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THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER, SINCE 1977

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023

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"Rooted in Love": Getting to Know Mehin Suleiman, the 2023 Commencement Speaker

CATJA CHRISTENSEN
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Graduation is just a week and a half away, and seniors are preparing their caps and gowns for the big day. However, Mehin "Meggie" Suleiman is preparing something even grander: her commencement speech. Out of five finalists who submitted speech drafts and presented them to the commencement committee, comprised of student, faculty, and staff leaders, Suleiman was selected to represent the Class of 2023 on May 21, 2023. The Biochemistry Cellular Molecular Biology and Hispanic Studies double major and CISLA scholar spoke to The College Voice to tell us a bit about their background, interests, and themes that will be included in the speech. Suleiman's quotes were edited and pulled for concision from the full-length interview.

TCV: Tell me about the selection process and what inspired you to submit a speech.

MS: "I've always loved writing, which is something I don't talk about very much because I am a Biochemistry major. That's, I think, a huge reason why I went the route of Hispanic Studies being a second major because I've always loved reading, I've loved writing; it was a huge coping mechanism for me when I first moved to the U.S. when I was having a hard time."

"I think throughout college, I didn't get that fix of being able to write as much as I wanted to. And I knew that I'm about to close out my senior year and this is something like being able to tap into my love for writing before I graduate. I felt like it would be a good homage to how multi-faceted my interests are."

"I read All About Love by bell hooks, and it kind of formulated my outlook on life. I think with COVID and everything, I think a lot of us felt like we were lost in terms of our self-identity and terms of what our purpose is and what's next. And that book really outlined how I want to live my life, and that's through love."

"I felt like this was the perfect opportunity to share such a simple but also such an important and guiding message to as many people as I could on such an important day and that is that love is an action. It is not a noun. Love is demonstrated by the things that you do, the things that you say, the way that you care for others, the way that you care after yourself. Those [create] a fundamental basis of how to live my life, and I feel like we need a little bit more of that in the world."

"[I felt] like I need[ed] an outlet to write. And so I wrote [my speech]. And I was telling my friends, 'I don't even know if it's going to get selected, and if it doesn't, you know what, I'll just read it out to my family over dinner the night of graduation. So it was very non-attached. So, I just sent it in, and then I get an email that I was selected for like the top five. And

Article continued on page 3.

New London's Dutch Tavern is Witness to a Changing City

LUCIE ENGLEHARDT
MANAGING EDITOR

The memories that cling to the interiors of the Dutch Tavern bar instantly take me to my grandfather's pool room, where a similar Guinness beer pelican and 1920's baseball paraphernalia decorated its well-loved walls. The familiar rust red "Miller High Life" can is a family memory etched in me, and the same ones shelved at the tavern are emblematic of its beloved antique quality.

Unlike my grandfather's basement, however, Dutch Tavern is a cash-only local watering hole marked by its old school charm. You'd miss the place if you weren't looking hard enough, nestled in the narrow Greene Street with the soft fluores-

Article continued on page 9.

In This Issue



Photo courtesy of Haley Lowenthal '25

Dance Department's Capstone Show Sends Off Beloved Seniors

In four performances from April 20 to 22, the Dance Department celebrated and sent off the largest known class of Dance majors that Connecticut College has ever seen.

See Page 11



Photo courtesy of Haley Pemberton '23

Camels Host NEISA Championship, Sail into Nationals

For the second straight season, both the Connecticut College Coed and Women's Sailing teams have qualified for the Inter-collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) Fleet Racing National Championships.

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Letter From the Editors

Unlike our last issue, it is a warm and sunny post-Floralia morning — our final layout Sunday of the year. It is a bittersweet day for our nine seniors, including yours truly, but we are ready to pass the torch to our worthy successors. We honor our graduates with a special crossword and baby photo spread in this issue.

May is the month of many memories. It is graduation month, with the big day only a week and a half away. While finals loom, the weather has finally turned, the flowers have fully bloomed, and students will be taking in every minute before the conclusion of the semester. After grappling with the difficult semester, a successful Floralia has kicked off the sprint toward graduation. Student bands rocked the mid-day slot, while headliners Leondis, Lute, and B.o.B concluded a day to remember.

This month includes May the fourth be with you, Cinco de Mayo, and Mother's Day. It is also Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, which feels even more pertinent following this semester's protests focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion at Conn. Asian Students in Action (ASIA) rebooted ConversASIANS, which creates a space for students of Asian descent to engage in conversations about race, identity, and community.

Exploring identity and heritage was a theme across many departments, including the Dance Department's annual senior capstone concert. Senior Arts Editor Caoimhe Markey wrote a heart-warming review of the show, featuring Yeseri Rosa Vizcaino's piece about the African diaspora in the Caribbean and my own (Catja's) piece honoring my Filipino heritage.

This edition also includes a preview of the upcoming WNBA season, written by Senior Sports Editor Hannah Foley, a true insider who will be working for the Connecticut Sun after graduation. Fellow Sports Editor Fritz Baldauf highlights his sailing team, who has qualified for nationals at the end of May.

This edition marks the end of an era for the nine seniors on our TCV staff. This group has dedicated years to leaving The Voice in a better place than we found it, and has redefined student journalism at Conn. Enjoy the spread dedicated to our seniors on the back of this final edition.

Signing off,
Sam Maidenberg and Catja Christensen, Co-Editors in Chief



Photo courtesy of Zoe Dubelier '23

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.

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"Rooted in Love": Getting to Know Mehin Suleiman, the 2023 Commencement Speaker

Article continued from page 1.

suddenly, I was like, "Oh my gosh, wait a second, I might actually be on stage in front of my parents [who] moved to this country 12 years ago and see their eldest daughter on the stage on the day of their graduation."

"Every time I recited, even when I'm just practicing [the speech], I just feel it and I feel it because I stand behind it; It's the kind of thing that I can look back on at any point in my life and I think I will agree with everything that I say, which is a really lovely feeling. It's a timeless feeling."

TCV: What are some themes you will address in your speech?

MS: "Love is something that's worth fighting for, and [...] I think love can be demonstrated in ways that oftentimes don't directly read as love, and I think the protests are something that I really want to touch on because it was, I would say, a very pivotal moment during my time at Conn. Like just the moment where you feel a sense of belonging."

"That was a moment where I felt genuine pride to be a part of the student body because I felt like there was a sense of like relatedness, like the way that I had been feeling for so long wasn't an isolated feeling, that everyone around me felt the same way. And demonstration of that frustration comes from a place of love. I am 100% sure of that, and I think even just activism in general, although it might not seem like it from the outside, it's a reflection of love. It's love in its purest form because it is activism: you are acting on that love, and I felt so much love. Just standing outside Fanning and seeing all of the student body coming together to support one another; that is the purest form of love. I felt so much so much pride. So I think that's what I want to say. Love is worth fighting for, and I think that's what we fought for during the protests."

TCV: What are some of your favorite Conn memories?

MS: "There's a couple of things, but it's active service. I think any sort of acts of service that I have done during my time, and I think working at the Coffee Closet is a really big one. I remember my sophomore year, when I worked there, I would have really early morning shifts. It was a pain to wake up every morning, but I was just so excited to be working at this coffee shop that I loved so much, which now I manage, which is so funny. I just loved making people coffee in the morning and just like seeing them [...] I love coffee myself, and that first cup of coffee in the morning, it's just so lovely, and it's what gets me out of bed. And just seeing students on their way to class, grabbing a cup of coffee that I've made them, I love so much. I'm from Azerbaijan, and for Middle Eastern culture it's a big part of my growing up. Making food for other people or making someone something to drink is just the most gratifying thing. And I just feel like I got to really express that by just like making yummy drinks for my, for my cohort. It was something that I love, and I love it to this day."



Photo courtesy of Mehin Suleiman '23

TCV: What are your post-grad plans?

MS: "I'm pre-med, so med school is on the horizon for me. [...] So my plan is [that] I'll be working at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and I'm working in Peter, Kwong's lab. He specializes in structural biology, and his lab is essentially trying to find a way to create a vaccine for HIV. I will be a post-bac researcher in their lab and [will] hopefully get some papers published and learn a lot in a high-intensity lab environment and really prep and get in gear for med school."

TCV: Any sage words of wisdom to pass onto the next generation of camels?

