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Connecticut College

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# THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER, SINCE 1977

## Happy Hour Return to Conn: Humphrey's Bar Reopens

AMANDA SANDERS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Usually the first floor of the Crozier Williams building is almost empty on a Thursday night after the hustle and bustle of the day. Not on April 14. At 8:30 PM there was a line of excited students that stretched back all the way back to the stairs in Cro. Dean of Students Victor Arcelus walked by, checking out the herd. Students dressed for a night out chatted amiably under fluorescent lights with unidentifiable cans in hand. Humphrey's Bar, the on-campus bar opened in 2014, would soon open its doors for the first time since March of 2020.

Between 9 PM and 1 AM, students who were 21 and older filtered in and out of the space, fighting for access to a booth or playing pool in the back. At the front, employees in Dining Services checked IDs and stamped hands to ensure that no one under 21 would enter the bar. Student bartenders poured pitchers, counted cash, and cleaned tables as the night progressed. The bar offered students the choice between beer, cider, wine, and hard seltzers. Prices ranged from \$2 for a pint of beer to \$13 for a carafe of wine. Humphrey's is cash only however, forcing students to wait in line at the ATM in Cro for cash. That didn't stop them, however, from ordering pitcher after pitcher, until Humphreys ran out of cider.



Photos Courtesy of Amanda Sanders



Humphrey's reopening seemed to be something of metaphorical victory just as much as a literal one. After years of students' social lives being compromised and restricted both on and off campus, one of Conn's social staples opening its doors again came as something of a commemorative marker. At the end of another year that both felt the impact of the pandemic, but also has in part been defined by the loosening of school wide restrictions, our beloved campus bar welcoming us back felt in some ways like a "thank you" and "congratulations."

"I had a wonderful time at the bar; it's super convenient location-wise and you can't beat a \$7 pitcher of PBR. I got to see friends who don't normally go to other bars in New London, my poor pool skills got to shine. A downside is that it got ridiculously hot and steamy," said Enso Tran '22. Despite the heat, maskless students packed the small space, enjoying a semblance of pre-Covid normality in a room that had been closed off since the world spun off its axis. "It's great to hang out in a chill environment on campus in a communal space... I feel kind of nostalgic even though it's my first time here," said Samirah Jaigirdar '22.

The bar, operated by Dining Services, had hoped to open in the fall, before the Covid-19 outbreak of early September where over 200 students had tested positive for the virus and forced the College into a state of lockdown. "The opening date kept getting pushed back," said Diana Kim '22, one of the student bartenders. Ingrid Bushwack, Director of Dining Services, did not respond to requests for a comment.

"Overall, I do enjoy working there but I will say I wish there was some more formal training beyond the two hours of training I got," Kim shared. The three bartenders that night were continuously pouring pitchers and moving from table to table as more and more students ordered drinks. A jar for tips stood on the bar. Did it end up getting filled? Kim laughed. "People are tipping, it's great! I was very grateful, keep tipping please."

Humphrey's will be open throughout the rest of the semester on Thursday nights. "We're thinking about doing theme nights, reach out to us with ideas on Instagram," Kim concluded. See you there! •

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## Letter From the Editor

The end of the semester often feels like a game show titled: How Many Things Can You Do Before Heading Back Home? As you rush from dance capstones to an improv show, to the last acapella concert of the season it becomes a madcap effort to do all that is humanly possible, to “collect them all.” We speed walk across campus to make it to the last trivia night of the semester, as cherry blossoms float down around us.

Time is moving onwards. This week I received an email from the Office of Student Engagement, letting me know that caps and gowns had been stocked in the Bookstore. They urged us to pick them up whenever we could. When I walked out of the bookstore, package under my arm, I watched tours cross Cro Boulevard in large packs of parents and prospective students. I sent my mom some photos of me in my cap and gown that night and thought about my Camel Day tour years before, where I drank a Coffee Closet latte and got lost by the chicken coop by Sprout.

The end of the semester is often about goodbyes but also about moving forward. There is excitement in the possibility of the unknown, in the trees blooming by Fanning's mystery door, in registering for new classes, in warm nights as students cross the footbridge one more time.

So what is there to look forward to in this issue? Where should you flip the page?

On page 3, we interview Julia Graham '22 and Jordan Westlake '22 about their summer plans as celebrated recipients of Critical Language Scholarships from the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for ten weeks of study.

Ever noticed a trash fire on Tempel Green? Turn to page 14 for an interview with the legendary Blanche McCrary Boyd as she prepares for retirement after forty years at Connecticut College. The long-awaited interview is full of “zest, zhuzh, and pizzazz,” and is thoughtfully written by Jackie Chalghin '22 and Caoimhe Markey '23.

Catja Christensen '23 writes on the senior dance performances held last weekend in Palmer Auditorium for the first time since 2019, analyzing the varied stories told through costume, movement, and sound. Get a look at our coverage and Sydney Bryan '21's photojournalism on pages 12 and 13.

Hannah Foley '23 gives us a glimpse of the Connecticut Sun's preseason and tells us what is to come.

Eli Christopher '22 moves away from movie reviews and takes on a meatier subject in Issue 5. Here he interviews our 104th Commencement Speaker Emma Gould '22 about the selection process and the honor of getting her voice amplified for the entire community.

It's the end of April. Flowers are blooming and the seniors are on their way to Commencement. As you run to your next class, to a final club meeting, to the Palmer Grand Opening, I hope you take a moment to take it all in.

This is the fifth installment of *The College Voice* this semester. We hope you'll join us for just one more before we lock the office for the year. Interested in joining us? We're looking for editors! Follow us on Instagram @the\_collegevoice, find us on Connquest, or email us. All of us at *The Voice* can't wait to hear from you.

As always if interested in offering a correction or if you have further questions please email us at [eic@thecollegevoice.org](mailto:eic@thecollegevoice.org). I look forward to being together for a little longer.

Very Best,  
Amanda Sanders  
Your Editor-in-Chief

## 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.

AMANDA SANDERS '22

*Editor-in-Chief*

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## Conn Students Awarded Critical Language Scholarships

AMANDA SANDERS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the semester comes to an end, the senior class is beginning to stretch its wings. In the midst of applying for jobs, deciding on masters programs, and figuring out next steps, two Conn seniors will be headed abroad for the summer for intensive language study. Julia Graham and Jordan Westlake both received a Critical Language Scholarship from the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for ten weeks of study. Graham is a senior from Ann Arbor Michigan studying Psychology, Slavic Studies and Environmental Studies. She was also recently announced as a Winthrop Scholar, part of the top 3% of the 2022 class academically. Westlake, from Somerville Massachusetts, is a double major in History and Global Islamic Studies with a minor in Arabic Studies. Westlake is also a CISLA, the Center for International Studies and Liberal Arts, scholar. She was previously awarded the College's Robert E. Proctor Scholarship for Summer Language Study, awarded in support of supplemental Arabic language learning.

Both programs begin in June. Graham will be studying Russian in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. While it had been announced as a virtual program, it has been moved to be in-person, an exciting opportunity for the Russian language scholar. Westlake will be in Tangier, Morocco studying at the Arab American Language Institute.

The application process began in September. Students were notified if they were semi finalists on Jan. 20, and they were formally accepted in early March. "It felt amazing, I think I cried happy tears," Graham laughed. This isn't Graham's first time applying. "I actually applied in my first year for summer of 2019 and was rejected which ended up being fine. I went to Ukraine independently and found a host family on my own and had a great experience. I hadn't gotten in so it fell off my radar, but when I was applying to Fulbright, Melissa Ryan and [my academic advisor] Laura Little suggested I reapply as an option." This is Westlake's first time applying for the language scholarship. "I learned about it freshman year, and I've had it on my radar since then. I was thinking about fellowships all throughout college. I really wanted to do a fellowship abroad for Arabic partly to make up for the missed abroad experience that I didn't get through CISLA because of the pandemic. I've really made this my mission," she shared.



