



From the President

ANDREA E. CHAPDELAINE, PH.D.

Dear alumni, families and friends of Connecticut College,

As we close out the academic year, I'm deeply grateful for the warm welcome so many of you have all offered me throughout my first year as president of Connecticut College.

As we wrap up the semester, here are some important updates and acknowledgments:

Media Mentions

We've recently seen faculty expertise featured in the media:

- *Purba Mukerji* shared key insights with [Business Insider](#) on tariffs and the services industry.
- *Maria Rosa's* eelgrass revitalization work was spotlighted by *WTNH* and [Yahoo News](#).
- *Alex Giannianis* was the sole expert quoted in [Newsweek](#) on astronomy and the night sky.

Defending Academic Freedom

You may have seen the recent [statement](#) from the American Association of Colleges and Universities opposing unprecedented government overreach into higher education. I was one of now more than 550 college and university presidents to sign this important letter. You can learn more about it in the comprehensive press coverage on the [AACU website](#).

We continue to monitor the national landscape carefully to plan for or respond to any events that may impact our community. We have had several informational meetings for various campus groups and continue to seek outside resources and expertise.

Construction Updates

Cro Renovation: Completion is targeted for the beginning of May, when construction walls will come down and the building will reopen for community use. Furniture will be installed May 7, and Chartwells will share opening dates for Oasis and Humphrey's. Minor finishing work — including railings, signage, and exterior details — will continue through May.

Cro Boulevard: Work along Crozier Boulevard and the Cro main entry will continue through late July.

Capital and Operational Planning

At the May board meeting, the board will continue their discussion of the Facilities Condition Assessment (FCA) findings and begin to prioritize next steps. In preparation for the projects and to enhance communication and input from campus, Justin Wolfradt, executive director of Facilities Management and Campus Planning, has created a site describing our project management approach; and the Environmental Model Committee (EMC) and Facilities and Land Management Committee (FLMC) have been piloting working as a single committee to advise the Priorities Budget Committee (PPBC), the president and the board on campus projects. You can find timelines and project updates on the [Facilities webpage](#).

Athletics Update

As the Camels wrap up their spring season of competition, we have some exciting news! The co-ed sailing team has officially punched their ticket to Nationals at St. Mary's College in Maryland — a tremendous accomplishment for the team. Track & field had a standout performance at the NESCAC Championships, earning five individual titles. On the women's side, Grace McDonough claimed NESCAC titles in both the 1500m and 5000m, and was named NESCAC Athlete of the Meet. Alexa Estes brought home the title in the 800m. On the men's side, Chris Koskinen captured his third consecutive NESCAC title in the pole vault, while Matt Scardigno won the 10,000m. The Camels still have a few weekends of competition remaining, and we expect several athletes to qualify for the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

This past year has truly been a wonderful experience. I look forward to celebrating with

many of you at Reunion Weekend 2025 at the end of the month and connecting at events in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Andrea E. Chapdelaine, Ph.D.

President

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