"We don't live in a perfect world. We really don't. Oftentimes, it's very easy to run into situations where your ethics and your morals

are going to be put to the test, and I think that as we get older, the more frequently that's going to happen. I think at that point you have two options: You can succumb to the way that our societies are constructed because it's easier, it's the path of least resistance, right? Or you can choose a hard route, which is authenticity. I think it's staying true to what is right in your heart and in your gut."

"I think again the older you get, the more disillusioned we get, and the more we start to doubt our heart and our gut. But I think there's a special sort of power that lies in entrusting it. Even in moments of doubt, entrusting that what you are doing is rooted in love, entrusting that what you are doing is rooted in love." •

Introducing the 2023 Winthrop Scholars

KEVIN LIEUE
STAFF WRITER

Recently, the College continued an annual, time-honored tradition and honored 13 seniors as Winthrop Scholars. These seniors constitute the top 3% of the graduating class based on GPA. "13 just

happens to be the number [of the top 3% this year]," said Professor and President of Phi Beta Kappa, Delta of Connecticut Chapter, Lawrence Vogel. "The top 10% [of the

graduating senior class] is Phi Beta Kappa and the Winthrop scholars are described as having academic excellence in the classroom as measured by grade point averages." Without further ado, here are the stories behind the 13 graduating Winthrop Scholars.

Read more about each student on thecollegevoice.org •

Camels Abroad: Jennifer Bloom

JENNIFER BLOOM
CONTRIBUTOR

Areas of Study: Majors: Human Development & Psychology Minor: Educational Studies
Center: Holleran Center Program in Community Action (PICA)

What program are you enrolled in?

Victoria University of Wellington
Wellington, New Zealand

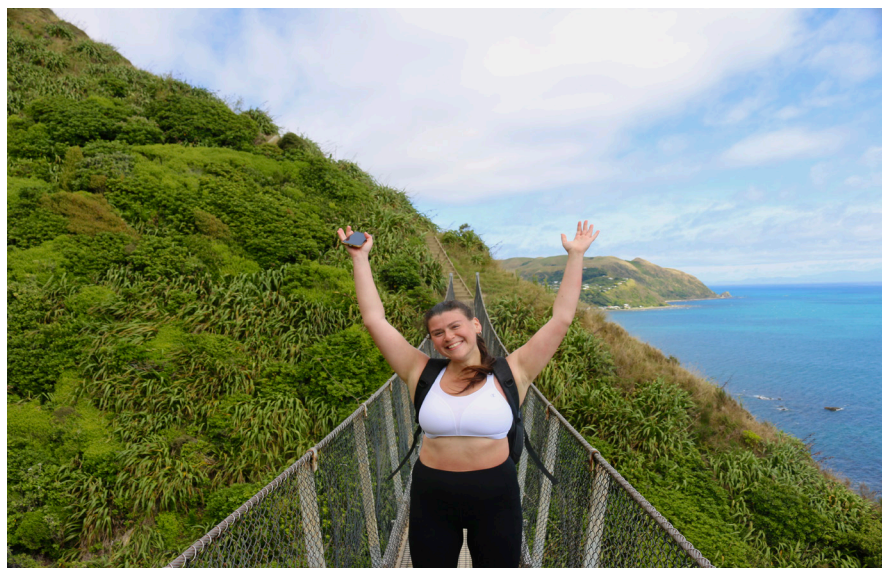


Photo courtesy of Jennifer Bloom '24

What made you choose this program?

When deciding where to study abroad, I was always fascinated by New Zealand and I'd never met anyone who studied abroad there. Although this is just about as far as I could possibly go, I wanted to learn more about a country that I genuinely didn't know much about. My university seemed to have a healthy balance of courses that aren't offered at Conn while also supporting and encouraging me to explore the country and maximize my time here as an international student.

How have you adjusted to life there?

When I arrived in Wellington in February, it was an overwhelming adjustment: living with so many people, navigating unknown environments, making friends, and establishing new routines. It was overstimulating, yet essential to my experience and happiness here. I'm now eleven weeks in and have gradually felt comfort in who I'm with and where I'm at, which has been a lovely reminder of personal growth.

Were there any clichés that were proven true or false?

When I was applying to study in New Zealand, I was shocked that the people with whom I communicated during the application process were so laid back. I'd always send timely emails and respond within a day whenever I received information about my applications, but I wouldn't hear back from anyone in NZ for at least a week and a half (if not longer). I wasn't sure what to expect when I got here, but I can confirm that this is just how Kiwis (citizens of NZ) live. Everyone and everything is leisure and runs on an extremely loose schedule.

What is your housing situation? What is that like?

I live in an area called the Kelburn Flats, and I'm specifically in a flat with 17 other

students! The flats are independent, apartment-style living and are all located together in the same neighborhood. Everyone has their own room, but there are communal areas such as the kitchen, living room, bathrooms, and laundry. It's definitely crowded at times, especially during meal times, but I love having everyone together. I have flatmates from the United States, the Netherlands, Singapore, New Zealand, Germany, Japan, and England. It's been wonderful getting to know and live with people from all over the world and learn from them as we go through this journey together.

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

My schedule varies depending on the day! I typically have two classes per day (with lecture sizes of up to two hundred students) and am done by the early afternoon. After classes, my friends and I will usually do some work in the library and then head back home to have lunch. When our schedules (and the weather) allow, we like to go on day hikes! I've also been rowing here with the Vic Uni Rowing Club, so I either have practice early in the morning or afternoon. I always end my nights by having dinner and hanging out with my best friends, Robin and Stevee, who live right next door. Some nights, we go downtown to Courtenay Place or Cuba Street, which is where a lot of Wellington's night-life takes place (live music, trivia games, restaurants, shows). While there are small reminders of Conn, it's a completely different experience and way of living in New Zealand.

Are you involved in anything outside of just classes?

Yes! I've been rowing with the Vic Uni Rowing Club, which has been an incredible experience. It's such a supportive and fun team to be part of here. I'm on the Women's Rowing team at Conn, so I feel right at home. In April, we got to travel to Lake Ruataniwha in Twizel for the New Zealand University Rowing Championships. I participated in three races in one day and even won a medal! With the rowing season coming to a close, I'm hoping to find a children's daycare that I can volunteer at.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Bloom '24

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

For people preparing to go away, I would encourage them to embrace ambiguity and accept changes as they arise. Although life abroad is drastically different from life at home, going in with an open mind and heart will lead you to the most exciting possibilities and surprises. I met Stevee, who is one of my best friends here and quite literally my next door neighbor, on my

very first night at a welcome pasta dinner, and we've stuck by each other's side ever since.

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

I would have liked to know that supporting myself is one of the biggest priorities and is more difficult to do when I'm not at home. I entered a brand new environment, surrounded by unknown people, and enrolled in courses that are unlike anything I've ever taken before. Amidst the excitement of going abroad, it can be challenging to look after and support yourself when everything that you know so well is suddenly gone—it's a chance to start fresh and create the experience that you want while looking after yourself on a daily basis. •

Let's Have a ConversASIAN

CATJA CHRISTENSEN
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I attended ASIA's second ConversASIANS session without the intention of writing about the event, but I felt so welcomed and validated in my unique experience as an Asian-American that I knew I had to spotlight this important work. As a biracial Filipina-American student, I constantly seek connections to my heritage, oftentimes feeling like an imposter to my own identity, but ASIA is an invaluable resource for students experiencing similar feelings to find a community that cares.

Leading up to AANHPI heritage month, ASIA kickstarted their ConversASIANS sessions, meetings open to all students to foster conversations about Asian identities and experiences. An important theme throughout the meeting was emphasizing individual experiences under the vast umbrella of Asian identity. Co-Chairs Alex Reyes '23 and Jangael Rosales '25, searching for inspiration from ASIA's past, "rebooted" the "Connversasians" event from the 2018 e-board.

Rosales dug into the archives and found Facebook posts from 2018-19 advertising the events. "Seeing the topics they were discussing on the graphic alone made me interested," said Rosales. "I [knew] this was something that Alex and I wanted to bring into ASIA – having a space for Asian-identifying students to discuss cultural, political, social, and academic issues that concern Asian-identifying students. So we explored options on how to facilitate dialogue, got rid of the extra 'n' [...], and revamped ConversASIANS."