Julia Graham

Both students benefited from assistance from the Connecticut College Walter Commons, who looked over their applications. Westlake is most grateful for assistance from CISLA, who has paid for her private tutoring to make up for the small size of the Arabic department. "At times, studying

Arabic has been frustrating due to the few classes offered," she admits. "I don't think I would've chosen Arabic if I had known what a hassle it would be and how hard it would be to just get into classes." She is also grateful for the support offered through the Walter Commons and the fellowship system.

Graham credits the Slavic Studies department and Little to her success. "Conn has a really great Slavic Studies department, it's small but the faculty are super dedicated which is amazing. I have gotten a lot of one-on-one support." The Slavic Studies department has offered Graham many chances to do independent studies culminating in a senior integrative project surrounding Russian language. She also is grateful to assistance from the department's Fulbright assistant who offers students the opportunity to advance their Russian through one-on-one conversations.

"It seems like such a cool program because I love language. Obviously I'm a little nervous to go to a country I've never been to for two months. Even though I have a cohort, it seems a little scary but also exciting," Graham said. She is looking forward to the total immersion promised to her. The program pairs students with a language partner around their age and who are from the country where they will be studying. While students typically stay with host families, that has been paused due to Covid-19. Graham will be staying in a dorm-type home with other students. "I'm just excited for the experience and to get to learn about a new country," Graham said, her excitement palpable.

Westlake is most excited to improve her Arabic, a skill she has not gotten a chance to use outside of the classroom. She hasn't been able to take a formal Arabic class since her sophomore year. "I'm looking forward to language improvement and cultural immersion. I've never gotten this opportunity before and I've always wanted to do full language immersion. Now that I'm finally getting that, it will make the biggest difference," Westlake said, "I've never lived anywhere abroad or outside of New England so that will be amazing, this real shift in living experience," she concluded.

After their programs conclude, both students are looking towards the future. Westlake hopes to eventually go to graduate school for history or education. She is currently in the process of applying for jobs in education. Graham will be heading to Kazakhstan in the fall as a Fulbright scholar, where she will be teaching English. Afterwards, she has a job in Wisconsin with Epic Systems, a healthcare tech company, best known for MyChart. Eventually, she is planning to pursue psychology in some form or another involving graduate school. •



Jordan Westlake

## Camels Abroad: Zion Martin-Hayes

**Major(s), minors, centers, pathways:**

Dance and English double major, French minor, CISLA Scholar

**What program are you enrolled in?**

SATA: South Africa

**What made you choose this program? How have you adjusted to life?**

I wanted to go somewhere that wouldn't be familiar, so that I could get out of my comfort zone and find independence in getting to know other cultures and individuals on my own. Once I got used to people driving on the opposite side of the road and I felt like I could cross the street without dying, then I knew I had finally adjusted.

**Were there any clichés that were proven true or false?**

Yes, definitely! The second or third week of being here, Marc Zimmer, the professor of this particular SATA program, asked how we were all doing because he had heard that the hardest adjustment period came at the 2 and a half week point. I remember laughing in my head and thinking that even though I got Covid-19 within the first week, it was still the best experience of my entire life. Then not even 2 days after his check in, I freaked out. All of a sudden I felt exceedingly overwhelmed, and I finally understood what people meant by culture shock. Eventually I was totally fine, but it was a tough week for me and many of my peers who arrived at the same time. At least, I could find comfort in knowing that the adjustment was hard for everyone during that period.

**What is your housing situation? What is that like?**

I live in an apartment complex on campus. It feels too much like adulting. I definitely do indeed have to cook my own meals which basically means oatmeal for breakfast, salad for lunch, and pasta for dinner. On repeat. Then on the other hand it's not adulting at all because we need a fingerprint to get in the gate and to swipe a student card to get into the complex, and THEN we have a code to our door. Safety is obviously a huge priority, but if you want to have guests it is an absolute pain.

**What is a typical day like? Is it similar to Conn at all?**

This is a hard one, rarely do I wake up, go to class, eat, do homework, and go to bed. There is simply always something to do. I go surfing pretty much every week. There is always someone who wants to get brunch or coffee or lunch. I go out to the clubs/bars more often than I should, but here people go out unironically Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday/Saturday/Sunday (during the day). Work hard, play harder, I suppose. But definitely work hard! Very important!

**How has the pandemic affected your program? Did it affect your choices when applying?**

The pandemic basically meant that I could not use the Gilman Scholarship to go to France, so I switched to South Africa, relatively last minute. But even the SATA program nearly did not happen at all as a result of Covid-19.

**Are you involved in anything outside of classes?**

I surf. A lot. Try to surf. Still a lot.

**What is the best part of being abroad for you?**



*Photo courtesy of Zion Martin-Hayes*

The scenery. South Africa, particularly the western cape, where I am, is the only place in the world that looks the way it does in terms of biodiversity. And it's insane. I wake up to the sun rising from the mountains. The mountains meet the oceans. The ocean urges you into the city. The city lends itself to beautiful humans. And you watch the sunset go down with those beautiful humans. On repeat. The best part is that it feels like a dream.

**What is the biggest challenge?**

The biggest challenge is the difference in human interaction here than in the states. In particular, I have found the way that racism manifests in South Africa to be quite different from the states. It's more fresh, and less black and white, in many ways.

Trevor Noah describes Apartheid, the regime that governed South Africa until 1994, as "perfect racism...the most advanced system of racial oppression known to man." 1994 was 28 years ago; just 7 years before 9/11, the age of my brother, 7 years younger than the youngest age a person can become president in the U.S. It was not that long ago, so naturally, tensions still feel high. Especially in specific areas. It is a challenge that I should be used to, but it is something different here, and I have to largely navigate it on my own.

**What advice would you give to people preparing to go away?**

You know the aspects of college that still feel like high school? The cliques? The drama? Yeah, ignore that sh\*t, in general but especially when abroad. We all know that none of it matters in theory, but when you are in another country it would be an absolute shame to succumb to all of that ish. Wherever you go is simply too pretty.

You can never do enough research to know a place more than you could know it in one week of being there. This is not to say don't do your research, but try your best not to have expectations, and just be in the moment. Easier said than done, of course.

Recognize your positionality. You have a lot to offer as a human being to any interaction, but so does everyone else that you talk to. Take it all in.

**What do you think you would have liked to know that you know now?**

I think I would have actually liked to know less. I wish I came in with minimal information and an insatiable desire to be proven wrong. Unfortunately, I anticipated a little too much. •

# MAY 7, 2022

## IDK - SAMMY ADAMS

IYAZ - JOSHUA LANUARI - STARGYAL  
TRIPPY - SHE-J HERCULES - DLTZK -  
MALADO - TRASH RABBIT - MOBROC

## Camels Abroad: Jess Rush

**Major(s), minors, centers, pathways:**  
CISLA Scholar, triple major (English, poetry concentration; French; GSIS)

**What program are you enrolled in?**

I'm currently a student at Middlebury in Paris and the School of French Literature at Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3. Last fall I was at the University of Edinburgh.

**What made you choose this program? How have you adjusted to life in France?**

I chose to study abroad for the whole year in order to internationalize each of my majors, rather than be forced to pick one. I chose to study with the Middlebury program because I had faith in their reputation and wanted the immersive experience prior to my CISLA internship and future international endeavors. Furthermore, I'm a city person, so I much prefer this setting to my past residential situations in the states. I feel so lucky to have friends of all nationalities scattered around Europe and the UK who've made my adjustment seamless and my day-to-day life memorable.

**Were there any clichés that were proven true or false?**

Living in a city doesn't have to be expensive!

**What is your housing situation? What is that like?**

In Edinburgh I lived in a dorm. In Paris I live in a homestay in the 15ème! I'm just off a main metro line so I retain easy access to the city center whilst being able to practice my French outside of school and cook for myself.

