Convocation is upon us
PROFESSOR TO SHARE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE IN TALK

A chemistry professor who has worked with undergraduates, research assistants, and research scientists for approximately 25 years investigating the basic biochemistry leading to the emission of light by the firefly will speak on "Why Should Students Do Research?" 2464 at the 89th Convocation.

The ceremonial opening of the new academic year will take place on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 4:30 pm in Palmer Auditorium.

Bruce Branchini, Hans and Ella M. Collum ’21 Vahlteich Professor of Chemistry and chair of the chemistry department, last year received the Nancy Batson Nisbet Rash Faculty Research Award. Presented annually at Convocation, it provides a research fund to one of the most outstanding and highly regarded members of the faculty.

Convocation is one of CC’s most important annual events during which the Rash award and the John S. King Memorial Award for Teaching are presented.

The College has also used Convocation to honor individuals whose intellectual or personal achievements may serve as an inspiration to students and other members of the community.

First Common Ground to focus on pluralism

A meeting on the Presidential Commission on a Pluralistic Community’s report will kick off the Common Ground/ Commonwealth series on Friday, Sept. 5, from 12:30 to 2 pm. The session, to be held in the 1962 Room, will be led by President Norman Fainstein and commission chair Maria Cruz-Saco, professor of economics. It will include a question-and-answer session and is open to all of the campus community.

The commission’s report is online at http://www.conn.Used.edu/people/president/pluralism/.

The commission was created at the beginning of the last academic year to target and discuss CC’s diversity issues and make recommendations for building a more pluralistic community at CC. It is made up of 20 people representing various academic disciplines and areas of staff and administrative work.

A conversation with Beverly Daniel Tatum, author of Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?, a Summer Reading Program selection, will be held on Thursday, Sept. 4, in Evans Hall.

Two books were chosen for the Summer Reading Program for the framework they provide for thinking and talking about race. Both authors will come to CC to talk about the issues raised in their books.

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Beverly Daniel Tatum and The Fact of a Doorframe: Poems 1950-2001 by Adrienne Rich were selected by the Presidential Commission on a Pluralistic Community.

Beverly Daniel Tatum will hold an open conversation with the campus community on Thursday, Sept. 4, in Evans Hall. Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? shows how
First Common Ground to focus on pluralism

A Mellon Foundation grant will be used to partially support the initiative, funding five Common Ground lectures. Five guest scholars are scheduled to participate in the series. Additionally, they will lead faculty seminars the evenings before their public presentations.

"I am delighted that the centers are collaborating on the Common Ground series this year," said Dean of the Faculty Fran Hoffmann. "Our certificate programs share in common educational pathways for students that engage them systematically in opportunities for the acquisition of knowledge and skills, application in arenas outside of the classroom, and reflections about the relationships between theory and practice. The Common Ground series enables students to engage with diverse scholars, practitioners, and activists exploring pressing issues of the day and represents the best of the shared educational philosophy of the centers."

Summer Reading authors to visit CC

A Symposium on Writing and Moral Vision. Fact of a Doorframe demonstrates "the continuing importance of the literary arts in a technological, information-driven age," wrote Dean of Freshmen Theresa Ammirati. "Poems like 'Planetarium,' 'The Burning of Paper Instead of Children,' and 'Diving into the Wreck' reveal deeper and deeper insights with repeated readings."

Rich is the author of 22 volumes of poetry and several books of nonfiction prose. She has received many awards, including the Bollingen Prize, the Lannan Lifetime Achievement Award and the Academy of American Poets' Wallace Stevens Award for outstanding and proven mastery in the art of poetry.

Mese gets NSF grant for math research

Research being conducted by a Chikako Mese, assistant professor of mathematics, and fully funded by a recently awarded $71,625 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant will create mathematical models of natural phenomena such as black holes, giving those who study them better insight into what makes them tick.