ASIA brought catering from Mirch Masala for the dinnertime event on Apr. 26, 2023, which was co-presented by the Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE), Race and Ethnicity Programs (REP), Men of Color Alliance (MOCA), Las Voces Unidas (LVU), and International Student Association (ISA). Students gathered in Hood Dining room, with club advisor Dot Wang overseeing the student-run program. A slideshow was projected at the front of the room, and once participants were full of naan and rice, Reyes began the meeting with icebreakers ("What fruit would you be?") to get the conversation flowing.

Then, she played the video "Adam Ruins Everything - How America Created the 'Model Minority' Myth," a truTV video from 2019 that unpacks the history and long-standing implications of the myth in America. After, we divided into small groups and discussed what we liked and disliked about how the video presented the information, such as its focus primarily on East Asian ethnicities even though the continent is so vast. We also discussed how the myth has impacted our own lives, keeping in mind our own positionalities and varying experiences but finding common ground nonetheless.

The sessions were quickly organized, which meant that advertising and outreach was limited, but the Co-Chairs were pleased with the results. Reyes reflected, "Even though our first session's turnout was smaller than we hoped, it ended up helping contribute to a more low-key, intimate kind of conversation, which is also good. Our second one definitely had a lot more people, which was heartwarming! I think

our sponsorship from LVU, ISA, and MOCA helped, too—which I was really happy about, because I want to make sure ASIA has events with other affinity groups in the future, since supporting other communities of color at a PWI is something very important to me."

Rosales added, "Given everything that happened on campus back in March, I was thinking about everything that was disrupted during COVID and the effects it has on the campus community, more specifically, how it impacted affinity-based identity groups and how we are viewed to the college community. It impacted how I viewed ASIA as an organization before I joined the executive board and how I perceived ASIA's place on campus. It made me question the type of community ASIA has established and I didn't know whether or not there was a community in the first place. I also initially questioned whether or not I was welcome in ASIA due to my Southeast Asian identity and I don't want other Asian-identifying students to go through this same notion, which is why I joined the E-Board in the first place."

Reyes also emphasized the importance of creating these spaces at Conn for supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. "I think it's important to first

mention how this place is a PWI. I think it's also important to note how this school's representation of Asian identities, academically, is mainly East Asian... hence, the Department of East Asian Identities and Cultures. Another thing that I think is important to note is how the way I see it – the Asian population at Conn – is a bit fragmented... like, international students versus domestic students, or adopted students versus not-adopted students. But, I think it'd be nice if we could have some sort of space in which Asian-identifying students can get together, regardless of where they're from or how they've been raised, while also keeping in mind the very unique and diverse identities that stem from the label 'Asian' itself."

"Coming from Chicago, it was more convenient and accessible for me to express and embrace my Filipino identity because I'm

surrounded by a large Asian population and resources," said Rosales. "Coming into Conn, I felt like navigating my intersecting identities as an FGLI (first-generation, low-income) Asian American college student has predetermined the type of adversities I was going to face at Conn, and it made me afraid of how I took up space at a predominately white institute, more specifically at a small liberal arts school, where the demographic breakup of Asian students are significantly smaller compared to a larger institution. ASIA means a lot to me and I know affinity-based groups like ours are important at Conn to bring people together through commonalities and learn from each others' experiences and differences."

Reyes and Rosales thank Dulmarie Irizarry, the Program Director of the Division of Institutional Equity and Inclusion, Laura Todorov, the Assistant Director of the Center of the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity, and their co-sponsoring institutions for helping build a valued, important community space on campus. •



Photo courtesy of Dot Wang

Camels Host NEISA Championships, Sail into Nationals

FRITZ BALDAUF
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second straight season, both the Connecticut College Coed and Women's Sailing teams have qualified for the Intercollegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) Fleet Racing National Championships. It was announced via social media on the night of Tuesday, May 2, that the two squads would be competing at the highest stage of college sailing in late May and early June at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in King's Point, NY. This is just the third time in Head Coach Jeff Bresnahan's 31-year tenure that both teams have qualified for their national championship.



Photo courtesy of Haley Pemberton '23

This announcement came on the heels of the Coed team's final regatta of the season, where Conn hosted the New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association (NEISA) fleet race conference championship regatta at the brand-new waterfront. The Camels finished 7th out of 18 teams, a strong result to end the regular season in a challenging regatta featuring many of the country's best teams. The NEISA Championship served as Camel Sailing's senior day, and the team will be graduating nearly half of the roster once the season ends. Parents and students alike came down to the waterfront to watch the competitive and entertaining races, and enjoyed the barbeque and "Sailgate" put on by the Camel Sailors and their families.

The strong showing at NEISA Championships solidified the berth at Nationals beyond doubt. In both the Coed and Women's divisions of College Sailing, the best 36 teams across ICSA's seven regional conferences qualify for nationals. The conference that the Camels compete in, NEISA, is renowned as the most competitive and challenging of the seven. Once selected for nationals, the teams are split into two semifinal regattas, consisting of 18 teams each. The top nine in each semifinal advance to the finals, where the national champion is eventually crowned.

The women's team was placed as the 29 seed in the Women's National Championship, and the Coed team was placed as the 19 seed in their division. Both teams will remain on campus after graduation to train for the regattas. The Women's team will compete at King's Point from May 23 to 26, and the Coed team will compete from May 30 to June 2. In addition to qualifying for both National Championships, it was announced that senior skipper Walter Henry was named the NEISA Sportsperson of the Year, and senior crew Allie Tillinghast was an all NEISA Second Team Crew. Congratulations and go Camels! Sail Fast! •

The Circle of (Athlete) Life: Camels Give Back to Their Sports

FRITZ BALDAUF
SPORTS EDITOR

When you think about the typical summer job for a college student, the first thing that comes to mind for many would be an internship with some relation to an eventual desired career, such as a finance internship for an Economics major, for example. One would also think about working as a store checkout clerk or a barista as typical summer jobs for college students. For college athletes across the country, such jobs are often not what they pursue. Instead, they choose to commit to their sport full-time, spending their summers working as a coach for younger athletes.

This is the case across many of the athletes here at Connecticut College. I myself have been sailing since I was three years old, and have been a skipper on the sailing team here at Conn for my three years of college. I've spent the past two summers coaching back home in San Francisco, and will be spending the summer of 2023 doing the same.

The same is true for Maria Sell, a senior on the Women's Water Polo team. Sell not only has spent the past several summers coaching her sport, but has played a vital role in restarting a program that had shut down: "The past three summers and two winters, I have coached high school club water polo at the club I used to play at in the Bay Area. The club had discontinued all water polo programs in 2019, so when I came on as head coach I had to rebuild the program and reach out to players and coaches in the area to spread the word about joining, and since 2021 there's been a huge increase in participation for boys and girls, and the club is looking as strong as ever."

Catie Donadio, a sophomore on the Women's Basketball team, has also made an enterprise out of passing on her knowledge of basketball to the younger generations: "For the past two summers, I've coached young [basketball players] through one-on-

one individual hourly sessions. I have created my own self-run business through this. I work with about 15 athletes per summer, and have communicated with players and their parents, getting the word out, reserving court times, and making a plan of workouts catered to each individual for each session."

Wade Anthony, another junior on the Sailing Team, shares his experience: "I work in the summer as the Head Coach of the Rock Hall Yacht Club Sailing School racing team, coaching junior Opti, Laser, and C420 sailors. This will be my third year in the position, and I am responsible for running day-to-day practices, boat transportation to and from regattas, and coaching on the water for regattas."

I've found there to be a theme on the motivation for coaching among Conn athletes, one which echoes my own motivation. I've been on a team of some sort since the age of three years old. Sailing in particular has been a huge part of my life, especially for the past decade. There's something incredibly rewarding for me as a college sailor to have the opportunity to pass on my knowledge and experience to younger sailors. I see in them a younger version of myself.

Donadio mentions the motivation of seeing a family member coach while she was growing up, stating: "My dad coached me in all of my sports growing up, and seeing the connections he has made and the way he has positively impacted his athletes' lives inspired me to try coaching...I have made my own very meaningful connections with many families and players. My community has given me so much through sports, and I thought this was a way to give back to my town."

Article continued on page 7.

The Circle of (Athlete) Life: Camels Give Back to Their Sports

Article continued from page 6.