**What is a typical day like? Is it similar to Conn at all?**

I'm a morning person, so I wake up early, make breakfast, and head off to class or a café to study. The weather's been beautiful recently so I'll pack a lunch and do some reading or writing at Palais Royale—my favorite garden—and might go to another café to finish up work as I prefer to reserve my nighttime hours for poetry and other long-term projects. Then, as I am a bit of a homebody, I'll take the metro home, grab a baguette or groceries for dinner, put on my '80s playlist, and have a quiet evening to myself.

**How has the pandemic affected your program? Did it affect your choices when applying?**

I've had several classes take place over Zoom this year, but as I've lived in urban settings, I'm able to meet with friends to study, café-hop, and cook together. I don't feel disconnected from my courses or classmates at all and I've been able to establish personal relations with all of my professors—quite useful in a foreign country where things can easily get lost in translation!

COVID was of course a consideration in my plans, and I have run into several travel- and visa-related obstacles over the months, but a little bit of finagling and a lot of health-cautiousness allowed me to sort it out in the end. I came to Conn with a very clear idea of what I wanted to do with my



Photo courtesy of Jess Rush

junior year, largely based on what my budget would allow and what would serve as the best foundation for my senior projects, and I feel so grateful every day that I'm getting to do everything I dreamed and even push the limits a little.

**Are you involved in anything outside of classes?**

I was a member of a poetry workshop in Edinburgh and I write for several magazines in the UK and Paris. I also try to shoot photos as often as I can, though there are months where my art has to take a backseat because my workload is too heavy. At the same time, my CISLA work is largely solo research so the line between semester and summer work has become relatively non-existent. Most days, however, you can find me spending an absurd amount of time strolling the city and searching in vain for iced coffee.

**What is the best part of being abroad for you?**

Having lived away from home since I was 14, the brunt of my adolescence was spent in an odd half-way space between pseudo-parental control and complete freedom 3000 miles from home. To finally be able to cook for myself, wake and work when it suits me best, design travel itineraries, make friends with strangers and disappear into the void of a place where my experience is mine alone, is the greatest gift.

**What is the biggest challenge?**

I often find myself feeling guilty for wanting a night in when I should be 'living it up abroad.' I try to remind myself that taking time to be my introverted self is just as important as experiencing the world.

**What advice would you give to people preparing to go away?**

You might not realize it immediately, but this is an experience (which is really thousands of tiny experiences) that will reshape your whole world. Make a bucket list and try to cross off one thing every week. Save money, but remember to splurge on the moments that will make you smile.

**What do you think you would have liked to know that you know now?**

That I will return nothing like the person I was when I boarded the plane, and that that is a beautiful thing. •

## Congratulations to the 2022 Winthrop Scholars from The College Voice

Cameron Lawrence Anglis  
Anna Stasia Bianchi  
Shani Breiman  
Quan M. Do  
Ellie Ebby  
Madison Ford  
Jordan Galloway  
Julia Graham

Quinn Kilmartin  
Jake Leone  
Nathaniel Palumbo  
Leslie Ruddy  
Sneh Shah  
Anjum Shaikh  
Caroline Stevenson



Courtesy of Connecticut College

Being named a Winthrop Scholar is the highest honor that Connecticut College students can receive. It is named for the founder of New London and former governor of Connecticut, John Winthrop. Winthrop Scholars are also included as members of Phi Beta Kappa, the national honor society of undergraduate higher education. •

## SGA Election Results

AMANDA SANDERS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On April 13, the Student Government Association announced the results for their executive board election. The Student Government Association works to preserve unity on campus between the faculty, the administration, and the Connecticut College Student body. At each election, 20% of fully matriculated students must vote for it to be a valid election. This does not include students currently abroad. In this election, 445 students voted, an increase of 36 students from the previous year. However, this is still a major decrease from the 2020-2021 election where 771 students voted. “I wish we could get more people to vote in the SGA Executive Board elections. Although we usually meet quorum pretty quickly during the first day of voting, I want more students to be invested in who is representing them to other parts of the college for the next academic year. But overall, elections were pretty smooth this year,” said outgoing SGA President Samirah Jaigardar '22.

The 2022-2023 SGA executive board will be made up of:

**President:** Hannah Gonzalez '23

**Vice-President:** Amaya Fokuo '24

**Chief of Finance:** Maddie Vanech '23

**Chief of Communications:** Sukrit Narang '23

**Chair of Academic Affairs:** Austin Robertson '23

**Chair of Equity & Inclusion:** Sabrina Akbar '23  
**Chair of Honor Council:** Ben Jorgensen-Duffy '23  
**Chair of Residential Affairs:** Shamar Rule '24  
**Chair of Sustainability:** Liam Rimas '23

The new executive board is looking forward to beginning their work. “As shared governance continues to face its challenges on campus, it’s important for students to understand how essential SGA is in ensuring that student concerns are heard at the highest levels of office at our college. Going into our next academic year, I want students to be involved with the governance process at Conn by staying attuned to the conversations SGA has every week about the state of student and campus affairs. SGA should be a platform for all student voices to be heard, and I’m hoping SGA’s newest Executive Board will be able to accurately represent the student body in our work with staff, faculty, and administration. Our Student Government Oath calls the SGA Executive Board and Assembly to make our Alma Mater greater, worthier, and more beautiful in all the work that we do. I take that sentiment as a challenge to always advocate for better College policies and practice, and I hope to answer that call with the support and direction of the entire student body,” stated incoming SGA President Hannah Gonzalez '23. •

## Emma Gould Announced as 2022 Commencement Speaker

ELI CHRISTOPHER  
ARTS EDITOR

Emma Gould '22 will be the senior class speaker at the Connecticut College Commencement Ceremony on May 22, 2022. Gould is an English major as well as one of the most decorated student writers on campus, winning the Academy of American Poets Prize in 2021, the Abrahms '75 Prize for Fiction Writing in 2022 as well as the Benjamin T. Marshall Prize for Excellence in Poetry in 2020 & 2022. In an effort to gain some insight into both how our class speaker was selected and what lies ahead for graduation, I interviewed Gould and inquired about her process of writing her commencement speech.

**What compelled you initially to take a shot at this? What led you to apply?**

“So I actually didn’t apply, I was nominated. I received an email a few months ago - and they told me I had been nominated and if I was interested in doing this further I should send a 500 word draft. I ended up writing a draft of a speech but I’ve never written a speech before so I was kind of just basing it off my experience doing other types of writing, which I’ve done a lot of at Conn.”

**What was the process like of being chosen to be the speaker?**

“One thing I did know at that point was that the submissions were going to be anonymous. So after they received all of the submissions from those who were nominated, a committee reviewed those and selected four finalists, and I was one of them. They told me if I would like to go further with this, I could meet with one of the Deans who would relay some notes from the committee who had read over my speech. At that point I was able to revise my draft based on their notes and open it up and make it as long as I wanted to make it.”

Gould continued,

“Then one day in April, the four finalists, one by one, went in front of a group of deans and a student committee and we had the opportunity to read our revised drafts and then about 30 minutes after I left I got a phone call and they asked me to come back and they asked me if I’d like to be the speaker.”

**Was there any particular part or component of your time at Conn that you tried to tap into when you wrote this speech? Was there a particular feeling that you wanted to convey in your speech or to your classmates and school?**

“Once I got into writing it, I realized that I might be well suited to be the speaker because as a writer and an artist at Conn a lot of what I do is observe. I don’t have any leadership positions on campus and I’m not always at the forefront of what’s going on, but I think I’ve spent a lot of time observing and

reflecting - I don’t want to speak for anyone or to convince anyone to feel a certain way about their college experience. I don’t aim to be didactic or to tell anyone how to feel, or what to take away from their time at Conn, rather I feel that the attention to witnessing and observing that I’ve gained in my work as a writer and artist might enable me to serve as a prism through which the lives and experiences of my peers might be reflected back to them and to the audience.

