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Annual Reports

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2017

# Annual Report, 2016-2017

Ammerman Center, Connecticut College

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The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

Andrea Wollensak, Director  
Libby Friedman, Assistant Director  
June 2017

## **Annual Report 2016-17**

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### **Introduction: summary of major accomplishments**

Andrea Wollensak has completed her three-year term as director and has agreed to renew her directorship for another three years. The past three years has focused on building the center internally through new curricular initiatives aligning with *Connections*, center structuring, and forging new connections within the campus community, the New London community and nearby academic institutions. The focus of the center's initiatives for the next three years will be guided by the new college-wide strategic goal 3 plan to *Expand the mission and program of the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology*. We will continue to enrich the curriculum and we will forge new connections with alumni and with national and international programming.

We had an exciting year themed *The Body and Technology*, which tied together colloquia series, student projects, the gateway course and seminars, as well as workshops. This year was our colloquia year which brought in three outstanding visiting artists for performances, workshops, and residencies.

The Center was fortunate to have received a Mellon Officer's Grant in 2015 in the amount of \$100,000. The grant *Reimagining Arts and Technology at Connecticut College* was extended through the fall 2016 semester and supported additional workshops and our first colloquia event in its final semester. The final report was submitted in February 2017 and can be viewed [here](#).

The following report provides details to an extraordinary year.

### **Certificate Program**

#### **Student Scholars**

Over the past few years the certificate program has been revised and now includes Center courses and seminars in the sophomore, junior, and senior years. Student scholars in the Center Certificate Program explore issues in arts, humanities and technology through individual study, course work, internships, research, workshops, integrative projects and events with faculty, staff, visiting scholars and artists.

Our student scholars consist of 11 sophomores, 10 juniors, and 3 seniors. Our students represent a wide range of majors and included Studio Art, Computer Science, Psychology, Philosophy, Dance, Music and Technology, self-designed majors, English, Art History, Architectural Studies, American Studies and Sociology.

Our students are working artists and researchers, and as such, it is important for them to take risks, to experiment and to fail, to be critical of technology in order to redefine tools and techniques. We believe that the capstone experience is an excellent preparation for the post-college professional experience since it requires a follow-through from concept to implementation and presentation. The structure for student exploration starts with the sophomore gateway course, then follows through the junior seminar and the senior seminars.

*From left to right:  
Libby Friedman, Noah Landy,  
President Bergeron, Virginia Gresham,  
Bianca Scofield, Andrea Wollensak,  
Ross Morin.*



This year, our seniors completed their projects and shared them with the community in formal presentations, demonstrations, a gallery installation, a curated exhibition in downtown New London, and a public walking tour. On May 5, our seniors demonstrated their projects in the Shain library and at the visualization wall. On May 20, our seniors presented their final research projects at the visualization wall to the Center community and to friends and families. As in previous years, the certificate ceremony took place in the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room. President Bergeron attended the ceremony, gave advice to the seniors and read a short statement to the students from Judith Ammerman.

### **Senior Student Scholars (class of '17)**

#### **Virginia Gresham**

Computer Science major

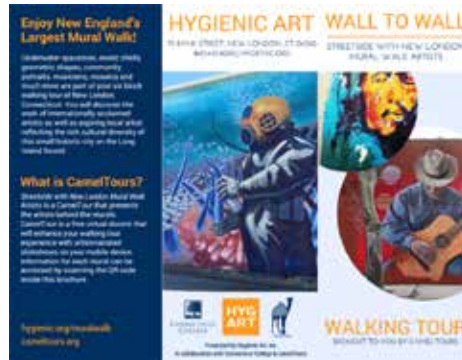
Internship: Yale University Information Tech Services, Marketing/Communication Intern

Recipient of the 2017 Ammerman Center Smalley/Zahler Award

Senior Integrative Project: *Wall to Wall: Streetside with New London Mural Artists*, which presented a series of artists-narrated, image-based digital slideshows formatted for mobile devices and showcases the stories behind each mural as told by their artists. The CamelTour mural walk can be found at [cameltours.org/ct/u16/t10](http://cameltours.org/ct/u16/t10).

Advisors: Prof. Anthony Graesch and Prof. Christine Chung

*Brochure for Wall to Wall: Streetside with New London Mural Artists and group touring project in New London.*



### **Noah Landy**

Studio Art major, Computer Science minor

Internship: Drink More Records, Brooklyn, NY

Recipient of the 2017 Ammerman Center Bridget Baird Award and the 2017 Art Department Merit Prize

Senior Integrative Project: *Sonic Palimpsest: Interactive Audio Installation Exploring the Ephemeral Nature of Sound in Space*

Based on a palimpsest (a manuscript or piece of writing material on which the original writing has been effaced to make room for later writing but of which traces remain) this interactive sound work explores identity, bodies and the voice through minimalist composition and performance. Noah's work was installed in Cummings 305 as part of the Senior Art Major final exhibition from May 5-21.

