



## *From the President*

ANDREA E. CHAPDELAINE, PH.D.

Dear alumni, families and friends of Connecticut College,

April is already in full swing, and there's a lot happening across campus. I'll dive right in.

### **Conn Giving Day-April 2-3**

We celebrated our 10th annual Conn Giving Day last week. This milestone is a meaningful opportunity to reflect on what Conn means to each of us—and to come together in support of its future. Thank you to all those who helped to make this campaign a success through your enthusiasm, participation and generosity.

### **Equity and Inclusion Action Plan**

The 2018-2025 [Equity and Inclusion Action Plan](#), developed under John McKnight's leadership with strong collaboration from campus partners, will conclude at the end of this academic year. Over the past several years, we have made tremendous progress in enhancing the experiences of students, faculty and staff. As with other past initiatives—such as the 2003 Presidential Commission on a Pluralistic College Community report, authored by then-Dean Maria Cruz-Saco—the plan and its progress reports will be archived in the library to document our collective accomplishments.

The work of fostering an environment where all members of our community can thrive will continue through the newly established Division of Retention and Success. VP and Dean of the College Erika Smith is presently in dialogue with her team to develop the new division's mission statement, organizational structure, new job descriptions where appropriate, and future goals and plans.

### **Federal Policy Monitoring**

We continue to closely monitor guidance from the federal government to determine if there are required responses. Legal counsel is currently reviewing programs and policies to ensure compliance with recent federal actions, as well as working with us to keep our international faculty, staff and students informed of any pertinent developments.

### **Cro Renovation Update**

The Cro renovation project has experienced minor delays in ordered products due to tariffs. We anticipate the 1962 Room will open within the next week, with the remainder of the building opening in early May, although some final touches may still be in progress.

### **Admission Yield Season & Mega Weekend**

It's an exciting time in the Office of Admission as we engage in "Yield Season" and begin welcoming admitted students from the Class of 2029. We're rolling out a range of programs to showcase what makes Conn special:

- Camel Days: April 21 & 28
- Three Webinars: Focused on key topics for admitted students
- Coffee with a Camel: Virtual chats with admission ambassadors
- Welcome and What's Next: Online session hosted by the dean of first-year students and associate dean of campus life
- Camel for a Day: Personalized visit program for students unable to attend a Camel Day

In addition, we've designated the last weekend in April as Mega Weekend, which will feature:

- Spring Connections: For BIPOC and first-gen admitted students
- Counselor Fly-In: For high school counselors
- Camel Days: Happening over a four-day period
- Spring Open House: April 18

### **My Inauguration – April 26**

I warmly invite you to join me for my inauguration on Saturday, April 26, at 11 a.m. Find all the details [here](#) including information on live streaming the event. My goal is to

have a joyous community celebration of Conn.

### **Other Recent and Upcoming Events**

- On April 1, we celebrated the [grand opening of the Disability Cultural Center](#).
- On April 2, we hosted the Daniel Klagsbrun Symposium on Creative Arts and Moral Vision with featured speaker Suzan-Lori Parks, a multi-award-winning American writer/musician and the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.
- We also recognized Founder's Day on April 5, the date in 1911 when the College's original charter was signed by the Connecticut secretary of State.
- Honors and Awards Ceremony: April 29

### **Athletics Update**

Our Camels made waves at the 2025 NCAA Winter Championships!

- Men's Swimming: At the NCAA Division III Swimming & Diving Championships, Justin Finkel '25 defended his national titles in the 500 freestyle and 200 butterfly, setting an NCAA record in the latter. This marks his fourth NCAA title and earned him NCAA Swimmer of the Year for the second consecutive year. The Camels also broke a school record in the 400 medley relay, with Finkel, Matthew Morris '26, Carrick Shea '28 and Nicholas Holovacs '28 finishing eighth and earning All-America First Team honors. In total, five men's swimmers and one diver qualified, leading to a #16 overall finish and 9 All-America selections!
- Track & Field: At the NCAA Division III Indoor Championships, our Camels delivered standout performances:
  - The women's distance medley relay team—Abby Fernald '26, Lilla Kate Tucker '27, Grace McDonough '26 and Alexa Estes '26—secured a third-place finish and First-Team All-America honors.
  - McDonough also set a school record in the mile (4:49.29), earning her second First-Team All-America accolade in two days.
  - On the men's side, Matt Scardigno '25 finished 11th in the 3000 meters, earning Second-Team All-America honors.
  - The women's team finished 15th overall in the championships—an incredible achievement!

Finally, I encourage you to listen to this [podcast](#) from Nat Damon '93. In this inspiring episode, Nat gathers fellow Connecticut College alumni—all current heads of independent schools—to discuss how their liberal arts education shaped their leadership. Recorded live at the NAIS Conference in Nashville, the episode is a wonderful tribute to the transformational impact of a Conn education and the difference you make in the lives of our students. Wishing you a wonderful April.

Sincerely,



**Andrea E. Chapdelaine, Ph.D.**

President

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