College celebrates Honor Code Day

THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY celebrated Honor Code Day on Sept. 18 with a new program of events designed to show the campuswide commitment to the high standards of our community.

That morning, each of the College’s senior administrators attended a First-Year Seminar, where they discussed the Honor Code and two readings chosen to form the context of the discussion.

After the seminars, the senior team gathered together with representatives from the Faculty Steering and Conference Committee and Staff Council to show solidarity with the student Honor Code by affirming their commitment to — and signing — the College’s Principles of Community. (The Principles of Community can be found on CamelWeb in the Community section under Documents/Policies.)

“The signing was an opportunity for everyone to see that the leaders on campus are willing to publicly affirm the values that guide our shared governance,” said Dean of the College Jefferson Singer, who organized the day’s events with Dean of Students Victor Arcelus.

Strategic Planning update

IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, President Katherine Bergeron announced the launch of a yearlong strategic planning initiative that will identify the College’s goals and priorities for the next five to 10 years.

The process will engage the whole community: staff, faculty, students, trustees, alumni, parents and friends of the College and will be “one of the most ambitious projects we will undertake this year,” according to Bergeron.

Guiding this work is a committee comprising faculty members, staff members, students and members of the senior management team. The committee is co-chaired by Abby Van Slyck, dean of the faculty, and Chad Jones, associate professor of botany; the following faculty, students, and staff have agreed to serve:

Mary Calarese, Director of Financial Planning
Paulina Castillo, Snack Shop Attendant
Michelle Dunlap, Professor of Human Development
Noel Garrett, Dean of Student Support, Director of Academic Resource Center
Antonio Jefferson, Associate Professor of Botany, co-chair of committee
Grace Juster, Class of 2016
Roxanne Low, Class of 2019
Gil Mejia, Class of 2017
John Nugent, Director of Institutional Research and Planning, staffing committee
Chris Penniman, Director of Instructional Technology

Continued on page 3 >
Update from the Interim Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion

DAVID CANTON, the interim dean of institutional equity and inclusion, recently shared an update on the work he has been doing with faculty, staff and students since his appointment in June:

**Associate dean of institutional equity and inclusion:** Four highly qualified candidates for this position made presentations on campus at open sessions early in September. The new associate dean is expected to be announced soon.

**Diversifying applicants:** Efforts continue to increase the number of diverse candidates who apply for faculty or staff positions at the College. Key to this process is ensuring that chairs and directors are informed about best practices in hiring, so Canton has given presentations about hiring strategies to various groups.

**Bias Protocol Committee:** The Bias Protocol Committee is working to develop a new set of policies and procedures for students, faculty and staff, which should be available by the end of the fall semester. Canton is also in talks with constituents across campus about forming a new Diversity Council.

**First Generation initiative:** Canton announced the new First Generation initiative, designed to increase engagement around the growing population of first-generation students in order to enhance their experiences while at the College.

**Appointments:** Canton announced the following appointments:

- **Rabbi Susan Schein**, director of Zachs Hillel House, is the College's new Jewish Chaplain.
- **Melissa Pierce** joined the College as the Title IX Coordinator. (See sidebar below.)
- **Jennifer Rudolph**, assistant professor of Hispanic studies, is the interim co-coordinator of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program.
- **Jennifer Nival**, assistant director of Unity House, is the new adviser for the Women’s Center.
- **Mohamed Diagne**, the Oakes Ames Professor of Physics, is the College’s new Muslim Community Program Leader.

**Diversity and equity programming:** Canton noted that his office is producing a number of programs related to diversity and equity. A list of these events can be found at conncoll.edu/equity-inclusion.

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**Award-winning investigative journalist to be 2016 Commencement speaker**

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST

Rukmini Maria Callimachi will be the keynote speaker at the College’s 98th Commencement on May 22, 2016.

Callimachi is a foreign correspondent for The New York Times. She has written some of the most important stories of our time, often at great personal risk.

“From her exposé of the inner workings of Al-Qaeda to her reporting on hostage ransoms, her work has demonstrated fearlessness, tolerance, and a singular dedication to the truth,” President Katherine Bergeron wrote in an email to the campus community.