Advisor: Prof. Nadav Assor



*Noah Landy final installation titled: Sonic Palimpsest: Interactive Audio Installation Exploring the Ephemeral Nature of Sound in Space installed in Cummings 305.*

**Bianca Scofield**

Psychology major, Studio Art minor

Internship: tsu LLC, New York City

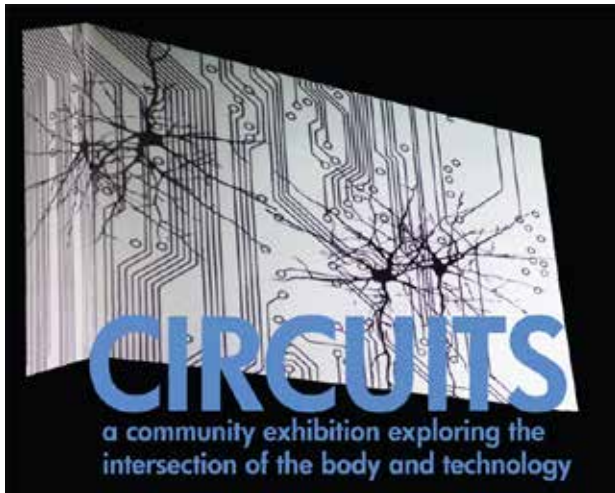
Recipient of the 2017 Ammerman Center Bridget Baird Award and the 2017 and member of Psi Chi, The International Honor Society in Psychology

Senior Integrative Project: *Circuits: A Community Exhibition Exploring the Intersection of the Body and Technology*

Development and curation of a multimedia exhibition, exploring “Body and Technology” at the Marquee Gallery in downtown New London, bringing together artists from Connecticut College, The Williams School, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts and New London.

Advisor: Prof. Andrea Wollensak

[www.exhibitioncircuits.com](http://www.exhibitioncircuits.com)



*Bianca Scofield gallery Circuits catalog cover and opening reception image at Marquee Gallery, New London.*

**Junior Student Scholars (class of '18)**

Our junior class included ten students from a range of disciplines:

Jack Beal, major: Computer Science, minor: Music and Technology

Rebecca Brill Weitz, major: Self Designed Performance Design and Technology; minors: Environmental Studies, Dance

Emily Green, majors: Dance, Computer Science

Lauren Linehan, major: Architectural Studies

Rishma Mendhekar, majors: Studio Art, Computer Science

Lee Messier, major: Studio Art

Greg Montenegro, major: Studio Art

Isaih Porter, majors: Studio Art, Computer Science

Alana Wimer, majors: Studio Art, American Studies

Yi Xie, majors: Film Studies, Computer Science

### **Sophomore Student Scholars (class of '19)**

Our sophomore class included eleven students from a range of disciplines:

Shira Boyar, major: Sociology

Annie Breakstone, major: Art History, minor: Dance

Saadya Chevan, major: Philosophy

Chris Considine, major: English

Isabelle Cookson, major: Art, minors: Economics, French

Julia Dearden, major: Computer Science, minors: Sociology, English

Sashi Fukaya, major: Architectural Studies

Roxanne Low, majors: Art, Computer Science

Liza Miller, major: Psychology

Khanh Nghiem, major: Computer Science, minors: Mathematics, Sociology

Shay Quinn, major: Sociology

### **Class of 2020**

We reached out to prospective certificate students through Center information sessions, first-year seminars, sophomore research seminars, cross-listed courses from other departments, ConnCourses, college open houses, centers and pathway fairs, and coordinated with the new Connections program, where we presented information on the Certificate Program, student and faculty research, internships and Center opportunities for students.

### **Curriculum**

We continue to make changes to our curriculum which began with the Mellon grant. These include new cross-listed courses from a wider range of disciplines, a gateway course, a junior year seminar, a revised senior seminar, and integrative internship preparation and reflection. These changes build a richer experience for our students in the sophomore and junior year that align with the *Connections* curricular changes on campus.

### **AT201 Topics on the History of Arts and Technology (Gateway course)**

Our gateway course is firmly in place and has been offered for three years. This year, AT201 Topics on the History of Arts and Technology was designed and taught by Nadav Assor.

This class served as a historically, globally, culturally and critically informed introduction to the fraught, rich and complex intersections between Arts, Technology, and Culture. Topics were examined through a lens focusing on this year's Ammerman Center theme, of the human and non-human body's complex relationship with technology.

