

**CONNECTICUT COLLEGE**  
**SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 1919 Connecticut College offers a major in German.
- 1930 Connecticut College offers its first East Asian history course.
- 1943 Connecticut College establishes the French and Italian majors.
- 1944 Catherine Wolkonsky, an outstanding and widely-admired teacher and lexicographer, organizes a course on Russian literature.
- 1946 The Russian Department is instituted.
- 1951 Olga "Niki" Krupen Shishkoff '51 is the first CC student to receive a Fulbright Scholarship and at the time she was the only recipient at any women's college in New England).
- 1954 A Russian major is offered for the first time at the College. It was noted that after World War II, college students were greatly interested in everything Russian, partly out of a sense of friendship for a wartime ally, partly out of recognition of the important role the Soviet Union would play in the post-war world.
- 1962 Connecticut College offers courses in Japanese and Chinese history.
- 1964 An East Asian concentration is offered for the first time to history majors.
- 1965 Chinese language is added to the curriculum at Connecticut College, making it one of the few U.S. women's colleges to offer instruction in Chinese at the undergraduate level. Professor Charles Chu is hired to conduct the new Chinese language program at the College.
- 1967 The College offers Chinese language and literature as a major, a reflection of the quickening interest throughout the United States in understanding China both culturally and politically. This made Connecticut College one of the first small liberal arts institutions in the country to offer a major in Chinese.
- 1986 Connecticut College establishes the International Relations major.
- Robert Askins, Professor of Biology, Stephen Loomis, The Jean C. Tempel '65 Professor of Biology, and the late Paul Fell, Katharine Blunt Professor Emeritus of Zoology, launch the Tropical Biology course in the Virgin Islands.
- 1987 Professor of Biology Robert Askins and students research migratory birds in the Virgin Islands.
- 1988 Professor of Biology Robert Askins is appointed Associated Kyoto Program Fellow. The AKP is a consortium that attracts students from 15 sponsoring liberal arts colleges.
- 1989 Connecticut College establishes the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA) to promote global thinking across academic disciplines and encourage students to become politically concerned, socially engaged and culturally sensitive. More than 390 students have completed overseas internships in fields related to their majors in more than 55 countries, involving international corporations, and governmental, private sector, non-profit and non-governmental organizations.

Connecticut College receives \$300,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation and \$66,000 from the Dana Foundation in support of international programs and CISLA.

- 1990 Connecticut College is awarded \$75,000 from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for a faculty seminar in CISLA.
- 1991 Connecticut College launches the Study Away/Teach Away (SATA) Program which sends teams of 10-30 students and faculty to less-developed countries. During their study away, students carry a regular course load by taking courses offered by Connecticut College professors and faculty at a host institution. Countries visited include China, Egypt, Ghana, Greece, India, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Spain, South Africa, Tanzania and Vietnam.
- Patricia Wald '48, former chief judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals (D.C.), becomes a member of the International War Crimes Tribunal.
- 1993 LaShawn Jefferson '88, international expert on women's rights, becomes executive director of the Women's Rights Division, Human Rights Watch.
- 1994 Alex Hybel, Susan Eckert Lynch '62 Professor of Government, is named Dean of International Programs.
- Professor Hybel and President Claire Gaudiani travel to Copenhagen to participate in a United Nations forum to redefine the concept of national security as measured by the Human Development Index.
- 1995 Connecticut College establishes The Traveling Research and Immersion Program (TRIP), which provides academic/research immersion experiences at appropriate domestic and international sites for small groups of students and faculty. The TRIP initiative makes use of traditional breaks during the academic year for travel, as well as opportunities for short, intensive trips during the semester.
- Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science Bridget Baird and Professor of English Janet Gezari participate in the Women's Conference in Beijing.
- 1996 The first students on financial aid are accepted into the study away program.
- The College hosts a highly successful conference titled "The Future of International Studies in the Liberal Arts" to discuss how international studies fits into the current liberal arts curriculum and possible ways it will be adapted for the 21st century.
- 1997 Connecticut College receives the Joanne Toor Cummings bequest to endow CISLA.
- Anita DeFrantz '74, former Olympic medalist, becomes Vice President of the International Olympic Committee.
- The CISLA staff publishes *International Studies in the Next Millennium*, a collection of extensive case studies from American colleges and universities that are at the forefront of the international studies movement.
- Connecticut College holds the "New Waves in Contemporary Chinese Culture" symposium. This event highlights the appearance of the Guangdong Modern Dance Company from China on the College campus.