In 2014, Callimachi won the Michael Kelly Award, presented annually to a journalist who embodies “the fearless pursuit and expression of truth.” In 2011, she was awarded the Eugene S. Pulliam National Journalism Writing Award for her article, “Haiti-Hotel Montana.” She has twice been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Most recently, Callimachi won the George Polk Award, one of the most prestigious awards in journalism.

Callimachi was nominated to be Commencement speaker by a committee of students, faculty and staff. She will receive an honorary degree during the ceremony.

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**College appoints new Title IX coordinator**

MELISSA PIERCE JOINED the College on Sept. 21 as Title IX coordinator. In this role, she will lead efforts to ensure that all members of the campus community are well informed about their rights and responsibilities under Title IX. And she will oversee compliance efforts to ensure that relevant College policies and procedures are compliant with Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act, the Clery Act and Connecticut public acts.

Pierce has more than a decade of experience in law and in higher education. She received her law degree from Indiana University School of Law and operated her own practice, Pierce Legal Services, in Cumberland, R.I. Melissa also served as a felony prosecutor in New Hampshire, handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases, and has facilitated numerous workshops on sexual assault.

The Title IX coordinator reports to the dean of institutional equity and inclusion.
New employees feted at breakfast

New curriculum underway

THE START OF THE ACADEMIC year also saw the start of the new Connections curriculum, which encourages students to explore the linkages between different modes of thought and different languages; between a chosen major and an elective course of study; between academic coursework and work in the world; between life on campus and life after Connecticut College.

Connections is the result of two years of work by the campus community to reinvigorate the curriculum after four decades with few changes to the general education program. This massive undertaking by faculty, staff and students produced the robust framework of Connections, including a stronger first-year experience with enhanced advising; a sophomore year during which students choose both a major and a multi-dimensional pathway; a junior year that expands the inquiry outward to include research and internships; and a senior year that ties the study together in an integrative project.

For a detailed look at the new Connections curriculum, visit cconline.conncoll.edu.

Strategic Planning Update  Continued from page 1

More information about the Strategic Planning process can be found at http://www.conncoll.edu/strategic-planning/.
Three longtime staff members retire

NANCY ALLEN

Nancy Allen, the assistant director of human resources and manager of benefits, will retire on Nov. 13 after more than 27 years of service.

Allen was originally hired as the administrative assistant to the director of operations, handling payroll and other responsibilities for staff in what is now known as Facilities Management. She transferred to the Office of Human Resources in August 1992.

Allen plans to enjoy the entirety of the holiday season without worrying about work-related time restrictions. After the holidays, she’ll spend a few months in Florida to see friends and family, then she’ll return to Connecticut in the spring to resume her part-time job at Stonington Vineyards. (Allen says she will be working in the vineyard and “not just drinking the wine!”)

After such a long tenure at the College, “I’ll miss the camaraderie developed over the years at both professional and personal levels,” Allen said, “and the feeling of gratification from being in a position where I was able to help fellow employees with their benefit-related issues.”

However, she will not miss “audits and the administration and reporting affiliated with the Affordable Care Act”

Watch the College calendar for information on a celebration in Allen’s honor.

CAROL TRAGGIS

Carol Traggis, senior assistant to the vice president for finance, retired Oct. 2 after 21 years at the College.

She has held the same position ever since she was hired on July 1, 1994, because, she said, “I like the office and my coworkers.” And the variety of responsibilities kept things interesting: Any phone call or email could lead to a new project. Traggis also served as the College’s insurance coordinator, handling claims and ensuring the institution maintained appropriate coverage, and said she met many interesting people on campus in her role as Notary Public.

Traggis grew up in Waterford and has lived in Salem for 40 years. She is active in her community, having served on the Board of Education and a variety of town committees. She is currently the vice president for the Friends of Salem Library.

In retirement, Traggis will prepare her house to go on the market so she can move to Rochester, N.Y., and live near her daughter’s family, which includes 3-year-old identical twins.

“I’ll eventually become a snow bird,” she said.