Highlights of AT201 included:

2/2: Fragment Improv Ensembles w/guest Shawn Hove

2/4: Histories Collaborative Technology timeline workshop w/guest Ari Rotramel

2/13: Techno Bodies #1: Cyborgs and Monsters w/guest Andrea Baldwin

2/20: Guillermo Gómez Peña overview w/guest Rijuta Mehta & Francisco Robles & Karen Gonzalez Rice  
2/27: Colloquia performance: Guillermo Gómez Peña  
2/28: Colloquia workshop: Guillermo Gómez Peña  
3/27 Afrofuturism/The Remix, w/guest Liz Reich  
4/3: Colloquia lecture: Lee Blalock  
4/10 Skype guests: the Digital Museum of Digital Art (DiMODA), VR artists & curators William Robertson & Alfredo Salazar-Caro  
4/14: Bianca Scofield's *Circuits* exhibition Marquee, New London  
4/17: Virginia Gresham's *Mural Walk* tour, Hygienic Gallery, New London  
5/5: Certificate Program Senior Project Presentations and Demonstrations  
5/8: Final course interactive installations exploring "Body and Technology" theme and presented at 768 Williams Street

*Final sophomore gateway course collaborative team lab experiments presented in the Ammerman House.*



### **AT 310 and AT320 Ammerman Junior Seminar**

This year we developed and offered two semesters of a new junior seminar (AT310 and AT320), taught by Andrea Wollensak. These 2 credit courses introduced students to new tools, visiting artists, preparation for study away, internships and initial research and preparation for their senior integrative project.

Highlights of AT310 and AT320 included:

9/19: Field trip to Spark Makerspace  
9/26: Processing software introduction by Bridget Baird and Andrea Wollensak  
10/17: Visiting artist Vanessa Gilbert introduction to augmented reality  
10/21: Caroline Park gave a 3 hour workshop on MaxMSP for audio processing  
11/14: Colloquia lecture: Quince  
11/15: Colloquia performance: Quince

11/5: Katherine Bennett, January Technology Workshop instructor Skype meeting  
2/6: Digication portfolio overview and development with Jessica McCollough  
2/13: Processing software/project introduction by Bridget Baird and Andrea Wollensak  
2/20: Rijuta Mehta and Francisco Robles: Guillermo Gómez Peña  
2/27: Colloquia performance: Guillermo Gómez Peña  
2/28: Colloquia workshop: Guillermo Gómez Peña  
4/3: Colloquia lecture: Lee Blalock  
4/17: Virginia Gresham's *Mural Walk* tour, Hygienic Gallery, New London  
4/21: Ozgur Izmirlı workshop: Kinect/Visualization Wall  
5/5: Certificate Program Senior Project Presentations and Demonstrations  
5/8: Final course interactive installations exploring *Body and Technology* theme  
and presented at 768 Williams Street

*Junior seminar course  
workshops (clockwise from  
top left) on augmented  
reality, Max/MSP  
with Kinect, and  
Processing software.*



### **AT401 and AT402 Ammerman Senior Seminar**

Ross Morin taught both semesters of the Senior Seminar 2-credit courses and brought engaging content and thoughtful analysis to material and worked closely with the seniors in developing and finalizing their integrative projects. We have created complementary and connected syllabi for the Center junior and senior seminar courses. Seminars were scheduled at the same time but in different locations and taught by different faculty. This structure allowed flexibility to connect the classes throughout the year for peer-to-peer learning as well as independent work. This year we provided small grants for seniors to support their final projects.



Highlights of AT401 and AT402 included:

9/9: Ross Morin Film, *A Wheel out of Kilter* screening

10/17: Vanessa Gilbert visiting artist on augmented reality

10/21: Caroline Park gave a 3 hour workshop on MaxMSP for audio processing

11/14: Colloquia lecture: Quince

2/6: Digication workshop with Information Services

2/27: Colloquia performance: Guillermo Gómez Peña

4/3: Colloquia lecture: Lee Blalock

4/14: Bianca Scofield's *Circuits* exhibition, Marquee Gallery, New London

4/17: Virginia Gresham's *Mural Walk* tour, Hygienic Gallery, New London

5/5: Certificate Program Senior Project Presentations and Demonstrations

5/5: Noah Landy's installation in the Senior Art Exhibition, Cummings

5/8: Final gateway course interactive installations exploring *Body and Technology* theme, and presented at 768 Williams Street

5/ 20: Senior Integrative project public presentations and Certificate Ceremony

### **Cross-listed courses**

The Center has been increasing its connections with various departments with programming and cross-listed courses. We are interested in developing more connections with the humanities and the sciences in the future. Many of these courses had final project presentations open to the campus community.

### **Fall 2016 semester:**

AT/ART 104 Time-Based Digital Art – Amanda Gutierrez (Art)

AT/ENG 129 Modern Media Culture – Rijuta Mehta (English)

AT/MUS 203 ElectroAcoustic I – Art Kreiger (Music)

AT/CS218 Multimedia – Ozgur Izmirli (Computer Science)

AT302/ART 302 Designing Visual Information – Andrea Wollensak (Art)

AT401 Senior Seminar in Arts & Technology – Ross Morin (Film Studies)

AT 491 Individual Study

### **Spring 2017 semester:**

AT/ART 104 CC:Time-Based Digital Art – Nadav Assor (Art)

AT201 Topics in the History of Arts & Technology – Nadav Assor (Art)

AT/GWS 207 Body Narratives Tech and Media – Andrea Baldwin (GWS)

AT/ART 214 Video Installation – Nadav Assor (Art)

AT/CS 217 Entertainment Software Design – James Lee (CS)

AT/DAN 237 Media in Performance – Shawn Hove (Dance)

AT/MUS 304 ElectroAcoustic Music II – Art Kreiger (Music)

AT 402 Senior Seminar in Arts & Technology – Ross Morin (Film Studies)

AT 492 Individual Study

This year we organized a co-curricular project with ARC 342 Architectural Design II: Selected Topics taught by Bill Pollack. Students designed a new Ammerman Center on the sloping site behind Palmer and between the main gate and The Williams School.

