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Connecticut College

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# THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER, SINCE 1977

## Chaos and Camaraderie as Conn Welcomes Its Largest Class

SOPHIA HOSFORD  
STAFF WRITER

An unprecedented 635 first-year and 20 transfer students arrived on Connecticut College's campus on Aug. 23. These bright-eyed and bushy-tailed students moved in expecting spacious rooms with windows aplenty. Instead, many found themselves hauling their mini fridges down to a windowless basement or trying to sneak them past the four other roommates they shared a cramped space with. Some were lucky, discovering that their space was a converted common room or perhaps even a converted dining room, but such experiences were few and far between.

First-year Emma Linder's converted common room in Hamilton is spacious. With a television and sink, Linder is pleased with her room. It can easily accommodate her and her two roommates. Matthew Fuentes '26 had a completely different experience. He and his roommates were packed into a forced Johnson triple, so close together that the beds touch. Fuentes explained, "When one person is awake and walking around, everyone else is."

Such an influx of students also creates issues in the classroom. General Chemistry, a course usually capped at 168 students between two sections, is now at 182. The General Chemistry Lab that used to be weekly is now bi-weekly to accommodate the number of students taking the course. Across its seven sections, the lab is overenrolled by an aggregate of 17 students.

Emily Fairfield '26 takes General Chemistry and said that every seat is taken. Fairfield explained that hands-on learning is "critical" and the bi-weekly schedule seriously cuts down opportunities for lab time. Fairfield added, "We are supposed to have two and a half hours per week in the lab; that's what it's been in years past." Students still get two and a half hours of lab time, but it is now every other week. Fuentes is taking Computer Science and described his class as "filled to the brim." Fuentes' other courses only have one or two seats remaining in each.

Chemistry and Computer Science aren't the only departments struggling with over enrollment. American Sign Language (ASL) classes are also very high in demand, forcing the department to expand and making it difficult for students to get into classes. Emma Steel '26 was fortunate enough to get into Elementary ASL, a course she was eager to take. Steel explained, "ASL was the first class that I tried to enroll in and it was gone in seconds." Despite her full list of backup courses, she

was still not able to get into any of the other classes she had planned to take.

Sabrina Malec '26 was keen on taking Chinese, but classes filled up before they could even register. "I got into zero of the classes I wanted. My first choice and all my backups were full," Malec expressed. For Malec's Chinese class, the cap was 18 people and in order to get into it, they had to email the professor who provided an override. The class ended up overflowing; Malec added, "The 18 person class turned into 23."

Getting into these overcrowded courses was half the battle. Armed and ready

with backups and course registration numbers (CRNs) memorized, first-years competed to get into classes. Taylor Knott '26 was stuck in Fanning Hall for over an hour inputting CRNs, desperately trying to find backups for the carefully selected courses she didn't get into. Knott said, "I got one of the six classes I wanted." The classes Knott intended to take filled up immediately, and the ones in which she ended up had 20 more students than they were supposed to. Fortunately, Knott was able to get into some courses by emailing professors.

A few seats over in Fanning, Hannah Treiber '26 and Steel were scouring the dynamic schedule for anything that sounded interesting. Treiber's experiences with overcrowding didn't stop there; Treiber also ended up living in a converted dining room with five other roommates in Knowlton

when she requested a double. Though neither Treiber nor her roommates requested such an arrangement, she enjoys the set-up. Treiber said "We have our own spaces and then a common area we'll all hangout in."

At the college's welcome assembly on Aug. 23, President Katherine Bergeron addressed new camels and their families, citing that the Class of 2026 was among the most diverse in the college's history. Bergeron said, "24% are domestic students of color and 5% are international students." Bergeron added that the incoming class is composed of students from 36 states and 23 countries. 82 members of the Class of 2026 are first generation college students as well.

However frustrating the overcrowding may be when it comes to dorms and classrooms, it fuels camaraderie, builds on diversity, and bolsters club involvement. The opportunity for so many students to mingle across class years, backgrounds, and disciplines, and create new relationships enables the college to facilitate an even richer, more diverse community. •



Courtesy of Emma Linder '26

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## Letter From the Editors

The start of the 2022/23 academic year, finally, has been met with a breath of fresh air and a much needed sense of normalcy. Around this time last year, Conn fell into its largest outbreak of COVID-19 on campus, as despite the crisp New England fall weather, things were all doom and gloom. This year feels different.

651 new students, including the largest ever first-year class, have brought new ideas and a unique energy to campus. Tempel Green has been as crowded as ever with a diverse new group to help usher in this new era of the college's history, creating a certain buzz on campus unmatched since the Fall of 2019, a distant past vaguely remembered only by our senior class.

Along with our growing student population, Conn is debuting a new look. For the first time, Conn offered off-campus housing options with the newly renovated Manwaring Building in the heart of New London. News Editor Keri Krasnoff '24 spoke with Dean Arcelus about the long-awaited waterfront renovation nearing completion. Beau, the goose control dog, has made Tempel more enjoyable than ever (check out Andrew Kupovich's '26 endearing story on page X and Althea Tierney's '24 cartoon!)

However, changes to the makeup of campus have brought new issues as well, explored by Sophia Hosford '26 in her article about spacing issues on page X, complemented by Leo Saperstein '26 who dives into the dismal dorm situation. Overcrowding has become a bigger issue: Harris lines are longer than ever, and students struggled to register for their preferred classes. On a grander scale, Kevin Lieue '26 reports on the drought impacting New London and much of southern New England.

As an outlet for the college, and the greater New London community, *The College Voice* is looking forward to continuing being a platform for forward-thinking ideas and positive change. We are so excited to begin another incredible year of *TCV*. As always, if you are interested in writing or getting involved, feel free to send us an email or stop by our biweekly pitch meetings Sundays at 8pm in the Alice Johnson Room.

Your Co-Editors-in-Chief,  
Sam Maidenberg and Catja Christensen

## THE COLLEGE VOICE

The views and opinions expressed in *The College Voice* are strictly those of student authors, and not of Connecticut College. All content and editorial decisions remain in the hands of the students; neither the College's administration nor its faculty exercise control over the content.

CATJA CHRISTENSEN '23  
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*Editors-in-Chief*

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## Camels, Cars, and Buses: How to Get Around New London

ADRIEN PROUTY  
NEWS EDITOR

The most important and the most enigmatic thing to know about the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) system is that bus stops do not exist. How then, you might ask, does one manage to navigate the buses? What follows is an in-depth description of the bus system so that you can use it with ease to adventure not only throughout New London but also to surrounding areas.

The most important tool for successful use of the SEAT system is by far the website (<https://southeastareatransitdistrict.com/>), which is both computer- and mobile-friendly. There, you can find the routes, live bus maps, schedules, updates, and contact information for the SEAT office. Of these, the most useful to the average rider are the route maps and live bus maps. The route maps are useful for figuring out which bus (or buses) will take you to your desired destination. This is an interactive map that allows you to click on different routes and locations to learn which buses drive by a particular place. After knowing which bus number you would like to use to travel to your desired destination, the live bus map becomes a priceless source of information. First, the live bus map will ask that you select which bus number you would like to view, then which stop you would like to pick up the bus from. It is not important which bus stop you select since the bus will not be stopping there anyway (often, I select a random place). The live bus map will display information about how full the bus is, where and in what direction it is headed, and, occasionally, an approximate time until it reaches the bus stop you selected.

Once you understand how to find your bus and know the closest place from your current position to where the bus will pass by, you are ready to learn to board. Ensure you will be on the same side of the street as the bus, step up to the curb as you see it approaching, make eye contact with the bus driver, and wave as though you are flagging down a taxi. Curb, eye contact, waive. Do not be shy with your waive! The bus drivers are probably (hopefully) watching where they're driving and they won't stop unless they notice you trying to get their attention. If you have successfully indicated to the bus driver that you would like to board, then the bus will come to a stop as soon as it is able.

The buses usually have two doors, one at the front and one in the middle. Since they are running a temporary free ride period at the moment, it does not matter which door you use to get on. If you would like to ride the bus at any time in the future when you would be expected to pay, be sure to board using the door towards the front. Once on the bus, if you are familiar with the area you are traveling to, you will no longer need to use the SEAT website. However, it can be useful to continue using the live bus map or the map app on your phone to track where you are so you know when you would like to get off. There are yellow cords on either side of the bus that run from the front to the back. Pull one of the cords straight down at any point to indicate that you would like to disembark. The bus driver will then stop the bus to let you off at the next safest opportunity. Remember to thank your bus driver! Repeat this process anytime you'd like to go on an adventure off campus.

As I mentioned above, the SEAT buses are currently operating a free bus service (yay)! This is scheduled to end on November 30th (2022). The college has mentioned that it is looking for ways to reimburse bus fares for students similar to the way it has compensated some Lyft rides. If this does not happen, do not fret! SEAT uses an app called Token Transit. Within the app, you can buy a number of different types of tickets (all fare and ticket information can be found on their website or

in the app). The "4-hour regular zip pass" is my typical choice. This is a \$2.50 pass that allows you to board and transfer to as many buses as you would like in a four-hour period, which is usually sufficient time for me to go on a run to Target or to a coffee shop in downtown New London without having to purchase an additional ticket for my return trip. If you would like to go on a longer adventure, there is also the \$3.50 "1 day unlimited pass" that covers all your bus rides for the day until 11:59PM.

Just a few of the many destinations the SEAT buses can bring you to include but are not limited to Target, Waterford Commons, Ocean State Park (the beach!), New London Public Library, Mystic Aquarium, Olde Mystic Village, Bluff Point State Park, The Sheep Farm, Spirit Gallery Tattoo, Backus Hospital (do not wait for the bus in real medical emergencies), Norwich, and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum! All trains except for a few which can only be picked up in Norwich and one (#11, which only travels around Groton) will eventually return to the New London Union Station. If you are ever lost or your phone dies on a bus (and you are not in Norwich or on #11), you will end up at the train station where all of the buses will stop for five minutes before continuing their route. From the train

station, if you do not want to walk, routes #1, #14, and #15 will always bring you back to campus (Williams St. near the arbo). If you plan on taking the bus often, I recommend writing the numbers of these three routes down in your wallet or a piece of paper inside your phone case!

Though the SEAT system can deliver you to many adventures for cheap, they are not the only mode of transportation available to Conn students. Connecticut College also provides all students with four Lyft passes per month. A Lyft pass covers the cost of one ride from the Lyft Stop on Cro Boulevard to one of the many specific destinations selected by the college (the most popular of which are Target, Crystal Mall, and Stop & Shop). A list of the approved locations can be found online or in the Lyft app.