A party in Traggis’ honor is Monday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to noon in Hood Dining Room of Blaustein Humanities Center.

HONORA UMRYSZ

Dining Service Aide

Honora Umrysz retired from the College on Oct. 1 after 21 years of service. She was feted at a retirement party on Sept. 30.

Umrysz worked in every dining hall on campus, amassing fans among the students, many of whom stopped for a hug before heading in to eat. Asked what she’ll miss the most, she replied without hesitation, “The kids.”

Some of those “kids” who were unable to go home for College breaks instead went to Umrysz’s. She still hears from them, including one California-based alumna who took time out from celebrating her 20th Reunion to visit Umrysz’s Mystic home and introduce her daughter to her longtime friend from Conn.

A native of New London, Umrysz has long ties to the College. After her father, Francis “Red” O’Grady, retired as the chief of police in New London, he joined the College as the director of campus safety. She started visiting campus at 7 years old, mostly to see plays in Palmer, and in her teens enjoyed going to the auditorium for movie nights.

Upon her retirement, Umrysz plans to come back to campus to audit some classes as well as travel and build up her computer skills. But her most important post-retirement activity will be assisting her daughter Sarah, who is awaiting a kidney transplant.

If you would like to be considered as a donor for Sarah Umrysz, contact Ingrid Bushwack, the director of dining services, at iebus@conncoll.edu.

Benefits fair is Nov. 9

THE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD for benefit changes is Nov. 2-20, with changes effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Representatives from Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Connecticut, TIAA-CREF, Crosby Benefit Systems and Emeriti Retiree Health, as well as the College’s supplemental and voluntary insurance plans, will be on campus Wednesday, Nov. 4, to provide benefit information, answer questions and assist with the completion of applications and forms. The Benefits Fair is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Ernst Common Room, Blaustein Humanities Center.

More information will be forthcoming from the Office of Human Resources.
STAFF AND FACULTY CAN LOOK forward to another stellar collection of performances during the 2015-16 season of onStage at Connecticut College … and enjoy a 10-percent discount on regular ticket prices for the following performances:

**Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn**
Saturday, Oct. 10 | 8 p.m. | Palmer Auditorium

Fifteen-time Grammy Award winner Béla Fleck is joined by Abigail Washburn for an evening of intricate duets featuring banjo and voice. Together, Fleck and Washburn energize and excite audiences with a rare blend of jazz, bluegrass and rock. Tickets (reserved seating): $28; Seniors: $25; Students: $14.

**Doug Varone and Dancers**
Saturday, Oct. 24 | 7:30 p.m. | Palmer Auditorium

Doug Varone and Dancers will perform “ReComposed,” a visual dance creation inspired by American abstract artist Joan Mitchell’s pastel drawings. Tickets: $28; Seniors: $25; Students: $14.

**Anonymous 4**
Friday, Nov. 20 | 7:30 p.m. | Evans Hall

Vocal ensemble Anonymous 4 will perform “Anthology,” a celebratory program featuring ancient, traditional and modern works from their prize-winning recordings. This will be one of the last opportunities to hear them live — they will disband at the end of the 2015-16 season. Tickets: $22; Seniors: $20; Students: $11.

**“A Moon for the Misbegotten” — Walnut Street Theatre**
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016 | 7:30 p.m. | Palmer Auditorium

Walnut Street Theatre, America’s oldest continuously operating theater, brings to life the final work — and only love story — from Eugene O’Neill, America’s only Nobel Prize-winning playwright. Tickets: $24; Seniors: $21; Students: $12. (On Feb. 5, at 7 p.m., onStage and the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center will host a discussion of the play at O’Neill’s childhood summer home, Monte Cristo Cottage, located at 325 Pequot Avenue, New London. To register for the pre-performance discussion, go to http://bit.ly/eon-moon.)

**Howard Fishman Quartet**
Friday, Feb. 19, 2016 | 7:30 p.m. | Evans Hall

Singer, guitarist, composer and bandleader Howard Fishman’s exciting, spontaneous and unconventional music has made him a critically-acclaimed favorite at venues worldwide. Fishman combines jazz, soul, country and folk to create an entirely unique sound. Tickets: $18; Seniors: $16; Students: $9.