### **Center's curriculum and alignment with Connections**

One of our initiatives this year was developing the center's curricular and programming initiatives to align with *Connections*. Center faculty and staff attended meetings with the other centers, participated in the *Connections* planning committee, worked with pathway coordinators, deans and FYS instructors as well as attending many CTL sessions. We restructured the certificate program requirements, courses and application schedule to align with the new *Connections* program. We defined the MOIs for the center and sought out pathways for programming connections.

### **Internships**

As part of our curricular initiative, we required our juniors during their internship summer to complete the Internship Reflection Document which includes an internship reflection paper, a daily journal during the internship, and a revised integrative project/idea development statement, for the senior project.

#### **Junior internships**

Jack Beal - Grand Performances, Los Angeles as a concert audio and technical intern

Rebecca Brill Weitz - O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, CT as theater center lighting engineer

Emily Green - Stanford iD Tech Academy, Stanford, CA as health and safety coordinator and programming instructor

Lauren Linehan - ABXY, an art gallery in New York City as an art advisory intern

Rishma Mendhekar - The Bloc, a design studio in New York City as a digital design intern

Lee Messier - artist residency at The Aurora Project in West Virginia, as a resident artist and media strategist

Greg Montenegro - Ocean Conservancy in Baltimore, as a design, social media intern

Isaih Porter - American Museum of Ceramic Art in Los Angeles, as a studio assistant and resident artist

Alana Wimer - Lion Project in Denver as a graphic design intern.

Yi Xie - The Documentary Group, in New York City as a documentary film intern

#### **Sophomore internships**

Saadya Chevan - Public Relations intern at Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, NY, a summer music festival

Isabelle Cookson - Creative Intern at Vitro Advertising Agency in San Diego

Julia Dearden - Web development and digital marketing intern at 50fish, and communications internship at Casco Bay YMCA, in Portland, Maine

Sachi Fukaya - Architecture intern at Alphaville Architectural firm in Kyoto, Japan  
Roxanne Low - Prof. James Lee on the Ammerman funded Posture Portrait project  
Khanh Ngiem - Project Manager Intern for Yale IT Services in New Haven  
Shay Quinn - Media management intern at Calvin Klein in the global marketing department

## Facilities

### The Ammerman House at 768 Williams Street

The Center has been changing and growing over the past two years with larger numbers of students and fellows. In August 2015 we were given the 768 Williams Street house, and we quickly transformed it into student workspaces and seminar meeting space. It is our gathering space for seminars, artist talks, center-owned equipment and dedicated student work spaces. We continue to house the administrative office of the Center in the Winslow Ames House, and share a computer lab (Olin 214) with the computer science department. We collaborate with departments and IS with use of labs, media studios (CS, Art, Music, Theater, Dance, and Film), and the visualization wall in Shain Library. We have many locations on campus and find this challenging. Ideally, we want one dedicated space to accommodate faculty, staff, and a digital fabrication lab with studios.

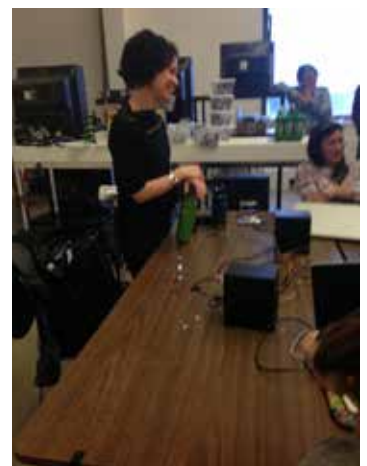
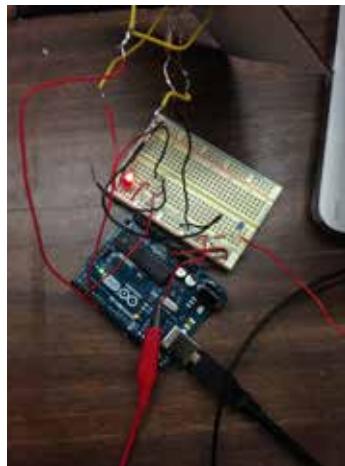
## Events

Events can be viewed in detail with keywords, live media [here](#).

