


September 29, 2021

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Andrew Agwunobi, MD, MBA   
Interim President | University of Connecticut  
Chief Executive Officer | UConn Health

RE: Naming of the Rhoda Shivers Chair in the School of Fine Arts

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees authorizes the naming of a chair in the School of Fine Arts to be named in honor of the late Rhoda Shivers.

BACKGROUND:

Jay S. Shivers, PhD, retired UConn professor, and his son and daughter-in-law, Jed M. Shivers, '81 MBA, and Sandra E. Shivers, PhD, have given outright gifts and additional planned gift commitments in the amount recommended under the University's *Named Gift Guidelines* to fund an endowed chair. Their donations are designated to provide financial support to faculty who have made significant contributions to the field of nineteenth-century art, with demonstrated expertise and the ability to teach courses in Impressionism, in UConn's School of Fine Arts.

The Shivers family has a long-standing interest in the arts at UConn. The family has previously established endowed scholarship funds to support students in the School of Fine Arts and has supported numerous programs in the School of Fine Arts for forty straight years, including contributions to the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts and the William Benton Museum of Art.

Rhoda Shivers was the late wife of Jay S. Shivers and late mother and mother-in-law of Jed M. Shivers and Sandra E. Shivers. She was a teacher at Edwin O. Smith High School in Storrs, Connecticut. Her dual passions for education and Impressionist art are being memorialized with this chair bearing her name.

At its September 21, 2021, meeting, the Institutional Advancement Committee recommended approval to the full Board.