Professor of Government William Frasure initiates one of the most expansive and lengthy relationships between a U.S. college and a Vietnamese university, Vietnam National University (VNU) in Hanoi.

1998 CISLA publishes *Democracy Is a Discussion*, a two-volume work edited by Connecticut College alumna Sondra Myers '55. Now available in eleven different languages, the book is a collection of essays penned by academics, politicians, and ambassadors advocating civic participation in societies in transition to democracy and commitment to the spirit of community.

Bruce Hoffman '76, international terrorism expert, receives the first Santiago Grisolia Prize and accompanying chair in violence studies by the Queen Sofia Center for the Study of Violence in Valencia, Spain.

Connecticut College launches the International Dance Festival as a centerpiece for the College's Arts Initiative. Participating international choreographers were from West Africa, China, Japan, Venezuela, Russia, Mexico, Malaysia, Taiwan, Brazil and New Zealand.

1999 Professor of Government William Frasure and Professors of Economics Don Peppard and Rolf Jensen lead a group of Connecticut College students on a full semester of study at Vietnam National University. As a result, Connecticut College students studied in Vietnam, VNU faculty members and officials visited Connecticut College and Connecticut College faculty members have visited VNU as part of various programs.

2000 Connecticut College receives a \$300,000 grant from the Freeman Foundation to implement six Asian Traveling Research and Immersion Programs (TRIP) to China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam.

Connecticut College receives grant from the Davis World Colleges to enhance international student recruiting and scholarships. As a result, students from United World Colleges worldwide have attended Connecticut College.

2001 Connecticut College receives a \$115,296 grant from the U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to support a three-year faculty partnership program between Connecticut College and Vietnam National University (VNU) in Hanoi.

Laura Israelian, an aspiring pediatrician who graduated in June from Connecticut College with a degree in zoology, is the first Connecticut College graduate to be selected a Luce Scholar. The program provides stipends and internships for 18 young Americans to live and work in Asia for one year.

Professor of Economics Don Peppard received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach in the Economics faculty of Vietnam National University in Hanoi.

Bruce Branchini, Hans and Ella McCollum '21 Vahlteich Professor of Chemistry, leads the TRIP Florence, Italy.

2002 Professor of Chemistry Marc Zimmer leads the SATA in Cape Town, South Africa.

Myriam Ghorbel '95 becomes an Associate Expert for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – HIV/Aids Unit based in Geneva.

- 2003 In preparation for a performing tour of the United States by Chinese artists in 2004, a team of Connecticut College Faculty organize a visit by American researchers, presenters, and culture and production specialists to Yunnan, China.
- The Institute for International Education awards Connecticut College and CISLA a Heiskell Award Honorable Mention in the category of Internationalizing the Campus in honor of “the most outstanding initiatives that are being conducted in international higher education.”
- Connecticut College is one of two liberal arts colleges chosen for an ongoing study on internationalization by the American Council on Education (ACE).
- Bruce Branchini, Hans and Ella McCollum '21 Vahlteich Professor of Chemistry, leads the SATA Spectroscopy in Florence, Italy.
- 2004 Patricia Wald '48, former chief judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals (D.C.), is appointed to the Iraq Intelligence Commission, an independent panel tasked with investigating U.S. intelligence surrounding the United States' 2003 invasion of Iraq and Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.
- Connecticut College and the Smithsonian co-organize a conference to launch the Yunnan/Mekong Project, an initiative to study, research, explore, sustain and present the vibrant cultural heritage of the Mekong River region.
- Tristan Anne Borer, Connecticut College professor of government and an expert in South African human rights and politics, is invited to address the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the U.S. Department of State and the National Intelligence Council at a conference on South Africa on Jan. 25 in Washington, D.C.
- Elisa Roller '93 is appointed to the European Commission in the Directorate-General for Regional Policy in Brussels.
- George Aelion '74 is appointed head of programs for the U.N. Global Food Programme.
- Christopher Hamblett '83, a former Peace Corps volunteer, founds The Foundation for West Africa.
- 2005 Susan Lynch '62, Trustee Emeritus, endows SATA with a \$3 million gift.
- Bruce Hoffman '76, international terrorism expert, becomes Corporate Chair in Counterterrorism and Counterinsurgency as well as Director of the Washington office and Senior International Policy Analyst, Rand Corporation.
- Global environmentalist and peace activist Vandana Shiva of India speaks on campus.
- The first-ever North American tour of minority ethnic performers from Yunnan Province, China, takes place in the fall of 2005 with public performances, school programs, lecture-demonstrations and exchange activities at venues throughout the East Coast.
- 2006 Connecticut College is named one of the Peace Corps' top 25 small colleges for producing Peace Corps volunteers. The College continues to make the annual list consistently.
- Nobel Prize-winner Wangari Maathai of Kenya is the College's commencement speaker.
- Alex Hybel, The Susan Eckert Lynch '62 Professor of Government, and Justin Kaufman '04 co-author the critically acclaimed book, “The Bush Administrations and Saddam Hussein: Deciding on Conflict.”

