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Through Three Mediums:
Ammerman Scholars Reflect on Senior Projects

ALEXIS CHENEY
CONTRIBUTOR

Illustration by
ANNA GROFIK

Although Drew André '16, Juan Flores '16 and Grace Jaster '16 all combine art and technology in their projects as scholars of the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology (CAT), they do so in unique ways.

Due to his interest in music technology, André, a Music major, applied to CAT. Once accepted, he took the required Computer Science course. "Computer science changed my world," he said. It gave him the skills to create his project, which explores accurate representations of music through light. Using Arduino, a microcomputer, he has developed a technology to convert audio-reactive LED art. The technology converts sound to colored LED light, based on the sound's frequency. For example, when André connects his technology to a drum, red light represents the bass kick, green the snare and blue the hi-hat cymbals. He jokes, "It's great to see instruments in new light!"

Now that André has developed the technology to convert music to light, his CAT advisor, Professor S. James Lee of the Computer Science department, has encouraged him to further develop the artistic appearance of the light through creative coding. "What will make my project stand out is the art. Everyone can convert sound to light, but not everyone can do it beautifully," André said. His audio-tech internship with a visual artist illuminates his creative light in the medium of light. André plans to spend the next ten years developing sound to light technology that enables users to display their unique visions of sound. He aims to get an MBA to gain the business skills to manage supply lines and refine his creative vision. He seeks business programs that, similarly to CAT, support an arts and tech curriculum. Needless to say, his future looks bright.

Another visual artist, Flores, whose medium is painting, explores how mental, geographic and political borders define individuals' identities. His internship with the sculpture and visual artist Adriana Corral in San Antonio, TX the summer after his sophomore year inspired him to artistically consider the U.S.-Mexico border. Similarly, his internship with audiovisual artist Daniel Canogar in Madrid, Spain last summer encouraged him to reflect on the Spanish-Morocco border through video projections, and through studying abroad in Berlin he explored the lasting impact of the Berlin Wall on the city. Flores has created four paintings about the idea of getting stuck on the border and the implications of crossing over it, and his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Dean Cobham to Introduce Non-discrimination Policy to Campus

SAADA CHEVAN
STAFF WRITER

The search for a permanent Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion continues, but already, Dr. McNeely Cobham, the new Associate Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion, has been on the job for almost three months.

Dr. McNeely Cobham brings 25 years of experience in higher education to her role at the College. Although this appointment marks her first time as a full time diversity officer, she has previously performed administrative responsibilities as a faculty member at various institutions.

Here at Conn, she is working on the development of a non-discrimination policy that will apply to faculty, staff and students, a document that she described to the Voice as a "masterspiece in progress." According to the College's website, at present the three groups have separate policies that they adhere to, which comply "with federal and state guidelines and regulations regarding nondiscrimination."

Explaining why such a policy is necessary and what it entails, Dean Cobham said, "the climate of higher education presents daily across the country calls for an effective document, where in short it simply says: we are in an environment where our ideas and perspectives should be valued and heard, but we also have to adhere to some form of civility."

Dean Cobham also sits on several college committees; she describes her role on them as ensuring "that there are considerations given to groups that may fall off the radar because they are not necessarily part of the majority culture in some way."

She highlighted her involvement with one committee that is working "to fill in the gaps for first-generation students, students whose parents or guardians have not attended a four year institution."

"They are the first in their families to make that wonderful"
Each issue of The College Voice represents two weeks of meetings, planning sessions, interviews, writing, photography and illustrations. Our only goal every other Sunday as we sit in Cro and pour over the computers is to create an issue that is better than our last.

However, this one felt like a labor of even more love than usual. Over spring break, eleven Voice staff members will venture to New York City for the 2016 National College Media Convention, and we will be submitting this issue for the David L. Adams Apple Awards, in the category of best newspaper (for a school with less than 5,000 students). And as exciting as the prospect of winning an award, we are mostly excited to share our hard work with fellow student journalists, and to represent Connecticut College on a larger platform. Not many of us on the Voice staff are athletic, but this is our nationals, so wish us luck.

- Dana
Checkup With The Health Center

CAM NETLAND
STAFF WRITER

The Health Center at Connecticut College has an infamous reputation for both delaying student appointments and its policy of being closed on weekends. The lack of accessibility last semester, which students ascribe to poor organization, was actually a result of understaffing. Laura O’Connell, one of the nurses, told The College Voice that it was an "incredibly stressful semester. We were operating with only half of the usual staff. I'm working on a degree right now and I was struggling every day to balance writing papers and working extra hours for my job."

The Voice spoke with Cate Moffet, Director of Student Health Services, and Health Center employee Elizabeth "Lizzy" Henry '07, about their experiences in the Health Center and their feelings toward students' disdain.

The College Voice: How did you get involved with the College Health Center?

Lizzy Henry: My husband had the opportunity to relocate for work and we moved to East Lyme, which is the town I grew up in and where most of my family lives. When my daughter turned 15 months I was ready to go back to work after being off since her birth. I've always been interested in College Health and have a great relationship with Conn. When another CC graduate who happened to be my neighbor told me about the job posting on the Conn website, I jumped at the opportunity. I was eager and ready to get back to work after having a baby and also excited to work at such a great college with a population I've always been excited to work with.

TCV: What has changed about the Health Center since you were a student?

LH: The Health Center is more modern now. Aside from the renovation to the waiting area, there weren't electronic medical records when I was a student. Having an EMR, electronic medical records, really helps improve accuracy and efficiency of documentation and communication. The influence of social media also marks a change. The health center has a Facebook page and Tweet account, both of which help facilitate communication between our staff and students. Social media helps improve access to patient education and increase knowledge and awareness about services the Health Center offers.

TCV: Have your personal feelings towards the Health Center changed since you began working there?

LH: As a student, I always had positive experiences at the Health Center, and I think that is why I was excited to work here. I have come to appreciate more what a great place this is to work and how fortunate the students and providers are to have such a unique amount of time for visits and accessibility to each other.

I love working with the students because they are so eager to learn and educate themselves about their health. Students are at this dynamic time in life when they are learning to live independently and navigating how to be an adult. Understanding and utilizing the healthcare system is an important part of this, and I hope that we can help teach the students so it is less intimidating when they are out on their own.

TCV: What is the most common student illness/injury you take care of?

Cate Moffet: Upper respiratory infections (colds, sore throats). The most common injuries are ankle sprains.

TCV: Are not enough students getting their flu shots?

CM: It would be much better if more did, but we had a very good response this year and it is still not too late to get one! The flu has barely arrived and the antibodies can take just 2 weeks to develop after the immunization.

TCV: The Health Center was working with half of its usual staff last semester. How did this affect your workload? Are you at full staff now?

CM: Unfortunately, as we were understaffed this fall, our appointments occasionally ran late and some students were not seen as quickly as we would have liked. We are fully staffed now.

