Features

The AI Police Brett Goldstein '96 is at the heart of a new movement to use artificial intelligence to fight crime.

Guns in America A small group of Conn alums is seeking reasonable solutions to halt gun violence.

50 Years of 60 Minutes Emmy-winner Michael Rey '93 is producing some of the most important investigative journalism.

Art as Conversation Painter Alexander Yulish '97 is making his mark on both the New York and Los Angeles art scenes.

Devil’s Bargain Political journalist Josh Green '94 delivers an inside look at the 2016 presidential campaign.

Departments

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Athletics Update: On the trail with the cross country team

Class Notes Mystery Diseases: Elizabeth Krieg ’12 and Lauren Briere ’02 work with the Undiagnosed Diseases Network

Full Stop Princess Grace Award recipient Raja Feather Kelly ’09 on the meaning of Gesamtkunstwerk

This page: Tempel Green at dawn. Photo by Miles Ladin ’90
Cover: Detail of “Insatiable” by Alexander Yulish ’97.
An Incubator for Social Reform

In September, I announced that trustee emerita Carolyn Holleran ’60 and Jerry Holleran GP ’07 made a generous and remarkable gift of $2.5 million in support of the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy. This gift more than doubles the Holleran Center’s current endowment, and allows us to build on the Holleran Center’s vital work, ensuring Connecticut College’s continued leadership in community-based education to create a more just world.

The gift also provides $100,000 for the Connecticut College Fund to help meet the immediate needs of all students, faculty and the College. Additionally, to broaden the base of financial support for the Holleran Center, the Hollerans have offered a special challenge. They are earmarking $1 million of their contribution as a challenge to others who care deeply about the Holleran Center and its mission. They hope this challenge will inspire others to give generously and to help the Holleran Center reach its next levels of success.

The Holleran Center is the College’s primary incubator for social reform. It provides students with the kind of intentional, interdisciplinary, and immersive education that was the model for Connections, the College’s reinvention of the liberal arts. More than 360 students have graduated from the Holleran Center in the 21 years since its inception. From supplying safe and effective feminine products for women in India to providing legal services to immigrants and refugees to combatting gun violence, Holleran Center graduates are putting the world together.

This issue features numerous difference makers. In “Devil’s Bargain,” political journalist Joshua Green ’94 talks about his New York Times best selling book Devil’s Bargain which provides insight into the 2016 presidential election; Bettina Weis ’15, Giovanna Gray Lockhart ’02, and Megan Nashban ’09 are building bipartisan consensus around commonsense gun legislation; and artist Alexander Yulish ‘97 is making his mark on the New York City and Los Angeles art scenes.

I’d like to also invite you to learn about the important work of Elizabeth Krieg ’12 and Lauren Briere ’02, genetic counselors bringing relief to patients suffering from undiagnosed diseases. These alumni share a common thread with Holleran scholars: they are changing the way we understand the world.

Katherine Bergeron
Skyler Volpe ’13 stars in Rent

As a little girl growing up in Port Washington, New York, Skyler Volpe ’13 would make her younger brother play every role in her favorite play, Rent, while she acted out the part of Mimi.

Now, Volpe has graduated to a larger stage. Last year, she joined the 20th-anniversary tour of the play, and has been performing in cities around the country.

The character of Mimi is an HIV-positive drug addict, and Volpe has earned rave reviews with the Boston Globe describing her performance as “Volcanic.”

In an interview with Broadway World last May, Volpe, who triple majored in dance, sociology and French at Conn, discussed the experience of playing such a complex character.

“It’s been one of the biggest acting challenges I’ve had to conquer because there’s this crazy dichotomy of Mimi being very sick and very weak, but also being really feisty and strong,” Volpe said.

“So trying to figure out how to make those things happen at the same time was really hard, and it’s still a process that’s changing every time I do the show.”
Olympic Life

When Anita DeFrantz ’74 arrived in Montreal for the 1976 Summer Olympics it was the first time women’s rowing had been included. As captain of the American team, DeFrantz won a bronze medal in women’s eight, a remarkable achievement made all the more impressive considering she was still completing her law degree at the University of Pennsylvania at the time.

In September, DeFrantz released her memoir, *My Olympic Life*, which recounts her career as an athlete, civil rights activist and member of the U.S. Olympic Committee Board of Directors, as well as a host of other prominent leadership roles she’s assumed over the years.

DeFrantz’ activism and leadership abilities both on and off the water blossomed while at Conn. She was elected class president her second year, chaired the student judiciary committee, created a student bill of rights, and discovered her talent for rowing.

In *My Olympic Life*, DeFrantz describes her experiences growing up as an African-American who had to confront the twin obstacles of racial segregation and sexism that girls and women encountered in sports. The battle-hardened determination that arose from being told she couldn’t enjoy the same rights as some of her peers, still fuels her passionate work for equality around the world today, and propelled her to become the first woman vice president of both the International Olympic Committee and the International Rowing Federation. She’s currently the seventh-ranking member on the Committee, and sits on the Executive Board. For nearly 30 years she has also been deeply involved with developing youth sports programs in Southern California, where she resides, serving as president of the youth-oriented LA84 Foundation, which was established after Los Angeles hosted the 1984 Summer Olympics.

The tangible impacts DeFrantz has made on the International Olympic community are vast, from promoting updated gender and sexual harassment policies, to pushing for the introduction of new women’s events, including soccer and softball.

*My Olympic Life* was released on September 26 by Klipspringer Press.

Conn Rower at the World Championships

With an exciting first-place finish at the USRowing World Championship Senior Trials in August, Michael Clougher ’15 secured his place in the World Championships in late September.

Clougher, a four-year member of the Connecticut College men’s rowing team, raced to a winning time of 7:00.01 in the final of the Men’s Single (M1X) event at the senior trials Aug. 9 on Mercer Lake in West Windsor, New Jersey. He finished first in the Aug. 6 time trial and won his heat on Aug. 7 to earn his spot in the final.

That victory automatically qualified him for the World Championships, which took place Sept. 23-Oct. 1 at Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota-Bradenton, Florida.

“It’s definitely nice to win and a huge honor to represent the country, but there is still a ton of work to do moving towards Sarasota,” Clougher said in August.

Earlier last summer, Clougher won the Elite Men’s Single event at the USRowing Club National Championships on Harsha Lake in Bethel, Ohio. He trains with the California Rowing Club in Oakland, California, and is coached by the club’s head coach Bernhard Stomporowski.

Clougher, who served as captain of the rowing team during both his junior and senior years at Conn, won the Dad Vail Regatta in the men’s single in 2015, and was named the Brown-Brooks Scholar-Athlete of the Year by the College. A three-time NESCAC All-Academic honoree, he triple majored in computer science, math and economics.

New VP for Advancement

Kimberly M. Verstandig has been appointed Vice President for College Advancement at Connecticut College, and will start on November 6.

Verstandig holds a B.S. in business administration and a M.S. in education from Bucknell University. She brings with her more than 20 years of fundraising experience, both in higher education and in the nonprofit sector. She comes to Conn from Skidmore College where she was former interim Vice President for Advancement.

Verstandig will be responsible for the strategic direction of Conn’s office of College advancement. This includes supervising the work of major gifts; gift planning; corporate, foundation, and government relations; alumni engagement and annual giving; strategic initiatives; donor relations; and advancement services.
Agnes Gund ’60 donates $100 million to create social justice organization

Most art collectors aren’t able to pluck a painting from above their mantel and sell it for $150 million ($165 million if you include fees.) But Agnes Gund ’60 isn’t a typical collector. Earlier this year, the philanthropist, art patron, and president emerita of New York’s Museum of Modern Art, sold the 1962 painting *Masterpiece*, by Roy Lichtenstein, in order to establish the Art for Justice Fund, which supports criminal justice reform and combats racial inequality in America.

Gund used $100 million of the sale’s proceeds to establish the organization, and over the next five years, she plans to raise an additional $100 million with the help of the Ford Foundation, which she has partnered with to run the fund.

The targets Gund and the foundation have set are ambitious by any standard. Within the next seven years, they hope to reduce the prison population by one-quarter, and plan to invest heavily in efforts at the state level that address disparities in sentencing for minorities.

A seasoned advocate for social justice, Gund was inspired to act in large part by the spate of recent shootings of unarmed black men by police, and by the documentary *13th*, which examines, in agonizing and heartrending detail, the inequities the law enforcement, judicial and prison systems force upon black communities.

“I thought I should do something about something that to me is so wrong about our system,” Gund told The Washington Post. “We’ve just loaded up our prisons with mostly people of color and given them different penalties … And then I thought I should know more about it, and then I thought, maybe this is something I could address.”
Art for Immigration

Varied in media—from painting to printmaking to sculptural installation—and in topic—from spiritual traditions to the war in Syria to gentrification—the artwork on display this fall in the College’s Cummings Arts Center galleries had one thing in common: the pieces were all created by artists born outside of the United States who now live and work in the region.

The Art Department’s “Intersections: A Benefit Exhibition for the Immigration Advocacy and Support Center,” which was on display Sept. 5 through Oct. 12, featured the work of Corina S. Alvarezdelugo, Rafael Colon, Guido Garaycochea, Mohamad Hafez, Tedman David Martínez Onofre, Nadine Renazile and Pierre Sylvain.

The artists, originally from Peru, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Haiti and Syria, are now working in New London, Middletown, New Haven and New York. Their featured work reflected common themes, such as bridging cultures and negotiating the joys, struggles and sorrows created by gaps between communities.

“The show makes an implicit statement about the value of all voices, particularly people who have emigrated to this country and contribute to our society and culture in innumerable ways,” said Assistant Professor of Art Chris Barnard, who helped organize the exhibition.

In addition to the local artists, the exhibition included works by three Connecticut College alumni, Miles Ladin ’90, Juan Flores ’16 and Melissa Luen ’17, that explored immigrant and migrant experiences and identities in the U.S.

All of the artwork in the exhibition was for sale with half of all proceeds benefitting the Immigration Advocacy and Support Center, a New London-based nonprofit that provides legal services to immigrants.

Art Department faculty worked closely with representatives from the IASC for more than a year to identify artists and curate the show. Since that time, political rhetoric concerning immigration has only intensified.

“Art plays a role in this discussion, as in all discussions, because sometimes art is the only avenue to say things that can’t otherwise be said,” Barnard explained.

“It’s also a sign that authoritarian regimes (or tendencies) almost immediately target artists. I think that shows the power of creative expression, and power and responsibility that come with being able to show art and choosing what to dedicate time, space and resources to.

“We as a department felt it an appropriate time to dedicate our space and promotional resources to these artists, and this cause.”
Global Education

Building on a tradition of innovation and a commitment to international education and social justice, Connecticut College is launching a new center for global study and engagement.

The Otto and Fran Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement will advance dialogue and social justice across disciplines, borders and boundaries. Developed in concert with Connections, the College’s reinvention of liberal arts education, the Global Commons will open in the spring on the ground floor of Blaustein Humanities Center, following a $1,625,000 renovation.

“This vibrant hub for global learning will allow our faculty and staff to infuse courses and off-campus programs with diverse world perspectives, and will afford our students new opportunities to address the most relevant issues of our time,” said President Katherine Bergeron. “The Walter Commons is the embodiment of our vision for a more deeply connected and engaged education that promotes the intellectual, social, professional and civic development of every student.”

The new Walter Commons brings together the College’s Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity, Language and Culture Center, Office of Study Away, Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts, and Office of Global Initiatives.

The modern, collaborative space unites core elements of the College’s historically strong global education—language study, research abroad, study away, public engagement, globally focused courses, and co-curricular programs—with opportunities for local and global engagement, and ensures every student can integrate a global perspective into their four-year experience.

“We see the Walter Commons expanding the context for language learning, harnessing advances in technology to further connect our students to the world, and cultivating new partnerships with colleges and universities at home and abroad,” said Amy Dooling, associate dean of global initiatives, director of the Walter Commons and professor of Chinese.

Renovations began in October and are funded through grants from private foundations, including $750,000 from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, $200,000 from The William Randolph Hearst Foundation, and $175,000 from The George I. Alden Trust, as well as a generous gift from Susan Eckert Lynch ’62.

The Walter Commons was designed to align with the pillars of Connections, by enhancing world languages and intercultural knowledge, deepening global and local engagement, and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, all while ensuring that students graduate fully prepared for the challenges of today’s complex world.

“The imperatives of global education in the 21st century require more deliberate integration of social justice and internationalization agendas,” Dooling said. “This includes realigning our practices to better meet the needs and leverage the cultural wealth of our ever more diverse domestic and international student body while ensuring that a Connecticut College education equips students of all backgrounds with the capacity to put knowledge into action.”
To Broadway and Back

When she was 22, and freshly armed with a theater degree from Connecticut College, Kimberly Senior ’95 packed everything she owned into her car and set out for Chicago.

Determined to become a director, Senior, with the help of her father, had secured an internship through a friend with the famed Steppenwolf Theatre Company. Or so she thought. When she showed up, nobody was expecting her, and the theater didn’t even have interns. Undeterred by such inconvenient details, Senior got to work anyway, helping out wherever she could.