The tip for these rides, however, is not covered since that can be up to the discretion of each student. Please remember to tip your Lyft drivers! For those that are unaccustomed to using the Lyft passes, there are three main things to know. First, Lyft passes do not cover the cost of travel from one approved location to another approved location without traveling back to campus in between. Second, if you are traveling with more than two other people, be sure to order two Lyfts or splurge for an XL vehicle. Last, and probably most important, in order for the Lyft pass to cover your travel, be sure your pick-up/drop-off location is "Lyft Stop" on Cro Boulevard, not "Connecticut College" or "Cro Boulevard."

If four wheels aren't your jam, bikes are always an option! The college has been adding more bike racks around campus, and it is always free to ride your own bike. However, if you've ever attempted the ride (or walk) to downtown New London and back, you are probably familiar with what can sometimes be an unfortunately long incline up the hill back to campus. If this is a deterrent to your attempts to adventure by bicycle, then you will be glad to learn that SEAT buses are equipped with two-bike bike racks on the front! So if you ever find yourself in a position where you've traveled a distance by bike that you would not like to repeat (or the weather conditions have changed), you're always able to find the nearest bus route that leads back to campus.

Whether your preference is to travel by bus, car, or bike, there are abundant opportunities for adventure in New London and surrounding areas. Hopefully, this detailed explanation will enable you to take advantage of these opportunities when you can! •



*Courtesy of Robbie Lynch '24*

## Beau Prevents Fowl Play on Campus

ANDREW KUPOVICH  
CONTRIBUTOR

They're loud. They're dirty. They move in flocks. And every fall, to the dismay of everyone on campus, they take over the school. From the waterfront to Tempel Green, they're everywhere. Anywhere you look, everywhere you smell, there's a pack of them hanging out. No, not first-years – geese. And this year, someone is doing something about it. He's two years old, has black and white fur, and a tongue that lolls outside his mouth. He's Beau – a professionally trained border collie that, along with owner Emily Tansey, spends his days running after geese on fields, golf courses, private properties, and at Connecticut College.

Emily and Beau are the team that make up Wingman Goose Control, a company the college has hired to spend the next several months chasing the goose population off campus. Believe it or not, goose control wasn't Emily's dream job as a child – and it wasn't her first career, either. For eight years, she worked as a police officer in Groton, but had other aspirations: "I knew I wanted to work with a dog. That was kind of my life goal," Emily said. After trying to become a canine officer, a highly sought-after position, she moved on, first to private security, and then to police dispatch. "I just kept looking for something where I'd be able to work with a dog on a regular basis, and I liked the idea of being my own boss," she said. Eventually, she came across somebody that had started a goose control operation with their own dog at an airport, and inspiration struck. Wingman Goose Control was born.

Similarly, Beau did not start out working with geese. Born and raised in Montana, he spent his first days learning to herd sheep. After attending a goose control training program for border collies, he ditched livestock for water fowl, and hasn't looked back since. Of course, Beau doesn't just chase geese without rhyme or reason. Because they're so stubborn, Emily and Beau can't run them off once or twice and expect them to disappear. Unless something truly scares them away, geese return to the place they were hatched every year for their entire life, which can be up to 20 years in the wild. That's why Emily said their work is "systematic and randomized harassment of the geese, so they learn that they can't know when to expect when there's going to be a predator on the property, and then they don't feel safe coming back." Usually, they visit campus two times a day, five days a week – anything less won't do much to displace Conn's resident geese.

The goal of their work is exactly that: to displace them. Throughout the process, Emily and Beau make sure that the campus geese remain unharmed. Emily explains that border collies like Beau are typically used for goose control because they're a very gentle breed. "Even when they're working sheep, they don't really want to bite the animals; they just want to go out, come around them, and intim-

idate them towards the shepherd. So really, what he's doing when he goes after the geese is trying to bring them back to me – but because they can fly, obviously they take off," she said. And because Canada geese are federally protected, if Beau did end up harming a bird, Emily would have a big problem: "If he grabs a bird and hurts it, I could be liable to lose my license, I could be fined. So you have to be very careful, and you have to go through a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator course with the state of Connecticut."

So if Beau is so gentle, why does he have the words "Do not pet" emblazoned on either side of his vest? The answer is pretty simple, actually – Emily says it's mostly for liability insurance. Nevertheless, although Beau is friendly, she says the lack of attention might be for the best: "Like any working dog, it's probably better that he isn't being pet all the time, 'cause then he'll come here and think that that's what we're doing instead of trying to chase geese!"

Not only is a dog a more humane method than some of the other goose control options out there, from pellet guns to poisonous lawn applications that upset birds' digestive systems, but it's also a more effective method. There are plenty of technological solutions, and Emily uses many of them alongside Beau: green lasers, RC boats, air horns, and floating alligator heads are all at her disposal. However, while they can be helpful, none of them are nearly as effective as a dog. "The other day, I got a call out and I was told that the geese were down at the lower property. I didn't have [Beau] with me; I was just out doing errands and I was like 'I'm gonna try and go there and get them to leave anyways.'" Despite her tools and know-how, Emily explained that she just couldn't get them to budge: "The laser didn't work, and I went right up to them with an air horn and they still didn't care. And he could have cleared them off the property in like fifteen seconds – he would've just run right at them and they would have taken off."

If you haven't had a chance to spot him yet, don't worry: Beau isn't leaving campus anytime soon. Emily says that there are two types of goose flocks – resident geese and migratory geese, known as "pond hoppers." While it takes around a month of harassment to get the resident geese to realize that campus is no longer safe, the migratory birds, who see a nice property from the sky and may decide to eat or even stick around for a week or two, don't yet know that Beau is here. For them, Emily and Beau will be returning for months to come. •



*Courtesy of Andrew Kupovich '26*

## A Cruel Summer

KEVIN LIEUE  
CONTRIBUTOR

While many parts of the nation have experienced heavy rain and flooding this summer, much of southern New England

as a result of the drought she had to “prioritize certain crops over others.” As a result, she believes that she’ll lose the fall crops she planted. In Mystic, Whittle’s Willow Spring Farm co-owner Rick Whittle told FOX61 that he had to irrigate

water for their crops from a nearby pond to water his corn fields.

and the state of Connecticut has experienced severe drought.

In July, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont declared Stage 2 Drought conditions in all eight counties of the state, citing precipitation across the state to be “below normal.”

Stage 2 is the second of five stages under the state’s drought plan adopted in 2018. According to the plan, Stage 2 “identifies an emerging drought event potentially impacting water supplies, agriculture, or natural ecosystems.” By declaring Stage 2 Drought conditions, Governor Lamont put the state on alert and notified the importance of being conscious of the potentially harmful effects.

However, just a month later, Governor Lamont declared Stage 3 Drought conditions in the New London and Windham counties. In his declaration, the governor cited pronounced precipitation shortfalls, reduced groundwater levels, stream flows, and soil moisture impacts as justification for the move. According to the Governor’s statement, the elevation in stage level was made following “an assessment of indicator data monitored by state and federal agencies, including precipitation, surface waters, groundwater, reservoirs, soil moisture, vegetation, and fire danger conditions.”

The impact of the drought has been felt throughout campus and is arguably most evident in the College’s arboretum. Due to the lack of rainfall, many parts of the arboretum’s pond have dried. Where water once filled the pond, it has given way to mud. In addition, many of the streams in the arboretum have almost completely dried. Tiny foot-sized puddles now dot many of these streams which once flowed with water.

Additionally, the impacts of the drought have been felt throughout New London county. In Salem, Provider Farm owner Hannah Tripp told Yahoo News that



Courtesy of Kevin Lieue '26

Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center.

This isn’t the first time the region of New England, including the state of Connecticut, has been impacted by a summer drought. According to the NIDIS, droughts have now occurred in 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021, and 2022 in New England. Vandana Rao, director of water policy in Massachusetts, told PBS she attributes this rise in frequency of summer droughts to climate change. She hopes this is “maybe one period of peaking of drought.” However, “it could just be the beginning of a longer trend.”

In an effort to combat the ongoing drought conditions, Connecticut’s Interagency Drought Workgroup recommends communities to try to conserve water by reducing the extent of watering lawns and athletic fields if possible, taking shorter showers, and running dishwashers and clothes washing machines with full loads.

While it isn’t certain when the drought will end, we can all help by being conscious of our use of



Courtesy of Kevin Lieue '26

water and trying to conserve to the best of our abilities. •

## Deep Dive into the Waterfront Renovations

**KERI KRASNOFF**  
NEWS EDITOR

When students returned to campus in late August, there was a big change down at the waterfront behind the athletic center that overlooks the Thames River. Dean of Students Victor Arcelus has been on the front line of this project and says that it was a long time in the making ever since it was added to the College's strategic plan in 2016. "Within the strategic plan, one piece of it was to leverage the natural assets of the campus and the region to advance the College's priorities and another goal was to undertake the campus-wide master planning process so we did," explains Dean Arcelus. "In the master planning process it was very clear that we wanted to really think intentionally about the waterfront. We've been a waterfront campus for over a hundred years, but haven't really taken advantage of really being a waterfront campus". With the efforts of Dean Arcelus and Director of Athletics Mo White, as well as tremendous support from donors, the majority of the renovations began over the summer. This included building a new road with sidewalks, new piers, solar lighting, and beautification landscaping with wildflowers.

The project started in March 2022, as a result of a vacated campus. During that period of time, the grounds team had the opportunity when their typical work on



*Courtesy of Keri Krasnoff '24*

campus was pulled back to look at the athletics property. They spent a month taking down dead trees and invasive species, such as trees of heaven. "Once we did that, it really activated people's creativity and enthusiasm about taking it further," says Dean Arcelus. There were two parts of the project: first, replacing the roadway and second, capitalizing on the full use of the waterfront space and preventing further loss of property. "Looking at satellite images over the past thirty years, we lost 30 feet of property from erosion so we wanted to be able to stop that erosion," says Dean Arcelus. In order to maximize the use of the whole space, a retaining wall and a sea wall was added. "This would enable us to flatten the whole space out, to have proper drainage and to have it be ADA accessible. This is the work that we had to do over the course of two years with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). It's a very complex permitting process to do anything on the waterfront," explains Dean Arcelus.