TCV: Lizzy, where do you believe the negative reputation is derived from? Is it justified?

LH: I'm not sure what you mean by negative reputation. I know some students were frustrated with the wait time to be seen last semester. I think one thing that can be challenging is that providers are seeing patients when they are typically not feeling well. Often, students can be frustrated by their illness, whether physical or mental, and just not feeling well can color an experience.

I think another issue involves the challenge of meeting patient expectations. Many times patients want a quick fix or believe certain medications will help them feel better faster. It can be difficult because sometimes the appropriate treatment or plan of care is allowing time for the illness to get better, which is not always in line with what a patient thinks they need. This frustration is very familiar to me and was encountered commonly in the retail walk-in clinic where I previously worked. Many patients would come in requesting antibiotics to help with cold symptoms, for example. I was challenged to not give these medications because I know they are not helpful and can cause more harm than good. Educating and communicating this to patients can be very difficult when I was allotted about 15 minutes for an appointment in my previous job.

Lastly, I think students can get frustrated by the fact that accurately diagnosing certain conditions/illness can take time. A conclusory answer is not always present during the first encounter with a patient. Although healthcare is a science, it is also an art, and figuring out the answer can be a puzzle that takes time to solve.

What I enjoy so much about working at the Health Center is that I have a great opportunity to take the time to educate students and follow up with them closely. It's a win-win situation because I am able to teach, and hopefully students are able to learn about their illness. I know providers at Student Health Services strive to treat every patient with professionalism and care. We value honesty, compassion, good listening and a mutual respect between patients and providers. We believe that having open communication and transparency regarding how the healthcare system works and what it costs, that everyone will have a positive experience at health services.

TCV: Considering the frequency of injury on weekends, why...
transition, but when you're the first in the family oftentimes you don't have information around how to fill out... is one important means for people to realize that the mutilation of black bodies is detrimental for everyone. •

oped the Sankofa lecture series, engages issues around oppression and identity formation, and developed her research into a conference about hip-hop. She described her research as "the best of both worlds, I grew up in Brooklyn, New York and hip-hop is a very much a part of my life and influence and shaped a lot of who I am as a person, scholar and administrator. Dean Cobham's research also informs her work. She sees aspects of hip-hop culture in how students engage with each other; to do the most polarizing [example], one time I had to deal with a situation where students were accused of being racially insensitive because they were singing the lyrics to a song that I was the lead. [While] racial insensitivity certainly was a factor, and we had to do some education around why that would be problematic and also why not. I thought it left a great opportunity to have a conversation around art and the culture around thinking about language and the appropriate way to use it."

Such experiences are likely to inform her work here at Conn as well, since the new discrimination policy will be about these same issues. Meanwhile the search for the other half of the "dysfunctional," in Dean Cobham's words, in the Office of Institutional Equity and Inclusion, was underway. "This history of marginalization and the cutoff point for thinking about language and the appropriateness of the way to use it is one important means for people to realize that the mutilation of black bodies is detrimental for everyone. •

In accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, for instance, Dr. King paid tribute to the movement's many unsung, foot soldiers from the "valleys" to the "mountaintops." But Ramos, quoting Ella Baker, observed, "Martin Luther King Jr. from a different perspective."

African-American studies at the University of Chicago, spoke about the cultural legacy of the Black Freedom Movement in Civil’s Next. The talk entitled "The Long Black Freedom Movement: from Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter" focused on the idea of organizational style of '60s activists compared to present-day social activists. Commenting on the effectiveness of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s centralized campaign structure, Ramosb expressed her view that Americans today dismiss the validity of the grassroots "Black Lives Matter" movement. Specifically, by holding Dr. King as a permanent dean is announced. Dr. King as the ultimate martyr for issues of social justice, she feels the public fails to recognize today's activists as true standard-bearers for reform.

In opening her talk, Professor Ramos sought to dispel the myth of a "leaderless" Black Lives Matter movement. To the contrary, she portrayed it as "leaderful" movement that channels the voice of Ella Baker more than that of Dr. King. "We see history as a series of great deeds by great men," Ramosb observed. "This narrow, male-centered view persists in historical narratives. To understand the Freedom Movement, and its relevance to Black Lives Matter, we must understand Martin Luther King, Jr. from a different perspective."

Americans have come to regard Dr. King as the dominant force behind the 1960's Civil Rights Movement. He energized activists and, in turn, sustained the movement almost single-handed. But Ramos, quoting Ella Baker, observed, "Martin didn't make the movement. The movement made him." In accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, for instance, Dr. King paid tribute to the movement's many unsung, foot soldiers from the "valleys" to the "mountaintops." But Ramos, quoting Ella Baker, observed, "Martin didn't make the movement. The movement made him."

Evolutionary Activism: the Black Freedom Movement

When we dress up state violence, we have little hope of combating other forms of violence, especially violence embedded in an informal economy that has developed.

In South Carolina, Walter Scott "runs from the police because he is afraid that he will have to pay child support. The fear of punishment, because of Scott's financial situation, led to this violent confrontation."

The Black Lives Matter Movement, as agents of the state, "reframes a divisive economic structure used to justify bloodshed."

"When we dress up state violence, we have little hope of combating other forms of violence, especially violence embedded in an informal economy that has developed.

Dr. King, criticizing U.S. actions in Vietnam, emphasized the need for the United States to engage and influence and shape a lot of what is happening in the world. 'While the rhetoric of the Black Lives Matter Movement, therefore, also reflects the ideals of Ella Baker. Baker rejected Dr. King's 'leaderful' movement, which is closely connected to police brutality. As agents of the state, Ramosb explained, "police violence reduces our ability to combat street violence. When we dress up state violence, we have little hope of combating other forms of violence, especially violence embedded in an informal economy that has developed."
Sexual Assault and Violence Facts
Brought to you by 1-in-4
1-in-4, is a campus group committed to raising awareness about sexual and domestic violence, as well as promoting healthy masculinity and deconstructing the patriarchy. They meet on Wednesdays at 9pm in the Women's Center with free tea and coffee. The following information deals with rape and sexual assault. All facts are from Georgetown Law.

FACT:

- Victims of sexual violence can have an array of emotional responses, including denial, shock, anger, withdrawal and even a sense of calm. Everyone responds differently, and there is no way to assume how someone will act.
- Sexual assault and rape are not responses to someone dressing provocatively or anything other similar actions. These are crimes of violence and the need for a person to control another. Regardless of what someone is wearing, non-consensual sexual activity is still assault.
- Most sexual assaults are not reported to the police. From 1993-1999, nearly 70% of cases were not reported. There are many reasons this is the case, including fear of retaliation, fear of not being believed and fear of being blamed.
- Rape and sexual assault can occur anywhere, at anytime and to anyone. According to FBI data, nearly 70% of reported sexual assaults occur in private residences. Many rapes and assaults are committed by someone whom the individual knows.