Mese said that while mathematicians are "abstract people," her project, "Harmonic maps into and between singular spaces," could lead to ideas that may better explain natural phenomena.

For example, her study of curvature can be used to describe gravitational forces in physics. In particular, "singularities can be used to describe black holes in the universe," she said. Such singularities can be modeled for further study. And in materials science, singularities arise in the formation of crystals. "Understanding them is key to making materials such as plastic stronger," she said.

The three-year NSF grant will support Mese's continued research into geometric variational problems. In addition to her incorporation of this research into her teaching, Mese's results will contribute to the field of calculus of variation and will be applicable to a variety of the sciences, including physics and mechanics.

This is the second NSF grant Mese has received to pursue this topic. She has also received grants through the Association of Women Mathematicians and the NSF Mentor Travel grant program to help foster mentoring relationships between junior- and senior-level mathematicians. Mese joined the CC faculty in 1999 after completing her doctoral work at Stanford University.

Class of '07 arrives, 516 strong, diverse and from all over

Last week, 516 members of the Class of 2007 arrived on campus, selected from the second-largest applicant pool in College history. A total of 4,396 students from around the world applied for admission to this class; 35 percent were accepted, and 34 percent of that group enrolled. Seventy-seven percent rank in the top 20 percent of their high school classes.

The new class is 15 percent multicultural (18 percent if foreign students are included). Approximately half attended public high schools (52 percent); with the remainder from independent high schools (37 percent); parochial schools (8 percent), and foreign high schools (3 percent). Fifty-eight percent are from outside the New England area. All in all, they hail from 35 states and five nations. The states with the highest number of enrolling students are New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, California, Pennsylvania and Maine. Twenty-one students in the class have parents or grandparents who attend or attended the College.

Reporting of SAT scores is optional in the application to the College, but 70 percent of enrolling students chose to report their scores. The averages reported were: verbal 660; math 650; and SAT composite 1310.
Budget strengthening moves CC to No. 34 in ‘U.S. News’ rankings

Connecticut College has been ranked No. 34 in the U.S. News & World Report evaluation of national liberal arts colleges, released to the public on Aug. 21. Last year, Connecticut College was in the No. 29 spot.

The U.S. News ranking is based on financial resources, admission statistics, class size, faculty salaries and alumni giving and other factors. One-quarter of the ranking depends on a reputation index, which is based in turn on an unscientific survey of presidents, deans of faculty and deans of admissions at other liberal arts colleges.

This year’s ranking is based on financial data from fiscal year 2002 and admissions statistics for the class of 2006. The drop from No. 29 to 34 is primarily the result of 2002 budget decisions, including spending cuts and a freeze in faculty salaries. “U.S. News does not measure the actual quality of education,” said President Norman Fainstein. “Those budget decisions reflect better fiscal management and strengthened the college overall. Unfortunately, U.S. News looks only at how much you spend—not how well you spend it.”

Fainstein noted that applications for the Class of 2007 rose to a near-record high. “The enormous number of students competing to attend Connecticut College shows that we are offering an outstanding education,” he said.

Singer studying self-defining memory in England on a Fulbright Scholarship

Why is it we can recall without effort the day we first fell in love? Why is it so easy to remember the pain of losing a sibling?

Jefferson Singer, professor of psychology, is in England this semester on a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to work with one of the world’s most prominent memory researchers to study the mind’s retrieval of emotionally significant memories.

Singer is one of just six faculty members from American colleges and universities to receive a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Award to conduct research in the United Kingdom. Of approximately 800 Fulbright teaching and research awards given annually, only 160 are purely for research. Singer is the 15th member of the CC faculty in the last decade to win a Fulbright.

Singer is at the University of Durham in England, where he is working with Martin Conway, who has been using electrical recordings of the brain to determine which parts of it are activated when we try to remember events from our past. His research has been limited to rather simple and not very emotional memories.