**Sweet Honey In The Rock®**
Friday, April 1, 2016 | 7:30 p.m. | Palmer Auditorium

Sweet Honey In The Rock® educates, entertains and empowers its audience and community through the dynamic vehicles of a cappella singing and American Sign Language interpretation for the deaf and hearing impaired. Tickets (reserved seating): $28; Seniors: $25; Students: $14.

For tickets, call the box office at 860-439-ARTS (2787).

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**onStage at Connecticut College announces 2015-16 season**

**College opens academic year with 101st Convocation**

THE CLASS OF 2019 processes onto Tempel Green to celebrate Convocation, the official beginning of the academic year. President Katherine Bergeron welcomed the new students and returning students, after which Dean of the College Jefferson Singer delivered the keynote address, “What Makes Conn Different: Minding the Gap and Making Connections.” In his talk, Singer explained how the new curriculum will lead students to recognize areas of concern — or gaps — in order to change their own lives as well as the lives of others. The event ended with students, faculty and staff reciting the Matriculation Pledge, singing the College’s alma mater and enjoying an all-campus picnic on Chapel Green.
Fall Weekend
is Oct. 9-11

THE ENTIRE CAMPUS community — along with parents, alumni and friends — will come together to celebrate Connecticut College during Fall Weekend, Oct. 9-11.

All are invited to enjoy an all-campus picnic on Tempel Green, browse the booths at Harvestfest and cheer on the Camels in athletic competitions around campus. As an added bonus, the community will commemorate the newly renovated Shain Library during a special event featuring a talk by writer Sloane Crosley ’00.

For a schedule of events, visit fallweekend.conncoll.edu.

Staff Council Corner

I HOPE EVERYONE has had a great start to the academic year. With the beginning of the fall semester well underway, Staff Council has begun to focus its efforts on a number of projects, including the following:

- Policies and Procedures: For the first time since its establishment in 1999, Staff Council has formalized a set of Policies and Procedures that will both guide the work of the council and articulate how the council engages with the other components of the College’s system of shared governance. These Policies and Procedures will soon be presented to the president and senior administrators for final approval.

- Representation on Strategic Planning Committee: Staff Council was asked by President Bergeron to select the four staff members who will serve on the College’s Strategic Planning Committee. The council will receive biweekly updates from these representatives to ensure that staff ideas and perspectives are continuously being shared within the Committee.

- Staff Ombudsperson: Staff Council is working closely with Human Resources to examine the position and role of the staff ombudsperson, making adjustments to the position as necessary and selecting a current or recently retired staff member to serve in this position moving forward.

- Semi Annual All-Staff Meetings: In close collaboration with President Bergeron, Staff Council will co-host an all-staff meeting each semester. These meetings will provide a space to discuss important topics selected by the president and the council.

- Evaluation of Staff Professional Development Program: The Staff Engagement and Relations Subcommittee of Staff Council has been tasked with reviewing the current scope of the Staff Professional Development Program and look for ways to broaden the program to better serve more staff.

Staff Council is always looking for thoughts, ideas and concerns from staff to inform our work, so please reach out to any Staff Council representative or attend one of our open meetings, held every other Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the Alice Johnson Room of Cro.

As always, if you have any questions about the work of Staff Council, please reach out to me directly.

— Josh Stoffel, Chair
jstoffel@conncoll.edu
860-439-5218

Sloane Crosley ’00
Learn about new retirement strategy opportunities

AT THE END OF AUGUST, staff and faculty received a letter and brochure with information about changes to their Connecticut College pension and savings plans with TIAA-CREF. Representatives from the Retirement Plan Oversight Committee, Cammack LaRhette Advisors and the Office of Human Resources will host four information sessions to provide more details about these changes:

**Wednesday, Oct. 28**
- 2–3 p.m., 1973 Room, Harris Refectory
- 4–5 p.m., 1941 Room, Crozier-Williams

**Thursday, Nov. 12**
- 10–11 a.m., Ernst Common Room, Blaustein
- 12:30–1:30 p.m., Cro’s Nest, Crozier-Williams

In addition to these group information sessions, you may speak with a TIAA-CREF Financial consultant at 1-800-842-2252; make an on-campus, one-on-one appointment with a TIAA-CREF consultant by calling 1-800-732-8353; or visit www.tiaa-cref.org/connecticutcollege (click Log In and select Advice and Guidance tab).

