both physical systems but also the deeper parts of ourselves: thoughts, feelings, emotions, that our physical forms alone can't convey."

Emily Silber also explored the human body in her project, Wallflower. Silber used body paint to create black and white patterns on her mostly-nude subjects (her "very patient and adventurous friend... who... stood against a background painted in the same pattern, almost completely blending in. She then photographed them straight on, their faces stoic, with black circles around their eyes adding intensity to their gaze. Silber commented that the purpose of her work was to make a statement about conformity and individuality. She achieved this by photographing male and female subjects of varying body types... both obscuring and highlighting some of their most distinctive features.

Hilary Nigrosh's work is made up of both photographs, and paintings inspired by photographs. Across the gallery, I immediately recognized the faces of Anne Frank, Amelia Earhart and Sharbat Gula, the Afghani girl with green eyes from the cover of National Geographic. Nigrosh painted likenesses of these photographs on a much larger scale and incorporated text that suggests what each woman might have been thinking. Nigrosh's approach humanizes images that have been reproduced countless times over several decades, both through the artist's touch and the imagined thoughts of her subjects. Nigrosh wrote in her artist statement, "With the vast expansion of technology, images are so easily reproduced that we can easily misrepresent and misinterpret the stories behind them. It can become hard to discern whether the subjects even wanted to be photographed, not to mention recognized to the point of fame."

The other component of her work, Family Snapshots Reimagined, is a series of photographs which originated as old family slides from the '50s and '60s that Nigrosh found in her basement. Nigrosh then turned the slides into prints in the darkroom and toned them, again adding her own touch. "I was able to further capture a moment in time through my own lens. These ordinary family snapshots offer a glimpse into a past that I am both connected to and disconnected from," she explained.

Phoebe Papademetriou also explored nostalgic representations of ordinary moments in her project titled Where We Are Now. Her photos are snapshots from daily life, cooking dinner with friends, hanging out in her apartment and giving a friend a haircut. She said of her decision to focus on the senior year experience: "We're entering into this adult world, where we live on our own and cook for ourselves, but we're still very much kids. We do these things, like cutting our friends' hair, but it's pretty clear that we have no idea what we're doing."

Papademetriou's work features recognizable spots around campus, like Cro Bar, as well as the interior of her Winchester apartment. "I wanted them to be recognizable, but not too specific to my own life," she said. "I always like to leave things out so the viewer can kind of imagine their own story of what's going on in the image." She focuses on the best parts of senior year: enjoying the company of friends and appreciating our time as much as possible, without a sense of anxiety about what's coming next.

Congratulations to the senior Art minors for all their hard work, and for giving the campus community an opportunity to appreciate their explorations of what it means to grow up, to be an individual and to represent and express oneself in a meaningful, authentic way.