Two decades later, Senior is now an award-winning director who has helmed productions on Broadway and around the country. This fall, Senior has returned to Conn to direct Charles Mee’s critically acclaimed play, bobrauschenbergamerica, inspired by the late artist Robert Rauschenberg.

“What I love about this piece is that it really embodies the collision of all these different artistries and different mediums that Rauschenberg was known for,” Senior says. “He wasn’t only a painter, he was also a set and costume designer, and worked in dance as well. It’s really fun to work on a play that’s fundamentally about creation.”

Rauschenberg’s association with Conn goes back nearly 60 years. In 1958, during his tenure as resident designer for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, the company’s performance, Summerspace, for which Rauschenberg did the set design, debuted at the College’s 11th American Dance Festival.

While Mee’s play is more of an homage to Rauschenberg’s work and philosophy than it is a biographical story, Senior says it does touch on the artist’s early life and career.

“Rauschenberg was a fascinating person, because he had an unbelievable breadth of curiosity,” Senior says. “He grew up in a poor community in Texas, and the play examines how he became the artist he was, and asks some interesting questions, like, ‘what is art?’ and ‘what is home?’ And each fictional character in the play has been inspired by Rauschenberg in some way.”

In 2011, Senior began to collaborate with playwright Ayad Akhtar on his Pulitzer Prize-winning play, Disgraced, which she has directed on Broadway and on stages throughout the U.S.

For Senior, who has spent the last 20 years directing six to nine plays per year, finding the time to work with students can be challenging. But when Theater Department Chair David Jaffe ’77 approached her with this opportunity, she jumped at it.

“David was my professor when I went to Conn, and we’ve stayed in touch over the years, always with the hope we could do something like this,” Senior says. “Finally, the stars aligned, and I’m so excited to be on a college campus again working with students.”

Four performances of bobrauschenbergamerica will be held between Friday, Nov. 17 and Sunday, Nov. 19 in the Tansill Theater at Connecticut College.

For more information: www.conncoll.edu/theater-season/
In the scientific community, taste buds don’t get a lot of attention. They aren’t a vital part of the body, after all. But the development of these sensory organs can provide a glimpse into the workings of the cell-signaling systems that play a central role in cell development.

“One such system, the Notch pathway, is a way for cells to communicate with one another,” said Deborah Eastman, the Milne Associate Professor of Biology. “It’s important in the development and differentiation of embryonic and adult cells, and it’s associated with several cancers and other diseases.

“It’s very complex, and researchers have been studying it from a lot of different angles and model systems. But relatively few labs study taste buds, so that opens up new possibilities.”

So what can the development of taste buds in the embryos of an obscure Mexican salamander teach us about cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and CADASIL syndrome, a hereditary stroke disorder?

Eastman and her students are trying to find out. Throughout the summer, four students in her lab, Rocio Cardenas ’19, Anna Camilleri ’18, Louie Feingold ’19 and Cara McConaughey ’19, ran a series of experiments to explore when the Notch pathway plays a prominent role in the development of taste buds in the embryos of axolots, a species of Mexican salamander.

“We think it may help instruct a cell to become a taste bud cell rather than another type of cell in the mouth,” she said. “So we want to know, if we inhibit the Notch pathway, what happens to the taste buds?”

The students looked at the development of taste buds at various embryonic stages, and also designed their own experiments to look at gene expression. While the results aren’t yet final, the students did observe fewer taste buds in embryos in which the Notch pathway was inhibited.

In addition to contributing to a growing field of study, Eastman said summer research helps students learn lab skills like microdissection and immunostaining and get a sense of what being a researcher is really like: a rollercoaster of excitement and frustration.

“A lot of science is, ‘Oh, that didn’t work,’ but we learn from it,” she said. “And once you succeed, you want to continue to find answers to the next question.”

After spending the summer in Eastman’s lab, McConaughey fully understands that drive for success. The cellular and molecular biology major and psychology minor looked at the expression of two genes, HES1 and HES6, in the development of taste buds. This fall, she’s doing an independent study with Eastman.

“I’m hypothesizing that when we inhibit the Notch pathway, I’ll see less HES1 and more HES6 and that they are inversely related,” she said.

McConaughey was one of 37 students conducting science research this summer on campus with 12 faculty members in chemistry, biochemistry, biology, environmental science, behavioral neuroscience, physics, computer science and bioinformatics.
Do No Harm

When Andy Halsey ’77 decided to start a nonprofit organization in Tanzania in 2010, he had one goal in mind: Do good without doing harm.

That, he has learned, is no easy feat. “Unintended consequences are the biggest problem with the nonprofit world,” he says. “You can try to do good and then in the end, it would have been better if you had never shown up at all. You have to be very careful not to change the character of a place.”

Halsey founded Halsey Sailmaking in 1984 and spent most of his professional life growing the company into an international brand. In 2010, he traveled to Tanzania to visit his son in Bagamoyo, a coastal town near the city of Dar es Salaam. He quickly became enamored with the culture and the people, many of whom live in extreme poverty.

A happenstance meeting with the head of the U.S. Agency for International Development in Tanzania convinced Halsey to start the Sasamani Foundation, which provides holistic social service support and employment opportunities to the community of Bagamoyo.

Halsey’s goal is to implement sustainable long-term initiatives that grow organically from the needs of the local community. Over the last several years, the Sasamani Foundation has been working to identify and address several interrelated needs, including education, employment and women’s empowerment.

“We knew education would be part of it,” Halsey says. “We started out sponsoring a few kids and just paying their school fees. But we quickly learned you have to look at all the needs they have; if you don’t give them clothes and a food stipend and work with the family, the chances of success are pretty close to nil.”

The foundation now supports the education of dozens of children. Many of them are girls, who are particularly vulnerable in Tanzania’s highly patriarchal society. Even those who go to school have few professional opportunities.

To develop a network of women leaders, the Sasamani Foundation has partnered with the University of Dar es Salaam on a Women Leading Change initiative. To help develop the program, Halsey turned to Conn’s Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy, which this fall received a $2.5 million gift from trustee emerita Carolyn Holleran ’60 and Jerry Holleran GP ’07. Sponsored by Halsey, Holleran Center scholars Denise Perez ’18 and Tiffany Phan ’19 spent the summer in Dar es Salaam identifying curricular needs for Women Leading Change.

“The main thing ... was the need for a mind shift to break away from the patriarchal society,” says Perez, a sociology major and Posse scholar. “What is keeping women back? It’s lack of confidence and lack of representation in the workplace.”

The Women Leading Change program officially begins March 8, 2018, on International Woman’s Day, and Halsey, Perez and Phan plan to be there to celebrate its launch.

In addition to launching the women’s leadership program, the Sasamani Foundation will soon be erecting a new community center in Bagamoyo that will include a sewing school, a clinic and a daycare. To house the center, Halsey donated a 60,000-square-foot portable building that has been used as a sailmaking facility all over the world.
Red Cross Hero

To hear Campus Safety Officer Eric Roode tell the story, he was simply doing his job.

In January, Roode was dispatched to a residence hall for a report of a medical emergency involving an unresponsive man. On Roode’s way to the building, he grabbed one of the dozen automatic external defibrillators available on the Connecticut College campus.

It was a decision that ultimately saved the man’s life.

“There was no pulse, no respiration, so I immediately applied the AED,” Roode said.

Roode administered chest compressions and three separate shocks before firefighters arrived on the scene. A few hours later, a paramedic returned to campus to congratulate Roode on saving the man’s life.

“I don’t feel like a hero. I feel like I was just doing my job,” Roode said.

Stephen George, the man he saved, feels differently.

“He is a hero,” said George, the manager for planning, design and construction at the College. “There’s not enough praise I can give to Eric Roode for saving my life.”

Roode, who has served as a campus safety officer at the College for 11 years, was honored Sept. 14 with the American Red Cross Emergency Services Hero Award. State Sen. Heather Somers, who presented Roode with a citation from the state Senate and a special Senate pin at the organization’s Connecticut Heroes Luncheon, praised Roode for his quick thinking and lifesaving actions.

“Eric is quiet and humble, but always willing to lend a hand. I couldn’t think of a better person to be honored,” she said.

Roode was joined at the event by family and friends, including his wife and daughter, and by representatives of the College, including George, Dean of the College Victor Arcelus, Campus Safety Shift Supervisor Luis Argarin and Director of Public Relations Deborah MacDonnell.

In accepting the award, Roode said, “I’m very honored today. I’m also very grateful for the training I received at Connecticut College and the state-of-the-art equipment we have available for officers.”

In May, Roode was honored by the College with a special Recognition of Valor.
Tipping the Scale

Doctors are some of the biggest offenders in terms of making patients feel ashamed of their weight.

BY AMY MARTIN

IT MIGHT BE A DOCTOR’S headshake, wince, or “tsk, tsk” as weight is recorded in a patient’s medical chart. Or it’s a medical lecture about being overweight during an appointment for a sore throat. Or it’s a reluctance to touch a patient because that patient is obese.

“Medical fat shaming” has serious health implications, said Joan C. Chrisler, the Class of ’43 Professor of Psychology.

“Fat people experience sizeism and microaggressions all of the time, but your doctor is supposed to be someone who has your best interests at heart, so it is more painful and even more shocking,” Chrisler said.

Negative attitudes toward overweight people permeate American culture, and the healthcare field is no exception. However, when patients are shamed and embarrassed in a clinical setting, they are often reluctant to schedule return visits, which leads to incomplete follow up care, missed screenings and delays in treatment for new health problems.

Some patients avoid going to the doctor completely.

“Doctors are always lamenting that people don’t come see them when they need to. What they don’t realize is the way they treat fat people has a lot to do with it,” Chrisler said.

Chrisler and Angela Barney MA’16 recently conducted a comprehensive review of research related to sizeism in the healthcare field. They published their results in the journal Fat Studies, and Chrisler presented on the topic at the American Psychological Association’s annual convention in August.

The problem is widespread. Chrisler points out that more than half of 2,000 participants in a 2006 Yale University study reported hearing disparaging comments from their doctors about weight. Women in the study reported physicians as second only to family members as the most frequent sources of weight stigma.

Doctors might think that their critical comments about a patient’s weight will motivate that person to lose weight. But that rarely—if ever—works, because there are mitigating factors to obesity, such as genetics, Chrisler said.

“When the doctor tells a fat person, ‘You are fat,’ the person already knows it. Disrespectful treatment, in an attempt to motivate people to change their behavior, is stressful and can cause patients to avoid interacting with providers.”

In their Fat Studies article, Chrisler and Barney also cite studies that show when an overweight patient seeks care, that patient is often told to lose weight—regardless of symptoms. In their research, Chrisler and Barney came across stories of patients who were lectured on weight during visits for broken toes, dislocated shoulders, strep throat, anemia and low libido.

“People have been told to lose weight to prevent them from getting colds,” Chrisler said. “A cold is a virus. Either you are exposed or you aren’t. It has nothing to do with weight.”

In fact, Chrisler says the link between being overweight and poor health is precarious at best. She argues that no research has shown how much weight is too much, and studies that do show
weight as a predictor of chronic illness often confound weight with other variables that impact overall health, including diet, stress and poverty.

“There are healthy fat people and unhealthy thin people. You can’t determine someone’s health status simply by looking at their weight,” Chrisler said.

“Research has shown that doctors repeatedly advise weight loss for fat patients, while recommending CAT scans, blood work or physical therapy for other, average weight patients. Recommending different treatments for patients with the same condition based on their weight is unethical and a form of malpractice.”

It can also be deadly. In a 2006 study, researchers from Drexel University College of Medicine analyzed more than 300 autopsy reports and found obese patients were 1.65 times more likely than average weight or underweight patients to have a significant undiagnosed medical condition, such as endocarditis, ischemic bowel disease or lung cancer.

While some might argue the study indicates obese people have more health problems, Chrisler says that these conditions were undiagnosed, meaning that doctors either misdiagnosed the problem, or the obese patients never sought or received medical care at all.

“So often, doctors will say to a patient, ‘It’s because you weigh too much,’ instead of looking for an underlying condition.”

One area where attention should be paid to weight is drug dosage. Yet overweight patients are often excluded from medical research and drug trials because of assumptions about their health status, so standard dosages are calculated based on midrange weights.

Even when there are guidelines for adjusting dosages for overweight patients, studies show they are often ignored. In a 2012 study, researchers from Washington University School of Medicine reviewed nearly 2,000 emergency room prescriptions for three different kinds of antibiotics and found that overweight patients received the recommended dosages less than 10 percent of the time. Another study published by the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* found that up to 40 percent of overweight patients with breast, ovarian, colon and lung cancers received dosages of chemotherapy that were not appropriate for their body weights.

Under dosing of antibiotics can lead to treatment failure and bacterial resistance. Under dosing of chemotherapy can result in death.

If the scale isn’t going to be used to help medical providers determine the correct drug dosages, Chrisler wishes it would disappear from doctors’ offices altogether. Instead of worrying about weight, she says, doctors should be focused on good health habits, like regular physical activity, a nutritious diet and adequate sleep, for all patients.

To help combat sizeism in the healthcare system, Chrisler has joined a growing body of experts who advocate for better training for doctors and medical students about the importance of treating all patients fairly and respectfully.

“Doctors need training on all sorts of oppressions—racism, sexism, sizeism. They need to understand that it is unethical to treat patients differently, and you end up with poorer outcomes,” she said.