**Without giving too much away, did you cite any specific moments or memories you’ve had here at Conn?**

I try to focus on the power of the connections that we’ve made to each other and to this place. While the pandemic played a part in our time here, I try to avoid dwelling on what we lost to this unexpected challenge. Rather, I work to highlight the strength that our community has maintained and the perspective we’ve gained as we’ve moved through this adversity - I talk about our departure from Conn as a beginning rather than an ending. I note that while beginnings can be scary, they are also generative and exciting. I hope to illuminate the ways in which these values of connection and attention and reflection that we’ve been consciously or unconsciously cultivating might help



Photo Courtesy of Emma Gould

us all maintain a sense of groundedness and direction as we move into a new phase of life

At the end of the interview when I asked Gould about any resounding feelings she had, she added, “I was thankful to the committee and to everyone who has put time and care into this process. As an English major and a writer I spend a lot of time thinking about the power of language and speech, so I recognize the honor as well as the responsibility that comes with having my voice amplified in this way.” •

## Yet Another Request for Pro-Choice Masking

PETER GATTUSO  
STAFF WRITER

It's now been three weeks with the updated masking requirements on campus, but practically speaking, not a whole lot seems to have changed. Masks are still required in all classes, indoor events, dining halls, coffee shops, and healthcare facilities. Sure, masks are now optional in the library, residence halls, club meetings, the gym, and Crozier-Williams, but those are all places where students frequently went maskless prior to the policy update as they were not really enforced. While transitioning into pro-choice masking at select locations on campus was better than no mask update, many students wondered when they could finally attend a class maskless for the first time since March of 2020.

This past weekend, Connecticut College's COVID Academic Continuity Group finally responded, and laid out their overdue plan to transform to pro-choice masking in class rooms. Faculty may choose to poll the class on whether to make masking optional in the classroom. The kicker is that it takes just a singular student veto to keep mandatory masking. It is peculiar that Connecticut College opted for a minority-rule system, where one student can force an entire class to mask up, even though that student maintains the right to wear a mask if they so choose.

Regardless, mask mandates in classrooms have well overstayed their usefulness. Vaccines have been available to the public for over a year now, and nearly every student on campus is not only double-vaccinated, but boosted as well, reducing COVID death risk by 20-fold. Many students have even already contracted COVID—and some even more than once—offering additional protection. We now have as much protection against COVID as we can get.

For those who do not support masking forever, but support mask mandates now, at which future point will the transition happen? When COVID cases reach zero? Most experts believe that COVID will continue to be around for some time, not unlike the common cold and the flu, so zero cases is an unrealistic target. Maybe when COVID deaths reach zero? Well, that is already the case here in New London, where the seven-day average for deaths is zero.

To those jumping to retort that pro-choice masking policies are essentially experiments in human sacrifice, masking mandates may not have been as effective at suppressing COVID transmission as we first thought. A review of scientific literature on mask effectiveness from the Cato Institute reported two studies—one studying surgical masks and another studying cloth masks—which found that masks failed to significantly reduce transmission for either type.

Benjamin Franklin once quipped, "Guests, like fish, begin to smell after three days." The once necessary, now gratuitous masks are these fish; having served its purpose and become dispensable. Mask mandates on campus are seldom replicated elsewhere in the New London community. 85% of K-12 school districts in Connecticut have been pro-choice on masks for two months now. The state's top public university, the University of Connecticut, is one of many higher education institutions in Connecticut to have shifted to pro-choice classroom settings. If a student wishes to wear a mask, they should be able to make that decision for themselves and for it to be respected by others, but that sentiment must be replicated to students who choose to not wear a mask. •

## Student Art Exhibition



Left: "Mom" by Sydney Schiavo '23

Top: "Untitled" by Sydney Schiavo '23

Bottom Right: "Pushing Through" by Kat Carrion '22

Top Left: "Voyage of The Shells" by Milly Braddock '25





## How did the Lakers Get Here, and Where Do They Go Now?

FRITZ BALDAUF  
STAFF WRITER

“Keep talking about my squad, our personnel ages, the way he plays, he stays injured, we’re past our time in this league, etc etc etc. Do me one favor PLEASE!!!!

And I mean PLEASE!!! Keep that same narrative ENERGY when it begins! That’s all I ask.” This was the message Los Angeles Lakers’ superstar and future Hall of Famer LeBron James sent out via Twitter on Aug. 4, 2021 in response to a wave of criticism from the NBA media regarding the then-new makeup of the Lakers, who were looking to win their second championship in three seasons after capturing the 2020 title.

The criticism that James was responding to at the time was largely targeted at a series of moves for aging, injury prone, past-their-prime, former NBA All-Stars to fill out their roster such as 37 year old Carmelo Anthony, 36 year old Dwight Howard, 36 year old Rajon Rondo, and 33 year old Russell Westbrook (sorry, Westbrook). The Lakers’ trade for Westbrook in particular was what drew much of the ire of the NBA intelligentsia.

Like the players listed before, Westbrook was – and still is – a future Hall of Famer, and unlike the players listed before, has an NBA MVP Award to his name (2016-17). His pedigree was – and still is – undeniable, and is likely what seduced LeBron to convince Lakers General Manager Rob Pelinka to trade key rotation pieces from their 2020 championship team Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Kyle Kuzma to the Washington Wizards for the former MVP. What the James and the Lakers overlooked, however, was what almost every other NBA team and media member had realized over the past few years: Westbrook is a shell of the player he used to be, and is grossly overpaid (he makes nearly \$50 million per year, enough to take up nearly half of any team’s cap space). Not only that, but one of the first concerns that was raised by prominent NBA media members such as *The Ringer’s* Bill Simmons and *The Washington Post’s* Ben Golliver was that Westbrook would be a horrible on-court fit with the roster that the Lakers were putting together.

LeBron and Westbrook are both players that need the ball in their hands the majority of the time in order for them to be most effective. With most of the above average shooters from their 2020 team (Kuzma, Caldwell-Pope, Alex Caruso, and more) shipped off elsewhere to make room for Westbrook, Anthony, Howard and more, serious questions were raised about how effectively, if at all, the Lakers would be able to space the floor with their starting lineup, which in addition to James and Westbrook was going to feature multiple-time All-Star big man Anthony Davis, who is not much of a shooter either. Although James has developed into an effective outside shooter in the latter stage of his career, teams will always defend his ability to drive first and foremost. While James and Davis are average and below average shooters respectively, Westbrook has been a comically bad outside shooter for most of his career, and perhaps the bigger problem is despite his ability – or lack thereof – to shoot from beyond the arc, he still has attempted between three and seven three pointers per game over the past few seasons of his career, and plenty of other ill-advised, low percentage, long pull up two point shots.

Westbrook’s horrendous shooting numbers would have been less of an issue for Westbrook and the Lakers this season if Westbrook still possessed the otherworldly athleticism and ability to get to the rim that defined him in his prime on the Oklahoma City Thunder. That athleticism hasn’t been there in enough quantity for several

years now, and is a large part of the reason that his stint with the Lakers this season was Westbrook’s fourth team in as many years (2018/19 was his last season in OKC, he spend 19/20 in Houston, and 20/21 in Washington). Now Westbrook regularly misses layups when he drives to the bucket, and is often times so out of control when he drives that he would have games this year where he would have more turnovers than assists, which is not what you want from a point guard you’re paying nearly \$50 million per year on a team that had championship aspirations at the start of the year.

Despite all of the concerns raised before the season, James, Westbrook, Davis and the Lakers were confident that they could win a championship going into the season. Pelinka even told the team at a meeting before the season that they may be the greatest compilation of basketball talent ever on one team (a comical statement given the recent Golden State Warriors dynasty featuring Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Kevin Durant and Draymond Green all in their primes). Most of the sports gambling books in Vegas were also high on the Lakers, giving them some of the best odds to win the Western Conference and the NBA Finals going into the season.