## Workshops

The January Technology Workshop (January 16-20) was taught by Katherine Bennett, Visiting Assistant Professor of Integrated Digital Media Technology, Culture and Society at Tandon School of Engineering at NYU. This workshop “Systems as Art”, focused on physical computing and explored systems as material, through sound, soft sensors and interface design. At the end of the week, students presented a custom switch, several oscillator circuits and knowledge of how to integrate them to MaxMSP. Topics that were covered included gesture, sensors, switches, light, sound, circuits, oscillators, field recordings, samplers, basic electronics, physical computing and MaxMSP.

*Katherine Bennett, visiting instructor for “Systems as Art” week-long workshop on physical computing.*



## The Body and Technology Colloquia Series

The Ammerman Center *Body and Technology* Colloquia 2016-2017 series presented a wide-range of thought provoking work by artists, researchers and performers, manifesting and reflecting on the current multiplicity of relationships between technology and the body, and the ways these can shape, enhance or control our lives.



### Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

November 14 - 16, 2016

Co-sponsored by the Music Department

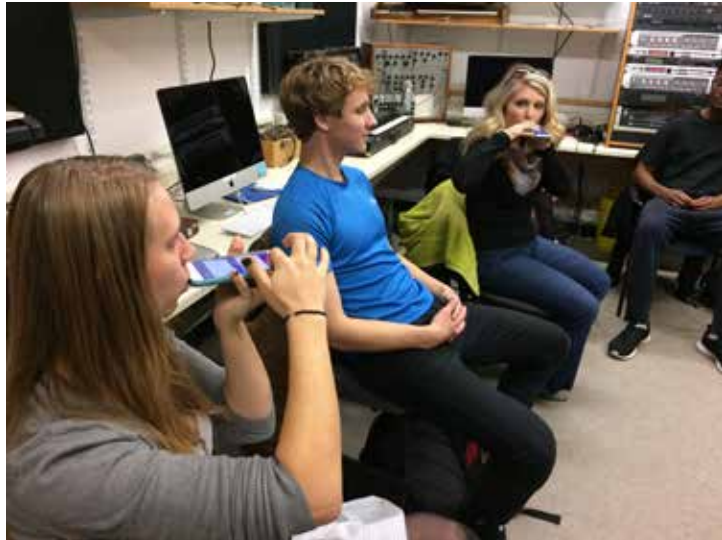
Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble is an all-female vocal quartet specializing in experimental repertoire for voices. Quince is an artist-run ensemble committed to commissioning, creating, performing, and educating about new and experimental vocal repertoire.

On Monday, November 14, 2016 Quince presented a lecture *Entrepreneurship in Contemporary Music* They presented their own experiences in the American contemporary music scene from working with composers to designing a website to navigating the world of nonprofits to creating new, musical opportunities in order to ensure a sustainable and thriving career in this ever-changing music world.

On Tuesday, November 15, 2016 Quince performed *Machine Music* with an appearance by Camel Heard. More information of the entire event can be found [cat.conncoll.edu](http://cat.conncoll.edu)

On Wednesday, November 16, Quince visited Art Kreiger's, MUS 203 course to discuss electronic music and voice and demonstrate the use of the ILOphone.

*Katherine Bennett, visiting instructor for "Systems as Art" week-long workshop on physical computing.*



### **La Pocha Nostra, Guillermo Gómez Peña**

February 27 - 28, 2017

This residency was co-sponsored by the Office of the President; Dean of the College; the Art, Dance, Theater and English departments; CCSRE; and Gender and Women's Studies.

La Pocha Nostra is a trans-disciplinary arts organization that provides a support network and forum for artists of various disciplines, generations and ethnic backgrounds. La Pocha is devoted to erasing the borders between art and politics, art practice and theory, artist and spectator.

On Monday, February 27 in Palmer Auditorium was the performance titled *Unplugged: A Brand New Spoken Word Monologue by El Mad Mex*.

On Tuesday, February 28, *Exercises for Rebel Artists* was a four-hour workshop, facilitated by Guillermo Gómez Peña and Balitronica for 23 student and faculty.

*Guillermo Gómez Peña performing in Palmer Auditorium.*



### **Lee Blalock**

April 3, 2017

This residency was co-sponsored by the Departments of Art and Music.

Lee Blalock's work represents the physical, computational, or behavioral body and uses repetition as a strategy to move past the automatic and into something transformative.

Blalock explores what it may mean to live in a computational body, in multiple futures, in an invisible place. Blalock will discuss her new work, "NeueBody" or "n3w\_b0d1es" which takes the form of abstraction or algorithmic composition.

On Monday, April 3, Blalock presented a lecture titled "NeueBody" or "n3w\_b0d1es," While on campus, Blalock held studio visits with certificate students and reviewed work.

*Lee Blalock presenting her work "NeueBody" or "n3w\_b0d1es," in Olin 014.*



### **Complete List of Public Events, Presentations and Media Placements**

Below is a chronological list of campus and public Center events plus media coverage. This list demonstrates work and activities completed at the Center, engagement on campus and in the community.