Alumni Spotlight: Phoebe Bakanas ’10
Thriving in Technology and Data Visualization

SARAH ROSE GRUSZECKI
OPINIONS EDITOR

Editor’s Note: To further connect alumni to current students, The College Voice is working to create a consistent Alumni Spotlight column, featuring alumni from all walks of life. If you are a Connecticut College graduate and are interested in being interviewed by one of our writers, please email contact@thecollegevoice.org.

“I wanted a school where I could do everything,” said Phoebe Bakanas ’10 when discussing her initial interest in Connecticut College. As a musician, athlete and student of computer science, Bakanas wanted a liberal arts experience that would be supported in the exploration of all of her academic, athletic and extracurricular interests. In her time at the College, Phoebe studied as a double major in Computer Science and Music Technology and received a certificate through the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology (CAT).

As Bakanas described, it was that very interdisciplinary, liberal arts education that has shaped her current career working for Denodo, a software company located in Palo Alto, California, which specializes in data visualization. Bakanas detailed that in her three years working for the small company, her role has evolved significantly. She described her current position as a service engineer, which involves consulting, professional services, support and training. Within this role, she primarily works in a consultative role responsible for debunking issues and developing company-wide best practices for development.

Bakanas explained, “You need to have a wide variety of abilities in this type of position. You need to know engineering and technology, but you also have to be able to work really well with others and have strong communication and interpersonal skills with clients. Playing water polo, studying computer science and participating in the orchestra allowed me to master and practice all of these skills in a variety of different settings.”

Bakanas also emphasized that her drive to succeed as a woman has similarly propelled her in the field. “As a female, I have a drive to feel like I can do something,” she described. While Bakanas believed that her gender has provided her with many opportunities, especially considering the current demand for diverse women in the field, she also acknowledges the gender bias that continues to prevail. “Sometimes there are these conceptions that women are incompetent or get frustrated easily,” Bakanas explained. “I’ve had people put me on the phone when I’m having a problem or trying to figure things out.” Although she does not often feel that this patronization is intentional, such behaviors are often more subconsciously embedded within the professional culture.

When discussing her advice for prospective Cornell students interested in the field of science and technology, Bakanas emphasized the importance of confidence. “It can be a really intimidating field at times, but you can’t let other people’s knowledge intimidate you,” she asserted. Bakanas reflected on her time studying in England, where she realized her Master’s degree at the University of Leeds. Since liberal arts education is Practically non-existent in the country, many of her peers learned their way by trial and error.

Bakanas explained, however, that although her colleagues’ area knowledge could be intimidating at times, she was ultimately able to utilize her broad and interdisciplinary educational perspective to best support her work and research. “One of the most important things in technology is to step back and see the big picture and solve it, which a liberal arts education definitely supports. Whenever you feel stressed and feel like you can’t do it, step back and remember that technology is logical,” Bakanas advised.

Looking forward, Bakanas hopes to be able to predict the future of data visualization. “I would love to be able to see in the future where data visualization should go. This means seeing what people will need and what problems they may need solved before they’re even confronted with them. I hope to gain more experience to take the next step and be able to not just solve today’s problems, but also to predict the challenges of the future, even those that we don’t know exist yet.”

THE COLLEGE VOICE is looking to hire a Web Designer!

We’re looking for a student with experience designing and building websites. This is a great opportunity for a student looking to get involved in a fun club on campus and add a project to their portfolio or resume.

Please email contact@thecollegevoice.com for more information.
Examining Demographics in New Hampshire

LUCY WEAVER
STAFF WRITER

Overall, this year's democratic race has been very surprising. In New Hampshire's primary, Hillary Clinton suffered an unprecedented loss. Though polls had predicted Sanders leading in New Hampshire for quite some time, the margin by which he won shows instability in Clinton's campaign. When Sanders launched his campaign last spring, he was considered an outsider. Pundits thought Clinton would win by a mile and that the United States would probably keep a moderate Democrat in the White House. When Bernie's campaign gained traction over the summer, showing that he had strong backing among young people, analysts still questioned his ability to gain support from older democrats and minority populations.

On Feb. 9, Sanders captured every demographic in New Hampshire. He won among young voters, rich and poor, with especially high numbers from new and/or low-income voters. The impact of Sanders's victory, however, should not be overstated. New Hampshire is one of the least diverse states in the nation, with a 94-percent white population. South Carolina may be the deal breaker for Sanders, as he will be challenged to appeal to a greater population of non-white voters. Since winning New Hampshire, Sanders has gained some support from several significant figures in the black community, including author and MacArthur fellow Ta-Nehisi Coates, whose Between the World and Me won the National Book Award and the Kirkus Prize for nonfiction in 2015. Endorsements from other minority leaders will be integral as Sanders and Clinton move into South Carolina, where Clinton currently leads Sanders in minority voting. While Sanders polls well with both older and younger white democrats, he laps Sanders in comparative support among minority voters. The older minority generation tends to back Clinton, and while Sanders does relatively well among minority students, the overall vote still overwhelmingly supports Clinton; some polls among black voters in South Carolina show Clinton maintaining at least a 29-point lead.

Students at Connecticut College weighed in on the age disparities between supporters of Clinton and Sanders. "I do think it's a generational difference, which is why people have been saying this is the 'election of the youth,'" said one student when asked why she thought Clinton has more support from older voters. "In terms of parents, I feel like there's more familiarity with Hillary Clinton. She's been around for longer, and she's more of a straightforward businessperson and activist. Parents and grandparents are leaning more toward someone who is saying her concrete plan."

This has been the refrain of Sanders’ critics, many of whom support his economic vision but are skeptical of his ability to accomplish it. For an older democratic generation, most of whom supported Obama in 2008, Sanders’ radical views may be a turn-off. Clinton, as a woman, represents the unprecedented possibility of a female commander-in-chief. While Sanders boasts endorsements from former NAACP President Benjamin Jealous and Black Lives Matter activist Shaun King, Clinton’s political work has placed her in the favor of many minority voters. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries D-NY said to The Washington Post on Feb. 10 that “Hillary Clinton has been a true friend to the African American community for the last 40 years.” Polls show South Carolina as virtually opposite to the New Hampshire results, where Bernie Sanders won by 22 points. In South Carolina, polls project Clinton winning by a greater margin than that. Sanders’ campaign has exceeded expectations. Nearly tying in Iowa and winning New Hampshire has benefitted his campaign. Barack Obama won in South Carolina in 2008, and it will be interesting to see how the democrats in South Carolina, where the majority of the electorate is black, change the democratic field. For Clinton, winning may propel her toward the White House, leaving Sanders in the dust. If Sanders is able to connect more with minority populations, however, he may have a clearer path to victory at the Democratic National Convention.