Dr. Sax, the Director of the Arboretum, commented that there was not enough communication between the department and the administrators once the renovations were underway. "We were engaged a handful of times kind of about the design phase in which we gave some feedback and at that time the scope of the project was just limited to the road," says Dr. Sax. He explained that earlier in the summer once the project was underway, those involved with the construction started to identify other things that they wanted to get done, primarily removing and regrading slopes and vegetation. "We were not consulted on those types of questions- Victor and other folks tried hard after the fact to kind of come back and around because we were really concerned." While this major renovation project at the waterfront provides a big opportunity for the College, there are questions about the environmental impacts of the Thames River. "Removing invasives is a net positive thing, we think that that's good work to do, but we were concerned about runoff and tried to mitigate some other environmental questions and also kind of just proceeding with the plan that's

not going to have a long term view for it," explains Dr. Sax, "they know how they want it to look, but there wasn't a good process of thinking hard about how they were going to achieve that past just implementing the project with these changes and starting it."

While the College has permits to build on the waterfront, there are some environmental

concerns when it comes to building sea walls, a parallel concrete structure that protects inland areas against storm surges and erosion. To combat this, Dr. Maria Rosa, a marine biology professor at Connecticut College, is interested in creating a living shoreline at the waterfront through her research. "The idea is to restore the habitat that was taken away to minimize the potential impacts of having the docks and to create a healthy system that potentially also protects the docks from storm surge". To do this, Dr. Rosa and her students have built reef balls to create an artificial reef which serves to attenuate the wave energy. As the waves slow down, it allows sediment deposition which further prevents erosion and for native marsh grass to be planted. When asked about if there is any environmental concern with this project, Dr. Rosa emphasized the long permit process through DEEP in order to get the project going. "Yes the concerns are valid, but I can assure you after going through the permitting process DEEP takes this very seriously and to get the permit to do that work at the waterfront has been over a year," says Dr. Rosa. "In terms of the docks, what we are trying to do is to put together the structure with the reef balls as a living shoreline so instead of putting a hard structure that's going to potentially degrade the habitat, we are actually adding more habitat that wasn't there before."

When asked about whether there were sustainable considerations going into the renovations, Dean Arcelus commented that "all of the lampposts going down to the waterfront are powered by wind and solar. The plans for the waterfront were all done in partnership with DEEP with the intent to not damage the living shoreline and to in fact find ways to develop a better living shoreline in the years to come." Dean Arcelus also mentioned that the wood used for the piers was harvested in a sustainable manner.

From an athletics standpoint, White also emphasized the importance of the new upgrades for athletic teams down at the waterfront, which includes three new piers and docks. The north pier will be used for the sailing team which will allow our sailing teams to house their full fleet of 36 boats. "You know our sailing program is nationally ranked, and realizing that, the plan is that this waterfront investment will kind of solidify them in terms of a facility. Our facility definitely did not match their success. So it'll be a source of pride for them and for us to be able to host." The middle dock and pier will be for research and community recreation and access to the waterfront and for Outdoor Recreation Club, then there'll be a new garage down there that will house kayaks and all of their equipment.

The majority of the renovations are expected to be finished by the end of September, with some elements still being completed until October and even some in the early spring. When asked about what he is mostly looking forward to once the renovations are finished, Dean Arcelus mentioned watching the sunsets and sunrises at the waterfront. "I'm looking forward to having students enjoy the fact that we are a waterfront campus. It's a beautiful place in the morning to watch the sunrise and a beautiful place in the evening to watch the moon rise". Overall, the waterfront is a substantial new addition to the Connecticut College community. •



*Courtesy of Keri Krasnoff '24*

## The Yak is Back: Season II

MADELYN ROSE  
CONTRIBUTOR

I will be the first to admit—I love YikYak. I shamelessly boast over 2,000 “Yakarma.” One may call it pathetic, but I wear it like a badge of honor. Some days, the posts are so good that I find myself refreshing the app to read about the next campus saga. Whenever something slightly controversial occurs on campus, I rush to the app to read the student debriefs and chime in with my thoughts.

YikYak has played a role in Connecticut College student culture since at least the Fall of 2021. For those unfamiliar with the app, YikYak is a social networking platform that allows users to connect with individuals within a five-mile radius. For Conn students, this region includes members of the student body, the Coast Guard Academy, and other individuals in the greater New London area. Although the app hosts all individuals within this radius, the demographic primarily consists of Conn students. On the app, individuals can post to their feed, to which others in the area can upvote, downvote, or comment on posts. With a new school year upon us, there is a new generation of Yakkers, and a new series of topics students would like to discuss. Some hot-button issues currently discussed on campus include the highs and lows of Harris food, the lack of adequate campus housing, and the school’s new COVID protocols, including the masking surveys. With that, YikYak can serve many purposes in the college community. The platform has allowed individuals who otherwise may not be vocal to have a way to express themselves about campus and community happenings without feeling labeled by others. As a returning student, I have a decent foothold on how to navigate Conn. However, with the large body of new students, including first years and transfer students, over a quarter of the student body does not have as strong of knowledge of niche Conn details. YikYak offers an anonymous outlet for people to ask questions by connecting with a large body of people on campus without the concern of in-person judgment. Of course, these interactions are not exempt from “your mom” remarks, but more often than not, students look out for each other and answer questions to make the experiences for one more positive.

YikYak offers more than just a question and answer-based method of communication, however. It also allows individuals to employ a sort of rant-based therapy without the need for upfront confrontation. Although this is not an empirically founded statement, I find that people often use YikYak as a form of decompression. There is something therapeutic in ranting about whatever peevish situation comes about in life. I sometimes find myself going to the app when I want to get some irritation off my chest, and often, it is a validating experience to read that other people share the same frustrations as you.

At times, the college classroom can be a very monolithic body of political viewpoints, culture, etc. YikYak boasts that the app allows individuals to “jump into conversations without societal labels.” From this standpoint, YikYak has the potential to equalize individuals on campus and give everyone a voice and platform. To an extent, this is true. One of the most alluring aspects of YikYak is the ability for students to connect and converse about their experiences and perspectives on campus. Sharing opinions as yourself can be a daunting endeavor; however, the anonymity of YikYak can give individuals the confidence to share their beliefs and experiences. The anonymity YikYak provides its users offers an environment to voice opinions and potentially find allies on campus that align with your beliefs and experiences.

However, along with the sense of unity and confidence YikYak fosters, the app opens a gateway for bullying and harassment. Just as the app allows students to spread positivity or build community, the platform just as easily hosts opportunities to put others “on blast.” The app has community guidelines that block curse words and other profanities, but it is relatively easy to work around these guardrails. Thus, the app commonly hosts hate speech, sexualization of individuals on campus, and a myriad of other issues. These cases make the use of YikYak controversial, particularly in the eyes of staff and faculty on campus. Although many choose to acknowledge it, college employees are not oblivious to the app’s existence. The recent bomb threat incident on campus exemplifies this point. On September 6, Mary Savage, Director of Campus Safety, sent a safety bulletin to the college community regarding a YikYak post about a potential bomb threat on campus. Although most did not think much of the Yak, it prompted a response from the New London Police Department and the FBI, who found and interviewed the student about the post. Ultimately, this experience exemplifies the power that posts can have on YikYak and that even an “anonymous” app does not grant anonymity. Even though the app claims users are anonymous (which is essentially true), there is a limit to how truly anonymous you are on the internet. The app seemingly offers users a false sense of security. However, there is a stark difference between posting anonymous positivity and questions compared to anonymous harassment. You cannot be completely anonymous on the internet, especially when the content you put forth has the potential to harm others.

With all of these factors in mind, it is crucial to note that there is no one way to view the role of YikYak. Although the app offers an easy and low-stakes way for students to connect, it also enables a platform for harassment and offensive commentary. Ultimately, the choice is yours as to whether to engage with the platform. There is no right or wrong decision; however, those like myself who choose to Yak are encouraged to do so responsibly. •

## Taking Off the Mask? Conn Welcomes the Fall with a Contentious New Policy

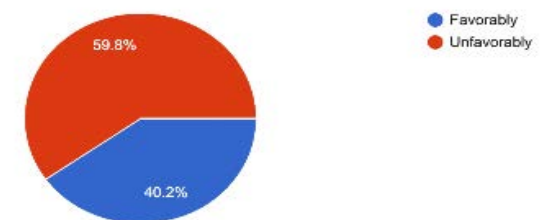
GRACE CONTRENI-FLYNN  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Masks are optional in classrooms unless the class is polled and it is determined that masks will be expected to be worn.” That sentence, tucked amongst a litany of fall semester updates in an email sent to the Connecticut College community this summer, introduced a new chapter of masking on campus.

This fall, masking is optional in almost every space on campus. Yet, the decision to mask has become more complicated in the classroom itself. The Dean of Students, Victor Arcelus, notified Connecticut College’s campus community of the shift in policy on Aug. 12th, 2022. The modified policy is adapted from last spring’s mandate which allowed performance and language professors to poll their classrooms to determine whether the group would mask. These classrooms would mask if one or more members of the group voted for masking.

This current semester’s approach to masking is quite similar yet allows for further flexibility on campus. While masking is required within the Student Health and

Counseling Services building, students and staff must communicate individual preferences in all other regions of campus. Connecticut College’s masking protocol is determined by the College’s COVID-19 Committee. The Committee is comprised of several faculty members and administrators, including Dean Arcelus. The COVID-19 Committee meets every two weeks now. Its final decisions are informed by Hartford Healthcare’s medical advisement.



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Article continued on page 8.



## Taking Off the Mask? Conn Welcomes the Fall with a Contentious New

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According to the present policy, each professor may provide an anonymous survey to students in order to determine whether a class will don masks. The entire class must mask if one or more individuals express wanting to instate masking in the group. Community members have also been encouraged to voice their preference for masking in environments where polling is not used, such as clubs or closed meetings, by making a verbal or written request to the group.

In classrooms, polls can be provided, at the professor's discretion, as many times as deemed necessary throughout the semester. A poll may be re-introduced for a few reasons, including cases in which a student voices new concerns to their professor or there are shifts in medical advisement from Hartford Healthcare. According to Dean Arcelus, the option to repeat polling is meant to create space for a changing medical and social atmosphere.

Overall, as expressed by Arcelus, the aim of introducing polling campus-wide has been to create a balance between protecting the community's mental and physical health. He acknowledged that "when you don't get to see somebody's full face, it has an impact on your ability to get to know each other." Additionally, per the Dean's message to the campus community this past August, the policy is intended to emphasize that "it is important that our campus remain mask-friendly, as many individuals may choose to wear masks in spaces where they are not required or they may ask you to wear a mask."

Polling rolled out across campus early this September and, since then, students have been adjusting to this new element of their school environment. The College Voice conducted an anonymous survey of 97 community members, mainly students and a few professors, to gauge the campus' response to this adjustment. 58 of these individuals indicated that they felt unfavorably toward the polling policy while 39 of them felt favorably.