#### **Social Media Links:**

Web site - [cat.conncoll.edu](http://cat.conncoll.edu)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/AmmermanCenterforArtsandTechnology/](http://www.facebook.com/AmmermanCenterforArtsandTechnology/)

Twitter - [twitter.com/AmmermanCenter](http://twitter.com/AmmermanCenter)

AUG 26: Academic Resource Fair (college event)

SEPT: Grace Juster '16 profiled in the new Connecticut College View Book

SEPT 16: Getting Centered Academic Fair (four centers event) - Shain library entrance

SEPT 23: Summer Research Symposium, Rishma Mendhekar and Prof. James Lee presented on the *Posture Portrait* project

SEPT 28: Center Information Sessions

OCT 10: Fall Admissions Open House, representing Center (college event)

OCT 15: Two events - Reception at 768 Williams Street; *Recreating the Posture Portraits* presentation and discussion at the Visualization Wall

NOV 13: *Ammerman Center presents Quince Vocal Ensemble*, article in Daybreak, [The Day](#)

NOV 13: *Quince starts Ammerman Center's "The Body and Technology" Colloquia Series*, news release on college web site

NOV 14 - 16: Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble residency

JAN 16 - 20: January Technology Workshop, *Systems As Art Physical Computing* with Katherine Bennett and final showing on January 20

JAN 23: Center banquet

FEB 14: *Accepting the Challenge of the Physical Computing*, blog post by Saadya Chevan '19.

FEB 23: *Gómez-Peña set to unplug in New London*, article in [The Westerly Sun](#)

FEB 26: *"Gómez-Peña Unplugged" at Conn College*, article in Daybreak, [The Day](#)

FEB 27 - 28: Guillermo Gómez-Peña residency

MAR 10: *Unplugged: a new spoken word monologue by Guillermo Gómez Peña of LA Pocha Nostra Feb 27*, news release on college web site

MAR 16: *N3w\_b0d1es: A talk by Lee Blalock*, news release on college web site

APR 2: *Arts and Technology conference hosts artist Blalock*, article in Daybreak, [The Day](#)

APR 3 - 4: Lee Blalock residency

APR 3: Pathway and Center Fair (college event)

APR 11: *Man, Technology merge in exhibit (Circuits exhibition)* article in Daybreak, [The Day](#)

APR 12: Getting Centered Academic Fair (four centers event) - Cro Connection

APR 14: Opening: *Circuits: A Community Exhibition Exploring the Intersections of the Body and Technology* at the Marquee Gallery; curated by Bianca Scofield '17

APR 19: Center Information Sessions

APR 19: *Using Selfies to Increase Student Engagement*, Teaching with Technology blog post on Quince residency, by Wendy Moy

MAY 1: *Circuits: Artistically Engages New London Community*, article in the [College Voice](#)

MAY 1: Honors and Awards Ceremony (college event)

MAY 5: Center research project demonstrations and, presentations; including senior presentations, Gateway videos and *Posture Portrait* interactive installation, at the Visualization Wall

MAY 5: Opening: Senior Thesis Art Exhibition, featuring Noah Landy's *Palimpsest* installation, Cummings Arts Center

MAY 8: *App to provide a self-guided tour on New London's Murals*, article in Daybreak, [The Day](#)

MAY 8: *Streetside with New London Mural Walk Artists* launch of Mural walk permanent link on Hygienic web site

MAY 8: Gateway course final interactive installations exploring "Body and Technology" theme, 768 Williams Street

MAY 9: Final student presentations, AT/GWS 207, cross listed class, Prof. Andrea Baldwin  
 MAY 12: Final Student presentations, AT/ART 214, cross-listed class, Prof. Nadav Assor  
 MAY 13: Opening: *Streetside with New London Mural Walk Tour*, community launch event at the Hygienic Gallery  
 Gallery, in conjunction with the Hygienic Youth Artist Academy  
 MAY 15: Final Student Presentations, AT/CS 217, cross-listed class, Prof. James Lee  
 MAY 16: Center end-of year reception at 768 Williams Street  
 MAY 20: Student scholar certificate program family luncheon and presentations at the Visualization Wall; Certificate Ceremony in the Charles Chu room

### **Ammerman Grants for Research and Teaching**

The center introduced new individual faculty grants for research and teaching that support our revised mission (which can be found in last year’s annual report on page 22, and on cat.conncoll.edu). The new research grant supports innovative faculty work assisted by a student from the center, and the new faculty teaching grant supports the creation and revision of courses to better align with the *Connections* initiative and broaden the center’s course offerings. These new funded opportunities are in addition to our longstanding collaborative faculty grants.