But she also suggests that patients become their own advocates whenever possible and consider switching doctors if they experience poor treatment.

“Women, especially, often have internalized shame about their weight. They think they are ‘bad,’ and that every doctor is going to treat them this way,” she said.

“I want them to know they don’t have to put up with that.”
Trail Runners

Daniel Aschale ’20 and Hannah Noyes ’20 train for the NESCAC Cross Country Championships, which take place Oct. 28 in New Gloucester, Maine. Last year, as a rookie, Aschale placed ninth to earn All-NESCAC honors. Support athletics: www.conncoll.edu/camelathleticsclub
THE A I POLICE

A new company makes artificial intelligence software that’s in use at a handful of police departments. Can it make law enforcement more transparent?

BY BLOOMBERG LP
There’s a story Brett Goldstein ’96 likes to tell. It starts on a Friday night in 2010 with him sitting in a darkened Crown Victoria on a Chicago street, poring over maps. Goldstein was a commander at the Chicago Police Department, in charge of a small unit using data analysis to predict where certain types of crimes were likely to occur at any time. Earlier that day, his computer models forecast a heightened probability of violence on a particular South Side block. Now that he and his partner were there, Goldstein was doubting himself.

“It didn’t look like it should be a target for a shooting,” he recalled. “The houses looked great. Everything was well manicured. You expect, if you’re in this neighborhood, you’re looking for abandoned buildings, you’re looking for people selling dope. I saw none of that.”

Still, they staked it out. Goldstein’s wife had just given birth to their second child, and he was exhausted after a day in the office. He started to doze off. Goldstein’s partner argued that the data must be wrong. At 11 p.m., they left.

Several hours later, Goldstein woke up to the sound of his BlackBerry buzzing. There had been a shooting—on the block where he’d been camped out. “This sticks with me because we thought we shouldn’t be there, but the computer thought we should be there,” said Goldstein. He took the near-miss as vindication of his vision for the future of law enforcement. “I do believe in a policeman’s gut. But I also believe in augmenting his or her gut,” he said.

Seven years after his evening on the South Side, Goldstein threw on a gray suit and some aerodynamic sunglasses and headed out from his hotel in Midtown Manhattan into New Jersey. This spring, he founded CivicScape, a technology company that sells crime-predicting software to police departments. Nine cities are either using the software or in the process of implementing it, including four of the country’s 35 largest cities by population. Departments pay between $30,000 a year to use the software in cities with less than 100,000 people to $155,000 a year in cities with populations that exceed 1 million. Goldstein wanted to check in on the two clients who were furthest along—the police departments in the New Jersey towns of Camden and Linden.

Goldstein likes to harp on his own lack of charisma, but he’s well suited to be a pitchman for police departments. In Chicago, he rose from patrol officer to the city’s chief data officer over a seven-year government career and regularly drops a few war stories from the streets into his conversations with cops. He’s also peddling something that every department is after nowadays: technological sophistication. The criminal justice system produces reams of data, and new computing methods offer to turn any pool of numbers into something useful. Today, almost every major police department in the country is using or has used some form of commercial software that makes predictions about crime, either to determine what blocks warrant heightened police presence or even which people are most likely to be involved. Technology is transforming the craft of policing.

Not everyone is rubbing their hands in anticipation. Many police officers still see so-called predictive policing software as mumbo jumbo. Critics outside of law enforcement argue that it’s
actively destructive. The historical information these programs use to predict patterns of crime aren’t a neutral recounting of objective fact; they’re a reflection of socioeconomic disparities and the aggressive policing of black neighborhoods. Computer scientists have held up predictive policing as a poster child of how automated decision making can be misused. Others mock it as pseudoscience. “Systems that manufacture unexplained ‘threat’ assessments have no valid place in constitutional policing,” wrote a coalition of civil rights and technology associations, including the ACLU, the Brennan Center for Justice, and the Center for Democracy & Technology, in a statement last summer.

A numbing progression of police shootings in the past several years serves as a reminder of what’s at stake when police officers see certain communities as disproportionately threatening. Over the course of eight days in late June, juries failed to convict officers who killed black men in Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. In each case, the officer’s defense relied on his perception of danger. The worst-case scenario with predictive policing software is deploying officers to target areas with their ears raised, leading them to turn violent in what would otherwise be routine encounters.

The police departments Goldstein visited in New Jersey didn’t raise any questions about fairness during his recent trip—but there was skepticism nonetheless. He had barely started speaking to a group of top officers in the Linden Police Department when the man who handled the city’s procurement process confessed how wary he was of software vendors’ magical-sounding claims. Goldstein nodded along. When he was a cop, he said, he hated sitting through “the vendor nonsense.” Goldstein launched into a sing-song voice: “Oh, you’re going to have a flying car, and it’s going to stop people, and you’re going to be Super Po-Po!’ They’ll promise you anything.”

Goldstein’s company does make one unusual promise, which it thinks can satisfy skeptics in law enforcement and civil rights circles simultaneously. Other companies that make predictive software for criminal justice settings keep their algorithms secret for competitive reasons. In March, CivicScape published its code on GitHub, a website where computer programmers post and critique one another’s work. It was an unprecedented move, and it caused an immediate stir among people who follow the cop tech industry. “They’re doing all the things I’ve been screaming about for years,” said Andrew Ferguson, a professor at the University of the District of Columbia’s law school and author of the forthcoming book *The Rise of Big Data Policing*.

Posting computer code online won’t erase the worries about predictive policing. There are still concerns about how CivicScape responds to perceived shortcomings, and there’s also the big question of what police departments do with the intelligence it produces. But more than any other company, CivicScape has turned itself into a test case for what it means for law enforcement to use artificial intelligence in a way that’s transparent and accountable—and whether that’s even possible.

Goldstein, 43, didn’t start off wanting to be a cop. He was the director of information technology at OpenTable, the online restaurant reservation company, but he began to question the significance of that work after 9/11. In 2004, Goldstein saw an
advertisement for the Chicago Police Department’s entry exam. “I’m like, ‘what does it hurt to take the police exam? I like taking tests,’” he recalled. Goldstein took the test, did well, and in 2006 left OpenTable.

After 13 months as a beat cop, Goldstein began working to develop computer models to anticipate where crime would happen. He was later promoted to commander and put in charge of a new unit dedicated to this strategy. The unit was providing intelligence that far exceeded what it had been using before, according to Michael Masters, who first met Goldstein during his academy days when Masters was an adviser to Mayor Richard M. Daley, then moved to the police department and now works at CivicScape. “We were well ahead of our time,” said Masters. Goldstein was perfectly placed to build technology into the daily work of policing. “You don’t have people who were cops, and have ridden in squad cars, building these tools,” Masters said.

Like any fast riser at a slow-moving institution, Goldstein was a polarizing figure. There were running rumors that he had some family connections at City Hall, and he had trouble developing any tough guy credibility—even after he apprehended a shooter who killed a man in front of Goldstein’s family on his day off. Longtime officers simultaneously thought it was simple to predict broad patterns of crime, which consistently centered on the same areas of the city, and impossible to anticipate specific offenses. On Second City Cop, a popular, anonymous blog, Goldstein was dubbed Golden Boy, and his unit was called the Crystal Ball Unit. Neither was meant as a compliment. Goldstein’s critics would gloat when a shooting occurred a block from one of his target areas, and they’d occasionally berate him in person at headquarters.

Goldstein admitted he failed to win over his critics, and his unit was disbanded when the head of the department stepped down in 2011. And he acknowledged that he never came up with a rigorous way to test the impact his techniques had on crime rates. Goldstein moved to City Hall, then left government in 2013. Since then, Goldstein has run a venture capital fund, held academic positions, and sat on the board of Code for America, a nonprofit dedicated to help governments use technology. With the Crystal Ball Unit gone, people on both sides of the debate in Chicago retreated to the comfort of their preconceived notions.

The Camden County Police Department’s Real-Time Tactical Operational Intelligence Center is a Rorschach test on how you feel about tech in law enforcement. The RT-TOIC, as it’s known, is a windowless room from which the department runs its technological initiatives. When Goldstein visited this month, the futuristic sheen had been undermined by the failure of the building’s air conditioning—it remained inhabitable only with a bunch of full-blast floor fans. Still, the department’s leadership thinks the RT-TOIC represents the future of policing, not just in Camden, but everywhere.

About a dozen people were at work inside, most of them sitting at stations displaying between four and six computer screens. Large screens showing maps and footage from surveillance cameras were displayed on the wall. Analysts monitored social media for accounts that have referred to known crimes.
Camden integrated CivicScape into the RT-TOIC three months ago. The company’s maps are always running, changing every hour to reflect updated data. When targets change, analysts switch their screens to the surveillance cameras pointed at those blocks. Officers translate what’s happening in the RT-TOIC to the cops on the street. The guys in patrol cars don’t know whether an order is derived from some newfangled math, the judgment of a superior officer or a mixture. The ambiguity is deliberate, said Kerry Yerico, the department’s director of criminal intelligence and analysis.

On the day of Goldstein’s visit, Yerico and Lieutenant Jeremy Merck, the watch commander on duty, were discussing an area that CivicScape had flagged. Merck immediately recognized the area—his officers had said that drug dealers were ramping up operations there. They had deployed extra officers.

Neither Yerico nor Merck knew exactly how the department’s computers and humans had homed in on the same spot. The guts of CivicScape’s predictive system are a series of neural networks. Neural networks, named because their design mimics the structure of neurons in the human brain, examine large data sets in which the inputs and outcomes are labeled. They then determine patterns they can use to predict what will happen when presented with new data.

Neural networks are favored by computer scientists working with huge data sets, but one of their shortcomings is their opaqueness. Unlike an algorithm in which a human has consciously told the system what to think about each factor, neural networks find their own paths and can’t effectively explain to humans what they’ve done. This has the potential to make CivicScape even less transparent than other predictive-policing software, which use different types of algorithms.

Scott Thompson, Camden’s police chief, said he hasn’t heard any criticism about transparency. For its part, CivicScape said its openness comes from inviting discussion about the types of data its models use.

“I do believe in a policeman’s gut. But I also believe in augmenting his or her gut.”

Kristian Lum and William Isaac, researchers who have written their own statistical models for the Human Rights Data Analysis Group demonstrating how bias works in predictive policing, have examined the code. They both described CivicScape’s move as positive but withheld praise until they see how the company followed through.

A significant shortcoming with CivicScape’s code repository, said Isaac, is that it has posted generic code when in practice it adapts its system for each separate client. Police departments often resist releasing data they’re not mandated to make public by law, and Goldstein acknowledged that his clients will not allow him to share some of the data that he’s using to produce predictions. It’s hard for an observer to assess what an algorithm does without access to either the final version of the code or a full set of the data.

“I think it’s a straddle” between the desires of police departments and the public, said Goldstein. “I’d rather take this step and move forward than not take a step because we know there are imperfections.” Isaac said that CivicScape isn’t fully in control of how its system works but that Goldstein’s attitude illustrates the problematic approach companies and government agencies take toward predictive tech. Goldstein rightly pointed out that secrecy has been established as the baseline, then demanded credit for any steps he takes in the other direction. “Should it be up to him?” said Isaac. “I think that’s kind of a false choice.”

Linden, like many of CivicScape’s clients, is a small department going through a transition. Its chief, Jonathan Parham, started in late 2016. He is a lifelong Linden resident, a 25-year veteran of the force, and its first African-American chief. He also thinks police departments have overemphasized arresting people.

Parham said he sees predictive policing as a way to offset brain drain. A lack of experience in the department has left Linden’s officers without a basic understanding of its communities. “We’re looking at the absence of personal knowledge of your area and supplementing that with technical knowledge of the frequency of the crimes,” said Parham.

This is a common argument for adding computers. Camden’s department cited a similar need. All the cameras, social media analysis, and automated forecasting are supposed to help the department cover the most ground with the fewest officers.

To Isaac, this is a myopic way to approach criminal justice. Even the act of updating target areas hourly distorts the situation by ignoring any potential service that can’t be carried out by a cop over the next 60 minutes. The potential advantages of predictive tech are undermined by restricting it to something that cops use to catch supposed bad guys. “What you are left with is a perceived chess match between cops and robbers,” said Isaac. “That’s a very simplistic version of what crime really is.”

Parham offered a similar view. The worst thing Linden’s police department could do, he argued, was to believe that Goldstein really did have mystical math that would allow officers to drive to the specific locations of shootings just as they were about to occur. During the meeting with Goldstein, he told his department’s brass that it needed to avoid turning policing into a video game.

Parham recalled a training exercise he helped run. Officers were sent to a train station and told to interview people in the station, to treat people as more than potential perps. After 10 minutes, each officer would write down what he had learned. The winner was the person with the most useful information.

The officers who were logging the most arrests always performed the worst, Parham said. If law enforcement is a matter of receiving a target from a computer and then attacking that target, it doesn’t matter how precise the computer model is. Parham’s job is to produce cops who are better at the train station drill. “Our officers, the more technologically savvy they get, the less human they become,” said Parham. “I don’t want that.”

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Gun control is one of the most divisive issues in the U.S. A small group of Conn alums is striving to detoxify the debate while seeking reasonable solutions to halt gun violence.