WELCOME NEW STAFF

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<th>HEVIN BARDALES</th>
<th>SADIA ROY</th>
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<td>Dining Services/On-call Snack Shop Attendant</td>
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<td>TARA BELCHER</td>
<td>CASSANDRA RUNYAN</td>
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<td>Counseling Services/Secretary</td>
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<td>CHRIS CRAIG</td>
<td>LILLIE SCHACHTER ’15</td>
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<td>Dining/Cook’s Helper</td>
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<td>Registrar/Administrative Assistant</td>
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<td>SANDRA GIGNAC</td>
<td>SAM SIEGEL-WALLACE ’15</td>
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<td>Office of Religious and Spiritual Life/Zachs Hillel House Part-time Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Academic Resource Center/ Learning Specialist and Program Coordinator</td>
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<td>ELIZABETH HENRY ’07</td>
<td>KATE WARGO</td>
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<td>Student Health Services/Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>Communications/Social Media Strategist</td>
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<td>GLEN HERBERT</td>
<td>MARENDA WEAVER</td>
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<td>Athletics/Assistant Coach - Men’s and Women’s Tennis</td>
<td>Academic Resource Center/Strategic Learning Intern</td>
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<td>VICTORIA IANNARONE ’15</td>
<td>EDWARD WEINMAN</td>
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<td>Chemistry/On-call Lab Assistant</td>
<td>Communications/Director of Content and Magazine Editor</td>
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<td>KENNETH KOOPMANS</td>
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<td>Academic Resource Center/Executive Director of Career and Professional Development</td>
<td>DAVID QUINONES</td>
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<td>GRACE MEDLEY ’15</td>
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New Social Security portal available

THE OFFICE of Human Resources receives many questions regarding Social Security benefits, so they have shared a tip to let College employees know about a valuable resource available from the Social Security Administration:

You can get your online Social Security statement, review your lifetime earnings, see estimates of your future benefits and more when you open a “my Social Security” account. It is quick, safe, free and easy. To open your account, go to www.socialsecurity.gov and click on “my Social Security.”
A walk to remember

ON SEPT. 19, more than 120 members of the College community participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, an annual Alzheimer's Association event to raise awareness and funds for care, support and research. The College team — the largest at the New London event — raised more than $3,800. Joe Schroeder, associate professor of psychology and director of the Behavioral Neuroscience Program, has long organized the College's participation in the event. This year, the Alzheimer's Association named him honorary chair and he helped kick off the walk at Ocean Beach Park.

Achievements


Dining Services Chef Dave Perkins was asked to be a judge in New London Main Street's Fall Food Stroll on Oct. 14.

Director of Internet Services Laurie Schaeffer recently passed the exam to earn a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification from the Project Management Institute.

Stay cyber safe

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL Cyber Security Awareness Month, and Jean Dailey, assistant vice president of enterprise and technical systems, wants to remind members of the College community that all of us are responsible for ensuring the security of our online systems and data.

“As individuals, cybersecurity risks can threaten our finances, identity and privacy,” said Dailey. “As a College, we face constant cyber threats against our critical infrastructure. It's important that everyone on campus understand they have a role to play in cybersecurity and our collective efforts to avoid threats of fraud, theft and abuse.”

Dailey and her team in Information Services are hosting a number of Cyber Security Awareness Month events that will help faculty, staff and students stay safe online. One event will bring back to campus Alex Lanstein '07, a computer science major turned real-life cybersecurity expert, who will speak about his career.

To find out more about Lanstein's talk and see a full schedule of Cyber Security Awareness Month events, visit cybersecurity.conncoll.edu. If you suspect that your computer or data have been compromised, call the IT Service Desk at 860-439-4357 or email help@conncoll.edu.