

Five Centers for Interdisciplinary Scholarship

Shaping intellectual life across the campus

Connecticut College is home to five centers for interdisciplinary scholarship, each with a different focus: international studies, the environment, arts and technology, public policy and community action, and the study of race and ethnicity. Four of the five centers offer student certificate programs you can combine with any major.

Within our innovative Connections curriculum, a certificate program serves the same role as the Integrative Pathway: deliberately connecting the work you will complete, including

specialized coursework, a funded internship and a comprehensive senior project. Connecting these experiences allows you to expand learning beyond your major and start to view every experience from multiple perspectives. You'll graduate from Conn a better thinker and a better leader.

But the impact of the centers extends far beyond the approximately 12 percent of graduates who earn certificates each year. All five centers sponsor symposia, lectures and other activities that bring together faculty and students from every department and make our campus a dynamic place to live.



THE CENTERS

- The Ammerman Center for Arts & Technology
- The Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity
- The Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment
- The Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy
- The Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts





Center students tackle a wide range of complex issues, using the tools and perspectives of multiple disciplines.

Aly Cheney, a Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment scholar, combined her majors in economics and environmental studies to assess the economic value of the natural resources and associated tourism in the Rocky Mountains to ensure that worth is captured amid pressures for hydrofracking.

Joey Blair, a CISLA scholar and premed student with a double major in biology and French, completed an internship at the Institut Curie Centre de Recherche in Paris. In the lab, Joey conducted scientific research for his senior integrative project, “Analysis of the PRC2 Complex in Malignant Transformation.”



CCSRE students **Yasmin Fabian**, **Shameesha Pryor** and **Giselle Olaguez** engaged in the study of leadership and teaching and are now leading student discussions in the CRE course, “#Black Lives Matter 10X10X10: Ten Professors, Ten Weeks, Ten Disciplinary Perspectives.” Fabian, Pryor and Olaguez also plan engagement activities for the course. The opportunity to co-create classroom endeavors is rare at liberal arts institutions, but Conn faculty work to empower their

students with leadership skills that will be invaluable in their post-college academic and professional pursuits.

Juan Flores, Ammerman Center scholar and art major, created a multimedia installation integrating painting, sculpture and composited video projections exploring immigration, transformation, culture and identity. Juan interned with multimedia artist Daniel Canogar in Barcelona, Spain. He received the prestigious 2016 Mortimer Hayes-Brandeis Traveling Fellowship Award to continue his creative research in Mexico.

Kate Stockbridge and **Allie Girouard**, scholars in the Holleran Center, worked collaboratively with fellow Conn students to create curricula designed to empower middle school girls to use their voices for positive change. Implemented in their Massachusetts hometowns and at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School in New London, their program, called BOLD, combines media literacy, storytelling activities and mentorship to help girls resist restricting concepts of femininity and gain self-confidence.

Julia Proft, an Ammerman Center scholar, majored in computer science and minored in classics, linguistics and mathematics. She created “Outhack,” an interactive, reverse-engineered video game and participated in a research internship at Texas A&M in her junior year. She is currently in a Ph.D. program in computer science at Cornell University.

Recent Center Events and Activities

LAND CONSERVATION SERVICE-LEARNING COURSE

Goodwin-Niering Center scholars participate in a service-learning course on land conservation in partnership with Avalonia Land Trust, a local land conservancy. Center sophomores design and undertake projects to benefit the land trust and the community, while learning valuable life and professional skills such as stakeholder engagement and project management.

CENTER BANQUETS

Each center holds an annual event at which students present their internship experiences and research projects to their families, friends and faculty.

HOLLERAN CENTER STUDENT DOCUMENTARY

Georbinia DaRosa, a Holleran Center scholar, created a documentary as her senior integrative project. “I Am Because We Are” is an empowering and uplifting film that tells the story of how six black students are surviving and thriving at Connecticut College, a predominantly white institution. The film chronicles their joy, solace, and redefined success and activism, as well as their discovery of a greater sense of responsibility for their own well-being and that of other students of color.

SYMPOSIUM ON ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

The Ammerman Center 2018 symposium focused on the theme “Intersections,” featuring papers, concerts, exhibitions and installations. The symposium co-sponsors multimedia events at the Hygienic Art Gallery and Spark Makerspace in downtown New London.

ACADEMIC CENTERS FAIRS

All the Centers gather together to present information, research and students’ integrative senior projects.

SUSTAINING POLLINATORS

The Goodwin-Niering Center held its Lear-Conant Symposium, “Sustaining Pollinators.” “Buzzworthy” speakers shared how pollinators are in peril, how they sustain us, and what we can do to sustain them.

CAREER INFORMED LEARNING

As part of the Career Informed Learning initiative (with Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment), Davey Ives ’10, chief of staff for the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, Brooklyn, visited a class and discussed the struggles of community work. One student group project on the Stop Sucking campaign with Avalonia and Mystic Aquarium garnered Student Government Association funding for recyclable straws for all coffee houses on campus. This was featured in local media.

CISLA UNITED NATIONS VISIT

CISLA sophomores make an annual visit to the United Nations giving them the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with foreign diplomats on a variety of global issues. In the past, some of the delegations that students have met with include the missions of Argentina, Italy, Mexico, France, Germany, Iran, the United States, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

11TH ANNUAL WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS

Holleran Center scholars in the gateway course will partner with the New London Homeless Hospitality Center for the 11th year to plan and implement the Walk to End Homelessness, which brings the community together to raise money for homeless services.