Enter Singer, who for the past two decades has been studying the most personal and emotionally significant memories of individuals’ lives, a type of memory that he calls “self-defining.” These memories are vivid, emotional and reflective of important conflicts or enduring themes in individuals’ lives,” Singer said. The goal of this collaboration is to apply Conway’s electrical recording methods to Singer’s self-defining memories. “It is possible that memories that are very relevant and important to a person’s self-concept will engage more areas of the brain than more mundane memories,” Singer said, “and that they will engage both the pre-frontal cortex associated with reasoning and abstraction and parts of the limbic system associated with strong emotion.”

OVCS community fair showcases volunteer ops

The Office of Volunteers for Community Service (OVCS) will kick off the school year with its annual Fall Community Fair on Larabbee Green (rain location: 1962 Room) on Wednesday, Sept. 3 from 3 to 5 pm.

Participants may sign up with programs that fit their interests, and will ultimately choose a program with OVCS staff member.

The fair will also feature free refreshments. There will also be voter registration and opportunities to sign up for one-time volunteer events.

The fair brings community members and organizations to campus to join with the college community in building partnerships that support service and education throughout New London.

For more information contact Rebecca McCue, OVCS community service coordinator, at x2457.
**Monday, Aug. 25**

**Bike Ride:** CCycling, a social group. Meet in front of Bill Hall, 5 pm. x2081

**Thursday, Aug. 28**

**Ceremony:** 89th Convocation, 4:30 pm, Palmer. x2500

**Saturday, Aug. 30**

**Service:** Catholic Mass, 5 pm, Harkness Chapel. x5450

**Sunday, Aug. 31**

**Service:** Hillel bagel brunch, 12 - 1 pm, Ernst. x5450

**Tour:** Guided tour of the arboretum’s Native Plant Collection, 2 pm, meet in front of Olin. x5020

**Monday, Sept. 1**

**Bike Ride:** CCycling, a social group. Meet in front of Bill Hall, 5 pm. x2081

**Wednesday, Sept. 3**

**Volunteer fair:** OVCS annual event, 3 - 5 pm, Larabbee green. x2457

**Ride:** CCycling, a social bicycling group. Meet in front of Bill Hall, 5 pm. x2081

**Thursday, Sept. 4**

**Lectures:** “A Conversation With Beverly Daniel Tatum,” 4:30 pm, Evans Hall, x2050 (See story, page 1)

**Performance:** “The Birds” by Aristophanes, Flock Theater, 7 pm, arboretum, $12 and $10 at the door. Also, Friday - Sunday. 443-3119

**Friday, Sept. 5**

**Common Ground/Common Hour:** The Pluralism Commission report, 12:30 - 2 pm, 1962 Room. (See story, page 1)

**Service:** Shabbat dining experience, 5:30 pm, Freeman Dining Room. x5450

**Sunday, Sept. 7**

**Tour:** Guided tour of the Caroline Black Garden, 2 pm, meet in front of Olin. x5020

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**NEW HIRES**

- **Marie Bollier-Burke,** assistant to dean of Student Life, July 28.
- **Lawton, Elizabeth,** coordinator for corporate & foundation relations, Advancement, Aug. 4.
- **Shea, Mary Kate,** director of Events, College Relations, Aug. 1.
- **Melillo, Felicity J.,** area coordinator, Student Life, Aug. 11.
- **Metivier, Shelly A.,** director of residential life & housing, Student Life, Aug. 11.
- **Meyer, Joshua,** intern, Athletics, Aug. 15.
- **Edson, Edward,** intern, Athletics, Aug. 15.
- **Surowka, Timothy M.,** general manager, catering and cash operations, Dining Services, Aug. 11.
- **Stahovec, Erica,** accountant, Accounting, extended through July 8.
- **Hensman ’03, Chris,** admission counselor, Admission, Aug. 18.

**REHIRE**

- **Dreimiller, Michael,** computer hardware technician, Information Services, through mid-October.