The reality of how 2021/22 went for LA was worse than anybody could have possibly predicted. Even those most dubious of the Lakers clunky, aging and injury prone roster figured that at worst they would finish around the 6th seed, and lose in the first or second round of the playoffs against either a dominant Phoenix Suns team or a resurgent Golden State Warriors team.

The Lakers season started ominously with an opening night loss to Golden State, and was then marked by humiliating blown leads to bottom feeders like Oklahoma City, visible altercations on the bench between the stars, open frustration with Westbrook’s horrid shooting and turnover numbers, constant injuries to James and Davis, and the team clearly checking out on the head coach who had brought them a title just two years prior, Frank Vogel.

The Lakers were eliminated from contention for the Play-In tournament (not even the playoffs!) with two games left to go in the regular season, finishing 33-49, the worst output by a team featuring LeBron James since his rookie season with the Cleveland Cavaliers 19 years ago when he was one year out of high school. Despite the obvious concerns before the season, this comically dysfunctional Lakers squad has to go down as one of the worst disappointments in NBA history. It was a horror movie for Lakers fans, and a never ending source of entertainment for most other NBA fans. NBA intelligentsia and fans more than followed LeBron’s preseason request of “keeping that same energy.”

So where do the Lakers and LeBron go from here? Despite the one title they won in 2020, they have missed the playoffs entirely in two of the four seasons since LeBron’s much hailed arrival in LA. Next season isn’t looking much brighter. James will turn 38 halfway through last season, and although he is still incredible at his best, he’s shown signs of slowing down over recent years, and is no longer the injury proof Iron Man he was for much of his career, as he has missed significant time in three of the past four seasons. Davis is injury prone as always, and is often accused of being soft by much of the NBA media, both for his constantly being in and out of the lineup and his seeming lack of an alpha mentality. Westbrook is such a negative asset that LA should do everything in their power to trade him in the last year of his contract, but who will take him? He’s owed

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Article continued on page 10.

## Sports Spotlight

### Featured Team: Women's Tennis

4/10 @ Bowdoin L, 0-9  
4/23 vs. Williams L, 0-9

#### Upcoming Events:

4/30 @ Wesleyan, 2:00 pm  
5/1 vs. Trinity, 2:00 pm

#### Coaching Staff:

Jakob Klaeson, Head Coach

### Featured Team: Men's Tennis

4/10 @ Bowdoin L, 0-9  
4/23 vs. Williams L, 0-9

#### Upcoming Events:

4/30 @ Wesleyan, 10:00 am  
5/1 vs. Trinity, 10:00 am

#### Coaching Staff:

Jakob Klaeson, Head Coach

### Featured Team: Women's Lacrosse

4/16 vs. Bates W, 12-10  
4/23 @ Bowdoin L, 5-19

#### Upcoming Events:

4/27 vs. Wesleyan, 6:00 pm

#### Coaching Staff:

Lisa Vogeley, Head Coach  
Liz Cahn, Assistant Coach

### Featured Team: Men's Lacrosse

4/19 vs. Coast Guard W, 19-12  
4/23 vs. Bowdoin L, 16-124

#### Upcoming Events:

4/27 @ Wesleyan, 4:30 pm

#### Coaching Staff:

Jim Nagle, Head Coach  
Nate Babcock, Assistant Coach  
Nate Wheeler, Assistant Coach

### Featured Team: Women's Water Polo

4/21 vs. Carthage College L, 9-17  
4/22 vs. Penn State Behrend L, 15-19

#### Upcoming Events:

4/22 vs. Utica University, 6:00 pm

#### Coaching Staff:

Matt Anderson, Head Coach  
Jeff Passwater, Assistant Coach

### Featured Team: Men's Track and Field

4/9 @ Coast Guard Invite, 9th/10 Teams  
4/15 @ Silfen Invite, 7th/20 Teams

#### Upcoming Events:

4/30 @ Nescac Championship (Hamilton  
College)

#### Coaching Staff:

Luke Maher, Head Coach  
Emily Mauro, Assistant Coach  
Laura Nadelberg, Assistant Coach

### Featured Team: Women's Track and Field

4/9 @ Coast Guard Invite, 2nd/12 Teams  
4/15 @ Silfen Invite, 6th/21 Teams

#### Upcoming Events:

4/30 @ Nescac Championship (Hamilton  
College)

#### Coaching Staff:

Ned Bishop, Head Coach  
Emily Mauro, Assistant Coach  
Laura Nadelberg, Assistant Coach

### Featured Team: Coed Sailing

4/2 Marchiando TR, 12th/16 Teams  
4/16 Thompson FR, 10th/15 Teams

#### Upcoming Events:

4/30 @ New England COED Dinghy  
Championship

#### Coaching Staff:

Jeff Bresnahan, Head Coach  
Emilie Blinderman, Assistant Coach

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## How did the Lakers Get Here, and Where Do They Go Now?

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*Article continued from page 8.*

to the Westbrook contract in order to bait a team into a trade, since all of their young assets were traded away to acquire Davis three years ago and Westbrook last year. Their only first round picks for the rest of this decade are in 2027 and 2029.

This debacle of a season has helped lay bare what many of the more tuned in NBA insiders, fans and media members have more or less known for the last decade, something that was largely covered up by LeBron's arrival and their 2020 title in the NBA Bubble in Orlando: The Lakers are a rudderless mess, one of the most poorly run franchises in the entire NBA. Theoretically, they should have every advantage possible over other franchises. They are the league's most storied franchise of all time, it's most popular franchise, and they play in a huge media market with great weather year round in one of the league's best arenas. Yet they've only made the playoffs twice in the past nine years. Prior to James' arrival, the team bent itself over backwards to appease an aging

and washed up Kobe Bryant in the last years of his career, dished out massive, unearned contracts to mediocre players such as Luol Deng and Timofey Mozgov, and were a constant laughingstock of the league. What lured James to don the purple and gold was more the mystique of the franchise and the convenience of relocating his growing media empire from Cleveland to Los Angeles, nothing the Lakers did. The trade to acquire Davis was successful, but was more organized by LeBron and Davis's mutual agency, Klutch Sports, than the Lakers themselves. All of their moves around the edges since they won their 2020 title have been comically bad, from swapping out all of their most effective role players for LeBron's old timer friends like Carmelo Anthony, to letting fan favorite and defensive ace Alex Caruso walk, and culminating with the disastrous Westbrook trade.

To put the Lakers' situation in poker terms, they're pot-committed for the foreseeable future with a hand that is most likely drawing dead. So, as LeBron asked us to do nearly a year ago, we'll be keeping that same energy about this comically dysfunctional circus of an NBA team for a long time. •

## A Preseason Look at the Connecticut Sun

HANNAH FOLEY  
STAFF WRITER

The Connecticut Sun have kicked off their training camp and are gearing up for another run at the organization's first championship.

The 2021 regular-season champions were shocked in the semi-finals last year with a 3-1 series loss to the eventual league champions, Chicago Sky. The 2021 Sun team boasted the Most Valuable Player, Most Improved Player, and Coach of the Year on their squad, but for the second time in the past 5 years, they couldn't finish the job of bringing home a championship to Connecticut. As they say though, third time's a charm, and that's exactly what General Manager/Head Coach Curt Miller is hoping for.

The Camel community has been engaged in multiple ways with the Sun organization. Currently, the College's Strength & Conditioning Coach, Analisse Rios, is starting her third season as the Head Strength & Conditioning Coach for the Sun. Rios said, "One of the reasons I love my job so much is that I love the challenge of taking elite athletes to a new level through strength training." And she does exactly that. Rios's job is not only to help players during the season with their fitness, but also out of season: "I think many of the returning players have bought into consistent strength training during the WNBA off-season so I think there will be many who look stronger, faster, and more powerful than last season."

