



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

State of the College

Leo I. Higdon, Jr.

June 5, 2010



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Vision

- Connecticut College will achieve increased recognition as one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the country.



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Achieving the Vision

- Investing in the student experience
 - People
 - Programs
 - Facilities
 - Outreach





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Campaign

- \$136 million
 - Endowment
 - Campus renewal
 - Support strategic initiatives





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Momentum: Endowment

- Financial aid
- Internationalization
- Academic programs





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Momentum: Campus Renewal

- Campus transformation
 - Classrooms
 - Common rooms
 - Fitness center
 - Residence Halls
 - More





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Momentum: Strategic Initiatives

- Science Leaders
- Residential Education Fellows
- Diversity
- Student-faculty collaboration





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Momentum: Alumni

- Alumni engagement & resources
 - Online community
 - Mentor students
 - Provide internships
 - Networking
 - Career resources
 - New initiatives





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Impact

- Admission/retention
- Faculty hiring/research
- Student Awards
 - Fulbrights
 - Goldwaters
 - NSF
- Outcomes





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Recent Recognition

- Top Fulbright producer
- Top Peace Corps college
- Simon Award Campus Internationalization
- CT Environmental Leadership Award
- Top College for Career Services
- Community Service Honor Roll, with Distinction



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The Providence Journal

October 14, 2009

Leo I. Higdon Jr.: Getting value in your college pick

This college-admission season, nearly 3 million high school seniors and their parents will visit college and university campuses across America. Each of these future college students seeks his or her own unique destiny, but they all share a common goal: To find the best fit with the best education and the best value.

We all know the campus visit helps establish fit. But in this economy, how does one determine value — especially when costs vary so widely? And, how can parents know they're getting what they pay for?

Unlike most prior recessions, the current economic downturn has hit colleges and universities hard. Enrollment is down, and many institutions are facing budget cuts.

generous benefactors to increase support for financial aid in these tough times. What kind of success do the graduates enjoy? College should teach students habits of the mind — how to think, frame issues, approach problems, develop solutions. Ask about the range of careers among graduates and the success rates for those entering professional schools or other graduate programs. Dig deeper and ask about the alumni network. Strong alumni communities are a source of support for students and are intricately involved in the college's networking and career counseling opportunities. If

The New York Times

June 23, 2009



Demystifying College Admissions and Aid

Tip Sheet: An Admissions Dean Offers Advice on Writing a College Essay

By Martha C. Merrill

Periodically, in a feature called "Tip Sheet," The Choice will post short items by admissions officers, guidance counselors and others to help applicants and their families better understand aspects of the admissions process. As an inaugural post in this series, Martha C. Merrill, the dean of admission and financial aid of Connecticut College, and a graduate of the class of 1984, encourages incoming high school seniors to begin contemplating their college essays this summer. She also offers perspective on what she looks for in an applicant's essay.

Prospective students will often ask me if a good essay will really get them accepted. The truth is that while no essay will make an unqualified applicant acceptable, a good essay can help a qualified applicant stand out from the competition. A good essay just might be what turns a "maybe" into a "yes."

- **Be genuine.** Don't try to impress me, because I've heard it all. Just tell me what is important to you.
- **Consider a mundane topic.** Sometimes it's the simple things in life that make the best essays. Some of my favorites have included essays that reflect on the daily subway ride to school, or what the family goldfish observed from the fishbowl perched on the family kitchen table. It doesn't have to be a life-changing event to be interesting and informative.
- **Don't rely on "how to" books.** Use them to get your creative juices flowing, but don't adhere too rigidly to their formulas, and definitely don't use their example topics.

Los Angeles Times

October 9, 2008

The little protein that glowed

A jelly fish that gave off light inspired Nobel Prize winner Osamu Shimomura. By Marc Zimmer

As is the case with most great scientific discoveries, it all started with a bit of curiosity. In the 1960s, Osamu Shimomura wondered why crystal jellyfish gave off green pinpricks of light. Now, half a century later, Shimomura has been awarded for his curiosity with the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Unfortunately, the Nobel can only be shared among three people, and these two worthy scientists were denied a slice of the \$1.4-million prize.

Shimomura was awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry for his discovery of the green fluorescent protein (GFP) from the jellyfish. In 1995, he and his colleagues, Martin Chalfie and Juan Pablo Rodriguez, were awarded the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for their discovery of GFP. In 2008, Shimomura and his colleagues were awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry for their discovery of GFP.

The two others, however, join Shimomura as the new

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

March 15, 2009

Now, Get To Work

By Anna Prior

Here's the bad news: If you are graduating from college this spring, you are facing one of the toughest job markets in years.

Employers expect to hire 22% fewer graduates than they did last spring, according to a survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

"Almost every level of the job market right now is

3. Consider internships. Sure, internships are temporary, sometimes unpaid, and also more difficult to come by these days. But they're opportunities to gain some experience and connections...and maybe get hired if a position opens up.

An internship "gives grads an opportunity to get more related experience in their career field," which can be valuable as graduates compete for jobs with more

says Jack
ice at

The Record

Bergen County, N.J.
May 8, 2009

Higdon: For graduates, how to boost chances of landing a job

By Leo I. Higdon Jr.

College seniors are always a little edgy this time of year. In the next month or so, they will complete their highest-level academic courses, which in many cases includes presenting an honors thesis, a complex research project, a musical recital or an art show. They also may be wrapping up a college sports career, turning over the reins of their campus club and preparing for final exams.

You're rarely wrong in choosing a suit — even if it's a casual job. Potential employers want to know you mean business. But it's not just about the clothes. Make eye contact, ask intelligent questions and always take advantage of the "Is there anything else?" question to summarize your qualifications and your aspiration for the job. Do informational interviews with alumni who work in the industry — their insights are invaluable.



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