**PROMOTIONS**

- **Morales, Cruz Maria,** from on-call to full-time academic year, kitchen cleaner, Dining Services, Aug. 11.
- **Star, Alexis,** from kitchen cleaner to cook’s helper, Dining Services, full-time academic year, Aug. 4.
- **Argarin, Joel,** from campus safety officer to campus safety officer/shift supervisor, Campus Safety, Aug. 4.
- **Polippo, Grant,** from on-call to full-time academic year kitchen cleaner, Dining Services, Aug. 11.

**NEW EMPLOYEES JOIN CC COMMUNITY**

Among the new faculty ready to start the academic year are these full-time professors: Christopher Hammond, instructor in mathematics; Teja Ganti, assistant professor of anthropology; Jacqueline Olvera, Lenore Tingle Howard ’42 Assistant Professor of Sociology; Yongjin Park, instructor in economics; David Canton, Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Assistant Professor of History; James Austin, assistant professor of French; and Deborah Eastman, assistant professor of biology. Not shown: Mark Silver, assistant professor of East Asian languages and literature.
CC will kick off its 2003-04 performing arts season with works by the Aquila Theatre Company of New York, which will include a performance of “Othello” that is the springboard for the largest tour of Shakespeare in U.S. history.

The Aquila Theatre Company of New York will present the Shakespearean tragedy on Friday, Sept. 19, and Saturday, Sept. 20, before an audience that may include top-level federal officials.

Set in a hotbed of racial hatred and mistrust, this masterpiece explores the destruction of a noble spirit. Add Aquila’s innovative staging and superb acting to the genius of Shakespeare, and this production of “Othello” becomes a theatrical triumph.

The performances begin at 8 p.m. in Palmer Auditorium. Tickets are $26, $21 and $16; $23.50, $19 and $14 for seniors; and $13, $10.50 and $8 for students.

“We are honored to be the kickoff point for what promises to be a fantastic exhibition of the works of such a great playwright,” said Robert A. Richter ’82, director of arts programming. The 100-city, 50-state tour, “Shakespeare in American Communities” is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest. “Having worked with the Aquila Theatre Co. before, we are well aware of its talent and ability to bring Shakespeare to our community and to other mid-size cities across America.” Last year, Aquila brought “The Tempest” to Connecticut College. Two years ago, it performed “Cyrano de Bergerac.”

Aquila will also perform “The Man Who Would Be King,” one of Rudyard Kipling’s finest stories. It is an adventurous yarn about two bumbling ex-British Army sergeants who dream up a scheme to single-handedly conquer the kingdom of Kafiristan. The performances, on Saturday, Sept. 13; Sunday, Sept. 14; and Monday, Sept. 15; are all at 8 p.m. in the Tansill Black Box Theater. Tickets are $22; $20.50 for seniors; and $11 for students.

James Griswold, 58, campus safety officer
James Griswold, 58, of Groton, a part-time campus safety officer, died on Aug. 7.

Services were held Aug. 11. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut or to the American Diabetes Association.

Renew parking tags
It is time to renew your parking hang tags.

Bring up-to-date registrations for any vehicles that have not been previously registered to the campus safety office in Nichols House.

For information, call Donna McIlwain, secretary to the director, at x2250.

Heartwalk needs people
Heart Captains and/or walkers for the 2003 American Heart Association Heartwalk on Sunday, Oct. 19 are being sought.

If you would like to volunteer, call Judy Schofield, switchboard supervisor, at x0 or Linda Sroka, staff assistant, Human Resources, at x2071.
Lyman Allyn regains accreditation, a museum’s highest honor

The Lyman Allyn Art Museum has achieved the highest honor for a museum, accreditation by the American Association of Museums (AAM).

AAM accreditation signifies excellence within the museum community. It is a seal of approval and strengthens individual museums and the entire field by promoting ethical and professional practices. Being accredited enables museum leaders to make informed decisions, allocate and use resources wisely, and maintain the strictest accountability to the public they serve.