By Amy Martin

On the morning of June 14, former U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords stared at her television, unable to look away from the eerily familiar scenes she had hoped she’d never see again.

Bystanders running to safety. First responders rushing to help the injured. Confusion. Fear. Terror.

Four people, including House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., had been shot at a congressional charity baseball practice in Alexandria, Virginia. They were now members of a club no one wants to be in: the more than 114,000 Americans shot each year.

“In the days and weeks to come, I know from personal experience what to expect,” Giffords wrote in The Washington Post.

Six years earlier, a few weeks into her third term as the Democratic representative for Arizona’s 8th Congressional District, Giffords was shot in a mass shooting outside a Safeway supermarket in Tucson. Six of her constituents were killed, 12 more were injured.

“As a nation, we will debate violence and honor service... We will debate the availability and use of guns,” her piece continued.

“We know, as always, that no one law could prevent a shooting like this. But we also know that we must acknowledge a problem: an unacceptable rate of gun violence in this country. And we must acknowledge that a deadly problem like this brings a responsibility to find solutions.”

Giffords, herself a proud gun owner, never intended to make gun violence prevention her life’s work. But just shy of two years into her recovery, 20 children and six adults were killed on Dec. 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Giffords and her husband, retired Navy Captain and astronaut Mark Kelly, met with the victims’ families.

That January, on the second anniversary of the Tucson shooting, Giffords and Kelly founded Americans for Responsible Solutions, a nonprofit and super PAC to lobby for stricter gun control in an effort to prevent violence.

“[Giffords and Kelly] decided they had had enough,” said Bettina Weiss ’15, one of four Connecticut College alumni to have worked for ARS.

“They thought, ‘There has to be some sort of common-ground, bipartisan solution to gun violence.’”

Background Checks
As a communications associate for ARS, which recently merged with the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, Weiss spends much of her time raising awareness about gun violence. She’s grown accustomed to rattling off the startling statistics.

“Ninety-one people are killed every day by a gun in the U.S.,” Weiss said. “American women are 11 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than women in peer countries.”

Mass shootings garner the lion’s share of media attention, but the vast majority of America’s gun violence takes a different form: domestic violence, urban violence or suicide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 60 percent of the 33,000 gun deaths each year are self-inflicted. Guns are used in more than two-thirds of all homicides, and a 2003 study published in the American Journal of Public Health...
found women who have suffered abuse are five times more likely to be killed if their abuser owns a firearm.

“One law can’t stop all gun violence,” Weiss said, echoing Giffords’ op-ed. “But there are some commonsense steps we can take to save lives.”

At the top of ARS’s list is instituting universal background checks, which prohibit convicted felons, domestic abusers and people with certain mental health histories from buying or possessing firearms. Despite overwhelming support among the general public—a June 28 Quinnipiac University poll found 94 percent of Americans support background checks for all gun buyers—federal law doesn’t require background checks for all gun buyers—federal law doesn’t require background checks for private gun sales, which account for an estimated 40 percent of all gun sales in the U.S.

“Licensed dealers need to run background checks. But if you buy a gun from an individual at a gun show? No background check. Convicted felons can buy guns off the internet, no questions asked,” Weiss said.

The last major national effort to pass universal background checks came in the wake of the Sandy Hook shooting when ARS was in its infancy. A slate of stricter gun control measures was proposed; the bill included an amendment that would close most background check loopholes. Polls showed the amendment, crafted by a Democrat from West Virginia and a Republican from Pennsylvania, had the support of 90 percent of the public. Yet the measure failed 54-46 in the Senate, six votes shy of the 60 needed to break a filibuster.

Giovanna Gray Lockhart ’02, who has worked as an independent consultant for ARS since 2014, was serving as a special adviser to Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand, D-N.Y., at the time.

“It was really disappointing,” Lockhart said. “We had a Democratic president and Democratic legislature and we couldn’t get it passed.”

In response to the bill’s failure, President Barack Obama gave an impassioned speech in the White House Rose Garden.

“This is a pretty shameful day for Washington,” Obama said. “The American people are trying to figure out—how can something that has 90 percent support not happen?”

One answer is that the bill was opposed by the National Rifle Association, one of the most influential lobbying organizations in Washington. Initially founded in 1871 to advance rifle marksmanship, the NRA has been directly lobbying for gun rights since 1975. The organization opposes efforts to expand background checks, often arguing that they don’t prevent criminals from getting firearms through theft or illegal trade.

“This one topic holds up major legislation time and time again,” Lockhart said. “Background checks are used as a political foil.”

The NRA’s influence is considerable: the year the background check amendment was defeated, the organization took in $350 million in revenue. But as Americans struggled to come to terms with the Sandy Hook shooting, average citizens and donors began paying more attention to gun-related issues. ARS gave them somewhere to turn.

“It was really a grassroots movement,” said Megan Nashban ’09, who was the organization’s second hire. Nashban served as ARS’s development director before leaving in 2016 to work as a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton’s campaign.

Of the first $30 million raised—a big milestone for the organization—about half came from donations of less than $1,500. And while many of the donors were Democrats, there were Republicans too. And gun owners. Today, ARS boasts approximately 30,000 gun owners among its membership.

BOYFRIEND LOOPHOLE

The NRA often argues that gun control advocates want to outlaw guns. But that is not what ARS is trying to do.

“We have a culture of gun ownership that was established very early on with the Second Amendment—it’s literally in our Constitution,” Weiss said.

Instead, ARS focuses its efforts on what it calls “common-sense” legislation at both the federal and state level, lobbying for expanded background checks, stronger laws against gun trafficking, and stricter prohibitions on gun ownership for violent offenders and those most likely to commit violence.

Weiss is particularly interested in how new legislation can prevent domestic violence. At Connecticut College, she served as a peer educator for the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention and Advocacy. Since graduation, she has volunteered as a crisis hotline counselor for victims of domestic and sexual assault.

“The link between sexual violence and gun violence is so strong,” Weiss said. “When a woman is in an abusive relationship and a gun is present, the chances of her dying go up exponentially.”

Federal law prohibits anyone who has been convicted of felony or misdemeanor domestic violence from possessing a firearm. But the law, passed in 1996, has several loopholes. For example, it only applies to abusers who victimize spouses, cohabitating partners or those with whom the abuser shares a child; it doesn’t apply to those who are merely dating.

“About half of all domestic violence deaths occur in couples
that aren’t actually married, so closing this ‘boyfriend loophole’ is a big priority,” Weiss said.

Lockhart, who left the Senate in April 2014, has been using her connections to help ARS build consensus around gun violence prevention as a women’s issue, and not an antigun movement. Her ultimate goal is to change the national conversation. That means moving away from the familiar “us versus them” narrative.

“Unfortunately, the discussion and the debate over this issue has been driven by the NRA and the opposition,” she said. “If we ever want that to change, and if we ever want commonsense laws, we can’t demonize gun owners. We have to work with them.”

Even language matters, which is why ARS avoids the phrase “gun control.”

“It implies we are trying to take away your gun,” Lockhart said. “We aren’t. We believe in the Second Amendment. We are trying to prevent violence.”

THE SILencers

Much of ARS’s success has been at the state level. Since its founding, nearly 200 laws supported by the organization have passed in 45 states and Washington, D.C. Measuring the impact of individual laws is difficult, but research has shown a correlation between stronger gun laws and lower rates of violence. One 2013 study by researchers at Boston Children’s Hospital and the Harvard School of Public Health found states with the most gun laws had 42 percent fewer fatalities than states with the fewest number of laws.

But on Nov. 8, 2016, the gun control movement suffered a major setback. Republicans, who already had a majority in the House of Representatives, took control of the Senate. Republican Donald J. Trump was elected president. The NRA spent more than $50 million on the election, investing heavily in six Senate races and winning five of them. A total of $30 million was spent on Trump.

Almost immediately, ARS was on the defensive.

On the first day of the new congress, Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C., introduced the National Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, which would allow people with a state-issued concealed carry license or permit to conceal a handgun in any other state that allows concealed carry, regardless of local laws. Twelve states don’t require a permit at all, meaning a resident from a permit-less state like Vermont could conceivably carry a concealed gun into any other state in the country with nothing more than proof of residency.

“It’s a dangerous law that would wipe out strong laws in states where we have worked hard to pass higher standards for background checks, mandatory training and probable cause,” Weiss said.

Another looming battle: silencers. These devices, also called suppressors, attach to the barrel of a firearm and reduce the amount of noise generated by firing. Since 1934, they have been as tightly regulated as machine guns under the National Firearms Act. Now, lawmakers are considering proposals to ease or eliminate those regulations. Proponents argue silencers protect hunters and sportsman from hearing loss; opponents argue they could make it more difficult for people to recognize danger and get to safety in an active-shooter situation.

The latest bill, the Hearing Protection Act, was introduced by Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-S.C., in January. A hearing to consider the bill was scheduled for the week of June 13; it was cancelled after the shooting at the congressional baseball practice, at which Duncan was present. The hearing has yet to be rescheduled, but Weiss knows the issue isn’t going away.

“It has everything to do with gun lobby profits,” she said. “Right now, gun sales in the U.S. are down for the first time in two decades. The gun lobby is looking for a way to sell more, and silencers are an easy way to do it.”

At the federal level, ARS and the Law Center are working to educate the public and lawmakers alike about the potential impacts of both proposals. At the state level, the two organizations are celebrating some moderate successes in 2017. They released a midyear report in early July citing the passage of 10 gun violence prevention laws in nine states. Also, by mid-year, legislators in 20 states, including entrenched red states like Alabama and South Carolina, rejected proposals to allow guns in public without a permit. In Iowa and Nebraska, efforts to repeal state laws requiring private sale background checks failed, as did an effort to repeal Washington’s 2014 universal background check law.

Lockhart is hopeful that those state victories will eventually set the stage for major national legislation. But if Congress is ever going to vote against the gun lobby, she says, the impetus must come from the general public.

“Our country has done it before with laws around smoking or drunk driving or wearing seatbelts or even gay marriage—those weren’t driven by the government, they were driven by the people,” Lockhart said.

“It may take a long time, but I think in our lifetimes we will see commonsense legislation passed.”

Editor’s Note: This story went to press prior to the shooting in Las Vegas on Oct. 1, 2017.
50 Years of *60 Minutes*

Emmy-winner Michael Rey ’93 is producing some of the most important investigative journalism.

*BY DOUG DANIELS*
It’s around 1 p.m. on a Wednesday in the Hell’s Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan, and Michael Rey ’93 is giving me a tour of his offices in the CBS building on West 57th street. Rey is an Emmy-winning producer for the newsmagazine program 60 Minutes, which has been the most watched and revered public affairs show on TV for half a century. A segment he produced earlier in the year, about pro cyclists using hidden motors in their bikes, is reairing in a few weeks, and Rey wants to check on the correspondent, Bill Whitaker, who’s in a tiny sound booth recording some updated narration.

“Bill’s the hardest-working man in the business,” Rey tells me, as we head back to his office to talk about how he found his way onto one of the most iconic shows in television history.

His path wasn’t an obvious one.

After college, Rey traveled to Europe seeking adventure (and a job), and ended up writing for an English language business paper. Reflecting on his time at Conn, he says it’s where he first caught the journalism bug, despite having initially planned on studying human ecology.

“I realized I just wasn’t a strong science student, so I took a religion course … and I loved it so much I decided to major in comparative religious studies,” he says.

“It turned out to be the best major for journalism. It taught me how to write, how to think critically, and since it forced me to question religion and explore other cultures in ways I never had before, I also learned how to examine complicated issues from different angles.”

After he returned to the U.S., Rey’s first job at CBS was working as an assistant on 60 Minutes II, a spinoff that aired midweek as a companion series to the flagship show. After it was cancelled in 2005, Rey spent a year at 48 Hours, CBS’s Saturday-night murder mystery show, before joining the new investigative unit for The CBS Evening News when Katie Couric took over the anchor chair in 2006.

It was a story Rey did for the The CBS Evening News that he initially worried might be too obscure that would go on to win him an Emmy Award—a story about copy machines.

Rey and his team caught wind of a dirty little secret in the copy machine industry. Unbeknownst to many of the corporations, government agencies and medical organizations that leased digital copy machines for two or three years before trading them in for newer models, every copy made was stored on an internal hard drive that could then be accessed by whoever got ahold of the copier next. For organizations that create confidential documents or use private information such as health records, this revelation raised enormous privacy and legal liability concerns.

“This was one of those stories that seemed like it could be nothing at first, but as we dug deeper, we struck journalistic gold,” Rey says. “We found a place in New Jersey that was selling used copiers, so we wore hidden cameras and posed as customers. The place was a massive warehouse … with huge shelves filled with maybe ten thousand of these machines.”

CBS gave Rey enough money to buy three copiers, which he selected randomly and brought back to the office where he had a digital security expert remove the hard drives and examine the content. What they found confirmed Rey’s worst suspicions.

“One of the copiers had belonged to the Buffalo, New York, police department, and was used by their sex crimes unit and their anti-drug task force, and we could view thousands of documents from each,” Rey explains. “We had names of sex offenders in Buffalo, confidential plans for joint drug raids with the DEA and even victim reports.”