Sanders faces a setback, however, as Clinton prevailed in the Nevada caucus with a 5-percent margin over Sanders. The win served as a relief for the Clinton campaign because recent Nevada polls showed Sanders creeping up in popularity. Clinton stressed her support of people of color, particularly Latinx immigrants, when campaigning in Nevada, and her success emphasizes the gap that Sanders must fill in order to win the minority vote. As in New Hampshire, Donald Trump took the Republican primary in South Carolina, Jeb Bush dropped out of the race after his South Carolina loss. If Sanders defies the odds, the two may in fact come head to head this November, which would be perhaps the most ideologically extreme election in recent history.

The Results are in: Analyzing Nevada and South Carolina

Nevada: The Democratic Caucus
The Nevada Republican Caucuses will take place on Feb. 23, 2016.

South Carolina: The Republican Primary
The Democratic South Carolina Primary is set for Feb. 27, 2016.

Jeb Bush officially withdrew from the Presidential race on February 20, 2016.

D. Trump
32.5%

M. Rubio
22.5%

T. Cruz
22.3%

J. Bush* 7.8%
Editor’s note: The College Voice is bringing back the classic advice column in a big way! Ask Suze, our in-house relationship and lifestyle guru, all the questions you’ve been mulling over. Send Suze your questions anonymously at www.suzyatm/CCClegeVoiceAdvice.

Am I a terrible person if I want my friend from home to break up with her boyfriend so I can date her?

Well no. I wouldn’t say you’re a terrible person, that seems a bit extreme. Feelings are feelings, and they’re weird and inexplicable and sometimes they seem inappropriate but they are what they are. I would suggest you examine the situation more carefully. Is your friend happy with her boyfriend? Does he treat her well and is she in a safe and healthy relationship? If so, then perhaps you might need to consider her happiness with the relationship over your own feelings. Which sucks. But if this is something you really want, and you think it might end up working out, then why not say something? However, there is the possibility that the friendship could get all weird if things don’t work out. Perhaps you could make a pro/con list. I am a huge fan of those. Let me know what happens, but rest assured that you are not a terrible person.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Suze Clues

HANNAH PEPIN STAFF WRITER

It’s difficult to balance everything while staying physically healthy, not to mention mentally healthy. Most of the time we put our mental health on the back-burner, thinking it is nonessential and we are too busy to worry about it. Between practice, club meetings, homework, and class, we barely have time to eat and sleep. However, mental health is integral to our overall health, and we need to spend some serious time maintaining it.

Here at Conn, we are lucky enough to have supportive Student Counseling Services (SCS). About 25% of our student population attends counseling, and by graduation approximately 50% of students will have been to SCS at some point during their four years at Conn. SCS is composed of a group of seven highly-trained directors, counselors and counseling psychiatrists, as well as three doctoral level practicum students in psychology.

Members of SCS prioritize the emotional and mental health of each student, and they are here to support us all through any challenge we may face. As Director of Student Counseling Services Janet Spoltore explained, “We want everyone to have an equal chance.”

As many members of the Conn community know, SCS increased counseling hours this semester. This change was prompted mainly by a greater need for counseling services, which not only Conn experienced. Spoltore commented, “There has been a change in the culture of mental health on college campuses.” The demand for services like SCS has increased across the country because more college students understand the importance of mental health.

At Conn, SCS has made an effort to increase the number of hours available over the years, and the senior administration has been generally supportive. In addition to offering 30 extra hours, Spoltore and the other members of SCS are working to get approval to fill more positions for postdoctoral fellows in psychology. These positions will specialize in multicultural mental health, as well as substance abuse, wellness and mindfulness.

We have numerous resources on campus that focus on our mental wellbeing. In addition to SCS, CC Curtiss, Director of Student Wellness and Alcohol/Other Drug Education, is more than willing to speak with students about their overall health and wellness. She serves as a referral source, working closely with SCS to give students whatever support they may need.

Curtiss explained, “There is a difference between making it through the day and really thriving.”

Unfortunately, a stigma often surrounds mental health issues and deters some students from seeking help. Active Minds, a student group, fights this stigma and serves as a proponent of mental health on campus.

Spoltore explained that the importance of mental health “hasn’t been consistently supported.” People worry more about the physical ailments that they can see, like when they get sick, but mental illnesses are no less harmful. Connecticut College is a typically healthy school where most students take care of themselves, and this care should include our overall wellbeing—mind, body and soul.

SCS is a great place to go for those who need to speak with someone completely unbiased and detached from their personal lives. The main goal of SCS is to support students and create a positive, healthy lifestyle at Conn and in life beyond college.

SCS is an incredible resource for any and every student. Tragedy happens. Misjudgment happens. Life happens. Sometimes we all need an extra push back in the right direction to take care of our mental health. We are extremely as busy college students, but no matter how busy we are, our health should come first. I encourage everyone to have even just one meeting at SCS because it will do nothing but good, whether you are really struggling or just need to talk.

Let’s end the stigma around mental health and take care of our minds as much as we take care of our bodies. Connecticut College Counseling Services is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30am-6pm, Tuesday 8:30am-7pm and Friday 8:30am-5pm. They can be reached by emailing SCS@conncoll.edu or at (860)-447-4587 •
Provisions for Programs

ISABELLE SMITH STAFF WRITER

In our super competitive world, it becomes increasingly important to stand out. This is evident on websites, resumes, and college profiles. Connecticut College prides itself on its 55 areas of study, which is fantastic for the undecided high school senior applying to school. It has the best of both worlds: a liberal arts environment with the breadth of study of a big university.

A problem arises, however, when the reality does not meet advertised expectations.

Fields of study at the College are broken into two categories: programs and departments. The departments constitute the majority of the fields of study at Connecticut College: Biology, English, Economics, French and Art, among others. There are also some unique departments compared to other colleges: Botany, Gender & Women's Studies and Slavic Studies. Then there are programs: Africana Studies, Architectural Studies, Environmental Studies and so on.

The programs are what make the College stand out when high school seniors are choosing a school. They add an intriguing layer to the academic world. Programs are a huge asset to the school, but this does not always shine through when it comes to administration.

In order for a field of study to become a department, it must have at least three tenure-track faculty members. There are three kinds of professors: visiting professors, adjunct professors, and tenured associate professors. The main difference comes down to finances. A visiting professor receives full pay and a full schedule. The College and the visiting professor do not have a responsibility towards each other for more than the year of their contract. An adjunct professor's pay is determined by the number of classes he or she teaches. The school is not responsible for their health insurance or any other expenses.

A tenure-track professor is given associate professor status and essentially cannot be fired unless they break a major rule of the College. This is the best situation to be in as a professor, because they have the ability to leave if they wish, but are rarely forced to leave. This is a huge expense to which a college needs to commit. Because programs are not as well-funded as departments, they may be less dependable in pulling in students on a yearly basis, making it difficult to see reason to set aside the necessary funds.