Two members of the class of 2022, Jenna Whelan and Audrey Shaev, are currently interns with the Sun and have received offers to continue working with the organization through the summer. Whelan is an intern in the Communications and Public Relations department, and Shaev is a Graphic Design Intern. "I think this season is going to be super special," said Shaev. "We have the core of our team coming back, along with the addition of All-Star Courtney Williams who helped lead us to the finals in 2019. I think we're all expecting nothing less than a championship this season."

Whelan agreed, adding "We have really high expectations for this upcoming season... with an early loss in the postseason, I feel like the team has a lot of unfinished business that they are ready to prepare for and achieve this year. The front office and staff have been working

extremely hard to get ready for the start of the season and I think that competition is just getting stronger and stronger, so this season is going to be a really great thing to be a part of."

English Professor Blanche Boyd has been a season ticket holder with the Sun for roughly 15 years. Her children used to walk around the stadium boasting their season ticket holder badges as little kids, and now

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*Article continued on page 11.*



Photo Courtesy of Hannah Foley

## A Preseason Look at the Connecticut Sun

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*Article continued from page 10.*

they're graduating college with a continued love of sports, especially women's basketball. When asked what she is expecting out of this season, Professor Boyd said, "I think Alyssa Thomas is gonna set the world on fire! And DeWanna Bonner, both of them together...I think it's going to be fantastic." Thomas has been battling injuries the past few years but was playing in games again by the end of last season, so fans are excited to see what she can do at full strength again.

In the offseason, Miller and his staff (which includes team President Jennifer Rizzoti and Director of Franchise Operations Morgan Tuck, both former UConn basketball stars) re-signed 2021 MVP Jonquel Jones, as well as Natisha Hiedeman, Stephanie Jones, Beatrice Mompremier, and former crowd favorite Courtney Williams. Williams was traded after the 2019 season but two seasons later she has returned. "I am very excited to work with her this season," said Rios. "She left the team right before I started working with the Sun, but I know she is a very explosive and powerful player who only gets better with each season."

Miller also extended training camp contracts to seven players who were either free agents, playing overseas, or went undrafted in the 2022 draft. Training camp contracts last until the first day of the regular season when the teams either cut them or their contracts become 1-year, minimum salary contracts. Teams are capped to 12 players or

\$1,379,200 in total team salary for the 2022 season, whichever comes first. Most teams who sign training camp players aren't actually able to sign them for full season contracts because of the salary cap, but teams are able to pick up a player during the season if they are given a hardship exception by the league, so training camp is a sort of tryout for the on-call slot for the team. Since the start of training camp last Sunday, April 17, Miller has waived three players from camp in his efforts to get the roster down to 12 by the start of the season.

On Monday, April 11, the WNBA Draft was held in New York City and players from all over the world were drafted. The Sun drafted Nia Clouden, Jordan Lewis, and Kiara "Kiki" Smith.

"Nia Clouden from Michigan State was a first-round pick and brings a lot of versatility in being able to score in lots of different ways," said Whelan. "Jordan Lewis coming in from a grad year at Baylor has a lot of defensive energy and great basketball IQ, and Kiki Smith, although suffering from injury currently, also had an incredible college career."

Shaev added, "All of the rookies are very promising and it'll be interesting to see how the roster shapes out and who can come in and make an immediate impact on an already talented team."

No matter who makes the roster, the Sun are expected to have a championship-caliber team. The home opener of the WNBA regular season will be Saturday, May 14 at Mohegan Sun, the perfect night out before finals ramp up. Tickets are on sale now. Good luck to the Sun this season and our Camel family involved! •

## The Running Spirit That Soared: Malissa Lindsey

NEFERTARI PIERRE-LOUIS  
MARKETING MANAGER

Years before the length of a 400-meter track became her second home, Malissa Lindsey '23 was told she had a "running spirit." I sat opposite the proud Chicago girl as she remembered a Saturday in Millennium Park. "It's a funny story. I was actually running from my mom, like any child would." Her light humor and amiability gave our formal interview the appearance of two best friends grabbing coffee before class. "I remember the guy who found me. He brought me back to my mother and told her I had a running spirit."

To a child who had just strayed far from parental supervision, a "running spirit" sounded like two big adult words for "you're in a lot of trouble;" But, to a much older Lindsey, who has now broken four track and field records in her Connecticut College career, those words sound more like a prophecy.

Two falls ago, having just matriculated into Connecticut College, a first-year Lindsey was assigned a freshman-esque writing prompt: "In a paragraph or less, describe one goal you'd like to accomplish."

"I remember I was thinking about track...I wrote down that I wanted to break a school record by my junior year."

I gave a proud nod, acknowledging that she'd just broken a record in February. "You broke a record two months ago...that's amazing. And it happened during your junior year, just like you wrote." The all-star sprinter shifted humbly

in her chair, my congrats were premature. "Actually, I broke my first record a few months after writing that goal...as a freshman."

At the Wesleyan Tri-Meet, Dec. 6 of 2019, Malissa Lindsey ran the 60-meter dash in 8.22 seconds. It was more than a personal best, it was a collegiate-best. The peaking freshman toasted to an achievement she deemed "likely to never happen again," becoming a testament to how being wrong is, sometimes, better than being right. "I broke the 200-meter school record at The BU Invitational a few months later," she said, "I couldn't believe it."

Lindsey would cap her maiden track season, having exceeded the expectations she set for herself, with two collegiate records and a rejuvenated sense of abilities. "I remember telling myself that this was just the beginning." It was the opening number of what would be a promising curtain call for Lindsey four years down the line, only, her propitious beginning was months away from colliding with the beginning of a record-breaking streak far worse, one which recorded deaths and ricocheted through the world unbiasedly. The beginning of a global pandemic.

On March 11 of 2020, in a campus-wide email sent from President Katherine Bergeron, students were asked to vacate their dorms and return home.

"Track season ended, for what we thought would be a couple months. Next thing you know, we hadn't competed in over a year."

Read the rest online at [thecollegevoice.org](http://thecollegevoice.org) •



Photo Courtesy of Malissa Lindsey

## From Pyschedelics to the State of this Union: Dance Capstone Rewind

CATJA CHRISTENSEN  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Time whisked by in Palmer Auditorium as the six senior dance majors successfully presented their capstone performance, “If We Could Turn Back Time,” performed in the newly renovated Palmer Auditorium on Apr. 21, 22, and 23. Seniors Mary Fitzgerald, Lucie Hdef, Juana Lopez Alvarez, Molly McGovern, Sam Siewertsen, and Elisabeth Wales developed original choreography in the Capstone course taught by Professor David Dorfman '81. Professor Rachel Boggia and Guest Artist Lauren Horn also debuted their works, rounding out the concert with a mix of movement genres, themes, and thrilling stage design. Students from Professor Shawn Hove's production class facilitated the technical intricacies, and lighting designers David DeCarolis and Yichen Zhou joined from Yale University School of Drama to illuminate the stage.

Boggia's “Canyon” opened the show with a cast comprised entirely of senior dance majors and minors. Dressed in layers of sheer, velvet, and metallic golden earth-toned costumes, created by Professor Heidi Henderson, the dancers regally commanded the space, floating and swirling like autumn leaves. Adjunct Instructor of Music Katie Kennedy sat downstage with her cello, playing live music with an accompanying recorded score. Boggia, the Associate Fellow for Curriculum for the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology, and Professor Richard Schenk, the department musician, experimented with loop pedals and a solo cello, developing the rich score that enveloped the auditorium with a wash of warm tones.

Flourishing skirts and precise rhythmic footwork followed in Lopez Alvarez's “Por la Fuerza nos Fuimos, Con Fuerza Seguiremo,” a lively piece honoring her Mexican heritage and immigrant history. Her cast was composed of BIPOC dancers with a wide range of experience and involvement in the dance department. The iconic skirts, sewn by Lopez Alvarez with assistance from myself, were personalized with fabric chosen by the cast. The dancers stood side by side and lifted their voluminous skirts to form a barrier that Izzy Sala '24 struggled to cross, symbolizing the border many immigrants struggle to cross. Joyous dancing, including the four male dancers swishing squares of fabric and partnering the women, was permeated with more poignant tableaux and spoken word reminders of the painful system that “is not sensitive to emotions, community, and individuals.” She adds, “It's also a memory of the loved ones we've left behind and how we continue to live our lives for them by planting the seeds they gave us in a new spot of soil. Adjusting and surviving.”