*Above: “The Posture Portrait Project” workshop held in the Digital Commons, Shain Library on May 5.*



The Ammerman Center funded research project *Recreating The Posture Portraits: Artistic and technological (re)productions of the gendered (re)presentations of bodies at Connecticut College: past, present and future* continued this year. This project is directed by Andrea Baldwin (GWS), Heidi Henderson (Dance), and James Lee (Computer Science), and student assistants include Joseph Castro ‘19, Emily Green ‘18 and Rishma Mendhekar ‘18.

The *Posture Portraits Project* had a productive year which included interviews with alumni (at the 2016 reunion) who experienced the picture taking as students at Connecticut College. The research group also presented at the visualization wall during Fall Weekend. They com-



pleted initial drafts of a paper about the gendered and racial implications of the pictures, held their first “photo booth” capturing workshop collecting fifty current students, faculty and staff in a photo and interview workshop at the center’s end of year student research presentation event in the library. From this research they developed ideas for a performative work for next year’s Ammerman 16th Biennial Symposium in February.

### **Staff, Associates Directors and Fellows**

Our core faculty associate directors, director and assistant director met regularly throughout the year to discuss the Center’s goals, new initiatives, new guidelines, and students’ progress.

**Wendy Moy**, Assistant Professor in Music was our associate director of events during the fall semester. Wendy coordinated with Quince and the Music department to create a collaborative choral performance and introductory Skype meeting with CC student and Quince. Wendy was on sabbatical during the spring semester.

**Nadav Assor**, Assistant Professor in Studio Art was on sabbatical in the fall and, upon his return, continued his appointment as associate director of events. He co-organized the January Technology workshop and the final two colloquia residencies (Guillermo Gómez Peña, and Lee Blalock). He also worked on the early development of our 16th biennial symposium INTERSECTIONS theme and planning of the gallery exhibition scheduled for 2018.

**Ozgur Izmirli**, Professor in Computer Science was our associate director of technology. Ozgur worked on overseeing, coordinating and maintaining (with IT) hardware and software in the labs. Ozgur was key in coordinating a new student position “Technology/Equipment Assistant”. This position held lab hours for students to check out equipment and troubleshoot technical issues.

**Ross Morin**, Assistant Professor in Film Studies was our associate director of curriculum. Ross was instrumental in overseeing curricular programming. He developed new curricular guidelines for the senior seminar, the center’s learning goals, course requirements in alignment with *Connections*. He taught the senior seminar and worked closely with seniors (along with their advisors and assisted by staff) on their final projects.

**Libby Friedman**, assistant director (and our backbone to the center), increased her workload and support of the center with both the Mellon grant and scheduling visiting artists in the *Body and Technology* colloquia series. Her dedication, energy, and motivation have supported the program for years, starting in 1996 with the introduction of the certificate program. She ran the daily operations with an incredible attention to detail, refined planning skills and a great sense of responsibility. With increased levels of center activity, increased collaboration with the college community, and larger number of certificate program students and events, we plan to find funds for part time office support.

In 2016-17, Libby was recognized for 20 years of long term service at the college, and was noted for serving in the same position for all years. She was a FYS staff advisor for the *Civic Participation & Social Identity* course. She was involved in planning the intersection of *Connections* and the centers, including developing center/pathway events and serving on the search committee for the new *Connections* administrative assistant position.

### **Ammerman Fellows**

Joe Alchermeres <i>Architectural Studies</i>	Priya Kohli <i>Mathematics</i>
Ginny Anderson <i>Theater</i>	Art Kreiger <i>Music</i>
Greg Bailey <i>Studio Art</i>	James Lee <i>Computer Science</i>
Catherine Benoit <i>Anthropology</i>	Rijuta Mehta <i>English</i>
Lyndsay Bratton <i>Information Services</i>	Jim McNeish <i>Music</i>
Leslie Brown <i>Physics</i>	Michelle Neely <i>English</i>
David Dorfman <i>Dance</i>	Denise Pelletier <i>Studio Art</i>
Karen Gonzalez Rice <i>Art History</i>	Chris Penniman <i>Information Services</i>
Anthony Graesch <i>Anthropology</i>	Rob Richter <i>Arts Programming</i>
Charles Hartman <i>English</i>	Ariella Rotramel <i>GWS</i>
Ted Hendrickson <i>Studio Art</i>	Richard Schenk <i>Dance</i>
Lee Hisle <i>Information Services</i>	Joe Schroeder <i>Psychology</i>
Shawn Hove <i>Dance</i>	

### **Financial/Budget**

The Center's annual budget comes primarily from the Judith Ammerman endowment fund and generated approximately \$113,000 this year. Our operating expenses were lower than previous years as we were fortunate to use the remainder of the Mellon grant to support our first colloquia, a visiting fellow workshop, and our week-long technology workshop.

We received \$1,150 from private donations including \$500 from the family of Sara Lesko '09, supplemented by a matching donation of \$500 from Johnson & Johnson and two small donations from college alums. We are grateful for the continuation of the Patricia Blackall fund which generated \$3,558.