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Fields of study at the College are broken into two categories: programs and departments. The departments constitute the majority of the fields of study at Connecticut College: Biology, English, Economics, French and Art, among others. There are also some unique departments compared to other colleges: Botany, Gender & Women's Studies and Slavic Studies. Then there are programs: Africana Studies, Architectural Studies, Environmental Studies and so on.

The programs are what make the College stand out when high school seniors are choosing a school. They add an intriguing layer to the academic world. Programs are a huge asset to the school, but this does not always shine through when it comes to administration.

In order for a field of study to become a department, it must have at least three tenure-track faculty members. There are three kinds of professors: visiting professors, adjunct professors, and tenured associate professors. The main difference comes down to finances. A visiting professor receives full pay and a full schedule. The College and the visiting professor do not have a responsibility towards each other for more than the year of their contract. An adjunct professor's pay is determined by the number of classes he or she teaches. The school is not responsible for their health insurance or any other expenses.

A tenure-track professor is given associate professor status and essentially cannot be fired unless they break a major rule of the College. This is the best situation to be in as a professor, because they have the ability to leave if they wish, but are rarely forced to leave. This is a huge expense to which a college needs to commit. Because programs are not as well-funded as departments, they may be less dependable in pulling in students on a yearly basis, making it difficult to see reason to set aside the necessary funds.

Because programs are not as generic as departments, they may be less dependable in pulling in students on a yearly basis, making it difficult to see reason to set aside the necessary funds.
Assuming Responsibility for Our Safety

ISABELLE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Although it feels like spring is in full swing, winter’s snow was falling just days ago. On the Connecticut College campus, the community experienced “winter,” in its full effect for about a month — snow igloos, nordic skis and snowball fights. A celebratory cry rings from students when classes are cancelled, but it seems that the reason for cancellations is overlooked. The weather was never bad enough that students couldn’t walk from their dorm to their classroom building; just lace up the winter boots, put on a winter parka, and it was all okay. The real reason for cancelling classes is safety.

In order for the grounds and custodial staff to be able to clear the essential pathways of snow, people cannot be walking in the way, and cars cannot be blocking the roads. Cancellations on extremely heavy snow fall days makes it easier and safer for everyone involved in the snow removal process. The job is taxing enough without added obstacles.

The grounds and custodial staff are on call all the time, so as soon as Campus Safety perceives it is becoming slippery, the nine-person Snow Removal Crew is called in. On a normal day, they work from 7am to 3:30pm. If the snow persists, or more work needs to be done to keep the campus safe, half the staff will stay until 12am. If even more work is needed, the half crew that went home at 3:30pm returns at 12am and works their overtime shift, 12am-7am, as well as their normal shift, 7am-3:30pm. If the snow continues to cause safety concern on campus, the 16-hour work day cycle continues.

The result, according to Jim Luce, Head of Grounds: “the crews are exhausted.” Grounds staff are in charge of machinery and plowing, while the custodial crews are in charge of shoveling. The school owns plows for the roads, little Bobcats for the wider sidewalks and shovels for steeper or narrower paths and stairs. Because there was so much snow last year, the school even has a three-month rental on a pay loader to stack the snow away from important paths.

There are so many little things that need to be remembered when conducting this work. Fire extinguishers, handicap ramps and emergency exits need to be cleared immediately. Snow piles can only be stacked in certain places on campus to ensure they are not in the way. Salt sand mixtures need to be distributed as quickly as possible to prevent black ice. Additionally, parking spaces need to be cleared so that faculty and staff can meet their obligations on time. It is increasingly difficult to clear parking spaces of snow if there are already cars in the spots. This is why the parking ban is so important.

“Snow removal is a big responsibility, and unfortunately, it is usually a thankless job as well,” Jim Luce described. It’s a lot of work, and when it isn’t done fast enough, the staff are held responsible. This is an unfair responsibility. The staff doesn’t control the weather, and they only have a limited number of people working at clearing the snow. A lot of the time, students do not see the amount of work that goes into clearing the campus, so it is not publicly recognized or thanked.

While it seems as if winter is nearly over this year, an improved system, which includes the entire school, should be considered for next winter.
Hollywood's Depiction of a Gender Transition

"The Danish Girl" Review

ISABELLE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Editor's Note: If you do not want to know the end of the movie, do not read this article.

In response to the current international transgender awareness movement, perhaps made most visible by Caitlyn Jenner's widely publicized gender transition, Hollywood has produced a film depicting the beginnings of the movement. Tom Hooper's film, The Danish Girl, is a biography of Lili Elbe (Eddie Redmayne) who underwent the first gender reassignment surgery in the early twentieth century. Throughout her transition, Lili is supported by her (eventually ex-)wife Gerda Wegener (Alicja Vikander), childhood friend Hans Axgil (Matthew Schoenaerts) and Ulla Paulson, a close friend (Amber Heard).

The film represents the transition of identity well. It is clear that Lili struggles emotionally between society's expectations of her own internal desire to live openly as Lili instead of as Einar. The film's narrative makes it easy for the viewer to understand the path that she is traveling as. The film opens, it introduces us to Einar and Gerda. Einar, wearing a suit to work every day, is an established painter, while Gerda still struggles to find success in the art world. The film then moves into the beginning of Einar's questioning. When Gerda needs to finish a portrait and her scheduled model fails to attend their session, Einar dresses in women's attire to model for her and feels comfortable in the women's gown. Initially framed just as a game, Einar dresses as a model, Lili, to the next party the couple attends. After Lili becomes a public figure thanks to Gerda's artwork, she wants to permanent surgery to align her body with which she identifies. Because the audience watches all these little steps along the way, we understand her decision to undergo surgery. Hooper depicts and emphasizes Lili's internal struggles as well as her struggles to gain acceptance in society. With Gerda's support, she meets with multiple doctors. One decides she is gay, another thinks she is crazy and another concludes she is schizophrenic. The camera flashes from doctor's conclusion to doctor's conclusion, conveying Lili's struggle to find someone who understands her. Only after a friend suggests that she see a sexual science doctor does Lili find a physician who truly understands her.

The only real issue I have with the film is the ending. Lili dies after a failed operation to implant a uterus in her abdomen because science was not advanced enough at the time to account for hormone rejection. When Lili dies, both Gerda and Hans, her two biggest supporters, are present. After Lili dies, Gerda and Hans return to the place where she grew up. Gerda lets the scarf that Lili wore through her surgeries fly off in the wind, an action that feels too much like they are holding hands and dancing into the sunset. The scarf represents the struggle that Lili endures. By letting the wind take control at the end, the film seems to say that the human effort is not as strong as nature. This scene contradicts the film's whole message because Lili's story is one of human will conquering nature's design. It is a misleading ending.

Despite my issue with the ending, I enjoyed the film and appreciated its efforts to demonstrate some of the challenges that transgender individuals may face, both today and historically. At a time when transgender experiences and rights are being more widely discussed, it is important and significant that Hollywood has chosen to engage in the conversation. The film industry can have a significant impact on society's perception of the topics that it chooses to cover, so I am glad that Hooper portrayed Lili's story in the way that he did.