Up next, recordings of voicemails played on a dimly lit stage, ranging from enthusiastic birthday greetings to checking on your perpetually late friend to gushing about “the cutest girl” you saw at the club to friendships drifting apart. Fitzgerald's “so... am I the drama?” explored communication, fluctuating relationships, and “all the drama” of life through the unexpected mundanity of voicemails. The sound score shifts from the recordings to a groovy tune, and dancers brought to life the moments described in the recorded messages. Some pairs shared a warm embrace while others drifted apart, exemplifying the rollercoaster of life's dramas.

Just before intermission, “ALARMED.” dazzled the crowd with a flashy pink wake-up call. In typical McGovern style, she graced us with a high energy jazzy number with even higher legs. Dancers clad in hot-pink tank tops that matched McGovern's signature hair embodied feminine strength and power. The dance began with machine-like movements, with dancers working as one unit to create large-scale patterns. When the beat dropped on the second section, the stage was flooded with vibrant rosy light, and the vibe shifted to dynamic, spirited energy that combined machine-like unity with bursts of individuality and partnership. With choreography that begins with Haley Michel '24 performing the most sumptuously slow push-up and ends with the group planking after a powerful, sharp unison phrase (and a spotlight on Michel reprising her push-up), McGovern accomplished her ferociously feminine goals.

After the break, 13 dancers walked across the stage, heads down, typing furiously on phones that illuminated their faces. This opening scene to Horn's “Swipe Cycle” was the epitome of youth glued to their screens. Suddenly,

an intense driving beat signals their bouncing bodies. A fast-paced, highly physical sequence ensued, followed by an equally rapid section that included forceful movement, rapid footwork, and impressive flexibility (looking at you Anna Zarzecki '23). A climactic dance fight scene featured progressively more precarious stumbles onto the floor, notably from Sophie Barr '23, whose jaw-dropping crash was a



Courtesy of Genevieve Kuhlmann

feat of immense control and fearlessness that made viewers audibly gasp. The frenzied beginning of the piece diminished as the dancer put down their phones for the first time, culminating in a calm, gentle section that revealed the natural beauty of humanity unattached to technology. However, this utopia didn't last long as the dancers lined up, picked up their phones, and began frantically typing as the lights blacked out. The phone light lit their focused faces once more.

In another spectacular merging of art and technology, Hdef's fusion of psychedelic visuals and movement inspired by personal experiences dancing at festivals set “Selfocracy dans la Rose” apart. Psytrance music and festivals, which “symbolize a place of security and self-reflection” for Hdef, helped shape the movement and visuals. The screen backdrop featured surrealist projections that felt deeply integrated with the movement as it drove the narrative. Hdef says, “This piece unfolds a conflicted father-daughter relationship,” demonstrated by the formidable partnership between herself and Moqu Alqudah '23, “with the ambiguity of hope for reconciliation and [her] sister's cancer.” Her sister appeared in several moments in the abstract visual designs. The supporting cast, also including dancers of mixed backgrounds and experiences, formed large circles around the duo with pulsating and piercing motions, slowly rotating like a planetary system around Hdef's sun.

Siewertsen's “that's how life goes...” juxtaposed Hdef's rich visuals and layers of props, costume changes, and unique music with a stripped-down, movement-focused dance. The first half of the piece cut in and out with three different songs, with sections of silence in between. The strains of silence created tension with every pause and highlighted the dancers' technically precise movements. The dance finally found release when the final R&B song played in full, and the dancers mixed groovy movement, unison moments, and intricate choreographic phrases. The dancers demonstrated a deep aptitude for Siewertsen's distinctive easy-going yet rigorous movement style.

Swearing an oath has never been sexier. Wales's politically and humorously charged grand finale, “This Union,” opened with recorded poetry written by Shawnia Yon '24 and yours truly with accompanying solos in front of the blue velvet curtain. But as soon as the beat dropped and the curtain rose, the largest cast of the evening appeared. The all-women cast shouted phrases only ever said by male leaders in the US government, such as “in the state of this union.” But sprinkle in some theatrics from Lovisa Werner '22 calling “to my fellow citizens!” and Dale Lippincott '23 interjecting with the most melodramatic “or should I say my fellow women!” and it becomes evident that Wales reimagines politics to be consciously humorous, powerful, and even a little sensual. A portion of the cast, featuring Bella Donatelli '24, more seriously explored the concept “wouldn't it be nice...” and the solidarity between women in leadership.

A final senior slideshow of baby photos and memories from the past four years sealed the emotional ending to the show, with the seniors giving a final bow while jamming out to Cher's “If I Could Turn Back Time.” •

## "If We Could Turn Back Time"

*All photos courtesy of Sydney Bryant*



*Top Left: "Canyon" by Professor Rachel Boggia*

*Top Middle: "Por la Fuerza nos Fuimos, Con Fuerza Seguiremo" by Juana Lopez Alvarez*

*Middle: "Swipe Cycle" by Guess Artists Lauren Horn*



*Bottom Left: "Selfocracy dans la Rose" by Lucie Hdef*



*Top Right: "ALARMED." by Molly McGovern*

*Bottom Right: "Canyon" by Professor Rachel Boggia*



## Write Something Good That Matters – Writer-in-Residence Blanche Boyd Returns After Forty Years

JACKIE CHALGHIN  
CAOMHIE MARKEY  
EDITORS

Blanche McCrary Boyd brings a butane lighter and metal trash bin to the first day of all her writing classes. She tells students to write on a piece of paper something they would never want anyone else to see. After a few meditative minutes, she leads the class outside, places the bin at the top of Tempel Green, tells students to toss in their writing, and lights a flame. The writing students had been most afraid to set down turns to ash. “I want students to know their writing belongs to them.”

She arrived to her first day of teaching at Connecticut College in 1982, newly sober, with wild, wind-strewn hair, blue jeans with the knees torn out, smoked glasses, and what the then-head of the English department called “the dirtiest shoes he had ever seen.” By then, at thirty-five, she had already published two novels: *Nerves* in 1973, and *Mourning the Death of Magic* in



Courtesy of Blanche Boyd

1977, which she has since disowned. Boyd went on to publish three more novels and a collection of autobiographical journalism during the span of her forty year career as a professor and writer in residence at Conn.

Despite her history as an accomplished writer, Boyd does not gloss over the hard work involved in success. Her advice to aspiring writers is “Stop if you can.”

Many of her students choose not to stop. Boyd feels as though she has had “more impact as a teacher than a writer.” In her office, there is a shelf comprised entirely of published work by her former students. That list includes David Grann, Sloane Crosley, and Jazmine Hughes.

Boyd often tells her students there are two ways a writer must read: as a reader, and as a writer. A reader allows themselves to experience the story, and a writer returns afterward to examine how the author achieved their intended effect.

One of Boyd’s teaching methods is to read literature aloud in class, and encourages students to do so in their own time. She often teaches from the works of Tobias Wolff, Lorrie Moore, and Raymond Carver. She mimics the ways in which she wants students to read, first reading stories from start to finish so that they wash over students; then, she returns to the text and illuminates techniques.

Another common assignment is to submit a page of anonymous work,

which Boyd then shuffles through and reads throughout class. Hearing work aloud, esteemed literary work in junction with student classwork, attunes the ear to details and clarifies the quality of the work. In rare, formative moments, students have the opportunity to see how their work moves others. “When I was young, I heard *Riders to the Sea* by John Millington Synge read out loud. I felt something at the back of my spine, like I had no idea anybody could make me feel like this by writing. And I wanted to do it.”