The majority of individuals who felt unfavorably specified that they did not believe a full class's masking should be determined by one person. One student elaborated on this thought stating, "I feel as though if one person in the class wants everyone else to wear masks, it is unfair to the rest of the class. If a person wants to wear a mask, they should have that choice, but if a person does not want to wear a mask, they also should have that choice."

Conversely, those who indicated feeling favorably toward the polling system mostly indicated that they were glad to wear a mask if it made others feel more comfortable. One of these students remarked, "I don't like having to wear a mask but I also don't want to make the classes that I take inaccessible to people who are forced to wear masks for whatever reason."

Moreover, several students used The College Voice's survey to report that the wording of each poll varies from class to class. The Dean of the Faculty and Dean of the College jointly recommended polling language with professors this past summer. However, professors are allowed to conduct their surveys how they see fit. But, based on information from Arcelus, the polls are meant to be exclusively anonymous in classrooms to avoid student ostracization.

Arcelus remarked on the precarious nature of the polling system as it serves as a middle-ground between full-masking and optional or no masking. "We just felt that at this point in the pandemic, we're trying to continue to have people feel comfortable in classroom spaces. That it was important to be able to again, make it an accessible place for everybody."

The use of mask polling is intended to serve as a transitional policy. Arcelus pointed to Moderna and Pfizer's bivalent booster as a potential turning point for the campus. He expressed hope that it could provide further protection to Connecticut College's community. Arcelus described the process as having the campus move from institutional decision making, to group decision making, "and then, hopefully, in time moving back to just individual decision making."•

## A Summer Reading, A Broken Elevator

ABIGAIL HAAN  
CONTRIBUTOR

Connecticut College welcomed it's incoming class with a summer reading of Being Heumann, an Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist; a convocation speech by President Katherine Bergeron, who praised the book and highlighted its messages of inclusion; and a big whiteboard in Cummings Arts Center that announced the elevator was broken ("sorry!").

Being Heumann is the memoir of Judith Heumann, a badass wheelchair-riding woman, disabled by polio as a young child, who has devoted her life to disability rights activism. It tells the story of the tireless hours she and a vast network of activists put into passing monumental legislation such as Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. But first, it tells the story of her fight to be included in institutions of education.

This fight began when Heumann's mother attempted to enroll her in kindergarten and the principal labeled her a "fire hazard." It took years for a school to accept her and, when one finally did, she and the other disabled students were hidden away in a self-contained classroom in the basement. The educational experience they were offered was far inferior to that of "the kids upstairs." By the time she reached ninth grade, the advocacy of her mother and other vocal parents had resulted in a handful of mainstream high schools being opened to wheelchair-users, but Heumann's reliance on favors to get from class to class made it evident that her access needs were an afterthought – that she didn't belong.

Never was this message so excruciatingly clear as during graduation, where she was supposed to receive a hard-earned reward on stage. The stage had no ramp. This was not an issue that was new to Heumann – or her father, who pulled her

up the stairs – but it was exacerbated when the principal hid her behind the other students.

Whether from a basement or the back of a stage, Heumann was constantly confronted with institutions that wanted her to be invisible.

These were not isolated situations, but rather pieces of a larger system of ableism. As Heumann explains, "Until institutions were forced to accommodate us we would remain locked out and invisible—and as long as we were locked out and invisible, no one would see our true force and would dismiss us." Exclusion in all its forms – from blatant structural inaccessibility to dismissive comments ("oh, you're fine") to off-hand assumptions based on neurotypical able-bodied norms – both perpetuates and feeds off of invisibility, creating a vicious cycle that, by its nature, tends to go unspoken.

Connecticut College may not be denying students on the grounds of fire safety, but it is worth wondering who isn't seen on campus; it is worth seeking out voices that haven't found a platform. (And there is an important distinction here: The goal is not to become a "voice for the voiceless," but to elevate the voices that everyone has.)

Heumann attended college, attained the credentials required to become a teacher, and then was denied her teaching license due to a discriminatory medical evaluation. Her response to this discrimination was to start a media campaign, actively combating the invisibility imposed upon her. It worked. She recounts, "People started stopping me on the street to encourage me and share their experiences." The world was desperate for disabled stories.

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*Article continued on page 9.*

## A Summer Reading, A Broken Elevator

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*Article continued from page 8.*

A successful lawsuit followed, granting Heumann her teaching license, and from there her activism only grew stronger. Her community organizing and policy work established her as a leader of the disability rights movement, and Being Heumann solidified her “unrepentant” visibility.

This upcoming Thursday, September 22, at 7pm, Heumann will be visiting Connecticut College to give a talk in Palmer Auditorium. She has made her way from the back of the stage to the spotlight. And Conn is eager to give her the mic.

But if Huemann were a student, a professor, or a member of staff, would she be welcomed with such enthusiasm? Would her voice be celebrated?

If Conn made up a chapter in her memoir, what would that chapter say?

Taking this out of the hypothetical: What are the experiences of disabled students, staff, and faculty on campus? What might make Connecticut College a more inclusive place?

How would you answer these questions?

If you have a story or perspective you want to share, fill out this form and we'll be in contact with you – no commitments attached. And let's hope next year's freshmen are welcomed with less pretense and more functional elevators. •

## Doomsday Dorms

LEO SAPERSTEIN  
CONTRIBUTOR

**D**orm life has become a very pressing issue on Connecticut College's campus. The dorms have become a cause for concern for many people, as they point to aspects that need significantly more attention that they are receiving.

I live in the Burdick basement. I have only been on campus for three weeks, but I have already noticed that the basement has a bad reputation, which explains a lot about the rather unorthodox and crazy things that my floormate and I have seen. First, there has been a constant problem with cockroaches on our floor even before I moved in. A couple days before I arrived, my roommate experienced a cockroach problem in our dorm, which he informed me about the day before I was set to move

in. This was why I was not surprised to discover two dead cockroaches under my bed while I was sweeping.

Instances like this are not just happening in Burdick. One person living in Wright stated that she saw a dead frog on her desk when she moved in. You read that right... a dead frog in the dorm room. One can perhaps tolerate beetles or cockroaches but imagine seeing a dead frog upon entering your own room!

Yulie Rozin '25 also stated her displeasure with the stench in the hallway of Wright. “It smells really bad



*Courtesy of Leo Saperstein '26*

in Wright,” she said, “I do like my room and stuff, but it's connected to Harris... you can't go into the hall.”

This seemed to be the consensus among many people that were interviewed about this, the rooms themselves are fine, but there are certain factors that cause uneasiness.

Amira Hakimi '25 said, “I live in Windham. I moved in and there [were] beetles all over the floor, but that's fine.”

I started truly resenting the dorm conditions not even 12 hours after moving in. I went into one of the bathrooms on my floor to take a shower. When I stepped out of the shower, I saw the real mess. I noticed that the bathroom was flooding out of the drain outside of the shower. To make matters worse, there was an assemblage of

black stuff oozing out of the drain which emitted a foul stench.

I was rather incensed by this situation: a bathroom with a flooding problem, along with bugs and cockroaches in the dorm, and having to deal with an absurdly scorching room where we had the plug in three fans just to maintain a slight homeostatic environment due to not having any air conditioning.

With the largest class in Connecticut College history of 650 freshmen being admitted, the Residential Education and Living Staff (REAL) had to consider every possible solution to avoid overcrowding the residential halls after dealing with the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

One of the ideas that was put into effect was the leasing of the Manwaring building in downtown New London. So far, this has worked tremendously for all parties involved.

One senior who is currently living in Manwaring said that the experience has been “awesome”.

“It's really nice to be off campus and to be able to engage in the New London community actually,” she said, “The amenities are really nice. I feel it allows for me and my roommate [to] cook for ourselves. We have to be responsible and get to school on time. So, I feel like it helps a lot with [...] real world experiences.”

Another decision made by REAL that has been proved to be beneficial for those living in campus housing so far is the transformation of several common rooms across campus. Two freshman roommates living in a converted common room in Knowlton shared their experience in the new environment, saying that they have had a “great experience so far.” “We all have our own space,” one of the roommates said, “but we also have communal space, which is nice.”

A big reason why is because of the hard work that Sara Rothenberger and her team has done. Rothenberger is the Assistant Dean for REAL. She reflected on the past few trying years, considering COVID, and how the largest class in the college's history.

“I was eating lunch with some folks... a couple weeks ago at the beginning of the year, and they said ‘Dean Rothenberger, aren't you excited for a normal year?’” She continued, “And well, yes [but] what I know from working in this field [is that] no year is particularly normal. Every year gives certain challenges certain things that you're like, ‘oh we haven't figured this one out before.’”

This year has without a doubt been no exception to Rothenberger's philosophy.

Millions of dollars are poured into institutions such as this one and students already pay thousands to the dorms, so it's reassuring to see the college putting effort into improving the quality of life for students on campus when it comes to the dorms. They should at least be a place that students are able to live in without dilapidated conditions.

I plan to be here for the next four years. My classmates and I will be eating in the cafeterias, learning in the classrooms, and sleeping in the dorms. It's great to see the college working towards improving the conditions of the dorms, but the process is far from done. It's important that the residential and facilities departments keep putting their foot on the gas pedal. •

## 50 Years of Title IX

HANNAH FOLEY  
SPORTS EDITOR

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” - Title IX

Title IX was signed into law by President Richard Nixon on June 23, 1972. Although not for the sole benefit of female athletes, those 37 words have been the backbone of growth in women’s sports. In the past 50 years, the WNBA, NWSL, PHE, and many more professional women’s sports leagues have been created, with many crediting Title IX as a major factor in their success.

It is important to note that Title IX is designed to provide equal opportunity regardless of sex, meaning, transgender and nonbinary athletes should also have the chance to compete with the gender they choose. Currently, the NESCAC conference and NCAA have several steps that need to be taken in order for a transgender or nonbinary athlete to compete. These include hormone treatment, blood testing, and other controversial measures. This has become a nationwide point of contention that athletes and advocates are focusing on to afford transgender and nonbinary athletes the same rights as their cisgender counterparts. For the purposes of this article, I will be referring to women and men to address societal standards, not negating the importance of transgender and nonbinary athletes.

Connecticut College was founded as a women’s college and has continued to champion them over a century later. Currently, Conn’s athletic department is led by our first female athletic director, Mo White. There are also 16 female coaches out of a total of 39, or roughly 40% of all Conn coaches are women, which is significantly higher than the national average of 25%.

Having ascended to the head of the department in 2019, Athletic Director Mo White is a product of Title IX. White played D1 tennis at Providence College after being a three-sport athlete in high school. She then went into the corporate sports world where she advocated for women and underrepresented groups. When she transitioned into coaching and sports administration, she noted that there “hadn’t been as much progress made” in her years away from sports for women and girls.