Another copier that Rey had purchased, previously leased by a large insurance company, had thousands of private medical records stored on it. When Rey contacted the company to let them know what he’d discovered, they were shocked to even learn of the existence of a hard drive on the
copy machine, especially since, as it turns out, they had a responsibility to wipe the memory clean. In 1996, Congress enacted the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which has evolved over the years to include strict requirements for insurance companies to keep their customers’ medical records private.

“Here was this company that hadn’t knowingly done anything wrong, but they ended up having to pay five or six million dollars in fines because of these HIPAA violations we uncovered,” Rey says. “And as a result of the story, the copy machine industry implemented new processes for erasing hard drives, but there’s still a question about how effective they are.”

It’s almost time for Whitaker to shoot an updated on-camera intro for Rey’s cycling story, so we head across the street to the CBS Broadcast Center where TV and radio programming of virtually every description is produced, including The CBS Evening News, CBS Sports, late-night comedies, soap operas and more.

Rey shows me into the small studio where the 60 Minutes correspondents film their introductions to each segment, seated on a stool. The room is one big blue screen, both the back wall and the floor. The magazine background images are computer generated and added in later.

Whitaker shows up to shoot his on-camera intro, and we move across to the control room where we can watch the process unfold. The front of the room is made up of a wall of screens and esoteric instruments that dance and blink and glow as we watch Whitaker on a computer screen working through a handful of takes before he lands one perfectly.

This is probably the easiest part of Rey’s job, and he seems relieved that the segment is in the can. But finding stories that can make it to this point is challenging, he says, and each producer has a quota of four stories per year. On the surface, this might not sound like much, but considering some stories can take months or even years to produce from start to finish, this might not sound like much, but considering some stories can take months or even years to produce from start to finish, Rey and his colleagues need to be adept at jumping back and forth between multiple stories that can take unpredictable twists and turns. And while many stories offer a sense of satisfaction—exposing fraud, bringing attention to an unreported issue—there are also the pieces that take an emotional toll.

A few years ago, Scott Pelley, correspondent and former anchor of The CBS Evening News, asked Rey to start researching how America’s mental health system treats kids with severe psychiatric problems. The assignment led Rey down a nearly two-year path that still haunts him.

“These were the toughest couple of years of reporting I’ve ever done,” he admits. “For one story, we spent a week at Yale New Haven Hospital in the pediatric psych unit, and interviewed parents of mentally ill kids who were desperate for help. They’d be speaking to us on camera, while their kids were tied to a bed screaming and suffering from psychotic episodes, explaining that this was a frequent occurrence, but that insurance wouldn’t cover the treatment they needed.”

Because of restrictive insurance review policies, the hospital usually had little choice but to medicate the kids and release them, reintroducing them into the same cycle that triggered the psychotic episodes to begin with.

“I talked to a lot of frustrated doctors and nurses at different hospitals, and one name kept coming up: Doctor Jack,” Rey says. Dr. Timothy Jack was a practicing psychiatrist from California, also under contract with Anthem, one of the nation’s largest health insurance companies. Providers that Rey spoke to recounted numerous times Dr. Jack, working on behalf of Anthem, had denied coverage for mentally ill patients. In fact, during one six-month period, Rey found that Dr. Jack’s denial rate was over 92%.

“What I wanted to know was how this doctor was being compensated for rejecting legitimate claims,” Rey says. “The ethical questions surrounding a system like that are serious, and it’s clear that the process is about saving money, not saving lives.”

What Rey discovered was that Dr. Jack’s fee was $45 per patient, and he reviewed 550 cases per month, resulting in nearly $25,000 a month just to summarily reject mental health claims from his home.

Rey and his team flew to California and camped outside Dr. Jack’s palatial Beverly Hills home, hoping to corner him for some answers. When he didn’t come out, Rey decided to go up and buzz the intercom, but despite a brief back-and-forth, Dr. Jack wouldn’t discuss the matter.

The piece generated national outrage and aimed a bright spotlight on the mental health system with an intensity most of the public hadn’t seen before. That story, Rey says, was incredibly satisfying, because it led to the state of California overturning many of Dr. Jack’s denials, and Anthem is now facing lawsuits from customers who were denied coverage.

“That’s the key,” Rey says. “We don’t cover issues at 60 Minutes in a traditional way. We find an issue, and then find a specific person, or people who can put a human face to it.”
ART AS CONVERSATION

Painter Alexander Yulish ’97 is making his mark on both the New York and Los Angeles art scenes.

BY DOUG DANIELS

In the age-old debate between nature versus nurture, Alexander Yulish ’97 represents both sides. Artistic talent is in his DNA. His mother, Barbara Pearlman, is a well-known New York painter and sculptor, who invited her son into the studio at a young age. But he also grew up in Manhattan, directly next door to the famous creative incubator the Chelsea Hotel—a fabled establishment in which the ghosts of legendary artists, musicians and literary figures long roamed the halls alongside their modern heirs.

That early exposure to the sensibilities of the art world, combined with a richly seasoned path that also includes a role in director David Lynch’s Inland Empire, is reflected in Yulish’s deeply personal, large-scale abstract paintings. CC Magazine spoke to Yulish about his work, his childhood and his pivotal experience as a member of Conn’s crew team.

Doug Daniels: You divide your time between New York and L.A. How do you think living in two vastly different cities impacts your work?

Alexander Yulish: I feel very fortunate to be able to live in both places, because they’re both such intensely emotional cities. New York feels so alive; it’s almost hyperkinetic with this whole network of veins moving underneath it as you walk down the sidewalk. And if you’re aware, you can really pick up on the energy of the city, the people and the sounds. I think that has to make its way into my work, because everything you experience subconsciously goes into your work. Los Angeles is just as aggressive as New York in many ways, but it’s so beautiful it’s easy to be lulled into complacency, so I almost feel like I have to work harder there.

DD: What’s your process like? Do you prefer to work at night? During the day? Do you work on a painting for a bit and then come back to it?

AY: I like starting early and working into the late afternoon. I lose my focus by around 4 p.m., so I try to get a solid six hours in the studio. There’s a misconception, I think, that artists operate at a leisurely pace, and wake up, enjoy their coffee and relax. But for me, there’s almost an obsessive quality, and I can’t wait to get into that studio. I’m constantly thinking about my work, and by the end of the afternoon, I’m completely emotionally exhausted and I need to detach.

DD: What’s your entry point for a new painting? Are you inspired by current events, or something you’ve seen on the street, or is it more about examining your personal life?

AY: For me, I think it’s personal. It has to do with what’s going on in my mind and my emotions. But there’s no question that everything I witness or might hear on the news, or even a piece of music I listen to, will create an emotional dialogue that I might not be aware of. But when I go into the studio it suddenly comes out in my work. The key is to paint on an even keel. I don’t want to go into the studio with a preconceived emotion. If I’m angry or overly happy that will cloud the real emotions at my core. But once I start painting that’s when the fight begins. One minute I’m elated because the painting is going at a great pace, and then literally one stroke later I’ll feel like I’m about to lose it. I want to climb onto the roller coaster with an even keel, then take it for a ride, with no holds barred. That’s how you find authenticity.
Insatiable - Acrylic on linen, 78 in. x 78 in.
DD: What’s your approach to colors? How do you contextualize them? Is there any strategy behind them?

AY: It may sound strange, but I think of myself as a vessel. I love when the work just flows through me, because that’s when it’s the most pure. So when I’m painting and all of a sudden I reach for that red, and start using different reds and yellows and blacks, and start mixing them with other colors, I’m creating a dialogue that expresses what’s going on in my mind at that moment. The colors I pick are really a subconscious extension of my current emotions.

DD: When do you know you’re finished with a painting?

AY: There are a couple of things: First, when it feels balanced, and the painting holds together, I know it’s done. But I also think of a painting as a conversation. Conversations usually wind down and come to a natural close when there’s nothing left to say, and nothing left on the table. For me, painting is the same way. That’s why 99.9 percent of the time I don’t like to leave a painting for a few months and then go back to it, because it’s a completely different conversation at that point.

DD: Do you like to experiment with different formats?

AY: The majority of my paintings are 8 by 10 feet or 6½ by 6½ feet, but the largest piece in my last show was 10 by 18 feet. I’m just starting to experiment with smaller sizes now.

DD: How important is it for artists to experiment and try things that might make them uncomfortable?

AY: It’s absolutely paramount. I constantly have to strive to take risks and challenge myself, because otherwise I’m not growing, and neither is my work. You might do a show that people love, but you have to be willing to do something with your next show that those same people might not like. I’m always terrified to get back in the studio after a show, but it’s so necessary to keep experimenting, even though you’re still using the same alphabet and the same tools. You need to take risks every single day. That unpredictability is what excites me and what drives me to paint.

DD: Are you interested in pursuing other art forms outside of painting?

AY: Yes, but not yet. I’ve seen this with my mother. She was a painter her entire life until about 20 years ago when, one day, she realized painting wasn’t enough for her anymore, and she became a sculptor. Right now that voice telling me to explore other forms of art isn’t strong enough to make me deviate from painting, but I hope in my lifetime I’ll try something else.

DD: You’ve spoken about your passion for architecture. Is that something you ever considered as a profession?

AY: I’m the type of person who gets so excited by architecture that I’ll pull over, jump out of the car and admire the angles of a beautiful house, and I’m sure that finds its way into my work somehow. Being an architect is something I would love to do in the next life. There’s something about living in a work of art that is exciting. Architecture is so undervalued as an art form. John Lautner’s Wolff House is one of the most beautiful pieces of art I’ve ever seen, and you can live inside it and experience it in so many different ways. Yet paintings by artists you’ve never heard of can sell for more than that house. I would like to see great architecture like that given the same status as priceless art.

DD: Does it drive you crazy when people tell you your work reminds them of another artist?

AY: It did in the beginning, but not anymore. I realize now that that’s how people connect with something.

DD: Who are some of your favorite influences?

AY: Francis Bacon, Willem de Kooning, Wassily Kandinsky, Robert Motherwell, Joan Mitchell—those are just a few.

DD: What do you hope a viewer experiences from your work?

AY: I want them to have a visceral reaction. I want someone to get a jolt, or, ideally, to get electrocuted when they see a painting. What I don’t want a viewer to feel is indifference. I’d rather they say one of my paintings is the worst thing they’ve ever seen than to not really have a reaction at all.

DD: What was the most important part of your experience at Conn?

AY: As an only child, I grew up as a bit of a loner in New York, and I always felt like something was missing. So when I got to Conn somebody suggested I try out for crew, and I loved it. It was the first time I ever felt like I was part of something. I loved that you were only as strong as your weakest link. It was the most profound experience of my whole college career, because I never imagined I could share such an intense bond with people. When you’re on the water, and that lactic acid begins coursing through you, and you know your body is starting to shut down, you have to work through it, and you know that everybody in your boat has your back. There’s nothing like racing the submarines on a cold morning, as steam rises off the river, seeing foxes darting around on the shoreline. Those images are burned into my memory. That mentality of not giving up that I learned rowing at Conn, is something I access every day when I’m painting.

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Deep Blue - Acrylic on linen, 78 in. x 78 in.
Under The Moonlight - Acrylic on canvas, 78 in. x 78 in.
In the spring of 2011, Joshua Green ’94 had just returned from a trip to Alaska. A political writer for The Atlantic at the time, he was working on a story about Sarah Palin and her potential to energize an underrepresented, populist movement that was simmering within the grass roots of the Republican Party. While the purveyors of conventional wisdom were mostly dismissive of Palin’s presidential ambitions, and deeply skeptical that her ideology could ever hold mainstream appeal, Green sensed a burgeoning political realignment. Palin was tapping into a potent brew of economic, racial and cultural resentment that would ultimately find a more effective electoral vessel five years later in the form of Donald Trump. But the conservative, antiestablishment populism Green caught an early glimpse of during his 2011 reporting paved the way for Trump to stage the greatest upset in the history of American politics. If Trump’s hostile takeover of the establishment GOP was a virus, Sarah Palin was Patient Zero.

Soon after Green’s story was published, he received an unexpected invitation to attend the screening of a pro-Palin documentary in Washington, D.C. The producer of the film was a colorful character named Steve Bannon, who had worked on Wall Street and in Hollywood, but now harbored a fiery contempt for both. Bannon was so impressed with Green’s piece that he wanted to meet him—a rare stroke of luck for Green in an industry where reporters usually have to search far and wide for writing material.

Having made a fortune in finance and entertainment, Bannon’s focus had shifted to producing films that advanced a far-right, nationalist agenda—one that identified immigration and trade agreements among the issues anathema to his particular strain of conservative populism. When Green first encountered Bannon, he never could have predicted that the man, whom Saturday Night Live depicts as the Grim Reaper, would later lead the Trump campaign to victory and serve as chief White House strategist in the administration.

“Here was this wild, disheveled guy, unshaven, wearing a military field jacket,” Green says. “But what I quickly saw, and what you don’t get from Bannon’s public persona, is that he has this manic charisma. He’s very sharp and witty, and even optimistic.”