Anthony adds “My years as a junior sailor are some of my favorite life memories, so being able to give other young sailors a positive, fun, rewarding, and exciting experience means the world to me. I love my sport, so being able to instill a love for sailing in kids is a powerful thing.”

Coaching is also beneficial to college athletes because of the perspective it can provide them on their own performance. “I think coaching has helped me with my own performance as in basketball,” said Donadio. “The more you can get your hands on a basketball, the more comfortable you are with being in control of it. So, I feel that coaching has helped me improve my ball-handling skills as I am constantly dribbling



Photo courtesy of Fritz Baldauf '24

or passing the ball during my athletes' sessions.”

Sell added, “I believe coaching has helped me with my performance [on the Conn Water Polo team]. When I'm coaching in the summer and winter, I'm actively thinking about the sport and teaching drills that we do on the Conn team so it helps my mind stay in sports-mode, and it's helpful to see drills play out in front of me from a different perspective.”

Anthony recalls how coaching reminds him of the importance of fundamentals that can oftentimes be lost at the collegiate level of sports: “Coaching, particularly at the junior level, constantly reminds me of the fundamental principles of the sport which can sometimes get lost at the higher levels. For example, I still find myself sitting too far back in the boat sometimes, despite having told my junior sailors to not sit in the back of the boat hundreds of times. When I catch myself doing this, I frequently think of my junior sailors and remind myself that if I'm going to talk the talk, I have to walk the walk.”

Coaching can be more than just a summer job as well. With the experience one garners in their sport as a college athlete, graduating athletes are oftentimes uniquely qualified to coach. Sell recalls her introduction to coaching, how her passion for it has grown, and where it might continue to go: “I originally started these coaching jobs as a way to work over the summer and help bring back the club and it's definitely become a lot more serious for me as the club has grown and I've been asked to return. If there are opportunities for me to coach in the future after this summer I would want to take them and I'm happy to know that water polo programs everywhere are always looking for coaches and I could find myself at a new club or school as a part-time job or more.”

Hope Olson, a junior on the Women's Basketball team who has spent her summers coaching basketball and soccer stated that “I have definitely considered coaching in the future, especially since a recent career-ending injury happened just before this past season. It is and hopefully will continue to be a way for me to still be strongly connected to the sport even though I'm no longer able to play.”

Even if it isn't a full-time job, we are always linked to the sports we play in college. Anthony said “I don't plan on coaching in the same way I do now in the future, but I will certainly be looking out for little opportunities to help other sailors improve for the rest of my life!”

Many athletes spent summers at camps growing up for soccer, basketball, sailing, or any other sport, being coached by then-college athletes. We are now those college athletes doing the coaching. Many students look for a summer job for the sole purpose of making some money. The money of course is very helpful during the school year, but the reward of us giving back to the sports that have given all of us so much makes coaching extra special for Connecticut College athletes. •



Photos courtesy of Maria Sell '23

The Season of Super Teams?: A Preview of the WNBA Season

HANNAH FOLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

The 2023 WNBA season is set to tip off on May 19 with 12 teams from across the country vying for a championship. In a packed off-season, there have been many changes to players, teams, and coaching staffs. After a record-setting March Madness tournament, there are plenty of new fans looking to find their team, so here are the previews of all 12 teams before the season starts.

Atlanta Dream: A bright rookie class and some key free agency grabs have made second-year head coach Tanisha Wright's team exciting to watch this year. 2022 Rookie of the Year Rhyne Howard is back and is joined by her former U.S. youth national team teammate Haley Jones in what is sure to be insane on-court chemistry. However, while the team has talent, nine of the 14 players have spent three years or less in the league. Combine that with roughly half the team joining the organization this off-season, and I doubt we will see the Dream hoisting a trophy at the end of the year, but give them a few years and they will be a strong contender.

Chicago Sky: The 2021 Champions lost some key players in the off-season including Candace Parker, Courtney Vandersloot, Allie Quigley, and Azurá Stevens. They make up some of the star power with the additions of Courtney Williams, Isabelle Harris, and Elizabeth Williams, but there is no doubt that head coach James Wade will have his hands full attempting to put together a championship contender. The Sky may take one of the last spots to make the playoffs, but I don't expect them to make it past the first round.

Connecticut Sun: Our hometown team has had a busy off-season with hiring almost an entirely new coaching staff, including Head Coach Stephanie White, and signing new players to replace those who left in the off-season. However, even with losing some big names, the Sun retained Alyssa Thomas and Brionna Jones. With those two on the roster, you can never count the Sun out. At the very least, I expect the Sun will make the playoffs at least, if not a deeper run. They're easily a contender for a championship, though not a favorite amongst many.

Dallas Wings: The Wings have had the most movement in the off-season, losing 5 players but signing some big names, including Natasha Howard, Crystal Dangerfield, Diamond DeShields, and Kitija Laksa. They also had FIVE draft picks, including three first-rounders. The Wings have been building their program for many years, mainly around their all-star, Arike Ogunbowale. I don't think we should expect a championship from the Wings this year, but they will definitely make a splash. I expect a strong playoff run, but they won't get past the second round this year.

Indiana Fever: In a very similar boat as the Wings, the Fever also drafted five rookies in the draft, as well as signed two players to replace two players who signed elsewhere. However, the biggest storyline for the Fever is their number 1 draft pick: Aliyah Boston. Boston has too many awards to count, but includes a National Championship, several All-American awards, and both a Player of the Year and two Defensive Player of the Year awards. She is expected to make a big impact in the league, especially for a team like Indiana who have been through several coaches in the past few years as they try to find the right combination to return to the championship. They won't be champions this year, but give the organization a year or two and they'll be jockeying for a top spot.

Las Vegas Aces: One of two "super teams" this season, the 2022 Champions are looking to repeat with the addition of Candace Parker and Alysha Clark. Although they only had one draft pick, the Aces didn't need any new players to be powerful contenders for a repeat. In addition to being a powerhouse team, the Aces also built a brand new practice facility, the first dedicated solely to a WNBA team. With a

starting five of A'ja Wilson, Parker, Chelsea Gray, Kelsey Plum, and Jackie Young, I expect this team to be tough to beat, and it would surprise no one if they cut down nets again this year.

Los Angeles Sparks: A former dynasty, the Sparks have been working the last few years to rebuild a championship-contending team. Newly signed head coach Curt Miller took his former team deep into the playoffs the last few years, and the Sparks expect the same results. Unfortunately for them, they are still a little ways away. Although acquiring several really good players in the off-season, the Sparks haven't had the time to learn how to play together or play under their new head coach. However, if they can get their chemistry flowing early, they could surprise many with a playoff run due to the many years of experience between the veteran players and solid fundamentals across all the players. I won't be surprised if the Sparks send out a few shocks this season.

Minnesota Lynx: In the wake of the retirement of Sylvia Fowles (and an official announcement from Maya Moore), the Lynx are going to be rebuilding this year. Developing their rookies, especially their number 2 draft pick, Diamond Miller, will be the focus for the Lynx this year, with the hopes that they can return to the top of the pack soon. I don't expect a deep playoff run this year, but I wouldn't be surprised if they made it to the first round just based on the pure talent on the team.

New York Liberty: This is the season the Liberty has been waiting for since the team's inception. After putting together a "super team" in the off-season by signing Jonquel Jones, Breanna Stewart, and Courtney Vandersloot to the existing all-star duo of Betnijah Laney and Sabrina Ionescu, the Liberty are expecting a championship this season, and they have a really good shot at it. The only predictable hiccup would be the team has no experience playing together or for Coach Sandy Brondello. However, this is a team of veterans who shouldn't have any problem adapting to the new team. The Liberty is my pick to win the championship this year.

Phoenix Mercury: With Brittney Griner back on the court, Mercury fans are hoping to have a more consistent season this year. Not a ton to comment on here. There were a few trades, but the main storylines are that Griner is back and this might be Diana Turasi's last season before retiring as one of the most prolific scorers ever. I don't expect the Mercury to do very well this year, but it will be great to see Griner back on the court.

Seattle Storm: In the post-Sue Bird and Breanna Stewart era, the Storm will be rebuilding this year. The team lost nine players during the off-season via trades, free agency, or retirement. There are still plenty of reasons for Storm fans to be excited about the season, especially with so many new players to watch, but they won't be a serious contender for a championship this year.

