

# theindependentvoice

Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges... Educators, Employers, Community Partners

## CCIC to Celebrate 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

by Judith B. Greiman, President CCIC



On March 29<sup>th</sup>, CCIC will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization. As the second oldest independent college association in the nation, CCIC has a long history of supporting students and higher education institutions. The gala dinner will be held at the Connecticut Convention Center. Key legislative, government, business and campus leaders will be in attendance and awards will be given to legislative and business leaders who have long supported higher education. Entertainment will be provided by student groups including a Fairfield University jazz band and Yale's Whim & Rhythm a cappella group. *Registration can be done online at [www.theccic.org](http://www.theccic.org).*

In celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will be highlighting the extent to which independent colleges are drivers of the State's economic growth through research and education and are part of the fabric of Connecticut's communities providing jobs, cultural enrichment and life-long learning opportunities. Independent colleges and universities have a presence in almost all areas of Connecticut and offer a wide range of training, degree, certificate, professional, two-year, four-year and post-graduate degree programs as well as both applied and theoretical research. They award 50% of the degrees granted in Connecticut, including 60% of the four-year and graduate degrees awarded to minorities. Additionally, in the aggregate, these institutions constitute the third largest employer in Connecticut.

**" Strengthening the financial aid programs at the state and federal levels continues to be our key goal as an organization."**

Historical accomplishments of the organization include:

- Helping to implement legislation to create the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA) in 1981 and staffing CHESLA ever since. CHESLA provides low cost loans to college students.
- Advocating for the establishment of a need-based aid program called the Connecticut Independent College Student Grant (CICS). While the statutory mandate for funding has been increased over the years, the challenge still exists in getting the actual appropriations to match this level.
- Supporting the Payment-in-Lieu of Taxes Program (PILOT) enacted in 1978. The PILOT program provides that the State pay to a municipality a "grant in lieu of taxes with respect to real property owned by any private nonprofit institution of higher education or any nonprofit general hospital facility". This program recognizes that these institutions serve the public good by providing critical resources and benefits that assist all Connecticut residents, not just those living in the municipalities in which the institutions are located. By statute, the state must reimburse towns at a rate of 77% of the taxes the towns would have otherwise received.
- Creating a robust administrative collaboration initiative through which member institutions can save money or enhance services.
- Supporting an infrastructure through which member institutions can manage academic grants.
- Serving as a resource to campus representatives, legislators, business leaders, press and members of the public on all matters related to higher education policy and data.

The seventeen colleges and universities served by CCIC are first and foremost educational institutions. Their prime impact is in their role as institutions of teaching and learning that mold the leaders, activists, scientists, and entrepreneurs who will shape Connecticut's future. Nonetheless, they also have a considerable impact on the state's economy and on their local communities. The reach of these institutions into the lives of the Connecticut's residents is broad-based.

Independent colleges and universities fuel Connecticut's economy through the earnings and spending by alumni, state and local tax dollars generated by the institutions and their alumni, capital construction projects, and institutional purchases. They generate millions in state tourism dollars – as thousands of people from in-state and out-of-state visit campuses for campus tours, business conferences, and cultural and sporting events. All of this economic activity ripples through the economy creating jobs and providing income for thousands of Connecticut residents and their families.

Join us in celebrating these educators, employers and community partners at our anniversary dinner on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Register at: [www.theccic.org](http://www.theccic.org)

**SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY BESTOWS HONORARY DEGREE UPON CARDINAL TOMÁS ŠPIDLÍK, S.J., AUTHORITY ON EASTERN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY**

**Special convocation in Rome marks the founding of the Cardinal Špidlík Center for Ecumenical Understanding**

ROME—Sacred Heart University bestowed an honorary Doctor of Theology degree upon His Eminence, Cardinal Tomáš Špidlík, S.J., at a special convocation at the Italian Parliament in Rome, on November 7, 2006.

This special convocation inaugurated Sacred Heart University's Cardinal Špidlík Center for Ecumenical Understanding. This new Center is dedicated to promoting greater ecumenical understanding and cooperation through dialogue, research, education, publications and artistic collaboration among the Western and Eastern Churches.

The convocation address was given by Cardinal Špidlík on "The Relation between Western Incarnational Theology and Eastern Eschatological Theology." In addition, the video "Arte e teologia. Dalla Redemptoris Mater in Vaticano alla chiesa ortodossa della Trasfigurazione a Clujad opera dell'Atelier del Centro Aletti" was premiered.

"The outstanding contributions of Cardinal Špidlík to Roman Catholic and Eastern Christian dialogue are an inspiration to all of us who seek greater unity among Christians," said Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, president of SHU. "I pray that the new Cardinal Špidlík Center for Ecumenical Understanding will build on his profound efforts and will promote greater understanding among Western and Eastern Christians."