Over the next few years, Green got to know Bannon, who became executive chairman of the right-wing website Breitbart News in 2012. Bannon was quietly becoming an increasingly influential figure in politics. In 2015, Green, who is now the senior national correspondent at Bloomberg Businessweek and a CNN political analyst, wrote the profile about Bannon that turbo-charged his career and led to his The New York Times best-selling new book, Devil’s Bargain: Steve Bannon, Donald Trump, and the Storming of the Presidency.

Green was born in New London and grew up in faculty housing at Connecticut College. His father, Garrett Green, was a professor of religious studies from 1970 until 1996, as well as department chair for a time. Feeling he should branch out from his hometown, the younger Green attended Trinity College in Hartford for two years before realizing that Conn was where he really wanted to be. He transferred as a junior and double-majored in English and economics.
When I call Green’s cell phone in early August, he very apologetically says that he needs to call me back. He’s about to jump on air for a last-minute CNN spot to discuss his book and the latest palace intrigue surrounding Bannon. “The demands of cable news are never-ending,” he jokes.

Green reacts to the huge success of his book and the attention he’s receiving with sincere modesty. But in truth, these days, he is in high demand. He functions as a counterbalance to the typical 24-hour cable news echo chamber that covers every tweet, utterance or gaffe committed by leaders in Washington, and the media world is catching on to the appeal of Green’s in-depth work.

“By far the most well-read story of my career was my 8000-word, long-form profile I did on Bannon” for Bloomberg Businessweek, he says. “So there’s still a real appetite for that type of journalism.”

In August, Academy Award-nominated producer Jason Blum optioned Devil’s Bargain with plans to make a limited TV series or movie based on the book. Green will be involved directly in the development.

The timing of his book couldn’t have been better, debuting at number one on The New York Times Best Sellers list, and coinciding with arguably the most controversial period of Bannon’s tumultuous White House tenure, in which there were almost daily reports of his internal feuds with other top Trump aides. But good timing or not, the real reason for Green’s success is that his reporting and writing are just plain good.

His gifts as a political analyst, both in print and on TV, are noticeably sharper than the vast majority of partisan cable news pundits and columnists. Aside from being a talented storyteller, it’s clear from Devil’s Bargain that he’s genuinely interested in uncovering the whole story behind a politician or an ideological movement. His Bannon book paints an incredibly comprehensive portrait of a man and a presidential campaign that, until now, have been largely covered on a superficial level. Beneath the surface, Bannon is a complex personality who requires a far deeper examination to better understand how and why Trump is the president, and Hillary Clinton isn’t.

“What drew me to Bannon initially was his distinct brand of politics,” Green says. “At the time, that type of ideology was associated with the Tea Party, but even then you could tell it was something different and unique, and it certainly wasn’t being represented in Washington.”

Today, that brand of politics, termed the “alternative right,” has scrambled the political landscape, and Green has been the first mainstream journalist to chronicle the movement’s ascension from the fringes to the presidency. What distinguishes Green from so many other political writers in the Twitter era is his appreciation for long-form journalism. While many reporters place an emphasis on providing bite-size pieces of information that can be quickly shared on social media, Green takes the time to do a deep dive into a story that other media outlets are moving too fast to pick up on.

“My job as a political magazine writer is to find unusual characters with interesting ideas, and then write about them,” Green says. “I just really liked Bannon as a literary subject, because he’s such a colorful guy. So I decided to start hanging around with him at political functions and parties that Breitbart hosted, and I was always fascinated by the people who swirled around in his orbit.”

In Devil’s Bargain, Green describes one particularly memorable Breitbart party in which one of the cast members of Duck Dynasty delivered a thundering, red-meat speech to the adoring conservative attendees. In a media environment that is divided by a self-imposed partisan segregation, being embedded in situations like this is what makes Green’s writing so compelling.

“People will always love narrative storytelling,” he says. “Good long-form journalism takes time and effort and can be costly, but I’d argue that over the past five years or so, the political stories that have gotten the most attention have been long, thoughtful pieces that you see in The Atlantic or The New Yorker. It’s just a matter of making them work economically, and some outlets are learning to strike that balance, mixing longer pieces with other forms of journalism.”

Green wasn’t always a political junkie. After graduation, he moved out to Boulder, Colorado, with 10 of his Conn rugby teammates. They worked a variety of restaurant jobs and Green picked up some freelance writing assignments, which soon led to a job with the Boulder/Denver edition of The Onion, the legendary satirical news site.

“For a couple of years, I was a writer, a delivery boy, a waiter, and I learned a lot,” says Green.

Journalism wasn’t even on Green’s radar screen until he came to Conn.

“I wanted to be a big-shot Wall Street stockbroker,” he remembers, laughing. “But that was a terrible fit. I interned at a brokerage firm and absolutely hated it. Then my economics adviser suggested I consider journalism, since I was a strong writer. I suspect that was his way of gently telling me I had no future as an economist or stockbroker!”

As for any fallout from his book, Green is unsure if it played any role in Bannon’s ouster a few weeks after its release, but the former White House strategist and Trump confidante is still taking Green’s calls, so apparently there aren’t any hard feelings.

“I haven’t spoken to him directly about the book, but I’ve heard from people around him that he’s pleased with its success, even though he was initially upset and worried when it was released that it would bring too much attention to him,” explains Green.
Elizabeth Krieg ’12 and Lauren Briere ’02 are genetic counselors working with the Undiagnosed Diseases Network.

BY MARIA GONZALEZ
Bertrand Might’s medical problems were apparent from infancy. Born to Cristina and Matt Might in 2007, Bertrand seemed to be constantly moving, as if unable to rest, and could not be consoled. Each potential diagnosis, such as brain damage, was ruled out through testing.

The answer to Bertrand’s medical mysteries came when he was four years old. A revolutionary approach to medicine, exome sequencing, offered the piece to the puzzle that explained his developmental disabilities, which included life-threatening seizures and the inability to walk or speak.

By sequencing the exome, the less than two percent of the genome that codes proteins and gives rise to the vast majority of known genetic disorders, Cristina and Matt learned they each carry a mutation in the NGLY1 gene. The chance that Bertrand would inherit each mutation was about one in four million.

But Bertrand did inherit this mutation, so he was not producing an enzyme that helps to recycle cellular waste by removing sugar molecules from damaged proteins.

The Mights shared Bertrand’s story widely in the media and online. By doing so, they met other patients who had inherited the NGLY1 mutation, and had also struggled to find a medical answer. Since finding the cause to their son’s medical problems, the Mights helped reshape genomic medicine toward encouraging the sharing of information among specialists and patients when a diagnosis remains elusive.

Today, sharing information on rare or undiagnosed genetic conditions is the guiding mission of the Undiagnosed Diseases Network, a consortium of clinical and research centers tasked with solving the most challenging medical mysteries.

The UDN is where Lauren Briere ’02 and Elizabeth Krieg ’12, both genetic counselors in the Boston area, provide clarity and guidance to the patients who have otherwise exhausted their search for answers to their medical conditions.

“There is a surprising number of people who clearly have something, often something serious, and have seen every specialist, and still don’t have an answer,” said Briere, a genetic counselor at Massachusetts General Hospital and the clinical coordinator for the UDN.

Patients who apply to the UDN are often the most desperate. They have eluded medical diagnoses that explain the causes of their symptoms, while struggling to live and adapt with disabilities. What’s worse, they are often the only ones known to be suffering from their particular conditions. UDN can serve as a starting off point so that patients can find others suffering from the same illness, and share treatment options or even the frustrations of non-options.

“There are a lot of challenges to living with the severe medical problems that come with a genetic disorder,” said Krieg, a genetic counselor at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and program manager for the Brigham Genomic Medicine and UDN site coordinator. “But it can be harder to not know anyone who is also going through that same thing, or [has the] same diagnosis as you.”

As genetic counselors, Briere and Krieg each serve as the point person between patients, their families and their medical teams. Genetic counselors handle the delicate work of answering questions, coordinating testing and explaining results.

“The basic tenets of genetic counseling are to give information, conduct risk assessment and help patients to make an informed choice that is their own,” Briere said.

“A big part of my job is education,” Krieg added. “I interpret and explain what is going on. And together we set some neutral goals. If they are not sure why we want to do certain tests, it’s a matter of explaining it in terms that they might understand, or would resonate with them.”
class with Jean C. Tempel ’65 Professor of Biology Stephen Loomis, a passing mention of genetic counseling caught her attention.

“I remember going back to my basement dorm in Blackstone House, looking it up, and found it was the perfect combination of what I wanted.”

Yet the field of genetic counseling was still emerging, and few options existed as she searched for a career internship. “No one had heard of it,” Briere said. “The profession had been around for 20 years at that point, but it was small. Most hospitals had one genetic counselor, and not a lot of turnover.”

As Briere was preparing to graduate in 2002, the field of genomic medicine was on the verge of taking off. The Human Genome Project brought together international researchers tasked with identifying the genes that make up DNA, essentially creating a blueprint for the human body.

With the mapping of the human genome, the genetics field exploded. Genetic testing and genome sequencing were now possible for the greater population, becoming more affordable and accessible with each year. Briere earned a master’s degree in genetic counseling, and has been working in the field since 2006.

Krieg also realized the field of genetic counseling met her goals of entering a medical profession, so Krieg self-designed a genetics major at Connecticut College. “It seemed like a good balance of patient interaction and clinical care, and had opportunities in research and working clinically,” said Krieg, who earned her master’s in genetic counseling in 2014.

Krieg describes her role with the UDN as being the point person for the client, and for the families. “Every case that we accept is completely different,” Krieg said. “It involves being familiar with patients’ medical records. Discussing the different conditions we might be thinking about. And knowing what strategy we might use with genetic sequencing.”

Exome sequencing, like the kind used to find Bertrand Mights’ underlying genetic condition, is not often covered by medical insurance. But research centers like the UDN cover the cost of such procedures for its participants. The UDN is funded by the National Institutes of Health Common Fund.

Collaborative efforts like the UDN will continue to be at the core of genomic medicine in the future. “We can share a candidate’s genetic variants, and general information about symptoms,” Briere said. “We share in a group of online databases, and link to other clinicians, who can share that information. If two people document the same change in a gene, we get an email saying we have these cases that have matched. It’s a way to find other cases and hopefully generate research.”

Krieg added, “Many of the different research projects out there are having success solving cases and finding answers for things that haven’t been diagnosed,” which obviously offers hope to those suffering from undiagnosed diseases.
Correspondent: Ann LeLievre Hermann, 239-410-0668, annherrmann2@gmail.com Greetings! If you enjoy this column but don’t see your own name, please phone me or send an email so that I can share your news. Marcia (Jo) Faust McNees and I had a long phone chat in March. Happily, her health was lots better in 2016 than the year before, and 2017 was off to a good start. She lives in Winchester, Mass., near family members who share her love of big parties! At home, Jo manages on her own two feet, but she uses a “wheelie” when she goes out and about. In June, Toni Fenton Tuttle and I (Ann LeLievre Hermann) met for lunch. We had a delightful time reminiscing and counting our blessings. We agreed that we both look wonderful (at least for a couple of old ladies!) Toni said her last visit with a classmate was with Suki Porter Wilkins a few years ago. Now Toni has sold her condo and lives year-round in Naples, Fla. I am still at Shell Point in Fort Myers, so we live about 30 miles apart. Toni spent August in the mountains of North Carolina with her family, and I spent time with my family in Big Canoe, a community in the mountains of Georgia. Natalie (Nat) Bigelow Barlow appreciates that our column is alive again. She shared the happy news that in August she would move to North Hill, a senior living facility in Needham, Mass. “I hear very good things about their activities and services.” She looks forward to reading news from others. Florence (Murph) Murphy Gorman sent assorted thoughts: “I am surprised and glad to be alive and well. This retirement home keeps me busy and off the streets.” Sadly, her old CC friend Eleanor (Honor) Koenig Carter died in late June after a brief illness. As for Murph, her grands, who live nearby, “keep getting older and doing grown-up things like getting married and having children.” She does chair and water aerobics, reads and does a few small jobs in the library, and plays duplicate bridge—sometimes even coming in second! Murph still drives herself, keeps busy with church and friends in the community and attending movies, the theater and Richmond’s museums. “I am learning to use my new iPad. Love our column revival and you for doing it. Love to all.” Marjory Schwalbe Berkowitz, our “always a New Yorker” classmate, wrote about leaving the city in June for a family trip to Dartmouth for her granddaughter’s graduation. Grandson William is also a student there. “It was a real family party. Our son, Hugh, was also celebrating his 50th reunion!” Over the summer, Marjory expected to see Michael Ridgway, the oldest son of our deceased classmate, Lois Pariasset Ridgway. Mariechen Wilder Smith emailed about her changing life. After 17 years, her beloved car developed some mechanical problems so she decided to give it away. Now begins her “adventure without a car.” Fortunately there’s a good transportation system at Carolina Meadows, plus Mariechen’s daughter and friends help out. She celebrated her 93rd birthday in reasonably good health. “The years are beginning...

Lucille “Twink” Klaw Carothers ’45 joined her daughter-in-law, Gail Weintraub Stern ’68 and Ruth Cheris Edelson ’68, in Sun Valley, Idaho, in June 2017 for the Sun Valley Writers’ Conference.