Review Battles:

Straight Outta Compton

Felix Gary Gray's smashing summer blockbuster, Straight Outta Compton, is a compelling examination of one of the most radical civil rights movements of the 1980s. The now classic story of N.W.A.'s creation of the hip hop genre and the subsequent plague of record labels and personal ambitions is portrayed in one of the most convincing films of 2015.

The film analyzes the power of art in social movements and how that art is then exploited with impeccable performances from Jason Mitchell as Easy-E, O'Shea Jackson Jr. as Ice Cube, Corey Hawkins as Dr. Dre and Paul Giamatti as the infamous Jerry Heller, it is disheartening that none of these talented actors have been nominated for this year's Oscars.

Though the perspective of the film has been skewed to favor the richest surviving members of N.W.A. (Dr. Dre and Ice Cube both are portrayed as heroes who fight for justice and individuality while MC Ren and DJ Yella are hardly mentioned), the message of the film is clear: there is unresolved social unrest in America.

From the dorm room halls to the dish station in Harris, powerful statements such as "Fuck the Police" and "Express Yourself" still echo around our own college. The expressions mirror the energy of the Black Lives Matter movement today, which was most recently championed by Beyonce in her Super Bowl Halftime show. Cities such as Baltimore and Ferguson are plagued by a division between law enforcement and the public, and although one would like to believe that the impact N.W.A. made on the world included a radical shift in people's ideologies, there is no doubt how much is left to be done.

Critics may find fault with the biased tone of the movie. Dr. Dre and Ice Cube are portrayed as heroes while the real group superstar Easy-E is almost Shakespearian in execution. The death of a bright young talent due to his own greed and recklessness while his former friends continue to hold huge successful solo careers leaves viewers wondering, like the characters in the film, "what could have been?"

The film's cautionary tone against greed is most evident in the polarizing character of Jerry Heller (Paul Giamatti). Heller is an example of the genius of the film because he is not the stereotypical, one-dimensional evil record label representative; he is also portrayed as a misguided father figure. Heller evidently exploits the group for his own ambition. Yet without him, the group could have never made the cultural impact that it did. This is the moral of his character remains unresolved.

Overall, the film is a contemporary milestone. It expresses not only cultural and artistic phenomena but also extremely personal feelings and the connections that are formed and broken when one is a part of something much greater than oneself.

JAMES MURRAY
STAFF WRITER

The emergence of N.W.A. in the late '80s and early '90s came at a pivotal moment when issues of race relations, inequality and prejudice came to a head. The group that emerged comprised of young, frustrated, once-in-a-generation talented but marginalized young men who were embracing hip hop to express anger, raw emotion and distaste with the state of our country, especially when it came to social issues.

I believe that Straight Outta Compton could have achieved critical success simply because the story of the group is so utterly captivating. But, not only does the movie successfully provide us with an amazing story, it also features the exceptional performances of several largely unknown and inexperienced actors. The acting itself creates such a visceral experience for the viewer that, at times, the film almost feels like a documentary. In a movie that is acclaimed for its ability to capture raw emotion, whether it be in a moment of creative brilliance in the studio or the tragic loss of a loved one, the actors deliver one hundred percent.

In an interview with Kendrick Lamar, the members of N.W.A., now well into their 40s, sat down and talked about their experience. All surviving members of the group were present and talked like nothing had changed in the years that had followed their breakup, explaining that it had to happen and that they held no ill toward one another. They explained that they were simply five young men who had an insatiable love for making and producing music. While acknowledging that they were one of the most influential musical groups in history, they remained grounded. On several occasions, they said that they did it all for the love of the art form. Important, however, they talked about how their music was also a way to express the struggles that African-Americans and other minorities must endure daily. One of the aims of their music was to bring the recurring problems of racism, police brutality and minority marginalization onto the surface and into the mainstream.

I was struck, while watching this interview and thinking back on my experience watching the movie, by how well the actors were able to effectively capture the individual personalities as well as the group dynamic of N.W.A. •
Sparks Fly at New London Makerspace

HALLIE GROSSMAN
BUSINESS MANAGER

Last October, Spark Makerspace opened at 86 Golden St. in downtown New London. The project was spearheaded by social entrepreneurs Hannah Gant and George Ryan, and the space joins many across the country cultivating creativity in various media. According to their website, Spark members pay a monthly fee for access to a full workbench, commercial kitchen, 3D printers, Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machine and laser cutter, robotics lab, screenprinting equipment and much more. Spark’s community also extends to its shared office, meeting, classroom and retail space at 13 Golden St.

Spark emphasizes collaboration and cooperation within the New London community, hoping to engage artists, thinkers, inventors and anyone with the desire to create. As a community-run workshop and learning center, they also provide classes led by members and encourage members to share skills through engaging with various events. Instead of highlighting the space as an incubator solely for STEAM fields, Spark encourages participation in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) skills and products.

Inclusion of the arts is a vital aspect of Spark’s mission and the mission of makerspaces across the country. Makerspaces, also known as hackerspaces, have evolved with technology and accessibility to machines and equipment. Employing DIY (do it yourself) ethic, makerspaces have become a sort of subculture. Verbs such as “tinker” give an idea of the type of work being done in these spaces. DIY ethic preaches self-sufficiency and completing work without the help of a paid expert. Makerspaces fill the rest of the equation, providing community spaces that are hubs of knowledge sharing and opportunities to learn from peers.

According to Wikipedia, “Central to the [DIY] ethic is the empowerment of individuals and communities, encouraging the employment of alternative approaches when faced with bureaucratic or societal obstacles to achieving their objectives.”

Locating the space in the heart of downtown New London makes creativity visible in the community. It also makes me wonder, however, about how we allot creativity to certain spaces.

Makerspaces create an intersection between traditionally feminine practices—crafting, DIY projects, things one might find on Pinterest—and traditionally masculine practices—inventing, operating machinery, participating in STEM fields. Overlapping all these aspects of creativity and eliminating an authoritative figure serves to blur the lines between these types of practices, hopefully opening them up to a wider audience. Gant, who played a large role in Spark’s creation, also serves as an example of the business and entrepreneurial opportunities available in this line of work, another field that has historically been dominated by men.

In a sense, every college campus should function as a type of makerspace, where inspiration comes from individuals, not solely professors or instructors. Cultivation of creativity should happen inside and outside the classroom, and creativity should exist across disciplines and not be isolated to the arts. In my near four years here, I have felt that classes are not only for learning from professors, but from peers as well.