Cardinal Špidlík is affiliated with Rome's Centro Aletti, a center for study and research attached to the mission of the Society of Jesus at the

Vatican's Pontifical Oriental Institute. He is a Jesuit priest and scholar who has spent more than 50 years pursuing dialogue and greater union between the Western and Eastern "branches" of Christianity.

Tomáš Špidlík was born in 1919 in Moravia. In 1938, he



*Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, president of Sacred Heart University, bestows an honorary Doctor of Theology degree upon Cardinal Tomáš Špidlík, S.J. University Trustees Hans Gram (West Redding, Conn.) and James Morley (Newtown, Conn.) assisted in the presentation of the degree. The event took place at the Italian Parliament in Rome.*

entered the Department of Philosophy at the University of Brno, in what is now the Czech Republic. In the following year, he entered the Jesuit novitiate and after many interruptions in his education due to World War II, he was ultimately ordained a priest in 1949. A year later, in Florence, he finished his long formation period as a Jesuit.

In 1951, Father Špidlík was called to Rome by Vatican Radio. The programs broadcast to the countries behind the Iron Curtain were a precious aid to a freedom in danger of being slowly but inexorably suffocated. From this work with Vatican Radio sprang a special mission that would always accompany him and that made him known in lands despite their communist

domination. Among others, he met with Aleksandr Dubcek, the former president of Czechoslovakia, and Václav Havel, the current president of the Czech Republic. Father Špidlík's Sunday homilies in the Czech language have been translated and published in various languages including Polish, Romanian and Italian.

and Eastern Spiritual Theology at various universities in Rome as well as around the world.

For 38 years he has been the spiritual director of the Pontifical Nepomuceno Seminary, the old Boemo Seminary. However, his duties do not stop him from being a man of study; in fact, Cardinal Špidlík has become known as one of the greatest experts in the spirituality of Eastern Christianity today.

Cardinal Špidlík's work is the fruit of diligent research and reflection, accompanied by a strong artistic sensitivity for contemporary culture.

The Cardinal is a prolific author and has been equally acknowledged in the academic and international fields. He has been chosen "Man of the Year, 1990" and "the most admired person of the decade" by the American Bibliographical Institute of Raleigh in North Carolina, was received at the Kremlin, led the spiritual exercises of Pope John Paul II and his Curia, and was decorated with the medal of the Masaryk Order, one of the highest honors of the Czech State, by President Václav Havel.

Father Špidlík was created Cardinal by Pope John Paul II on October 21, 2003.

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*Cardinal Tomáš Špidlík, S.J. (left), seated alongside Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, president of Sacred Heart University, addresses the academic convocation after receiving an honorary Doctor of Theology degree from the University. The event took place at the Italian Parliament in Rome.*

Rome. That year marked the beginning of his university career as a professor of Patristic



## News of Yale and the Arts



Yale University, an internationally recognized leader in arts education and a major center for the visual and performing arts, has embarked on an ambitious program to enhance its already strong offerings.

A significant example of this endeavor was the re-opening of the Yale University Art Gallery in December after two years of renovation. Designed by Louis Kahn, the building has been dramatically restored to the architect's original vision. The collections inside the newly renovated Gallery — the oldest college art museum in the U.S. — are encyclopedic, with more than 100,000

objects dating from antiquity to the present day. Construction has also begun on a new arts building directly across York Street from the Gallery. Designed by renowned architect Charles Gwathmey, the new building will house the Department of the History of Art and a new Arts Library. These will be connected to Paul Rudolph's landmark "A&A" Building, home of the Yale School of Architecture, which is also undergoing extensive restoration.

"Yale's unique strength in the arts is well known around the globe," notes Yale University President Richard C. Levin. "No other private university has a full suite of professional schools in art, architecture, music and drama of comparable distinction. "From Maya Lin to Chuck Close, from Norman Foster to Willie Ruff, from Meryl Streep to David Henry Hwang, Yale's contribution to the arts is unsurpassed," Levin adds.

This renaissance of the arts at Yale has already seen the construction of the new Gilmore Music Library, the renovation of Sprague Memorial Hall and Leigh Hall at the Yale School of Music, and the conversion of an abandoned facility on Chapel Street into Green Hall, the new home of the Yale School of Art.

Other recent improvements include construction of new buildings for the School of Art's sculpture program and the relocation and expansion of the Digital Media Center for the Arts, which serves all four art schools as well as the programs in film and theater studies.

These changes have already strengthened the University's ability to nurture creativity and encourage the cross-pollination of ideas among young artists; to present a rich variety of cultural offerings and to promote scholarship in the arts by making Yale's vast collec-

tions available to students and researchers worldwide.

In addition to their significance for artists, students and scholars, the Yale University Art Gallery and the Yale Center for British Art, just across the street, as well as the Yale Repertory Theatre, the Yale School of Drama, and the Yale School of Music are important community resources for New Haven and the region, welcoming thousands of school groups and local residents every year for tours, performances, and educational programs, many of them free of charge.