The book has been optioned for a movie. Joan and Lyle’s three grandchildren are all involved in the arts: Hannah is an aspiring artist living in Beacon, N.Y.; Sophie is a hopeful filmmaker; and Sam is at the NYU Tisch School of the Arts in NYC, in film studies. Joan and Lyle have seen Marianne Fisher Hess and Marshall on occasion. Susan Sheaffer Wolff and her husband have moved to a retirement home in North Carolina, where her children grew up. They have been getting settled and accustomed to the summer heat! Norma Hamady Richards’ Beirut trip proved to be an architectural history lesson reaching back to Roman and Greek civilizations and the Ottoman Empire. They also witnessed modern history in the making by visiting refugee camps for Syrian refugees escaping the havoc that their own government has created. They traveled under the guidance of American Near East Refugee Aid (NERA), a group that also provides housing, schools and medical care for Palestinian refugees displaced by the Israeli government. Their wonderful trip had sobering moments; Norma wonders what Marjorie Dilley would say about the current state of our world and its leaders. Norma recently saw Jan King Evans, who was as irrepressible as ever. Jan lives in a lovely retirement community in suburban Maryland. She has multiple interests—and no plans for retirement. She is reading a book on the National Parks of the Midwest. She is reading a book on the National Parks of the Midwest. She and her cousin, Gary Heurich, created the Heurich House in Washington, D.C., and have been getting settled and accustomed to the summer heat! Norma included an article about the Hebrew House Museum, “The Brewmaster’s Castle,” regarding a History & Hops event Jan hosted at this historic Dupont Circle mansion. Jan lived there for a time with her grandparents; she and her cousin, Gary Heurich, created the Heurich House Foundation and helped it purchase the mansion in 2003. Janice Smith Post has her first great-grandson! She summers in Connecticut and is close by so she can enjoy him, along with her granddaughter and family. Dick and I had a lovely dinner with Jan and her friend; Kathy Hull Easton and Peter; and Cynthia Fenning Rehm and Jack, in Naples, Fla., where we enthusiastically resumed our conversations from right where we last left off. All nine of Ann Heagney Weimer’s grandchildren are through high school and on to higher education or other endeavors. Ann continues her interest in many international...
activities on Cape Cod, notably with the Tree of Life Educational Fund, which provides cross-cultural travel experiences and offers conferences across the U.S. to promote dialogue and peace in the Holy Land. She recently had lunch with Joyce Tower Sterling, also a Cape Cod resident. Irene Ball Barrack is still in her home in New Canaan, Conn., and spends summers on Martha’s Vineyard. Her two granddaughters are now seniors at CC, they both had internships fostered by the College’s senior internship program, one of CC’s exceptional offerings. One granddaughter worked with a charitable foundation in London; the other with Grand Prix jumpers on a horse-breeding farm in Galway, Ireland. Irene visited recently with Ann Marcuse Raymond, who travels broadly and enjoys her retirement community in Redding, Conn. The Class of ’54 extends condolences to the families of two of our cherished classmates: Carolee Hobbs Charlton passed away peacefully in January in San Francisco, where she had lived and raised her three children, and Betty Stieren Kelso died suddenly on March 30 in San Antonio, Tex., where she was born and lived her whole life. She was to be honored that evening at the San Antonio Museum of Art for her philanthropy.

Correspondent: Joan Barkon Antell, 26 Belden Ave, Unit 2101, Norwalk, CT 06850, jantell@optonline.net

Mary Lou Moore Reilly moved to a condo in West Hartford, Conn. Although she hated to leave her home, “after seven years by myself, I needed to give up the house.” She is still getting used to her new surroundings but points out that “it will be best in the long run.” Fortunately, her daughter and husband, plus three grandsons ages 8, 10 and 12, live nearby. Her other children live in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Barbara Rosen Goodkind writes that she still does not have to make lunch. Husband Bob, a lawyer, commutes to NYC every day to work and volunteer. She has seven grandchildren, two of whom recently married. Barbara and Bob traveled to Poland, where they toured Auschwitz-Birkenau—a “life changer,” she says. “It was something I always wanted to do, and I finally got to witness the remains of that horrifying time.” At home, she keeps “busy with painting in my studio, stretch class, reading and taking long walks.” Sondra Gelb Myers is an amazing role model. While directing a continuing ed enrichment program at the U. of Scranton, she also co-teaches a freshman seminar called “Preparing for Democratic Citizenship.” She is developing and editing a handbook on public education, with the working title The People’s Choice: Public Education and American Democracy. Her work in Rwanda continues, and her two Rwanda-specific handbooks are used in several schools. Recently Sondra took husband Morey to see Hamilton for his birthday. Morey still goes to his office every day and gives a lecture each year in the World Affairs Luncheon Series that Sondra sponsors through her continuing ed program. Judy Pennypacker Goodwin happily reports that two grandsons were recently married; she and husband Wes are delighted to welcome two lovely granddaughters to their family. She has just finished reading The American Spirit, by David McCullough, a short collection of speeches he has given on college campuses across the country. “It’s like taking an American history course in the comfort of my living room,” she writes. “I highly recommend it.” Daughter Beth paid a month-long visit to Jane Dornan Smith and Wee. Beth is the elementary school principal of an international school in Windhoek, Namibia. Jane and Wee enjoyed a cruise out of Boston to New England and Canada last October. Also on board were members of Wee’s Coast Guard Academy class of ’53. Jane had a “new supply of seasick pills (that really work).” Frannie Steane Baldwin wrote about her trip on the Sea Cloud in the Lesser Antilles last winter. She says it was a magnificent boat, similar to the Eagle she remembers at the Coast Guard Academy. The Sea Cloud was built by E.F. Hutton and Marjorie Merriweather Post for their enjoyment, and now it “sails the seas with a limited number of fortunate people.” Frannie enjoyed a family vacation featuring an “adorable great-granddaughter and her tiny brother.” She also says that “if you have a chance to attend a One Day University near you, I would highly recommend it.” Class correspondent Joan Barkon Antell has been on the move too. On a tour of Berlin and Prague with some of her family, i.e., children and grandkids, “I was forced to try to keep up as best I could.” She saw Rembrandt’s paintings and Ai Wei Wei’s installations, and heard the Berlin Philharmonic under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle in Berlin’s gorgeous concert hall. Joan is still devoted to yoga and Pilates, and tries tai chi for a change of pace. Once a month she shows foreign films at an independent-assisted-living residence. At CC, many of us got to know English professor Paul Fussell. Recently, The New York Times columnist Dwight Garner called himself “a Fussell addict” in his column “On the Touchy Subject of Class in America.” Garner applauds Fussell’s insights into the American caste system in Class: A Guide Through American History, which was a recommended read for one of our past Reunion weekends.

Class Notes October 2017
Cronin. On Sept. 4, 2016, in Baltimore, Boney Fisher Norton’s daughter, Leslie, married Hugh Bethell. Guests traveled to the weddings from as far as Australia to Italy and parts between. In her bio, Margie Zellers gave particular credit to CC, as well as to her family, that she could make happen anything she desired to. Mary Ann Hirsch Meanwell visited children in Colorado and California (she missed Reunion for a granddaughter’s Stanford graduation) and traveled to Cuba. Last year she was in Budapest, Krakow and Prague, followed by hip surgery, physical therapy, and a trip to Milwaukee and a Frank Lloyd Wright tour! She regularly sees Connie Castleberry Sullivan and Jeannie Maescher Middlekauf. Joyce Bagley Rheingold’s whole family went to Squaw Valley last winter, although a hip replacement and a two-day storm kept Joyce off the slopes. Daughter Susan is a pediatric oncologist/hematologist working with a cancer treatment that involves the removal, treatment and return of T cells to her patient—the first ever to receive such treatment and who is cancer-free after six years! She has also been instrumental in helping her brother, Ted, navigate the complicated world of cancer treatment. Nicolo Tommasso Febhervary was born in Italy in July to Debby Gutman Cornell’s son, Andy, and his wife, Carlotta, joining sister Giulia. Prior to Nicolo’s arrival, Debby hosted the family in her apartment in Budapest. “We had a wonderful time!” Travelin’ Betty Ann Tylaska’s latest journey was a fall trip down the Rhine. She also attended a Rhodes Scholar theater program in NYC, which was limited to 24 people and included a wine festival and street fests. She still has time for a book club, two art groups and library volunteering. “I’m going to keep going till I flop!” Bet Eve Messmer enjoys working with fine, caring people through both the church-sponsored Stephen Ministry and a veterans’ support group. She and a dear friend have visited Barcelona and Venice and more recently toured Yosemithe. She is grateful for good health but notes how much our minds turn on “conditions medical”—on our eyesight and safe driving and whether to downsize. I’m truly grateful for good health but notes how much our minds turn on “conditions medical”—on our eyesight and safe driving and whether to downsize. Sue and a dear friend have visited Barcelona and Venice and more recently toured Yosemite. She is grateful for good health but notes how much our minds turn on “conditions medical”—on our eyesight and safe driving and whether to downsize. I’m truly grateful for good health but notes how much our minds turn on “conditions medical”—on our eyesight and safe driving and whether to downsize.

Judy Carson, Florence Potter Wallace, Charlotte Bancheri Milligan, who died on June 21, 2017, and Florence Potter Wallace, who died on July 4, 2017. I, Judy Carson, learned of Charlotte’s death from mutual friends here in Colorado. When we first moved here, Charlotte contacted me to get in touch with them. All in our class will fondly remember Flo’s energetic conducting of our inimitable class song performances: “A nickel, a nickel…” by Aggie Fulper.

Surrounded by family, Dick and Patricia Wertheim Abrams had a glorious three-week trip in June to Santa Cruz and San Francisco to celebrate the high school graduation of twin granddaughters Kayla and Elaina, and the college graduation of grandson Jesse, all children of their son, Douglas Abrams, and daughter-in-law, Rachel. They also celebrated the publication of the New York Times/Wall Street Journal best-seller, The Book
text
of Joy, in which Douglas collaborated and shared the wisdom of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The book has met with worldwide acclaim. Patricia remains in constant touch with classmates Elizabeth Ann Hood McAfoose, Gary Griffith and Tove-Lynn Martin Dalmau. Cynthia (Cynnie) Enloe wrote about CC alum Ellen Jarrett ’78, one of the owners of Cambridge’s “terrific independent bookstore,” Porter Square Books. Ellen and her colleagues have launched a Sunday afternoon series called “Be Change,” bringing together community people, book lovers and local groups doing social justice work (especially pertaining to immigrant rights). Ellen invited Cynnie to speak at an August “Be Change” event. “I’m delighted. When two CC alums get together, change will happen!” Ann Conner Polley went camping in New Hampshire with husband Ralph, their Manchester, Conn., family; and two Danbury nephews and their friends. “It was the first time I’ve climbed a mountain (albeit small—2,600 feet) since I had my two hips replaced. Good feeling!” As much as they would like to downsize, Louise (Weezie) Lane Talbot says the housing market in Charleston, S.C., is not great “so we’re in the same house we bought 43 years ago.” They live there half the year and would love to hear from any classmates nearby or passing through. They plan to rent a villa in Tuscany for a week in September with six others and to travel to Cuba in November. “I am spending a lot of time this summer trying to learn all the new bridge conventions. I am way behind my friends!” Class President Millie Price Nygren shared a bit of trivia released in 2008 when the College launched the Synergy Society, the first CC “giving” society to specifically recognize the support and commitment of young alumni who give at a leadership level. The inspiration for naming the Synergy Society came from the abstract sculpture titled “Synergy,” created by classmate Frances Gillmore Pratt, which is located near New London Hall. Appropriately, the sculpture’s name means “working together.” Millie and Merl are looking forward to a ferry trip across Lake Michigan, “a trip we haven’t undertaken in 50 years.” Joanie Murray Webster enjoyed the family’s traditional summer vacation in Maine. Many branches of the family gathered at their five-generation, 1784 summer farmhouse, and three of those five generations took in the sights and sounds of mid-coast Maine. Del Welch, who lives in Tenants Harbor, Maine, met up with Joanie to compile this column—“summertime is the perfect opportunity to refresh our ties to you and CC!” Joanie traveled to Ireland in mid-August with her two daughters to attend the back-to-back international Royal Dublin Horse Show and Clifden, Ireland’s weekend Connemara Pony Show—a renowned horse-show “fix” for the horsey set!” Ellen Purdy Webster and Shirilee’s adopted grandson, Giancarlo Shillington, was married to wife Gloria in Napa, Calif., in November 2016. Giancarlo is in the U.S. Navy and was recently transferred from Washington to Connecticut. On their way east, the newlyweds visited all of their grandparents, “including Shirilee and me at our home in Claremont, Calif. Giancarlo now works at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton and passes the College every day on his way to work!” Editor’s note: Our apologies for mistakenly identifying Jeanie Chappell in the Summer Issue with the surname “Metzger.”
ily, especially my seven grandchildren. Three will be in college this fall—must be getting old! Looking forward to our 55th!” Roberta Slone Smith got together with Carole Hunt Iwanicki and Nancy Holbrook Ayers and their husbands in Jackson Hole, Wyo. “Nancy and Doug arranged a dinner for our group at 3 Creek Ranch. We were joined by raptor specialist Roger Smith, whom we had met 11 years ago. Roger was instrumental in founding the Raptor Center in Jackson, which we visited. We also attended a symphony concert, saw magnificent scenery, and just relaxed and enjoyed our mini-reunion.” Connie Cross is planning a fall reunion at her place on Panther Pond in Raymond, Maine, with Barbara Drexel Lockhart, Ginny Olds Goshigian, Helen Frisk Buzyna, Wally Coates Paprocki, Susan Young and Chantal LeHouerou. “Lobster on the menu!” Lonnie Jones Schorer and Bobette Pottle Orr have taken up ice skating again, after some 20 years. “It’s not like riding a bike! We began weekly sessions in January and are having a blast, practicing senior balance.” Lonnie and David have officially become New Hampshire residents, and she would love to hear from other northern New England classmates. “Perhaps we can arrange a mini-reunion!” The class extends its deepest sympathies to Carolyn Boyan Raymond, who lost her beloved husband, Charlie, this spring. After Charlie’s debilitating accident, Carolyn was a devoted caregiver for many years. As we work up to our 55th reunion next spring, let’s try to be more in touch with each other, and encourage Reunion participation! 