While working at Conn, White says she has noticed the commitment to opening doors for women in athletics and academics. “We’ve got a wonderful balance of women coaching women, and female administrators,” said White. “I think that is something that the NESCAC is really committed to, as well as our president.”

One unique aspect of Conn athletics is there are more women’s sports than men’s sports. White says this is due to the gender make-up of Conn, which is roughly 40% men and 60% women. However, despite this makeup, our athlete totals are almost exactly 50-50 – meaning there is the same number of male athletes as there are females, which is the goal of Title IX.

The real benefits of Title IX are often things unseen. When she started at Conn, White set out to make sure that the department had the practices in place to maintain equality. “We set a meal per diem...so that’s how the team meal budgets are decided. We stay in the same kind of hotels (subject to availability)...we try and set guidance in terms of the type of buses...all of those good things make sure our student-athletes are receiving equitable experiences in terms of the benefits of Title IX,” said White.

On a national level, Division III schools have some work to do. “Division III has the largest participation gap between opportunities on men’s and women’s teams at 16%” according to the 2022 State of Women in College Sports report. The difference in median total expenses between men’s and women’s sports is \$400K in favor of the men. This seems extreme but is actually fairly proportional to the participation ratio, which shows that because the participation of male athletes is higher in Division III athletics than female, men’s sports would require more money. Overall, the investment in individual athletes is roughly the same.

In the same report, a stark finding was the lack of an increase in female coaches. Since Title IX was passed, numbers have dropped from 90% to 43% of female coaches coaching women’s sports. This doesn’t mean that there wasn’t an increase

in female coaches in the last 50 years, but it does mean that the increase has not kept pace with the increasing number of women’s sports available. At Conn, however, White says we’ve continued to give women opportunities: “I think Conn has done a really good job historically providing opportunities for women...to coach and be administrators and strength and conditioning coaches, and all the things that are necessary to support what we’re doing (in the athletic department.)”



*Courtesy of Pexels*

Despite public prescription, we have made significant progress in gender equality in the last 50 years. Title IX doesn’t just affect athletics, but it lays the groundwork for other legislation against sexual harassment, hazing, and bullying, as well as for LGBT+ rights, academic curriculums, fine arts programs, and other activities. We are indebted to the Title IX Nine and thousands of others who fought for equal rights regardless of sex.

In the spirit of Title IX, there are a few resources to know of in case your rights are infringed upon:

- Know Your IX is a website that helps outline your rights, as well as toolkits to advocate for yourself in the face of injustice.

- The ACLU has a Gender Equity division with resources on laws regarding sex-segregated schools, sexual violence, pregnant and parenting teens, and athletics.

- More specifically to Conn, Rodmon King is the Title IX coordinator who is in charge of all oversight and implementation of Title IX compliance

- Finally, any reporting of sexual harassment or other breaches of Title IX compliance to a faculty or staff member will be reported to the Title IX office except if you speak to a confidential advocate. The 24/7 phone number is 860-460-9194, and other methods of contact can be found on the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention and Advocacy (SVPA) website. This number is monitored by several confidential advocates including the head of the SVPA office, Rachel Stewart, and the Interim Director of Gender and Sexuality Programs, Justin Mendillo. In addition to the phone number, confidential help can be found in Student Counseling Services, Student Health Services, and the College Chaplains.

Title IX is a vital component of the fabric of our society. The last 50 years have brought lots of change and opportunities for women, and hopefully, we’ll see even more advancement in the next 50. •

## Defending a Title

**FRITZ BALDAUF**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**H**ow does a college team follow up the first team national championship in its school's history? That is the reality facing the Connecticut College men's soccer program this fall as they look to recapture last season's lightning in a bottle; a season that culminated in beating fellow NESCAC program, Amherst, on penalty kicks in the championship game last fall.

In the buildup to the new season, senior midfielder and captain Augie Djerdjaj spoke on the team's mettle and mindset going into the title defense; "The team is going to be much more experienced going into this year as compared to last year. Going into last season, due to Covid, we had two classes who had never played a competitive college soccer game before. This year we have a majority of players who are battle tested and have played on the biggest of stages." The relative lack of experience due to Covid last season did nothing to hinder the Camels on their impressive run through the NCAA tournament, and having that experience under their belt will now only help the team.

Coming off of a championship, a natural concern to have is that of a potential "championship hangover." On this, Djerdjaj said "Obviously coming off a season like last year, [a championship hangover] is a potential concern. However, we've spent most of this past spring

on the internal as opposed to the external. The men's soccer team appears to be united on that front in their defense of a title.

Something that will certainly help the Camels in their quest to repeat as champions is the continuity that they are bringing back this season. The team only graduated three seniors from last season's title team. While three may not be a large number, the absences of key players will certainly be felt. On this, Djerdjaj said that "We lost three key seniors to graduation this past year which include Lorenzo Bochetti, Aiden Scales, and MT Tshuma. While losing only three guys may not seem like a lot, these guys were a part of the core group that led the way for the team last year. Their leadership was pivotal in our success, and they have tough shoes to fill. We have eleven incoming freshmen and one junior transfer from Middlebury who are expected to come in and help make an immediate positive impact for the group."

Yeonas echoed the same sentiment, saying, "We will miss the leadership and skill of Lorenzo, MT and Aiden, who each provided valuable experience and character last season. However, we have a large senior class plus juniors who are looking forward to stepping into new roles." The collective experience of the team's run last November and December combined with the large contingent of returning starters will make the Camels a formidable force in their title defense this fall.

Since the championship win, the soccer team has noticed a significant rise in support and school spirit around the campus. The program has come a long way in the past few years, facing challenges that nobody could have expected in the form of the pandemic, and achieving the greatest athletic feat in Connecticut College history. On the rise in school spirit during the team's run late last fall, Djerdjaj perfectly summed up how much the student body's support meant to the team "Since I got to Conn in the fall of 2018, the support from everyone in the community has been tremendous. I have noticed that every single year the support has gotten bigger and better. The support we received last season surpassed any of our expectations. We had hundreds of students, faculty, friends, family, and alumni traveling to Tufts for our Sweet 16 and Elite 8 games. Even more made the trip down to Greensboro for the Final 4. We saw pictures and videos of the watch parties taking place on campus, and around the country from friends, family, and alumni. We had a welcoming party upon our return to campus from Greensboro. We had the most attended NESCAC final in probably the last 20 years. I could go on and on about the support we received. I can speak for every player on the team when I say that that support means the absolute world to us."

After their commanding opener over Mitchell College, the team followed that up with a grueling 0-0 tie against 2022 NESCAC Champions, Tufts. Best of luck to our reigning champions this season. Go Camels! •



*Courtesy of Pexels*

putting the championship behind us and focusing on the present, and the present is preparing for the upcoming fall." Based on their first match of the season against Mitchell, a 9-0 domination of the college's crosstown foe, any concerns about a hangover of sorts, or any resting on their laurels, seem to be unfounded. Djerdjaj's theme of focusing on the intangibles, and of not letting success get to the team's head was echoed by his co-captain, senior midfielder Steve Yeonas. "One theme we have been discussing is focusing on the present. We want to focus on what we can control, things like work ethic, attitude, timing, positivity, and more" said Yeonas. Championships at all levels of sports are generally won and lost in the details of the season, putting in the work every day and focusing

## Sun Beats the Odds, Land a Spot in WNBA Final

SOPHIA HOSFORD  
CONTRIBUTOR

The WNBA finals are in full swing and the Connecticut Sun's battle against the Las Vegas Aces is heating up. Finishing the regular season in second place in the eastern conference, the Sun won 25 of their 36 games. After solid performances in the first two rounds of the playoffs, the only thing standing in the way of their first championship in team history are the Las Vegas Aces, who posted the best regular season record in the WNBA this season, and are fresh off a 3-1 series win over Sue Bird and the Seattle Storm. Though they have never won a WNBA championship, the Sun are no stranger to success. They have been successful with top 5 regular season finishers in 4 of the last 5 seasons.



*Courtesy of Wiki Commons/Lorie Shaull*

Playing at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, just fifteen minutes from Conn, the Sun are the only professional sports team in the state, and their playoff run has pulled fans from all over. 9,142 fans came out for the Sun's game on September 4 - a near sell out in the 10,000 seat arena.

First year Avery Burns, a member of Conn's women's basketball team, attended the September 4th game with her teammates, and she thinks that this could be the Sun's year. Burns explained it was "very crowded and they had playoff shirts on the seats for everyone." Burns observed a largely older crowd in the stands but a crowded one nonetheless. The Sun played well, led by guards DeWanna Bonner (18 points) and Natisha Hiedeman (14 points) but ultimately faltered in the waning minutes of the game, 72-76, to the Chicago Sky in the second round of the playoffs, with Chicago leading the series (2-1).

Two days later, the Sun were back in action with a vengeance at home. Kicking off game four of the series with an enthralling victory of 104-80 over the Sky, tying the series at 2. Dominant play from the likes of Bonner (19 points) and guard Courtney Williams (19 points) led the Sun to their convincing win, forcing a winner-take-all game five that would come on September 8 in Chicago.

Players like forward Alyssa Thomas contributed 17 points to the victory over Chicago and has been a standouts this playoff season.

In game 5, Jonquel Jones (15 points), Thomas (12 points), and Bonner (15 points) pushed the team ahead of the Sky, playing to an enthralling 72-63 victory, clinching their place in the finals.

A 12 year veteran, Bonner, a four-time WNBA All-star and two-time WNBA champion (during her time with the Phoenix Mercury,) has also been a critical piece for the Sun, putting up consistent points for the Sun.

Another critical piece for the Sun is former Conn alum and current strength & conditioning coach, Anaisse Rios. In April of 2020, Rios was added to the Sun's organization in 2020 where she serves as the Head Strength and Conditioning Coach. Rios is a former member of the Bolivian Women's National Soccer team, as well as Conn's women's soccer and track and field

In terms of the atmosphere she has witnessed during this intense playoff season, Rios said "We are fortunate that we always have a good crowd at our games. But for the playoffs....It's been electric."

The Sun fell to Vegas 64-67 in the opening playoff game on September 11 and fell again on September 13 81-75, giving Vegas a 2-0 lead in the series. The Sun bit back at home in Uncasville with a huge 105-76 victory, keeping their championship dreams alive. The Sun will be back in action on September 18 to take on Vegas in game 4.

This article was written ahead of game 4, a game that could result in a championship for the Aces or a winner-takes-all game on September 20. •

## Thank You, Serena

SANA BHAT  
CONTRIBUTOR

By changing nothing, she changed everything."  
-Nike, W+K Portland

One of the most renowned names in the history of tennis and sports, Serena Williams, is likely to retire after playing the US Open on September 2, 2022.