Of the nation’s nearly 16,000 museums approximately 750 are currently accredited. It is a rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum’s operations. The Lyman Allyn Art Museum is one of only 19 museums accredited in Connecticut.

Christopher Steiner, interim director of the museum, said that accreditation by AAM “is a very significant achievement that will add stability to this institution as we move forward in building community interest and support. Accreditation by AAM is an honor, but it also carries with it an awesome responsibility to establish the highest standards of museum excellence. I am very confident that we are up to the challenge.”

Helen Regan, interim president of the Lyman Allyn, said, “In recent years, the museum has made significant advances, including stabilizing its permanent collections, expanding programming, renovating physical spaces, raising revenues and reducing expenses. The successful accreditation process reflects the success of these efforts.”

Regan noted that the accreditation is also a positive step in the planned transition to a fully independent community museum. Currently, CC serves as the museum’s trustee, but the College has previously announced its intention to relinquish this role following a carefully-planned transition. “The museum is significantly more vital and robust than when the College became trustee,” Regan said. “The accreditation committee commented very favorably on the museum’s collections, programming and clear sense of mission.”

Visitors from abroad

Roger Brooks, associate dean of the faculty and Elie Wiesel Professor of Judaic Studies in the Department of Religious Studies, left, greets Olga Bush, coordinator of a visiting Russian delegation to southeastern Connecticut. They are joined by Vladimir Zhegulin, an advisor to Russian President Vladimir Putin. The group was in Waterford and Hartford to learn about the way local governments interact with federal agencies in the United States. The delegation enjoyed a tour of the CC campus as well.

Winning smiles

Ingrid Bushwack, general manager of residential dining in Dining Services; Bruce Goodyear, independent product manager for Garland, a Welbilt company; Mary L. Zawieski, director of auxiliary services; and Kimberly Lehouiller, category development manager of Nestle Foodservice, take some time out for a group photo at the National Association of Colleges and University Food Services vendor showcase meeting in Kansas City in July. Bushwack’s name came up in a drawing for a Garland convection oven worth $7,500. It should be on campus by winter break.
‘A Taste of Insanity’ is a tale by two Tinkers

He helps college graduates find jobs— in this economy. She helps run a small-town Roman Catholic church. Their three daughters are all in high school. And together—they've just published their first mystery novel, the title of which sounds like a description of the endeavor itself.

A Taste of Insanity by Jack and Liz Tinker chronicles the tumultuous relationship between members of two secret societies at fictional Randolph College. Jack Tinker, director of recruiting, said the story was inspired by the senior societies at Yale University, where he used to work, and highlights the social class war waged between the Aristocrats Society and the Society of Plebes. “A prank played by the Plebes escalates into a cruel response by the Aristocrats,” said Tinker. “In the midst of this, Aristocrats start coming down with psychological disorders, and clearly someone or something is behind them. Along with Plebe suspects, two psychology professors are conducting questionable experiments, and another professor demonstrates a suspicious interest in hypnosis.”

Tinker, who wrote the above words in a release to the local press, is an old public relations professional, who holds not only a master's degree in journalism from Penn State but a master's degree in counseling from the University of Michigan. It was at that Midwestern university that he met his future wife, who earned a degree in psychology there.

“Jack and I both have studied psychology and are fascinated by it,” said Liz Tinker. “We wanted to bring that element into the book while adding humor, suspense and, yes, a little romance.”

Jack Tinker said he finished a draft of the novel a few years ago and managed to obtain a literary agent. “The agent read it and said it needed to be expanded and embellished with more descriptive language. That wasn't my strength, so I asked my wife to take a crack at it, and she turned out to be very good.

“Then the recession hit and the literary agency went out of business. I just turned my attention to it again this past year and was able to publish it.”

Copies of the book, printed by Imprint Books, are in the campus bookshop.