To complete this ambitious building program, the University is seeking to raise \$500 million through the recently launched "Yale Tomorrow" capital campaign. The University also plans to fund \$100 million in endowed scholarship funds to support talented students in the arts.

## Saint Joseph College Collaborates with Hartford Institutions to Create The School for Young Children on Asylum Hill

Saint Joseph College, The Asylum Hill Congregational Church, and the Capitol Region Education Council first built a partnership, then realized a dream: The School for Young Children on Asylum Hill — a socially and economically integrated school serving urban and suburban children from birth through grade three. The family-centered School provides full-day, full-year programming and seamlessly integrates its state-of-the-art early childhood educational program, designed specifically to meet the needs of young children, with on-site infant and toddler care, special education services, and support resources for parents. The School made its debut Tuesday, September 5, 2006 with a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony.

The Reverend Gary Miller, senior minister of the Asylum

Hill Congregational Church, called The School "a collective dream, a collaborative dream." He told those gathered for the



ceremony: "This is 'No Child Left Behind'...really!" and received hearty applause. Reverend Miller went on to say: "This is an environment where children are compassionately cared about and desperately loved."

Former Saint Joseph College President Evelyn C. Lynch echoed that sentiment. "Speaking on behalf of Saint Joseph College, I must tell you how happy we are that this day has

finally come. The College has a long and distinguished history of commitment to early childhood education, and to still be opening new chapters in that history in 2006 keeps our dedication firm, our pedagogy current, and our passion for what we do vibrant. We are proud to collaborate with such outstanding partners and to welcome families from throughout greater Hartford to this School that has been a longstanding dream for all of us."

Dr. Bruce E. Douglas, executive director of the Capitol Region Education Council, called the opening of The School for Young Children on Asylum Hill "an important event in the renaissance of Hartford," saying that The School would "connect the worlds of

education, business and community" because of its philosophy, curriculum, and location.

Mayor Eddie Perez agreed. Noting that the grand opening was taking place on Hartford's first day of school, the Mayor pointed out that the reason that "2000 kids should graduate each year from



Hartford, but only about 800 actually do" is because so many start with economic, social or other disadvantages and never

catch up. "Every kid who walks through the doors of this school will have better opportunities," he said. "We need to make sure we are all climbing 'The Hill' together!"

Quinnipiac University Signs Agreement to Purchase Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield's North Haven Campus for Graduate Education Center

Quinnipiac University has reached an agreement with Wellpoint, Inc. to purchase its Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield campus in North Haven, a 100-acre site with four buildings containing more than 570,000 square feet of space.

The North Haven campus will be used as a Graduate Education Center serving the needs of our expanding graduate/adult student population. Purchase of this site may well eliminate the need for Quinnipiac to construct a graduate health professions building on its York Hill campus off Sherman Avenue in Hamden.

The facility the university is purchasing includes space that will be converted for classroom and other educational uses. The site has extensive amenities including an auditorium and more than adequate parking.

Under the agreement, Quinnipiac will gain access to a vacant 100,000-square-foot building on the campus immediately and will obtain access to the remainder of the site over a 10-year period. Today's agreement is subject to a significant due diligence process to begin immediately that involves environmental audits as well as town of North Haven zoning review and approval.

In subsequent years, Quinnipiac will house more graduate programs there and eventually create a comprehensive Graduate Education Center for most if not all of its graduate programs in its School of Health Sciences, School of Business, School of Communications and Division of Education.

The movement of graduate programs to the North Haven campus will free up considerable space on Quinnipiac's Mount Carmel campus for use by undergraduates.

No residential housing is planned on the North Haven campus. With the possible exception of the graduate health professions building, the university will proceed with its commitment to the town of Hamden to build undergraduate residence halls, a student center, and parking facilities on the York Hill Campus, all of which are intended to bring undergraduates from the neighborhoods and back into on-campus, residential housing. These buildings complement the TD Banknorth Sports Center, which will open on Jan. 27, 2007.

The Quinnipiac plan is to maintain the Mount Carmel and York Hill campuses on both sides of Whitney Avenue as its primary

residential undergraduate location in Hamden. The North Haven campus will function as a Graduate Education Center serving the needs of our expanding graduate/adult student population. Taken together, these three campuses will satisfy the university's requirements for classrooms, faculty/staff offices, student clubs and parking for decades to come.

"Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Connecticut has elected to pursue a sale lease-back arrangement along the lines of what a number of growing national firms have successfully implemented as a financial best practice," said David R. Fusco, president. "We're delighted to be working closely with Quinnipiac University, a long-time customer of ours, which like Anthem, cares deeply about its strong Connecticut roots, the state's economic development and community service." xxx



Quinnipiac's TD North Sports Center Opening Jan. 27th



The Independent Voice is a publication of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, a public policy association representing Connecticut's nonprofit independent higher education institutions.

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The Independent Voice follows a regular rotation schedule featuring four of the seventeen member institutions in each quarterly issue.

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