Williams, who is said to be the greatest athlete of all time, not only won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, 14 major women's doubles titles, and two major mixed doubles titles, but has also changed the sport of tennis forever. Her retirement marks the end of an era.

Born in Michigan on September 26, 1981, Serena's journey started when she was a little girl playing tennis on the courts of a club in Compton, California with her sister, Venus, and being trained by their father, Richard Williams. Soon after, she made her way to the top of the tennis world and dominated the sport for over two decades playing over a thousand matches. She was nearly undefeated year after year, winning several majors and tours, and holding the world number one position for 319 total weeks.

Here was a 16-year-old Black girl, playing a sport where her opponents, spectators, and reporters looked nothing like her, but she stood stronger than ever against all the odds, playing against the best in the game, later becoming the best in the game.

Williams has been and is a role model for many. Her journey has offered us lessons that taught aspiring tennis players, like myself, to believe in what we want to achieve,

both on and off the court. She changed sports for women athletes and the way people of color are perceived in the world of sports.

She has challenged and changed the fashion game in the tennis world by reflecting her personal style with her tennis outfits and statement jewelry on the court.

Watching her on screen imitating her swings, wanting to serve like her, challenging my inner self to be as bold as her, running for every ball and giving my best till the last point, she has taught me about life while teaching me to become a better tennis player and athlete.

Serena has redefined sports for all and is now onto her next phase in life. With her business, Serena Ventures, Williams is accomplished both on and off the court and has been named one of the world's highest-paid athletes by Forbes.

"I have never liked the word retirement. It doesn't feel like a modern word to me. I've been thinking of this as a transition, but I want to be sensitive about how I use that word, which means something very specific and important to a community of people," Williams said in an essay she wrote for Vogue this August. "Maybe the best word to describe what I'm up to is evolution. I'm here to tell you that I'm evolving away from tennis, toward other things that are important to me."

Thank you, Serena, for all you have done. •

# Sports Spotlight

## Featured Team: Men's XC

2nd/36 Teams

### Upcoming Events:

Pre National Invite, East Lansing, MI  
(10/1)  
James Earley Invite, Westfield, MA  
(10/8)

### Coaching Staff:

Sam Alexander, Interim Head Coach

## Featured Team: Women's XC

6th/39 Teams

### Upcoming Events:

Pre National Invite, East Lansing, MI  
(10/1)  
James Earley Invite, Westfield, MA  
(10/8)e

### Coaching Staff:

Ned Bishop, Head Coach  
Laura Nadelberg, Assistant Coach

## Featured Team: Women's Field Hockey

9/17 vs. Bowdoin College L, 0-4

### Upcoming Events:

9/24 vs. Ramapo College  
9/27 vs. Trinity College  
10/1 vs. Hamilton College

### Coaching Staff:

Chrissy Chappell, Head Coach  
Kaeley DeNegre, Assistant Coach

## Featured Team: Women's Volleyball

9/17 vs. Bates College W, 3-0

### Upcoming Events:

9/21 @ University of Saint Joseph  
9/23 @ Bowdoin College  
9/24 vs. University of Southern Maine

### Coaching Staff:

Josh Edmed, Head Coach  
Leanne Sakowicz, Assistant Coach  
Alexandra Facchini, Assistant Coach

## Featured Team: Men's Soccer

9/17 vs. Bowdoin College L, 0-1

### Upcoming Events:

9/27 vs. Wheaton College  
10/1 vs. Hamilton College  
10/4 vs. Eastern Connecticut State

### Coaching Staff:

Ruben Burk, Head Coach  
Andrew Storton, Assistant Coach  
Lee Elliott, Volunteer Goalkeeper Coach

## Featured Team: Women's Soccer

9/17 vs. Bowdoin College w, 2-1

### Upcoming Events:

9/23 vs. Umass Dartmouth  
9/25 vs. Johnson & Wales University  
10/1 vs. Hamilton College

### Coaching Staff:

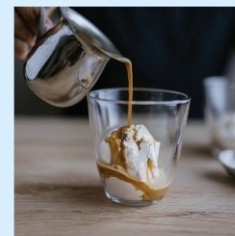
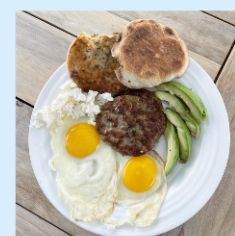
Norm Riker, Head Coach  
Mia Santana, Assistant Coach

Are you struggling with work-life balance, making friends, and/or completing your school work? Then check out Muddy Waters Cafe for the perfect environment to get inspired, study or relax! Established in 2004, Muddy Waters Cafe holds the rhythm of downtown, under new ownership as of 2020. More than just coffee, designer teas, beer and wine, Muddy's true magic is found in the sense of community, comfort, and familiarity each time you walk in the door. We believe food is the best way to bring people together so join us for breakfast or lunch on our new, expanded, split level back deck overlooking the water! Short on time? Order ahead either online, over the phone, DoorDash or Uber Eats.



# MUDDY WATERS

cafe



## Prestigious Fellowship Winners Celebrate AAPI Art and Heritage

CATJA CHRISTENSEN  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

To kick off Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month earlier this year, two juniors began their prestigious fellowship projects centered around Asian American art and culture. Charmaine Chau '24 was awarded \$5,000 from the Minor Myers Jr Research Fellowship to travel to Chinatowns across America and film a documentary exploring the relationship between street art murals and Asian American representation. Olivia Loo '24 won \$10,000 from the Davis Projects for Peace Fellowship to develop community-based programming, including an AAPI student art gallery in her hometown and a children's book she plans to self-publish.



*Courtesy of Charmaine Chau '24*

Chau is no stranger to creating unique educational opportunities: she is a self-created Fashion Design major and Art and Education minor. She knew she wanted to apply for the Myers Fellowship to combine her interests in art, filmmaking, and travel. Chau was inspired by murals in Boston, having painted murals herself in high school and produced large format paintings in her art courses (some of which were featured in Loo's art gallery), but it wasn't until Loo suggested she combine her Asian identity with mural-making to personalize her research.

"I wanted to explore art, specifically murals, but also if there is good Asian representation, how is it represented?" Chau says. She traveled to Chinatowns in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco and compiled a collage of artist commentaries, local testimonies, and sweeping visuals of colorful murals. While she did not include her own reactions to the murals in her documentary, she recalls a favorite that resonated with her: Jess X Snow's 2021 Manhattan mural "In The Future Our Asian Community is Safe," which features an elderly Asian woman embracing a younger woman with flowers unfurling across a red background. Chau studied Snow's work at Conn and was excited to see their work in real life.

Growing up in rural New Hampshire with immigrant parents, Chau says that she and her brother were some of the few people of color in school. Going to Conn was the first time she was surrounded by other Chinese and Asian students. Chau also stated that being able to communicate with professors in Cantonese was an emotional experience. She wrote in her Fellowship proposal that her FYS "Chinese Art Comes To America" and her Chinese class were the first times she had POC professors: Yibing Huang, her adviser, and Tek wah King. With their encouragement and support, she plans to show her work in the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room, a fitting setting for her research.

Being immersed in Conn's Asian community also opened her eyes to past interactions with school friends in New Hampshire. "There were a lot of instances I look back on like, okay, that was lowkey racist and that's not ok,

or that was a microaggression, but I didn't even know that stuff was bad until going to college," she says about her upbringing. "I would talk to Olivia about this stuff, [and that] helped me realize that that's not ok. Moving forward, I want to teach my kids [to] embrace their culture."

Loo recalls the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes when she and Chau matriculated in 2020. In response to the racial reckoning across the nation, she educated herself as much as possible about diversity, equity, and inclusion. In true Connections curriculum fashion, she took Anthropology, Sociology, Education, Asian American studies, and Critical Race Theory courses before declaring a double major in Sociology and Economics. She spoke to then Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion John McKnight about the lack of coverage of the increased violence in mainstream media and her desire for more conversation. This sparked an interest in diversity, equity, and inclusion and inspired her Davis Projects for Peace proposal.

She wanted to focus on early education about Asian American history. "What would younger Olivia want to have learned, heard, [or] be equipped with?" she asked herself. "It's basically the knowledge of how U.S. immigration policy connects to anti-Asian sentiment. It's the hatefulness and all the violence that has occurred towards Asian populations and the elderly population specifically because of the pandemic."

With this in mind, she wrote a children's book unpacking Asian American history and racial triangulation theory — a concept exploring how Asian people and the "model minority" stereotype relate to the Black-White racial dichotomy — in an age-appropriate format. With illustrations from Jazmyn Gillespie '24, she plans on using the Fellowship funding to eventually publish and distribute her book, but she focused on establishing long-lasting community programming this summer. She led a series of library events for children, including art-making events celebrating cultural food "challenging and embracing the lunchbox moment," a common microaggression among Asian Americans when their homemade food is judged for being different from typical American fare.

Her work culminated in hosting an art gallery exhibition in her home-



*Courtesy of Olivia Loo '24*

The exhibition title, "Are and Oh, the Places We'll Go," is "a specific reference, fervent critique, and reclamation of harmful racist representations produced by Dr. Seuss," Loo writes in the program. She hopes that the art on display can create a celebratory space for young Asian American artists and spark discussions about updating school curriculums to acknowledge BIPOC contributions and experiences. "I want the gallery to be a segue into conversations about impactful change and sustainable change," Loo says. "When history is taught in the classrooms, how do we ensure that it is representative of all people, not only just the AAPI community, but of all individuals?"

Chau and Loo will continue their work with events in the fall semester and hope to use their fellowship experiences as a foundation for future AAPI-focused programming and activism. •

town of Milford, CT on August 5, featuring art by AAPI student artists, including many from Conn, and children's artwork from her library events. "Who We

## "a fine wine..." and an Even Finer Show

CALEB BUTLER  
CONTRIBUTOR

Associate Professor of Dance Shawn Hove's company, shove gently dance, put on its show "a fine wine, and the game..." in the Martha Myers Studio on Sept. 2 and 3. The multidisciplinary performance was nothing short of fascinating, a word barely strong enough to properly describe the experience of watching this performance. The show's official site describes "a fine wine..." as "an evening of dance/theater created around the macabre tale 'The Cask of Amontillado' by Edgar Allen Poe," but that does not even begin to describe the many layers to this performance.



*Courtesy of Sydney Bryan*

As a long-time fan of Poe and the gothic and macabre, I was beyond excited to watch Hove's new show, but in no way could I have anticipated what I was about to witness. "a fine wine..." was layered and complicated, combining dance with acting and pieces of sound design and video editing to form the performances of each cast member into a beautifully coherent show. As a self-professed lover of weird art – any art that makes me feel something beyond the expected, things that unsettle me and leave me thinking for days after the metaphorical curtain falls – I am well aware that "a fine wine..." will definitely not be everyone's favorite. But, I am certain that no one left the theater feeling ambivalent about what they just watched.