Veda Gashi '01 becomes Chief Legal Advisor with Kosovo's Ministry of Local Government.

The Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE) is established.

2007 Connecticut College-Smithsonian collaboration leads to a Mekong River program at the Smithsonian Center for Folk Life and Cultural Heritage.

Connecticut College's prominence in international education is highlighted in a USA Today article on April 24 about the growing numbers of students seeking to do internships abroad.

Connecticut College is listed among the top producers of U.S. Fulbright students by The Chronicle of Higher Education, a designation it maintains yearly.

The Otto and Fran Walter Foundation awards Connecticut College \$100,000 to begin planning for the International Commons.

Connecticut College adds Arabic to its language offerings.

2008 William Frasure, Connecticut College professor of government, becomes the second American ever to earn an honorary doctoral degree from Vietnam National University (VNU).

Five additional students and recent alumni, plus one faculty member (Bridget Baird), receive Fulbrights. The College continues to be a top producer of Fulbrights.

Connecticut College hosts the International Chrysophyte Symposium.

Connecticut College receives \$1 million from the Raymond Debbane Family Foundation in support of the International Commons.

2009 College receives a \$375,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation for the Initiative on Foreign Languages.

College launches the Language Fellows program and expands World Languages at the Regional Multicultural Middle School (RMMS) program.

The College expands the Foreign Languages across the Curriculum (FLAC) program.

International research grants are created for students.

2010 The newly renovated Language and Culture Center opens.

2012 Connecticut College receives a \$100,000 planning grant to support Global Islamic Studies.

2013 Connecticut College receives a \$700,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation for the Initiative on Global Education, focusing on efforts to institutionalize innovative language programs; to integrate international experiences into the curriculum and advising; to develop new partnerships with institutions abroad; and to explore new organizational structures for global and international programs.

- 2014 Dr. Ahmad Alachkar, an economics scholar from Syria, begins residency at the College through the Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund program.
- 2015 Faculty votes in the new general education program, including an enhanced world languages and culture requirement and a global-local engagement requirement.
- Connecticut College convenes (with Carleton College) the first annual Conference on Global Liberal Arts, now an ongoing annual event.
- A proposal is developed for the Global Commons on the ground floor of Blaustein Humanities Center at Palmer Library.
- A new major in Global Islamic Studies is established.
- Physics Professor Mohamed Diagne receives a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research at Université Gaston Berger in Senegal.
- 2016 Amy Dooling is appointed Associate Dean of Global Initiatives; an Assistant Director for the future Global Commons also hired.
- President Bergeron visits Ashesi University College in Ghana and signs a Memorandum of Understanding with President Patrick Awuah.
- The College publishes a new Strategic Plan, which includes the creation of a Global Commons facility.
- The Refugee Relief and Education Committee is formally established.
- The Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity celebrates its 10th Anniversary. The Center is renamed the Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity.
- Philosophy Professor Derek Turner is awarded a Fulbright Visiting Research Chair at University of Calgary, Canada.
- 2017 Funding (\$1,675,000) is secured through gifts from private foundations and donors for The Otto and Fran Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement.
- Design plans developed by Centerbrook Architects for Walter Commons are approved.
- A new minor in Jewish Studies is established.
- 2018 The Otto and Fran Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement opens.
- Binalakshmi Nepram, a threatened human rights activist from India, begins residency at the College through the Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund program.
- Connecticut College joins the University Consortium for Scholars in Exile as a founding member.