It was after she heard *Riders to the Sea* that she began devoting time to reading and engaging with literature, and cites *Pale Horse, Pale Rider* and *The Jilting of Granny Weatherall*, by Katherine Anne Porter, and *Tell Me a Riddle* by Tillie Olsen as lifelong favorites, some of which she still assigns for students to read to this day.

Beyond her career as an author, Boyd has had a life full of twists and turns. She attended Pomona College for her bachelors degree and received her masters by way of the Stanford Stegner Fellowship in 1971. During this time she relapsed into alcohol and drug addiction. She divorced her husband, moved to Vermont to join a commune, and then moved to New York to become a writer for *The Village Voice*. She lives and writes through the lens of a “lesbian alcoholic,” and has been told by Rita Mae Brown, “You hit rock bottom and came up laughing.”

“Life is hard,” said Boyd seriously. “I hope my children never find out.” Boyd has two children with her wife Leslie, twins who are both scheduled to graduate from college the same week she plans to retire, setting her up for three total graduation ceremonies in a seven day period.

“What’s killing me is I’m going to miss the opening game of the Connecticut Sun,” Boyd said, a comment characteristic of her wry humor.

The prospect of retirement itself doesn’t faze Blanche in the slightest, who, when asked how she feels about leaving her teaching days behind, simply said, “I’m ready.”

“I have no idea what I’m going to do,” she admitted. “I wouldn’t mind writing something that’s happy.”

One thing Boyd will miss beyond any doubt, however, is the connections she’s been able to make with her students, not just as writers, but as people. “I love teaching. I feel like I’m able to give what I wish I had gotten. The kind of belief in literature and that I care about my students as individuals. I think, or at least hope, that most of my students feel seen. For some people that’s uncomfortable, and for some it’s like okay, she’s listening to me. And I am. I’m really listening.” •



Courtesy of Blanche Boyd

Guess the TCV Graduate!

Z&C

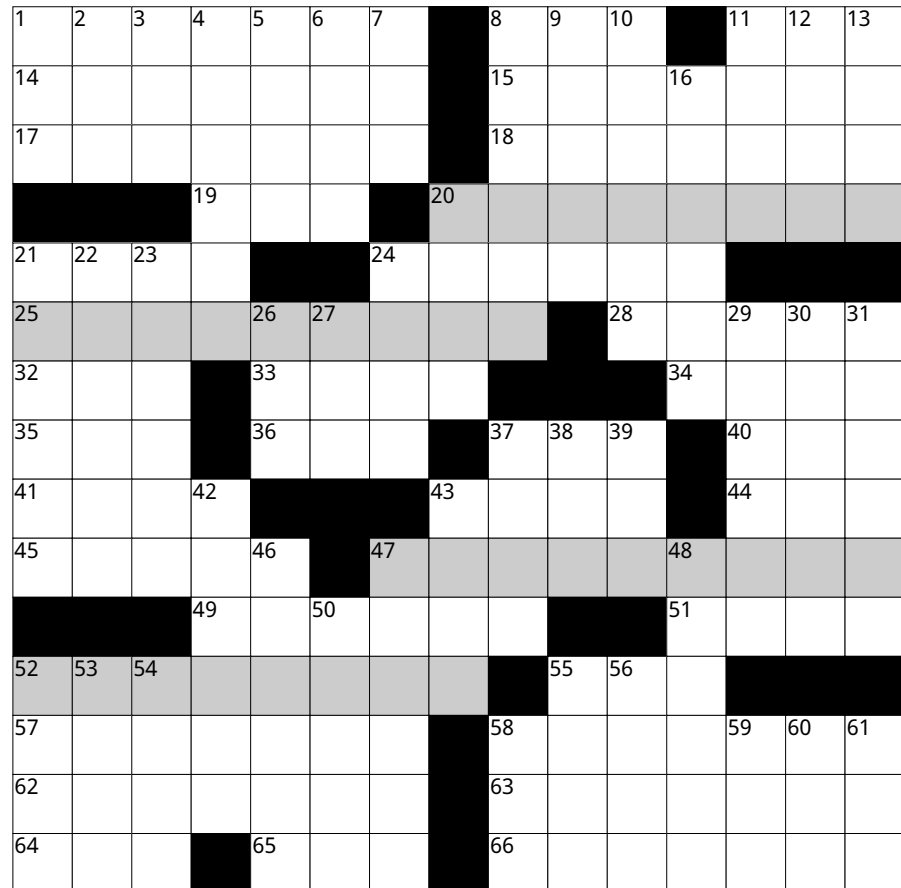
**ACROSS**

- 1 Editor going to graduate school for creative writing
- 8 Frat letters
- 11 Chronic condition often worsened by lactose, Abbr.
- 14 Put forth
- 15 Narcotics
- 17 Music festival body sparkle
- 18 Program for 1st gen and first-years of color at Conn
- 19 Boxing wins, Abbr.
- 20 "Bravo!"
- 21 Nadal's nickname
- 24 Editor and queen of unsanctioned instagram takeovers
- 25 Opinion piece
- 28 Obsessive anime fan
- 32 Gandalf actor, McKellen
- 33 "\_\_\_ the word"
- 34 Biblical garden
- 35 Avatar animation style, Abbr.
- 36 Director of "French Dispatch", Anderson
- 37 Editor also known as the infamous host of trivia night
- 40 FDR or JFK
- 41 Sssssee 13 down
- 43 Snape actor, Rickman
- 44 Location of mud baths and cucumber slices
- 45 Self-proclaimed "best looking" member of TCV
- 47 Class of '22 in June
- 49 Tourist destination in Iceland, Blue \_\_\_\_\_
- 51 Surname of editor and "Banana Boy" Director
- 52 "Best of luck!"
- 55 UAE time zone

- 57 Houdini feats
- 58 Editor and author of "The Legend of Mattress Mack"
- 62 Least strict
- 63 "Blitzkrieg Bop" Band
- 64 9 digit ID
- 65 \_\_\_ Speedwagon, band with trouble fighting a feeling
- 66 The Three Toed Sloth ranks #1 in this category

**DOWN**

- 1 Photo file type
- 2 "You've got mail" service
- 3 15 season forensic TV show
- 4 "Have a break" candy
- 5 Leave-Beaver connection
- 6 Beekeeper has many of these
- 7 Rank below capt.
- 8 Offside scoring
- 9 Ivy League Quaker
- 10 To start a Solfège scale you must...
- 11 "\_\_\_ bird! \_\_\_ plane!"
- 12 "Alright", "So \_\_\_"
- 13 The sibilant sound of a slithering snake
- 16 Infuse oxygen
- 20 Attendees may include: Carrie Underwood, The Chicks, and Kenny Chesney
- 21 Old German governments
- 22 A slow tempo
- 23 Complete
- 24 Goals
- 26 You might text this with your ETA
- 27 "You will \_\_\_ this day" - Nevel Papperman
- 29 Contributes



- 30 Oliver Wood and Ron Weasley played this Quidditch position
- 31 We are allowed to \_\_\_ in Cro, the library, and dorms
- 37 Momentum in Lyon
- 38 A British fella
- 39 Shiba \_\_\_ (dog breed)
- 42 Pico de Gallo, Roja, and Verde
- 43 Yankee who retired with 2,086 R.B.I.
- 46 A toddler and college kid may share this title, "best \_\_\_"
- 47 Heads for
- 48 UN Campaign for individual climate action
- 50 "\_\_\_ have teeth on their tongues?!"
- 52 Original muscle cars of the 60s, designed by Pontiac

- 53 Grizzlies in Asturias
- 54 Pest control brand
- 55 Heung-Min Son is the top \_\_\_ scorer at Tottenham Hotspur this season
- 56 Jane: Shmane, Joe: \_\_\_\_\_
- 58 MLK, Robert Downey, and Harry Connick
- 59 About face from SSW
- 60 Word of consent
- 61 Puerto Rico and Nova Scotia have this in common, Abbr.



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