That said, the College and Spark are collaborating on an event this coming Saturday, as a part of the 15th Biennial Symposium on Arts and Technology held by the Ammerman Center. The symposium will be held Feb. 25, 26 and 27 and includes events at the College and in the New London community. The community event on Saturday is an experimental sound show and will be held at 86 Golden St.
Help is Needed in Cleveland
Why Johnny Manziel is No Longer About Football

JAMES MURRAY
STAFF WRITER
The camera pans over to Johnny during a preseason game in 2014. After being chided and barked at by numerous Redskin players, he momentaniously loses his cool and flips his middle finger behind his head. After throwing an interception in a game against the 49ers this year, the camera goes to the Browns sideline were we see Johnny smashing a Microsoft Surface tablet against his chest, repeatedly. After a failed attempt at a come-from-behind victory against the Kansas City Chiefs, we see Johnny angrily rip off his helmet and spike it into the turf. This last moment effectively sums up the Cleveland Browns' season.

Johnny Manziel's brief existence in the NFL has consisted of an amalgamation of bizarre stories, sound bites, controversial video clips and pictures and quotations from the quarterback himself. As an observer and a fan of the league and the Browns, I've experienced a plethora of opinions and stories about the polarizing quarterback.

In the beginning, I felt a combination of excitement and trepidation when I was following the Browns' tumultuous draft. After two years, I still feel that way. As for Rick Pitino, he says he knew nothing about the events surrounding his former Louisville basketball team and that he was hungover by saying he got "immediately, players who may compete with each other, really need to settle with the schools they want. The problem is that Louisville is creating this narrative surrounding his time in March Madness for March Madness.

Scandal in Time for March Madness

COLE MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER
In 2013, the Louisville Cardinals won the NCAA Tournament, but the Cardinals will not be competing in the 2016 Tournament because of a self-imposed ban relating to a recent investigation into a recruiting scandal involving escort and strippers. The scandal involves assistant coach Andre McGee, paying an escort to have dancers show up at a Louisville and dance for possible recruits and other basketball players. Katina Powell, the escort McGee is alleged to have paid, has written a book saying that she was providing dancers to McGee from 2010 to 2014. McGee is not working at Louisville for the time being. ESPN's Outside the Lines broke the story and so there has been an NCAA investigation that Rick Pitino, Louisville's basketball coach, has said will not end until possibly July. The story originally came to light when Powell wrote a book called Breaking Cardinal Rules: Basketball and the Escort Queen, which was about sending dancers to Louisville's Bill Minardi Hall, a dorm room where basketball players and other athletes of Louisville University live.

Outside the Lines also interviewed five former Louisville basketball players that chose to remain anonymous, but did say that at Minardi Hall prostitutes would show up and dance for them. In return the players would throw dollar bills at their feet while they were dancing. Three of the players were recruits at the time of the event and would later become players for Louisville's basketball team.

Outside the Lines also talked to Katina Powell about sending the dancers to Bill Minardi Hall. She said that McGee paid her $10,000 to send women for these events. She also said that in the four years she sent over two dozen dancers. After the first couple of events, McGee asked if he could pay extra for the dancers to also have sex with powder or recruiters. Powell said yes and that strippers having sex with the players which would usually cost an extra $100 per person.

Also in Powell's journals she writes about meeting McGee through a mutual friend, that she was paid by McGee and that she was sending dancers to Bill Minardi Hall. The journals not only included information on the scandal, but personal things about Powell. The journals clearly were not written for the purpose of tarnishing the school but just to keep entries on her life. She did find it important to note the scandal because she thought no one would believe her without proof. The NCAA is doing its own investigation into the matter and has not disclosed anything it has found about Louisville or Rick Pitino and will not until the investigation is over.

As for Rick Pitino, he says he knew nothing about the dancers or sex with recruiters and stands by his word. Players that used to play for Rick Pitino say that they believe him, but there are some players that had no comment on the matter when asked about the strippers in Bill Minardi Hall. Pitino has told Louisville fans that he will not be stepping down from his coaching job right now. However, after talking with James R. Ramsey, the President of the University of Louisville, and Tom Jurich, Cardinals athletic director, Louisville chose to impose its own postseason ban, not playing in the 2016 NCAA Tournament or ACC Tournament. Some believe that this is over.

Today, recruiting is a difficult process, nothing like signing a free agent in a major sport. Instead, a college is attempting to choose the best athletes from the country and is giving them a scholarship to play. Instead of competing with 30 other teams and having a set cap price to spend, universities are competing with hundreds of other schools to get any athlete they want. The problem is that, although all the schools are going to be competing with each other, really only the top schools will be competing for the best players.

Each school has a different set number of full or partial scholarships they can give out. Immediately, players who may not be able to afford college have to settle with the schools that are going to be giving out full scholarships. Also, big name schools tend to get first picks on which players they want because going to a school such as University of North Carolina or University of Louisville can give a player a much better chance of making professional leagues such as, in the case of Louisville, the National Basketball Association. If the allegations are true, then McGee may have felt that he could get some type of advantage for the school if he provided recruits with dancers, strippers, and more.

Obviously there will be no word on whether the allegations are true until the NCAA has made a decision, but with the amount of evidence against Louisville and the school choosing to pull themselves out of the NCAA Basketball Tournament, when they were a favorite to be in the Final Four and even the championship game, it is pretty clear to me that they feel that there will be a severe punishment.

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CONTINUED FROM FRONT

our hockey team backed out of a game, it shouldn't be a representation of our entire school. It's not our fault our coach decided it wouldn't be a good idea to play you guys," read one post. Other YikYakkers went on to suggest that Command, and other administrative bodies at the school, had influenced the team's coach, Chief Dore, to cancel the event.

"Chief Dare informed us last Monday that he and his team were not interested in playing us this year," said Paul Luba, a senior organizer on Conn's Club Team. "Dore told us that they had an incomplete roster and no depth to go three periods. He also told us in an email that from a coaching perspective, this game would add no value to his program or players."

It's not difficult to see this rationale. The Coast Guard has not enjoyed any recent victories in the annual competition. In 2010, Conn was up 10-1 before the game was called off in the third period. The closest match-up occurred in 2013, when a 9-8 game went Conn's way in double overtime. In 2015, the Camels won again, this time with a final score of 7-2.

Luba and others on the team, including Hooper, reached out to Dore in an attempt to get the game back into action. They emphasized the unique nature of the rivalry as a common ground for schools which, apart from their host city of New London, share little in common.

In an e-mail to Dore, the team wrote, "When players from both of our teams meet down the road in life, hopefully it is this crazy, unexplainable club hockey rivalry that we will talk about, and not the year that it all inexplicably ended." They also offered to match the limited depth of the CGA team for the sake of fairness. Both moves underlined Conn's determination to keep the tradition alive.

Dare's disinterest in the game was likely not shared by the Coast Guard's players, many of whom took to YikYak to say that they would have been interested in playing. Furthermore, they emphasized that Dare himself was "being pressured by higher ups," and therefore should not have been scapegoated for spoiling the party.