Not only was this performance created by a member of the Connecticut College faculty, but it also featured a number of current students and alumni. Among the performers were recent alumni Angelina Annino '20, Journee Hardaway '21, and Mary Fitzgerald '22, and current students Sophie Barr '23 and Jo Duckett '25. Annino, Hardaway, Fitzgerald, and Barr filled various roles – dancers, technicians, and stage managers – while Duckett played the role of Mardy, the only character in the entire production to speak.

Duckett, as Mardy, tells the story of "The Cask of Amontillado," Poe's tale of one family wronged by another and hell-bent on revenge. This version of the classic story, though, asks a new question upon reaching its conclusion: Why does it have to be this way? Mardy wonders why this has to be a story that ends in tragedy, that ends in madness, revenge, and anger, instead of a story ending in forgiveness and efforts to rebuild bridges. In the role of Mardy, Duckett is nothing short of a magnetic performer. Even while the dancers were performing in the center of the room, I found it more and more difficult to look away from Duckett as the show progressed, whether they were moving around the performance space, only a few steps away from the audience, or only visible on the television screen at the back of the stage.

An incredible range of emotion was on display in Duckett's performance as they progressed from reciting a nearly robotic broadcast at the beginning of the show to mounting suspicion – nearing madness – as they continued with their tale, only to end with an almost disbelieving sense of hope as they wonder if it is possible to do better the next time this story is told. In the post-show talkback with Hove and the cast, it was revealed that the script was changed during rehearsals as soon as only a few days before the show opened, which only makes Duckett's performance all the more impressive. I only wish I was given more time to take in the performance, more time to sit with the many nuances of this one character, to peel back the carefully crafted layers.

Despite admittedly not being well versed in the various technical nuances of modern dance and merely a casual appreciator of the style, I think that the dance itself was a marvel to watch. There was almost something uncanny about the movements of the dancers in this show, something just far enough from natural human movements to be unsettling. As someone with minimal experience in both watching and performing modern dance, I cannot speak to the various minutiae of the choreography itself, but despite my lack of detailed knowledge, I can say that the choreography perfectly complemented – if not added to – the story that was being told. A solo piece performed by Annino perfectly opened the show, moving fluidly throughout the space, eventually pouring a glass full of wine midway through the dance and setting on a bucket in the center of the stage, leaving the audience to wonder what will be done with the precariously perched glass.

In their dance duet, Hardaway and Barr led each other blindly around the perimeter of the dance space, hands resting just barely atop a wire designed to send an echoing hum out of the speakers upon contact, their blind trust in each other leaving the audience wondering what could happen if either one of them made a single misstep. This duet, paired with the mounting tension to be found in Duckett's performance surrounding the dancers, allowed the audience to feel the increase in pressure within the story, the rise in fear that could have been found in the original readers of this dark tale. On the whole, all three of them gave fantastic performances, their movements managing to add an immeasurable amount to the story being told without ever speaking a single word.

Although entirely unintentional, a technical difficulty on Saturday evening's show somehow managed to add to the eerie ambiance of the performance. For nearly the entirety of the show's hour-long duration, an LED light flickered from the back of the theater. During the post-show Q&A, Hove revealed that the flickering was entirely unintentional, and a number of the performers revealed that while the light was unexpected, it merely added to the tense ambiance of the performance. In terms of other technical issues, at some points in the show, it was difficult to hear the monologue amidst the other pieces of sound design, but despite that difficulty, there was always something to be watched during this show.

If I could, I would have spent hours peeling back the many layers and pieces of this show, piecing together the many mysteries it leaves to be unraveled by the audience, but I simply have to be content with the questions it has left lingering in my mind. Although I am certain – merely from the discussions held in my dance class this past week – that not every member of the audience of "a fine wine, and the game..." enjoyed it as much as I did, I, for one, am more than excited to find more weird art, to seek out unexpected performances that leave me with more questions even long after I've left the theater. •

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## Conn Students Sing with Greve Opera Academy in Italy

DAVIEL SCHULMAN  
ARTS EDITOR

Five Connecticut College vocal studies students were given a special opportunity this July: to sing opera in the Italian municipality of Greve in Chianti. Adjunct Associate Professor of Music Jurate Švedaite Waller invited Kate Rubel '24, Katie Caviness '25, Mia Jurkunas '24, Jane Park-Stettner '25, and Carly Zirlen '25 on the summer trip because she performs with the Connecticut Lyric Opera, one of the sponsoring companies for the Greve Opera Academy and Music Festival. According to the academy's website, "Greve Opera Academy & Music Festival is for young opera singers who seek the opportunity to perform leading roles in fully staged opera productions with a professional orchestra."

Joined by six students from the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford, the five Conn students had an intensive schedule of rehearsals, lessons, and master classes each day to improve their vocal skills and ultimately prepare them for their performances. They performed George Frideric Handel's opera *Giulio Cesare* in addition to the oratorios (longer church pieces) *Magnificat* by Antonio Vivaldi and *Stabat Mater* by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi. These performances took place in Greve-in-Chianti and in Florence. "A typical day included chorus rehearsal for the opera and ensemble pieces from roughly 9 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch, vocal lessons, and siesta from noon to 4 p.m.," Rubel described. "The day concluded with either dinner and group rehearsal or dinner and individual review."

The master classes made the students' experience in Italy especially unique and valuable. Rubel explained that "besides working with our vocal instructors and choirmaster, we participated in many masterclasses led by professional opera singers including Armando Ariostini, Giacomo Benedetti, Valeria Esposito, and Paolo Bellucci. It was prodigious to learn from professionals and to hear their tips and tricks for making it in the industry." Rubel, Caviness, and Park-Stettner felt that their vocal skills improved significantly as a result of the intense training they received during their trip. Caviness expressed, "I have wanted to sing classically for a very long time, but I never had the time to be trained before. Going to Italy, the heart of where opera was born, really meant a lot to me. I grew so much during my time there, especially in my vocal technique, and I think it would have taken a lot longer to get to this point had it not been for the unique experiences and coaching I had there." Similarly, Rubel explained that her "overarching goal is to become classically trained to sing opera and musical theater pieces successfully." She continued, "Being a part of the Greve Opera Music Festival helped me to understand and relearn the basic tools necessary for a strong foundation in classical voice."

Despite their busy schedule, the students had time for sightseeing in and around Tuscany. "It was really amazing to be right in the middle of town every day, so we could experience Italian culture and get to know the locals," Caviness shared. "We got to take day trips to Florence and Siena, and being able to see some of the architecture of the churches and the content of the museums left me really awe-struck," she continued. Students were also able to watch professional performances in the area. Rubel recalled, "The most memorable concert was performed in a beautifully painted church in the center of Florence: a harpsichord/organ, violin, and mezzo-soprano trio...The concert was absolutely beautiful; I could hear the artist's passion through their performance. It was a reminder that the art itself is always the

most important thing." They all agree that the trip was a culturally enriching experience as well as an educational experience.

As all five students are involved in Conn's wide variety of music programs, the lessons they learned in Italy will pay off throughout the course of their academic journeys. Rubel is a Music Studies major, as well as a member of the ConnChords a capella group and a vocalist in the Jazz Band. Caviness is considering minoring or double majoring in Music Studies, and she is a member of the Vox Cameli a capella group. Rubel, Caviness, and Jurkunas all performed in the Conn spring musical, *Cabaret*.



*Courtesy of Katie Caviness '25*

These students took full advantage of the rare opportunity to travel in a small group and spend time perfecting their craft in a beautiful, historic area. Park-Stettner expressed, "I was very anxious to go at first; I was going to a foreign country for three weeks to participate in an opera and learn classical music. [I would be] living by myself and only knew a few other people on the trip. I wasn't sure what to expect, but overall I had an amazing experience and I was so happy I went." The five Conn students were very grateful to have traveled to Greve in Chianti and performed operas in a professional setting. "It was an experience I will never forget," Park-Stettner concluded. •

## Art Conn-servation: Summer 2022 Art History Trip

IZZY PAVLONNIS  
ARTS EDITOR

Imagine this: you're sitting at a table with your friends, doing a puzzle...except the puzzle just happens to be an ancient Grecian vase. This is exactly what sophomore Gracie Mattaliano experienced as part of her summer Art History trip. The group of Connecticut College students pieced together fragments of Grecian pottery with duct tape until they had recreated a vase, sans a few missing pieces.

This past summer, on the department's first trip since 2019, students across disciplines with an interest in Art History and conservation joined Professor Joseph Alchermes on a trip to Italy and Greece through the Archaeological Conservation Institute. The trip, which began in 2015, runs annually from mid-June to mid-July, hosting up to 15 students on an exploration of the mechanics, importance, and application of art conversation in renowned archeological sites.

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*Article continued on page 16.*

## Art Conn-servation: Summer 2022 Art History Trip

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*Article continued from page 15.*

This year's group consisted of 15 students, ranging from rising sophomores to just graduated seniors, across majors such as Art, Art history, Classics, and Architecture. The students began their experience staying in a monastic complex in Belmonte in Sabina, Italy. A product of a conservation project itself, the monastery is a reformed complex now used as a facility to teach and execute art conservation by some of the world's leading conservators. The group was hosted by husband and wife Roberto Nardi and Andreina Costanzi Cobau, who Alchermes described as "committed to highlighting and nurturing an appreciation of Roman and Mediterranean cultures." For the duration of their trip, the students were accompanied by instructor Manuel Giandomenico, graduate of L'Istituto Centrale per il Resturo, who helped them navigate conservation and the trip as a whole.

During their first few days, the students spent their time learning about the fundamentals of art conservation from leading archeologists and conservators. Instructors from Il Centro di Conservazione Archeologica, one of Italy's lead companies in conservation, taught terminology, techniques, classification methods, and more. The students also took part in their first field work experience, working on cleaning and restoring an old villa in Cottanello, filled with mosaics and intricate designs.

While working on the villa gave the group their first glimpse of conservation, the majority of their experiences in the field happened in Greece. Mattaliano said the Greece portion of the trip was her personal favorite, as it provided opportunities for hands-on work and the application of what they learned the week prior in Italy. The students worked on the conservation of Ancient Corinth, restoring a centaur mosaic. They carefully cleaned the mosaic, documenting any pieces that came loose, placing volcanic rocks on top of the tiles to prevent them from moving during their work.