Washington Mystics: The Mystics are not on many people's championship contender lists, but they are on mine. With a healthy Elena Delle Donne, the return of Kristi Toliver, and the addition of Brittney Sykes and Amanda Zahui B., the Mystics will be tough to beat in any playoff series with how consistent I expect them to be. However, newly-minted head coach Eric Thibault could take some time to get used to the new position. He has been groomed for this job, coaching under his dad, former head coach Mike Thibault, but you never know how things will work out until the season gets going. Despite new leadership though, the Mystics have a very solid chance at not only making the playoffs, but knocking off some big names on their way to the championship. •

New London’s Dutch Tavern is Witness to a Changing City

Article continued from page 1.

Martha and Peter have lived in New London their entire lives. Some of Martha’s first memories at the

on downtown. The permanence of Dutch Tavern’s identity is rare. Between restaurant closures during the pandemic and the naturally experimental and diverse culinary landscape of New London, the food identity of the city is eclectic. Perhaps it is the casualness of the tavern that fits so well within the neighborhood. Or, that it is representative of small business culture that runs the city’s downtown. Frequenters of Dutch seem to fall into a familiar ease in chatting with other regulars, meeting new guests, and soaking up the atmosphere. They serve lunch, too; their classic soups have stood the test of time. Split pea soup with ham is the Tuesday special and Wednesday will always be beef barley bean. It is one of the only establishments that still serves liverwurst, and classic hamburgers here are small, but packed with flavor. The red-bricked Bayou BBQ & Grill boasts cajun-tex-mex, and RD86 is an intentionally ever-changing innovation site down the road. Along Bank Street, establishments come and go, some with more longevity than others, but The Dutch Tavern is a historic culinary cornerstone of New London. “We are mostly happy that we were able to maintain it as the place it used to be,” Martha responds when asked about what she cherishes most about owning the Dutch. As New London continues to evolve, the Dutch Tavern will thrive as a dependable hub of community activity without getting mired in the past. ●



cent flow of its exterior that quietly invites its passersby to come in for a drink. The smell of simmering beef patties wafts through the air from the small counter grill and the soft buzz of easy conversations permeates the room, warmly lit and small. Beer is flowing on tap. Vibrantly timeless and refreshingly intimate, Dutch Tavern remains largely unchanged since its Prohibition-era debut. Though it relishes in its rich history, the Dutch Tavern isn’t stuck there. It has faithfully emerged from the confines of a quarantine that otherwise wounded restaurants far too deep, and the Tavern is a space depended upon for community members to convene again. “People were waiting for us, writing to us,” co-owner Martha Conn recalls from the fourteen months that the Dutch was closed during COVID. Martha and her partner Peter Detmold own the place, so closing and reopening was always going to be deliberate and at their own pace. Though Martha estimates that their customer base is split evenly between locals and tourists, they keep a neighborly and casual cadence with the waves of customers that come and go. Their patient and kind dispositions pair well with the comfort of the tavern. They know people – their orders, too – and preserve the culture of building relationships with regular guests. 28 years ago, the couple took over the Dutch Tavern when its previous owner, Peter Burgess, pursued retirement.

Dutch, she tells me, harken back to when the drinking age turned to 18 years old the year she turned 18. She became such a regular presence that she could expect a call from her mother down at the tavern when she needed to come back home for dinner. She shared with me a sepia-toned newspaper clipping from 1974, where the bar’s longevity was treasured even back then. At that time, those who came for lunch were often “lawyers, newspapermen, bankers, stock-brokers, railroad workers, downtown businessmen and City Hall employees.” The regular crowd at the tavern has since shifted, but nonetheless reflective of goings



Photos courtesy of Lucie Englehardt '23

A Farewell Symphony in Evans Hall

EMMA DINKELSPIEL
CONTRIBUTOR

This winter, Professor Jarek Lis chose to exclude Haydn's Symphony no. 45, "Farewell Symphony," from the program for Connecticut College Orchestra's Spring concert. He was applying for a job within the music department that would make his role as interim orchestra director permanent, and he didn't want to jinx his luck. On Thursday May 4th, the orchestra did not perform Haydn's 45th, but they did perform a farewell symphony of sorts, thanking their beloved orchestra director for the time he has committed to the music department.

"Jarek took me in," wrote Valentina Baehrle, a junior studying abroad in Berlin who has played in Lis's ensemble and taken private lessons from him for two semesters. She also joined Prof. Lis in Italy last summer where he invited her to perform with the Trentino Music Festival. "[He] helped me grow as a musician in ways that I will eternally be grateful for... he gave me countless opportunities to grow and develop a stronger relationship with my instrument."

Lis joined the music department in 2019 as an adjunct professor teaching violin and viola. When the previous orchestra director left in the Fall of 2021, Lis stepped up to become the interim director in the Spring, bringing with him a unique set of skills, a challenging repertoire, and a wicked sense of humor. Since joining the orchestra, Lis has worked to expand the ensemble, bringing in community members, faculty, and new students.

Preparing for an orchestra concert this semester has been especially challenging. Like many other professors at Conn, Lis canceled rehearsals in solidarity with Student Voices for Equity (SVE) and the Fanning Occupations. Beyond that, the orchestra lost two weeks of rehearsals with Lis while the Music Department's search committee looked at new candidates for his job. Despite these setbacks, Lis put together a great concert, including interesting pieces that allowed for all members of the ensemble to grow in their musicianship.

Thursday's concert, entitled "Musica Omnia" (music is everything), pulled together classical pieces from many different eras. Lis also explained at the beginning of the program that he liked the word "Omnia" because of its femininity, and he wanted to include famous female composers that have historically been left out of classical conversations.

The program began with Hildegard von Bingen's "O Virtus Sapientiae" featur-

ing violin soloist Isabella Welch '26. The piece is one of the oldest written works of Western Art Music, written in the 12th century by a nun. This initially presented some structural challenges for the group, but with the combined leadership of Lis's conducting and Welch's stunning solo, the piece sounded beautiful.

"I'd never played a solo in my life," Welch said. "It's nice when someone sees potential in you, and you're motivated to prove them right." Welch credited Lis's ability to safely push his students out of their comfort zone for her to rise to the occasion and play such a challenging piece so beautifully. "When he gave it to me at first, it really scared me, but it is also very liberating stylistically."

The next piece was Vivaldi's "Concerto for Four Violins" featuring violin soloists Jossie Bieler '25, Allison Quinn '26, David Ellison '24, and Prof. Lis. Evan Strouse '24 played the accompanying cello solo. "When you have a small group like this, everyone really matters," Lis said. "I thought that it would be good to let people play solos because having more individual input over the sound of the group is just more rewarding."



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

The third piece of the evening was the second movement of Florence Price's "1st Quartet in G Major." Price is now renowned as one of the greatest African American female composers in classical music, but her work was largely discredited during her lifetime because of her race and gender. "[The quartet] was also one of her pieces that wasn't discovered until 2008. It almost never made it to the stage," Lis said. "I also thought it was interesting to juxtapose with Hildegard von Bingen, another women composer whose experiences were much different living in the 12th century as opposed to the 20th."

The final piece in the program was Haydn's 60th symphony "Ill Distrato." This six-movement symphony was a true testament of endurance for the musicians as it lasted over

half an hour with no breaks. A highlight of the symphony was the final movement where the violins retuned their instruments on stage, mid piece. Lis looked out into the audience and made a disgusted face as all of the musicians laughed at the joke he had been making all semester. The piece included motifs from Haydn's "Farewell Symphony," and provided a sentimental goodbye to both the evening and the orchestra's time with Prof. Lis as their director. •

Dance Department's Capstone Show Sends Off Beloved Seniors

CAOIMHE MARKEY
ARTS EDITOR

In four performances from April 20 to 22, the Dance Department

celebrated and sent off the largest known class of Dance majors that Connecticut College has ever seen. Culminating after months of countless rehearsals, feedback sessions, and meetings for lighting and tech, the Capstone shows were made up of the tireless work of sixteen seniors as well as pieces by two Department faculty members, Professors Shani Collins and Heidi Henderson, and three guest artists, Bebe Miller, Lily Gelfond, and Shakia "The Key" Marron. Professor Shawn Hove and his production class along with Yale lighting designers Kyle Stamm, Theo Sung, and Ankit Pandey brought the performances to life with dynamic lighting designs.