As of now, it looks like the traditional game CGA vs. Conn game will not happen. Instead, the Connecticut College club team is planning to bus the club team at Trinity -- as well as Trinity fans -- to Dayton Arena on Friday, Mar. 1. Hooper expressed excitement that this alteration could still be a good thing for their team and overall school spirit surrounding the annual tradition.

"Trinity is a far more likeminded team than the Coast Guard. They will bring the raucous, and we'll assist them with fan buses so long as they can muster interest with their fan base," said Hooper concerning the prospective event. "Their enthusiasm seems promising, and they'll be a far more challenging match-up so I think we'll manage to salvage the annual allure of this rivalry tradition."
Men's Squash Takes on NESCACS

Earns National Ranking

ELIZABETH VAROLI
STAFF WRITER

The Connecticut College Men's Squash team just finished a tough weekend in the NESCAC Championships, facing some of the strongest teams in college squash. Senior tri-captain Brendan McClintick positively reflects on this weekend. "If you entered the tournament with plenty to prove, but he says his teammates did their jobs and went into their next match Saturday morning ready to fight for a win. Conn defeated Tufts, the 9th ranked team, 5-4, getting revenge after losing to them at home earlier this season. Against Tufts, with McClintick playing first in the lineup, junior tri-captain Matt Lillie playing third, and first-year Louis Feinman at number six. In the second slot Daniel Reisman lost a 1-3 match, and in the eighth slot Louis Feinman lost a 2-3 match. Going into the tournament, Hamilton was ranked one spot above Conn in the NESCACS and in national rankings. McClintick explains that Conn always has tight matches with Hamilton and anticipates a match against the school at Nationals. As Conn's squash team prepares for the final tournament of the season, set to take place the weekend of Feb. 19, McClintick said, "If we are going to beat them it is going to take lots of hard work."

The latest Danlop Men Squash Association Team Rankings of the 2015-2016 season puts Connecticut College at the 29 seed. For Conn, the NESCACs were an opportunity to play serious competition and to improve upon its game. With Nationals quickly approaching, Conn has the opportunity to take momentum from its win against Tufts to upset a few more teams and move up a few spots in the national rankings. McClintick said, "The next two weeks we will be training with a very high intensity, making sure that we get in the best shape possible for Nationals."
NFL Early Retirements: A New Trend?

NOAH JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

The beginning of the NFL offseason: a time for many players to mull over their futures in the league. While players approaching the prime of their careers are signing contract extensions or testing the free agent market; many older veterans are choosing to end their careers. Usually, starting-caliber players will stay in the league into their mid-30s. However, the past couple of seasons have experienced a trend toward earlier player retirement.

Many players retire after an obvious decline in their abilities. Now, more than ever, younger players are competing right away for starting jobs. In other words, usually the writing is on the wall. For example, Troy Polamalu, the once dominant playmaking safety, retired after showing he was a liability on a struggling Steelers defense. Many believe that we have seen the last of legendary quarterback Peyton Manning, who, despite winning a Super Bowl behind an unstoppable defense, turned in the worst passing rating among all quarterbacks who qualified in the 2015 season. However, more and more, recent retirements have not fit into this model of a steep decline.

Patrick Willis, a five time first-team All-Pro linebacker, retired last March after just eight years in the league. Marquess Wilson, the once dominant playmaking safety, retired after showing he was a liability on a struggling Steelers defense. Many believe that we have seen the last of legendary quarterback Peyton Manning, who, despite winning a Super Bowl behind an unstoppable defense, turned in the worst passing rating among all quarterbacks who qualified in the 2015 season. However, more and more, recent retirements have not fit into this model of a steep decline.

However, none of these cases is more interesting than that of former San Francisco 49ers linebacker Chris Borland. As a rookie, Borland totaled a whopping 108 tackles in just eight games, filling in for the injured All-Pro Navarro Bowman. Although he was placed on season-ending injured reserve for an ankle injury, he was hailed as one of the best young players in the league and was a bright spot on an otherwise unimpressive 49ers squad.

Then, in the offseason, the 24-year-old shocked the league by announcing his retirement, giving up almost a half of a million dollars in bonuses. He cited concern of head injuries as the reason, arguing that football was not worth the risk. He brought up the stories of NFL greats Mike Webster, Dave Duerson and Ray Easterling, who were diagnosed with the disease chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) after their deaths.

These announcements have only added to the scrutiny that the NFL has encountered in the recent years regarding player safety and concussion concerns. In 2012, Hall-of-Fame linebacker Junior Seau’s suicide prompted concerns of a correlation between concussions and player deaths. A research project, done by Boston University and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs displayed this correlation as well as the prevalence of CTE. Of the 91 former players who donated their brains for research after death, 87 tested positive for CTE, according to the IB Times. The disease can cause aggression, depression and loss of memory and motor skills.

Last year, the NFL reached a settlement of almost $1 billion with thousands of former players in response to the research done on concussions. This settlement was met with much scrutiny and criticism; split between 5,000 players, it did not adequately cover their medical care and other costs.

Despite concerns regarding these long-term and potentially life-threatening injuries, the conversation around these topics is relatively new. The NFL has taken measures to improve player safety within the past few years, fining and suspending players for helmet-to-helmet hits and other personal fouls. However, season-ending injuries, including ACL tears, have only kept increasing.

Given all of these facts and figures, it's not surprising that more and more players are deciding to walk away, rather than risk ending their careers with an injury. Injuries can occur on any snap of any game; staying in the league only increases the likelihood that one of these damaging injuries will occur.

With players more informed than ever on these issues, it will be interesting to see if younger players in their prime will reconsider staying in the NFL for a long time. After all, we have to remember that NFL players are people, with many years to live after their football careers end. Although the hope is that fewer players will be affected by these injuries down the line, only time will tell if this trend can improve the lives of players after they've played their last down.

Connecticut College Prize for Undergraduate Library Research

- $500 award
- Submit materials by Tuesday, March 15
- All undergraduates eligible

For complete eligibility and submission information: conncoll.libguides.com/libprize
On Friday, Feb. 19, Natalie Jeremijenko, whose work is currently installed in the first floor of Cummings, led a workshop for Amherst Center students and the larger Conn community. The exhibit, titled xHIBITON, is a space full of prototypes, devices and concept plans that combine art, technology and the environment, according to the College’s press release.

Jeremijenko, who is an associate professor at NYU in the visual art department (also affiliated with their computer science and environmental studies program), will give the keynote address on Friday, Feb. 29 at 9:30am in Evans Hall for the Amherst Center’s OPEN ALL PORTS 15th Biennial Symposium. The Symposium will go from Feb. 25 until Feb. 27, and will feature numerous visiting artists and lecturers, as well as work and presentations from Conn students. Work will be shown in Cummings, 768 Williams Street (the Amherst Center House), the Hygienic Galleries and Spark Makerspace in New London over the course of the symposium.