### **Publicity/Social Media**

In conjunction with the Office of Communications, we have a rich and current public presence. Our website reflects our new direction through current information and updated design. It served as an active communications space all year for the Center reflecting current social media strategies, and trends in digital communications. The Center colloquia page received many viewers and served as our main communications tool both on and off campus during the events. The website gathered the Center's Facebook and Twitter postings in real time, keeping our publicity up to the minute and current. This year we designed and printed a new promotional brochure, faculty grant flyers, in addition to all posters for our events.

## Mellon Initiative Report/Results

The Ammerman Center successfully concluded an internal study as part of the \$100,000 Mellon Foundation Officer's Grant *Reimagining Arts & Technology at Connecticut College*. This initiative was designed to expand programming and curriculum at the Ammerman Center for Arts & Technology and place its work at the center of a responsive, engaged, and creative liberal education at Connecticut College. We are grateful to the Mellon Foundation and President Bergeron for supporting the Center's re-imagining initiative. We concluded the grant in December 2016 and submitted the report in February 2017. The grant period provided resources to bring innovative artists and consultants to campus, for faculty to visit other programs, and to work on our curriculum to align with the college's Connections program.

## The College's Strategic Plan and the Ammerman Center

We stand behind and want to reiterate the specific action stated in Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan: Advancing the College's Distinction in the Creative and Performing Arts:

*The future of innovation in every field will depend increasingly on students whose intellectual development includes research in the arts. Students who practice design thinking learn to find and to solve problems in creative and experimental ways. The arts offer a powerful platform for experimental practice, as well as a vehicle for advancing social change. Connecticut College has a long history of excellence in both. As the original home of the American Dance Festival, a founding partner of the Eugene O'Neill Center's National Theater Institute, and the site of a widely recognized biennial symposium on arts and technology, the College has acknowledged the centrality of the arts for most of its 100-year history.*

*We enjoy the benefits of a full suite of programs in dance, theater, music, and visual arts along with a professional performance series, but our uniqueness and originality are most evident in the integrative work produced through artistic collaborations across departments. The path-breaking experiments of the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology have opened new vistas for research at the intersection of computer science and every arts discipline. Through this plan we will strive to build on the College's historical legacy, and advance our distinction, by redefining the role of the arts in the liberal arts.*

Goal 3 outlines the specific action point: **"Expand the mission and program of the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology."** The Ammerman Center is grateful for the support of our program and re-invigorated by its acknowledgment, prominent placement and focus in the Strategic Plan.

The Ammerman Center, in agreement, and articulated amongst the arts chairs and arts departments, plus film studies and creative writing departments, support the specific actions outlined in the Strategic Plan. While many of the Center's goals overlap with the arts initiatives on campus, the Center's endowment must increase in order to maintain the new initiatives that we have all identified.

## **Concluding Remarks and Future Goals**

In 2016-2017, The center has has been re-energized with the implementation and completion of the Mellon grant, *Reimagining Arts and Technology at Connecticut College*. The last three years has allowed us to create the re-imagined vision of an enhanced certificate program, new faculty fellows program, new courses, a new seminar, new relationships within the college and the larger community as well as intra- and inter-institutional connections. To better represent this expansion, we are considering a secondary name change to *Arts + Technology + Culture*. The center director is involved with new initiatives in digital scholarship through information services and looks forward to envisioning this program and its connections to the center. The center director has also been working with CCSRE in a possible joint certificate in Arts, Technology and Culture. We are coordinating our theme for 2017-2018 programming INTERSECTIONS with CCSRE and the Dayton Visiting Artist Residency program.

To maintain this larger endeavour of re-imagining the Ammerman Center, we need additional financial support to maintain this important work. We cannot sustain this larger presence on campus without an increased endowment or direct support. We are excited about the new center/advancement liaison—Gray Bullard, who is working with Martha Merrill and we have already had meetings to discuss our new initiatives. In discussions with Advancement and the Dean of Faculty, we have outlined and reviewed these specific funding opportunities:

### **Curricular Programming Support**

**Establish robust artist-in-residence program.** Seek funding for an annual visiting fellow/artist residency to conduct research and teach one course (modeling our Mellon visiting artist initiative held by Caroline Park) \$33,000 (or \$660,000 endowment) for salary, benefits, travel, research stipend

### **Infrastructure Support**

**Office support:** Administrative support: center office assistant \$33,000 (or \$660,000 endowment) for salary, benefits

**Studio Art/Ammerman Center Technical Support Specialist for digital/physical fabrication** \$33,000 (or \$660,000 endowment) for salary, benefits

In closing, the faculty and staff of the center are committed to continuing to build our curricular programming and to recruit an excellent new class. We look forward to an exciting 2017-2018 year themed INTERSECTIONS that includes our 16th international biennial symposium. The next three years will focus on initiatives listed in the strategic plan **“Expand the mission and program of the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology.”**

Respectfully submitted by

*Andrea Wollensak*

*Judith Ammerman '60 Director, Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology*

*Professor, Studio Art Department*