It is no small feat to emulate the singularity of sixteen dancers in such a compact amount of time. In her opening remarks, Department Chair Rachel Boggia praised the work of the 108 people that it took to put on the final shows. It soon became clear why.

Attendees were absolutely unprepared for the cerebral rollercoaster laid out for them. Each piece opened up a snatch of someone else's world, curated carefully and sensually by choreographers. Movement, light, bodies, sound - each moving part of a piece formed individualized relationships as the shows continued. Dancers were made to melt together or be wrenched apart, thrown into sharp relief or given the cover of darkness, moved to the low bass of West African music or gyrating electric guitar. Feet were stomped, hands clapped until sore, and throats were made raw from cheering.

For many seniors, the show was an opportunity to celebrate their identities visually and sonically. Yeseri Rose Vizcaino's piece *Bienvenidos A Nuestra Quisqueya!* utilized elements of Dominican celebration and merged them with Caribbean and West African cultures of celebration in the form of costumes, audience participation, and clapping. Described eloquently in the program, she details this mixing of cultures as "the footprints of the African Diaspora left behind by our ancestors so that one day we may return home."

Our own Editor-in-Chief Catja Christensen also incorporated her identity as a crucial part of her piece *Hay Naku!* by employing the traditional Filipino tinikling dance which her mother had learned in her birthplace of Baguio.

The Dance Department has long been a cornerstone of Connecticut College's appeal, thanks in large part to an impassioned and kinetic community that manages to foster both creative individuality and mutual support. As

one Dance major, Susanna Procario-Foley put it, "The Dance Department has been my home at this college for the past four years."

Among the Department members is Professor David Dorfman, recipient of a master's degree in fine arts from Conn in 1981 and whose renowned company, David Dorfman Dance was granted a permanent residency at the college in 2007, was heartened by the astronomical success of the most recent shows.

"My humble opinion on this recent, spectacular Senior Capstone Concert revolves around the growth that I observed/experienced within the senior major class. I've known them since their first year at Conn and to see them work individually and together with such confidence, ferocity, care and vulnerability was extremely moving," said Dorfman. "That combined with the fact that this was the largest senior major class we've ever had, and I believe the largest and most talented cast and crew, and the most diverse, accessible and powerful performance on multiple levels - congrats and deep appreciation to all!"

For many, dance has been a lifelong partner and friend. Catja Christensen '23 spoke with reverence about her relationship with movement, which began at the incredibly young age of two.

"Dance is an interesting artistic discipline to study because your body is the subject," said Christensen. "Of course, you move with other people and with your

surroundings, but not a day goes by that you are not analyzing, philosophizing, and experimenting with your physical and spiritual capabilities. I learned how to have more agency over my body and what I do. I learned that if I really take care and nurture my body and mind, I am capable of things that I never thought possible. That's empowering. With the right environment and the right people surrounding you, you can be happier, healthier, stronger, and more confident. Dance is a lifelong rollercoaster of highs and lows, but I have no regrets because I learn more about myself and the world with every movement."

It is a difficult job to package the shows in this article without satiating the urge to give each piece several paragraphs and a sub-header. It is not easy to recreate something in words that is much more beautiful said onstage in movement. To put it simply: it has been the sincere privilege of a lifetime to see this class of dancers grow both personally and creatively.

Congratulations to the Dance Department for celebrating a continuing legacy of mesmerizing, deeply special art, and to the Senior Dance majors for four years of hard work and dedication into producing that art - you have made something magnificent. •



Photo courtesy of Haley Lowenthal '25

"Jury Duty" Finds Humor From Civic Duty

ELLIE WAGNER
OPINIONS EDITOR

On an ordinary day in Los Angeles, Ronald Gladden shows up for jury duty. He knows he and his fellow jurors are being filmed for a documentary, so he doesn't question the presence of camera crews at the courthouse. After the jury

selection process, the final 14 members of the jury and alternates are sequestered for 3 weeks to hear and deliberate on the case of Hillgrove v. Morris. The evidence is heard and the jurors reach a verdict, but what Ronald doesn't know is that everyone he has interacted with in the last 3 weeks is actually an actor.

This is the premise of the tv show, *Jury Duty*, which began airing on Amazon Prime in April. It is a mockumentary-style sitcom, with one regular person at the center of it all that is unaware that he is the star of a tv show. The humor is reminiscent of shows like *The Office*, which makes sense as a few members of the show's creative team also worked on *The Office*.

Ronald meets an eccentric cast of characters throughout his time on the jury. He encounters *Hairspray* actor James Marsden (playing himself), who, in an effort to be dismissed from the jury, hires fake paparazzi to come to the courthouse. This leads to the judge's decision to sequester all of the jurors for the duration of the case. He also meets Todd Gregory (played by David Brown), who is a socially awkward inventor. One day, Todd comes to court wearing one of his own inventions, called "Chair Pants", which ends up causing a disruption in the courtroom.

Although the case was fake, Ronald proved to be a good juror who genuinely wanted to get to the bottom of what happened. The case was between Jaqueline Hillgrove, owner of the clothing company Cinnamon and Sparrow, and her former

employee, Trevor Morris. Ms. Hillgrove was suing Mr. Morris because he allegedly came to work intoxicated and ruined a large order. Even though Mr. Morris had retained a comically bad defense attorney, Ronald did not let that deter him from seeing both sides of the issue.

The final episode of the series showed how the cast and crew were able to create

the whole show without Ronald finding out the truth. Ronald had responded to a Craigslist ad asking for participants in a documentary on the American Judicial system, and in return, he would fulfill his jury duty service and wouldn't be called for jury duty again for the next several years. Ronald thought that the other members of the jury responded to the same ad, when in actuality, they were hired by the production company. Everything down to what chair people sat in at dinner was strategically planned to manufacture scenarios for Ronald to react to. In the end, Ronald was applauded by his fellow jurors for being such a stellar member of the jury.

Though it is meant to be humorous, *Jury Duty* also provides a glimpse into the American Legal System. Being called for jury duty is something that most American citizens will experience in their lifetimes. Many young fans of the show, such as college students,

appreciated being able to look behind the curtain to see what they might expect if they were ever called to serve on a jury. This is similar to how much college and high school students love *The Office*, because, to us, mundane everyday experiences like going to work or being called for jury duty are compelling stories. It is unclear whether or not it is even possible for a second season of *Jury Duty* to be created, but the first season was definitely fun and compelling. •



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

I learned
so much!

I wish I had
taken this
sooner!

So
helpful!

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Fall 2023

A Day in the Life at WCNI

LUKE ACTON
CONTRIBUTOR

RILEY MADDEN
CONTRIBUTOR

Hidden in Cro, slotted next to the post office, Hlives Connecticut College's least-known, eclectic haven for music lovers on campus. "How do I find this supposed paradise?" you may be wondering. Simply follow the music emanating from the north end of the student center as you walk down Cro Boulevard, and you will find a locked door that contains New Lon-

don's preeminent independent freeform radio station, WCNI. Knock on the door and chances are whoever's inside will be happy to give you a tour. Inside, you'll be greeted by a hall covered in stickers and posters from artists that cover pretty much every genre imaginable spanning the station's entire seventy-year history. You'll see an old-fashioned radio soundboard, microphones, CD players, record turntables, and an overwhelming collection of vinyl and CDs that would make any audiophile go nuts.

While most students on campus are in the middle of a deep slumber, Luke Acton is just getting off of his show, "Moon Bounce Radio", named after the Earth-moon-Earth radio technique, where he's DJ Luke from midnight to 3 a.m. In addition to the graveyard shift on early Monday morning, he does the same time slot every Thursday. That gives him six hours every week to play the music he loves to people who love listening to music late into the night. While he usually play music hovering around the '90's to current-day alternative rock, he's used my time to explore other genres and time periods that he would've never taken a chance on if he wasn't a part of WCNI. Being a DJ here gives him that freedom, unencumbered by any genre-specific constraints that many other college radio stations impose.