In addition to this restoration project, the group had the chance to visit many other important archaeological sites, including the Acropolis, Athens, Epidaurus, Nafplion, and a variety of medieval castles. The group also worked on smaller projects, such as the aforementioned piecing together of pottery fragments or removing unsuccessful or damaging prior conservation attempts from an old stone plaque. Mattaliano reflected on how conservation is about making sure the piece still conveys the artist's true meaning—restoration is important, but holes or incomplete pieces are sometimes better left as such to avoid changing the pieces' meanings. And, through all of their work, the group truly got to experience the importance of conservation and creating a bridge between history and the present.

After finishing their time in Greece, the group made it back to Italy...eventually. While the anticipated quick plane ride turned into a train ride, ferry ride, and another train ride—an adventure which Alcheremes refers to as the group's own odyssey—the students eventually found themselves back in Rome. There, the group spent some time making their own art, creating small mosaics out of black and white tessere, which they learned how to cut themselves.

While conservation and historical understanding were the focus of the trip, the students also spent their time exploring the cultures of the places they visited.

Aside from venturing to different bridges, cities, and past conservation sites in what Alchermes referred to as "educated sight-seeing". The group spent time in the Vatican, St. Peters, and Rome in Italy and visited festivals and countless beaches in Greece. Mattaliano recalled a few favorite moments from the trip—a three-day festival in Greece with dancers from different countries portraying their cultures, and a dinner the group had together on a sandbar in the sea in Greece. In fact, this dinner correlates with what Alchermes believes to be one of the most important factors in understanding a culture: food. He speaks of how the group made sure to only eat foods local to wherever they were as a simple yet effective way to appreciate



*Courtesy of Katie Caviness*


the culture and tradition around them.

Alchermes also reflected on the trip and his personal connection to it. He shared, "Throughout my time at Conn, one of the things I have tried to do with my greatest energy is to reproduce my own experiences, and one of my most important was to do archaeological field work." Because of this sentiment, Alchermes has devoted himself to helping to provide students the chance to learn in various different places and in real, applicable ways. This trip brought him "great satisfaction" —it allowed students a chance to turn an interest in art and conservation into a tangible experience. And, these experiences do make all the difference; Mattaliano expressed that this trip confirmed for her that she wanted to pursue art conservation. Art is an incredible way to understand the past and present, and this trip is an exceptional way to appreciate it. •

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## A Duel of Prequels: House of the Dragon vs. The Rings of Power

ANNIE FELDMAR-DEVITRE  
CONTRIBUTOR

Fantasy fans are in for a treat this fall with the release of two new prequel series, *House of the Dragon* and *The Rings of Power*. Both shows have enormous shoes to fill and already displayed great deals of potential in their first few episodes.

*House of the Dragon* (HotD) which premiered Aug. 21, is the first spinoff show of many promised to be released in the coming years based on the popular TV series, *Game of Thrones* (GoT). The show broke records with over 44 million viewers and a \$90 million budget for its final season. Yet, it's been over three years since we watched the battle for the Iron Throne play out in the eighth season. The long-awaited season came with lots of drama and bloodshed, along with plenty of criticism (Yes, I'm talking about that change.com petition with over 1.8 million signatures to rewrite the last season). But, new beginnings (or in this case, prequels) hold promise, as HotD has already impressed its audience. HotD is based on the book *Fire and Blood* by George R. R. Martin, the universe creator, and mind behind the franchise. The series narrates the stories of House Targaryen, the house that brought us Daenerys Targaryen, and takes place nearly 200 years before the start of GoT.



Courtesy of Home Box Office

*The Rings of Power* (TRoP) has its own standards to uphold. It is not the first prequel media in the realm of fantasy writer J.R.R. Tolkien's work. *The Hobbit* is already a prequel to *The Lord of the Rings*, the original movie series released in the franchise. Although, the books were released in the opposite order, as *The Hobbit* was published first in 1937 with the *Lord of the Rings* to follow in 1954. Both the *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* are some of the best-selling books of all time, with 150 million copies sold for the former and 100 million for the latter. On top of that, the third movie in *The Lord of the Rings* franchise, *The Return of the King*, is one of the highest grossing of all time, grossing over \$1 billion. But, TRoP is the first TV show to join the collection. TRoP begins in the Second Age, thousands of years before the plot of *Lord of the Rings*, and follows the creation of the 20 rings of power along with Sauron's rise to power. It is based on *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*, specifically the appendices of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

Tolkien's works are legendary and inspired hundreds of fantasy works that have followed in the last 80 years, including GoT itself. So, in truth, there is no way to compare these two shows, nor pit them against each other. Creators and showrunners from both series have acknowledged that they do not wish to compete. In a *Hollywood Reporter* article, HotD Co-Creator and Executive Producer Martin stated, "It's not a death match or anything. I wish them success. I hope they wish for our success. We don't have to be bracketed together." TRoP showrunners J.D. Payne and Patrick McKay also commented on the issue, making it clear they do not wish for a contest. They said, "The only competition is the pressure we put on ourselves,

and the competition we have with ourselves for what we can put out into the world. ...And anyone else working on storytelling, we wish them well," in a *TV Insider* article.



Courtesy of Unsplash

The two appeared on the media stage with a bang. HotD already released five episodes on HBO Max and TRoP released four on Amazon Prime, premiering 11 days later. According to *Variety*, the HotD premiere brought in nearly 10 million views in the United States alone, while TRoP gathered 25 million global viewers. However, the numbers for TRoP are self-reported data from Amazon, while HotD's numbers come from HBO's streaming data solely from the US. In terms of reviews, HotD earned a score of 85% on *Rotten Tomatoes*, while TRoP received 84%. But, HotD also acquired an audience score of 85%, while TRoP garnered a 39% audience score. Despite the fact that it seems that HotD may be more well-liked by viewers, both shows present extreme promise and have already broken viewership records on their respective streaming sites.

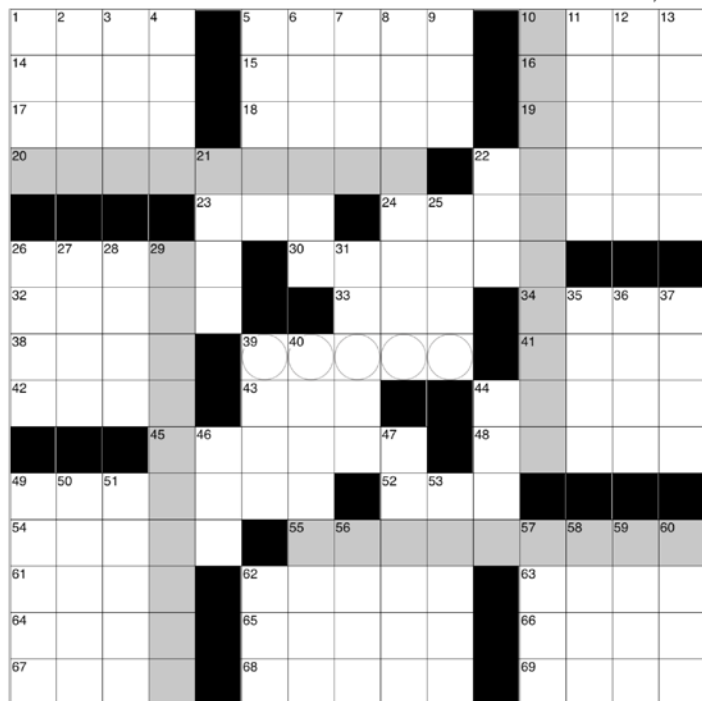


Courtesy of Amazon Prime

Both series will continue to release weekly episodes throughout the fall. Season 1 of HotD will contain ten episodes while Season 1 of TRoP will consist of eight episodes. Regardless of which show they prefer, fantasy viewers may now look forward to an autumn full of dragons, swords, ancient myths, legends, battles, and betrayal. •

## Ba-Dee-Ya (Dee-Ya, Dee-Ya)

By C&Z



### Across

1. Norwegian "cheers"
5. Mortimer of the "Muppet Show"
10. Rolls of cash
14. Org. with lots of space
15. Dean Friedman's famous fashion designer nephew, Zac \_\_\_\_\_
16. Nancy \_\_\_\_\_, Yente in the 2004 production of "Fiddler on the Roof"
17. Messenger molecules
18. Rose essential oil
19. Simba's best friend and lover
20. "Do you remember?"
22. Uplift spiritually
23. JFK security
24. Declares
26. 8 time American speed skating Olympic medalist
30. Emmy nominated serial killer crime show

32. Harris running mate
33. Aladdin prince
34. Time to give up?
38. Audrey Hepburn and John Legend are both part of this esteemed group of award winners
39. Element not included in the band known for the shaded clues
41. Immediately
42. Lith. and Lat., formerly
43. Former Manchester United coach, Gunnar Solskjaer
44. Gen Z slang for fine person
45. Scottish green for elopers
48. Black swan in "Swan Lake"
49. Lovingly, in music
52. Lowe of "Parks and Rec"
54. You are always six degrees from this Kevin
55. "You will make a better way if you..."
61. Chevy model debuted in 2004 and now known as the Sonic
62. Joe Alywn to Taylor Swift
63. To me, in Montreal
64. Wally's kid bro, in 1950s-'60s TV
65. Make happy
66. Actress Laura of "Big Little Lies" and "Jurassic Park"
67. Actress \_\_\_\_\_ who played Mia in the "Princess Diaries"
68. Dos and \_\_\_\_\_
69. Opposite of ecto-

### Down

1. Frs, Sophs, Jnrs, \_\_\_\_\_
2. This Tottenham striker had an exhibit at the Museum of London
3. Right now
4. Where nice guys finish
5. Emails incessantly
6. Just okay

7. This, in Spanish
8. Bar at the back of the car
9. No CPR order
10. "I find romance when I start to dance in boogie \_\_\_\_\_"
11. Set of two
12. Vermeer's hometown
13. Kills, as a dragon
21. Alumni of this school include: Prince William and Prince Harry
22. Opposite of WNW
25. Awaken
26. Fivers
27. Residents of sties
28. Aroma
29. "Share the spice of life"
31. Munched
35. Morales of "Ozark"
36. Table salt
37. Hwy with tolls
39. Grievances
40. Opening to "Careless Whisper"
44. Japanese noodle
46. Yeller of iconic line: "Not me. Not Hermione. Youuuuuu"
47. Will of "Arrested Development"
49. Bee, Cat, Tree, Splat, Gee rhyme scheme
50. Aficionado
51. Pacific or Atlantic
53. Shrek and Fiona
56. Terrible Russian leader
57. "Smooth Operator" singer
58. Crows serve as a bad one
59. Popular VPN service
60. Marchetti of the Football Hall of Fame
62. Cooler light source



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