Every Monday, twelve hours after Luke finishes his shift, I show up for my 3-6 p.m. slot, admittedly a much more convenient timeslot. I get there around 2:55, chat with my predecessor, Dancin' Alice, whose jam band show, "Random Acts of Kindness" flows nicely into my ragtag collection of folk, rock, and Americana music. I start off every show with the same song, Pirate Radio, a rocker from the lesser-known folk rock

musician John Hiatt. His song, a tribute to the old tradition of pirate radio blasted haphazardly over the airwaves, playing the unconventional, innovative songs commercial radio wouldn't play, is also the name of my show. This name is a tribute to what WCNI is all about - ordinary people volunteering their time to play their favorite music for their community, no matter what genre, no matter how commercial or how obscure. My show is rooted in classic rock and folk - my staples include Bruce Springsteen, the Grateful Dead, The Who, Neil Young, Elvis Costello, John Prine and Gordon Lightfoot - but I try to bring to light some of my favorite contemporary artists keeping the tradition alive - Dawes, Nathaniel Rateliff, Father John Misty, and more. What I love about my show is that it's a time for me to play my favorite music for open-minded people who are eager to hear something exciting, no matter what it is. Getting calls from listeners who like what I'm playing makes my day - isn't that kind of validation exactly what we all crave?

I was recently elected to the position of Student General Manager of the station. Granted, I was filling a vacant position and was running entirely unopposed, but with great power comes great responsibility. When there's trouble at the station, I'm there, just like Batman. Except my Gotham is a small-town college radio station and my bat signal is an email from John Tyler. No, not the tenth president of the United States. Tyler is our Community General Manager, and even though we're technically equals, Tyler's really running the show.

Tyler joined the station in 1995 as a sub when a close friend decided to join and brought him along. He started his regular show, John E's World, which plays a selection of new and old traditional music from around the world, the following year. One day in the spring of '96, another DJ, Margaret Tyler, was subbing for the DJ after him, and they hit it off, up chatting in the studio for forty-five minutes after his show had ended.

They kept bumping into each other around the station all summer, and by Fall they were together. They got married in 1998 and today they're the power couple at the station's helm - John Tyler working as Community General Manager and Margaret Tyler as Fundraising Director. John Tyler is also the contract engineer and the chief operator, responsible for maintaining the equipment and FCC regulations. In his tenure, he oversaw the development of new technology like the website, digital library, and the automatic playlist log Spinatron.

One of the things I've been working on with Acton, an unofficial board member, along with the rest of the board, is a developing partnership with our student band organization MOBROC. In February, John Tyler, Program Director Jim Hardwood, and I got in touch with MOBROC President Eli Prybala to bring him into the station - first as DJ and then to work on extending our connections with student musicians in general.

Prybala has a show on WCNI every Sunday from midnight to 3 a.m. His show, "Songs with a Cause", relays a spectrum of genres, but with the connective tissue of containing topical messages. Prybala explains that when gets into the station and boots up his Spotify, he will usually start, "with a song from the urban folk revival, then I can go into some blues, then from there I'll go to rock, [and] the main intention of the rock is to ultimately get to punk". WCNI's freeform format has allowed Prybala to experiment with different genres and how they impart a political message: "the rock and roll I like to do has some satirical, humorous, silly stuff. I'll do like surf rock because surf can be really over the top and I really like that stuff." Over Passover, Prybala even brought in a lot of Jewish music that his grandparents have, "fitting it wherever it feels right", and sharing with his listeners the often satirical and topical nature songs of the genre.

One of the main reasons Prybala decided to join the station was the opportunity to give MOBROC musicians some further opportunities to share their music. "I can have MOBROC musicians come on the air for interviews, I can have MOBROC musicians who are friends spin some tracks, I know the station is working on a production studio, so in the future we can have the student bands bring the gear to WCNI, [and] play it live on air" Prybala explained. In addition, not only will the bands get their music out to WCNI listeners, they have the ability to record it, as all shows are archived on the station's website.

For students like Prybala, where music is more like a way of life than it is a hobby or interest, WCNI has become a way to express their musical curiosity. As Prybala builds his playlist in the days leading up to his shift, adding in songs from albums new and old, he says that his show "becomes [a] reflection of your day-to-day and what you're thinking about". Thankfully, becoming a DJ is a painless process, he explains: "it was one classroom session... and then I did two on-air training sessions. At the end of the second one they felt that I was good to go". Prybala was able to get in the studio that same week and start his first shift.

Since then, Prybala has found himself tuning into the station more and more, especially in the car and before he sleeps. He finds himself looking out for how each DJ's personality comes through, saying that, "It feels very human, definitely like you're listening to a person, and it's always different music." Now that he's come to know many of the DJs, Prybala says, "you're going to meet someone interesting there and you're going to listen to interesting people every time you're tuning in."

In his almost thirty years at the station, John Tyler acknowledges that some things stay the same. Throughout his time here he can testify that "at WCNI we have all types of people, people who love music and appreciate music, they're artists, and artists can be eclectic and unusual - they run the gamut.

But he's also seen some significant changes. "When I got here it was just about fifty-fifty students and the community people... And slowly over the years as portable music became more popular and radio became less relevant the number of students just tapered off. I like to think that the ones who are here now... in general are adamant about the music... they love [the music they play], they just really want to do this."

If you're interested in DJing at the station, send an email to rmadden@conncoll.edu. Training sessions will be offered in early fall. In the meantime, you can listen to WCNI at 90.9 FM, on wcniradio.org, or on iHeart Radio and TuneIn. •

Thank Yous to TCV's Senior Class

Dear Seniors,

As we get ready to publish this last edition of The College Voice for the 2022/23 school year, it's hitting me that this is the last time we're all going to work together as an editorial board seeing as we're graduating nearly half of our editorial board. It's hard for me to put into words what your leadership and friendship has meant to me over the past year, but I'm going to try to do so here.

Looking ahead to next year, when Grace and I will be Co-Editors in Chief, I'm nervous, excited, yet hopeful for what is to come. However, I can't help but be sad that you all won't be with us on the editorial board next year. Sam, Catja, Lucie, Hannah, Zoe, Ben, Payton, Caoimhe, Ellie. You guys have set an incredible example for us to follow going forward, and have built an awesome community at TCV that I was lucky enough to join this year. I like to think that I can speak for all of us who will be returning next year. I can't thank you guys enough for how you have helped me grow as a writer, editor, leader, person and friend over the past year.

There's no denying it has been a pretty wild year at Conn, and for us at TCV. There were undeniably stressful moments that tested all of us, but we all grew closer together for it. I couldn't be more proud to work with all of you covering the happenings of Camel Land, whether it be a story as big as Occupy CC 2023, or some random sports story that I pulled out of my ass.

Thank you all for your leadership, friendship, humor, commitment and so on. Grace, Adrien and I have big shoes to fill next year, of that there is no doubt. I believe we are up to the task, and that is 100% because of the culture that all of you have helped to foster and the example that you have set for us. As this year of TCV winds down, I think of my favorite song (yes, a country song, obviously), "Memories Are Made Of" by Luke Combs, a song that reflects on the good times of being young and recognizing that while they may be passing by, the good memories that we have and the connections that we build endure, no matter how much time passes. After this year, with this group, I think we all have a group of friends for life. I guess I should end by saying to all of you: don't be a stranger, and that I hope to see you all and hear from you next year as I move into my senior year working for TCV. If you're ever in Northern California, let me know. Thank you for the writing, the friendships, the laughs, the example you've all set, and everything else. Thank you for putting up with my sports craze, country music, stupid jokes, and so on. Here's to student journalism, friendships, a crazy fun year, and The College Voice.

As always, beers on me (I think that's OK to say since you're all 21).

Fritz, Incoming Co-Editor-in-Chief

Dear Graduating Editorial Staff,

As a transfer student to Conn., I arrived last fall focused on finding a sense of belonging. I have found so much more than that at The College Voice. The seniors on staff have created a second home.

I've spent almost my entire life in journalism and was naturally drawn to The College Voice table during opening weekend. I remember feeling a bit intimidated at first. Our Editors-In-Chief, Catja Christensen and Sam Maidenberg seemed equally confident and excited about welcoming so many new writers during that weekend's drop-in writing workshop. By the end of the workshop, I was convinced that I had to be involved with the paper in some way. I stayed behind with the hope that I could simply learn more about The College Voice. Then, as luck would have it, there was an opening for an Opinions Editor position.

I joined the team in early September and, as I attended our weekly meetings, I became convinced that I had made the right decision. Our pitch meetings and writing workshops are technically hosted from 8 PM to 8:30 PM. Yet, I quickly learned that if I showed up around twenty minutes earlier I'd find our editorial staff simply hanging out with each other and almost always laughing. Christensen and Maidenberg cultivated the kind of environment that made you want to arrive early to each meeting and then stick around afterward too.

If you were to take a tour of the office...well, it would be a very short tour. Our office is about 25 feet long. But, if you did, you would find a variety of DIY posters decorating the walls. My favorite section is the Polaroid wall. At some point last semester, Catja brought a teal Polaroid camera into the office and started taking snapshots each time someone did something unusual or remarkable. As I write this in mid-May, the wall is 10 pictures across and features moments labeled "Clowning Around", which features editors Zoe Dubelier and Hannah Foley wearing clown noses, and "Calm Before the Storm: Press Pass Edition," taken the day after the Occupy Conn Coll movement kicked off.

In all seriousness, I have been racking my brain for a couple of distinct memories of my time with this year's graduating class of editors. I could dive into an anecdote about the night that my co-editor, Ellie Wagner, and I sat in the corner of the office oscillating between Masked Singer and Dancing with the Stars clips for at least an hour. Or, I could talk about my first time meeting Zoe which was not—in fact—in the TCV office, but on a long weekend camping trip in the White Mountains. If I were to tell that story, I would undoubtedly discuss our mid-rain storm lunch and unfortunately shaped camp pancakes. Instead, I could narrate the heated but fully lighthearted argument Hannah and I got into about the color of Rihanna's dress during the Super Bowl Halftime Show. I thought it was pink. I was wrong. I could easily recount the full afternoon Catja and I spent planning out a team field trip to visit Connecticut's only resident camel with the hope of getting an interview. His name is Humpfree. I still want to meet him. I could try my best to describe Caoimhe's recent comic rendition of Nubs, our local tailless squirrel. Or, perhaps my first real memory of the office, about the creation of our internally famous Sam Maidenberg as Uncle Sam full-page ad for midterms voting. Meanwhile, Lucie's grounded wisdom has been a touchstone at every chaotic layout Sunday. Our business manager and honorary business manager, Ben and Payton respectively, have both held the team together in vastly different but equally vital ways.

I could write pages about all of these experiences and countless more. But I only have a half page, so I hope the above will do.

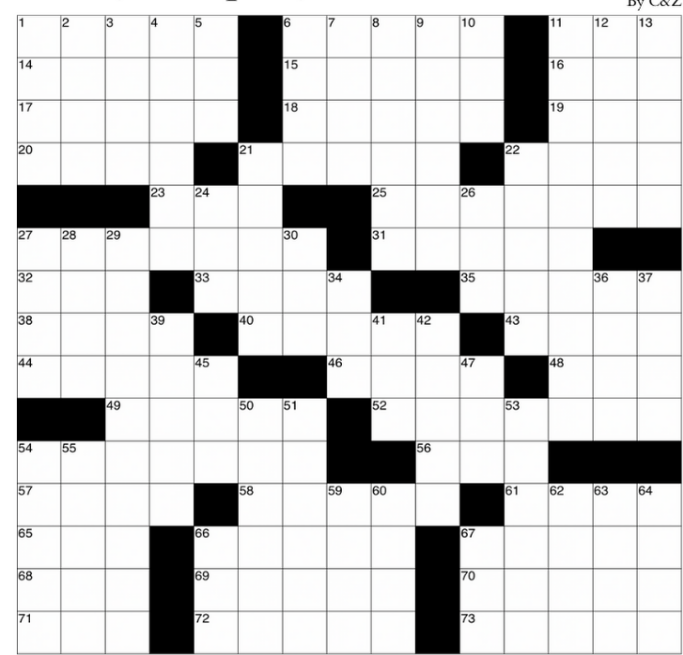
To all of our graduating staff: Your boundless joy and support have fundamentally changed the way I view leadership and community. You will be deeply missed and, undoubtedly, texted for advice repeatedly throughout next semester.

I cannot wait to hear about all of your adventures in the real world. I'll send a few Polaroids along in the Fall.

Grace, Incoming Co-Editor-in-Chief



C&Z (and Squad) Graduate!



Across

- 1. This senior wanted to be a ballerina when they grew up
- 6. "Tik Tok" singer
- 11. FDR's successor
- 14. Lighting fast Bolt
- 15. Evian, Fuji, and Dasani in La Paz
- 16. Sushi tuna
- 17. James of Chelsea Football Club
- 18. Lisa of Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

- 19. League of Capitals, Red Wings, and Bruins, abbr.
- 20. Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone's Land
- 21. Ryan, Tottenham FC's mvp manager
- 22. Inattentiveness diagnosis, for short
- 23. Goat's bleat
- 25. This senior wanted to be a writer when they grew up
- 27. WikiLeaks founder

- 31. Chicago airport
- 32. This senior wanted to be a teacher when they grew up
- 33. Taken during finals period
- 35. Garden plant also called stonecrop
- 38. Salt Lake state
- 40. Non-magical child of a magical family in Harry Potter
- 43. "Swiper no swiping" speaker
- 44. This senior wanted to be an artist when they grew up
- 46. Sandler of "50 First Dates"
- 48. Come in first
- 49. One large quantity
- 52. "Don't carry a cold in your pocket" brand
- 54. Danielle Fisher's character in "Boy Meets World"
- 56. This senior wanted to be a soccer player when they grew up
- 57. Jabba the ____
- 58. Popular spandex brand name
- 61. "Leggo my ____"
- 65. ____ vez mas (once more, Sp.)
- 66. Paris transit system
- 67. Very funny person
- 68. 2006 Verizon acquisition
- 69. Short-tailed weasel
- 70. Baggins, "The Hobbit"
- 71. This senior wanted to be Sasquatch when they grew up
- 72. Rachel Maddow's channel
- 73. This senior wanted to be a lifeguard when they grew up

Down

- 1. Ringlet
- 2. The Mediterranean
- 3. Chinese unit of weight
- 4. Root also known as Mexican Turnip
- 5. Smaller suffix
- 6. Supergirl's Krypton name
- 7. Less common spelling of Zeus and Athena's shield
- 8. Official fuel of NASCAR since 2004

- 9. This senior wanted to be a firefighter when they grew up
- 10. Butterfield of "Sex Education"
- 11. Clothing from an older sibling
- 12. Quiet sound
- 13. Spanish squiggle
- 21. Sorcerers
- 22. Broadcast on TV
- 24. Colony on a hill
- 26. International org. focused on election monitoring in the Western Hemisphere
- 27. Blue in Seville
- 28. Annual presidential address to the joint session, abbr.
- 29. Ahab or ____ Crunch Cereal mascot
- 30. Lawyer's title, abbr.
- 34. N.F.L. QB Tagovailoa
- 36. Brendon of Panic at the Disco
- 37. Island of Man Native
- 39. Drum kit cymbal
- 41. Rapper who performed Florialia last year
- 42. Soft wood
- 45. Poet's dusk
- 47. ____ culpa
- 50. Shoe lace tips
- 51. This senior wanted to be a zookeeper when they grew up
- 53. "BAM!" chef
- 54. This makes us human
- 55. 16 of these make a Pound
- 59. Cranky crustacean
- 60. Prep program to become a military officer, abbr.
- 62. Fish breathing organ
- 63. 6th largest desert in the world
- 64. Great Plains tribe
- 66. NYT, WSJ, WaPo, for example
- 67. Honest Lincoln

Seniors Signing Off



Catja Christensen
Co-Editor-in-Chief



Sam Maidenberg
Co-Editor-in-Chief



Lucie Englehardt
Managing Editor



Ben Jorgensen-Duffy
Business Manager



Caoimhe Markey
Arts Editor



Ellie Wagner
Opinions Editor



Hannah Foley
Sports Editor



Zoe Dubelier
Layout Editor



Payton Ferris
Business Manager

Favorite TCV Moments from the Seniors:

- Rapidly drafting and researching for our first breaking news article
- The “joint” misprint
- Photoshopped images by Layout Editor Robbie Lynch



- The staff snowball fight in the arboretum
- The night of the occupation when we had all safely made it back to the office and were debriefing together
- Recounting everyone’s weekend during layout Sundays
- Sheltering in the office during the “bomb threat” and comforting each other by sending memes in our groupchat
- Stuffing the special edition article into the paper on Feb 9