Barbara Brodsky still teaches meditation and dharm and leads retreats and workshops, although she has cut back. Her pursuits take her to Seattle twice a year, where she also visits her youngest son and his wife; to the North Carolina coast to lead an annual weeklong *vipassana* retreat by the ocean; and to Brazil, where she takes a group each January. “I feel blessed to continue this work I love.” She also worked on a new book this summer. She and Hal were at their Michigan cabin, deep in the woods by a lake, where they spend every summer, with each of their sons (and grandchildren) visiting for a week. She wrote of the body slowing down, but “I count my blessings that I can still swim and love my (now slow) swim a mile across the lake each day.” She and Hal will celebrate their 50th next May with a cruise to Hawaii. “My love to all my classmates!” Shirley Fried spent the year in activist mode and has committed to helping resettle a family from Afghanistan or Iraq whose head of household assisted U.S. forces. She took a break from all activities in D.C. and headed to Denali, Katmai National Park and a few other stops in Alaska for two weeks, followed by a weeklong visit to her son and his family in Edmonton, Alberta. “They are so far away from me that it is a real treat when we are able to get together.” Shirley sends her regards to all. Marilyn Kraj Sanford’s daughter, Kimberly, was married to Robert Dooley on Sept. 24, 2016. The ceremony and reception were held at Cedar Plantation in Acworth, Ga. Cabell Smith Tower spent the last few years working with the local historic society to put a historic district in place. The Warminster Rural Historic District, in Nelson County, Va., is now officially recognized as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. She also teaches English to adults at the Santa Monica Library in California, is writing a second book, “and best of all, I play with my 2-year-old granddaughter, Madeleine!” Highlights of Joan Stuart Rosa’s year included six wonderful weeks of spring in the sunny Southwest, visiting artists’ studios in Santa Fe and painting the desert at Rancho Linda Vista in Oracle, Ariz. Then she and husband John Gleason enjoyed a sunny summer in Nahcotta, on the Washington coast, across the Columbia River from Astoria, Ore. Joan had a solo exhibition of new paintings on the themes of night, twilight and the desert at Astoria’s RiverSea Gallery. See images of her artwork at www.joanstuartross.com. Susan Epstein Messitte is proud of husband Peter, a senior U.S. federal judge who received an award from the government of Brazil. They traveled to Brazil in June, where the president of Brazil gave him the Ordem Nacional do Cruzeiro do Sul—the highest award that can be given to a foreigner in recognition of having rendered service to the Brazilian nation. “This dates back to our time together as Peace Corps volunteers in São Paulo, Brazil, in the ’60s. Peter has been involved with Brazilian judges and law professors for 50 years and continues to advise the Brazilian judiciary and legal community.” Although Susan’s term as president of the Foundation for St. Mary’s College of Maryland has expired, she is still involved with the college community. Mostly, she enjoys their home in southern Maryland and is active in local, state and national Democratic politics. She still gets together regularly with Marie Birnbaum and keeps in touch with Ellen Corroon Petersen and Susan Mann Swett. Cornelia Gordon-Hempe and husband Henry live in Madison, Wisc. She earned a doctorate from the U. of Wisconsin–Madison “somewhat late in life” and is now in her seventh year of teaching in the social work department at the U. of Wisconsin–Oshkosh. She finds her students interesting: “Students at regional universities are more reflective of the general population … I admire how they balance
studies and challenging employment, and sometimes family responsibilities." Kirk Senske took a trip to North Carolina this summer for a Kirk family reunion. She and Bill have relocated permanently to Napa, Calif., as their daughter lives a couple hours away in Chico. They are "enjoying all that the Napa Valley and the local area can offer. We welcome any of you who care to have a glass of wine or two." The Class of 1964 expresses our sadness and condolences to the family of Ann Worcester Sethness, who passed away comfortably at home in Greenwich, Conn., on July 1.

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Claire Sidell Bronit and her husband have traveled widely in the last few years to China, Asia, Caribbean and points west. To celebrate their 50th anniversary, they plan to visit London with their children and grandchildren, who live in Atlanta and Los Angeles, then cruise from Barcelona to Athens. She has "pretty much finished writing the book I've been working on for many years, and hopefully will find a publisher and get it out there." Martha Williams still reminisces about our wonderful 50th reunion. As if that didn't make her adequately aware of aging, her first two grandchildren have now graduated from college—one from William & Mary (now teaching English in Beijing) and one from Duke (researching oysters and pollution in the Chesapeake Bay). Judy Reich Grand has just retired after 29 years as a college counseling assistant at John Burroughs School in St. Louis. "What began as a one-year, part-time job blossomed and has kept me busy all these years." Since husband Gil is not retiring from his practice as a retina surgeon, they will still spend most of their time in St. Louis, but Judy will devote her extra free hours to the grandchildren, reading, golf, travels, and fall and winter weeks in a condo in Jupiter, Fla. As attendees at the 2015 Alumni Luncheon will recall, Martha (Marty) Alter Chen gave a lovely autobiographical presentation when she received the Connecticut College Medal. You can see her presentation on the website for Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing, the program that she cofounded, at www.wiego.org/articles in the Summer Issue of the alumni magazine. Just What is involved in marketing 17 acres on this lovely field, Mass. They went to the Boston Dragon Rays, a dragon boat team paddling out of the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club in Springfield, Mass. They went to the Boston Dragon of '65, struggling as a biochemistry major. She reports that she redeemed herself by graduating from medical school, and she is now happily retired and lives with her partner, three cats and a dog. Ellen Kagan lives year-round at her cottage on Mashpee-Wakeby Lake on Cape Cod. She is involved in marketing 17 acres on this lovely lake, with two acres directly on the water. She is also promoting her one-woman show, Just What the Doctor Ordered, which she will perform in any venue, and which you can view by googling "Ellen Kagan" on YouTube. In July, she toured near- ly Cotuit and learned about its settlement history. Ann Langdon and husband Drew have been in their New Haven condo for over a year. They went to El Paso in June to visit daughter Alison's family, where they saw granddaughter Georgia (6) "graduate" from kindergarten in cap and gown and granddaughter Frida (10) at her "Continuing Ceremony" before entering sixth grade. The (Smithsonian) National Museum of African American History and Culture in D.C. is now up and running, so Drew attended what may have been the last meeting of its advisory board committee. Ann and Drew had plans to go to Cancun with daughters Liz and Alison and their families at the end of July as a delayed 50th anniversary celebration. Pam Mendelsohn enjoys being on the board of the Emeryville (Calif.) Celebration of the Arts. While viewing photos she took at our 50th reunion, she reminisced that it was a treat to reconnect with so many classmates. By the time you read this, Pam will have taken a trip to Scandinavia, and she also plans to spend eight days in NYC in the fall. Tessa Miller Melvin, who has been silent all these years, wrote, "There is no time like our very distressing but strangely uni- fying present." She joined a packed crowd in San Francisco on Jan. 21, 2017, with the same sign that she used in the '60s for protests in D.C.—a sign that she never thought she'd need again. Sharon Myers visited CC's Zachs Hillel House on April 14 for a Welcoming Shabbat service that included the installation of the beautiful parochet (ark curtain) that Sharon designed and crafted for the aron kodesh (holy ark). Sharon got the idea of donating an ark curtain when she visited the campus for our 50th reunion. Liane Stearns Gowen completed her second race with the Springfield Dragon Rays, a dragon boat team paddling out of the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club in Springfield, Mass. They went to the Boston Dragon
Class of 1967

We came to Reunion over 80 strong. If you were there, you know what a wonderful weekend it was. If you couldn’t join us, we want to share some of the highlights. The Class of ’67 really rocked the joint! Connecticut College has not seen a 50th reunion like this before, and we don’t think it will again. The College and our honorary classmate, Bridget McShane, and her colleagues in the alumni office deserve our gratitude for helping our Reunion committee make this weekend as special, and as raucous, as it was.

Some of us arrived early, so for us Reunion began with dinner Thursday night at a lovely restaurant in Mystic, where we renewed old friendships and made new ones—a recurring theme all weekend.

On Friday, our class was welcomed into the Sykes Society and Rae Downes Koschetz made us proud with her remarks: a funny, touching and honest telling of her story and how Connecticut College shaped her into the woman she has become. Later, Mary Blatner Valentis screened She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry and led us in a discussion of the women’s movement and how it affected our lives.

After President Bergeron toasted us at a champagne reception, we enjoyed a lobster feast in a tent on the lawn followed by a screening of The Big Chill. Our own Wally Lindburg Nicita, casting director for the movie, then discussed her career in Hollywood.

Saturday began with a discussion led by Class Co-President Susan Ford of letters from home and memories of the four years we spent on campus. Then the Class of ’67 proudly sported tie-dyed T-shirts and led the Parade of Classes to the sounds of the ’60s playing in the background. We began the parade with a flashback to our Junior Play—a kickline complete with bunny ears.

At Alumni Convocation, we showered everyone with pins and enticed them to stand up and dance. Terry Taffinder Grosvenor and her backup singers performed a song written by Terry in honor of the College’s 100th anniversary. We popped confetti in honor of Carol Friedman Dressler, winner of the Goss Award.

Later that afternoon, Mary Blatner Valentis, Margie Lipshtutz Simon and Tracy Gardstein ’92 (daughter of Elayne Zweifler Gardstein) took part in an alumni authors’ signing. Saturday night we traded our T-shirts for the sparkly necklaces on the tables at our dinner, and a flash mob led us to the dance floor on the Green, where our playlist helped us all get our groove back. When we said good-bye on Sunday, we left with the joy of having spent a wonderful few days in a place we loved and with people we loved, but we also left with a better understanding of who we are as women and how Connecticut College played an important role in our lives. In the words of Marty Kidd Cyr, “We arrived at Connecticut College in 1963 trying to find ourselves and came together in 2017 celebrating who we are today.”

Award-winning class

At their 50th reunion, the Class of 1967 took home four prestigious awards.

- **1911 Society Award** Awarded to the class with the highest number of new leadership donors to the Connecticut College Fund
- **C.B. Rice ’31 Award** Awarded to the Reunion class with the highest donor participation percentage
- **Connecticut College Fund Cup** Awarded to the class with the largest single-year gift to the Connecticut College Fund
- **Ann Crocker Wheeler ’34 Award** Awarded to the Reunion class with the largest donor participation increase
Boat festival and had their own festival, both in June. Liane’s grandson Christopher is nearly 2 years old and thriving, despite his aortic stenosis. Christopher’s family lives in Upton, Mass., so now all four of her grandchildren are in the same school system. Liane enjoys her friendship with Mary Burgess Markle. Dorothy Hummel Leonard was sorry to miss our 50th reunion. “We are still sorting out our lives after our return from the UK—John retired and we moved back to Rye after 18 years in England.” After living in three houses in three years, they sold two of them, got half a houseful out of storage, and have been setting and adjusting to the U.S. ever since. We offer sincere condolences to the family and friends of Diana Hall Jones, who died on July 12, and deep sympathy to Jacqueline Hall Wright, Di-an’s twin sister. A memorial service was held on July 21 in Strongsville, Ohio. Reminder: If you are interested in volunteering for our 55th reunion committee, please contact Kay Landon, Liz Leach Welch or Martha Blanchard Twigg. Please continue sending your news; we love hearing from you!

Correspondents: Debby Greenstein, debbygreenstein@verizon.net; Marcia Hunter Matthews, marciamatthews3@gmail.com; Lauren Levinson Kilkenny thanks all who helped execute our Fabulous Fifty—“Fascinating and fun activities, excellent food and all the libations were great ... But the best part was all our fellow classmates.” The only part missing was classmates who weren’t there. “Too many had died (a poignant reminder to live fully now). Please write to our Class Notes and let us know what you’ve been doing.” Laurie reflected on “The many classmates who remembered our conversations—not so much the subjects but rather the long hours we spent talking about virtually everything. Pete Murillo, please get back in touch. Many of us had been hoping to see you.” Laurie looks forward to the next Reunion. Carol Friedman Dressler had a great visit with Sue (Sos) Bracken Smith and her husband, Dave, in Portland, Ore., in July. They are moving to a lovely townhouse and are thrilled to be downsizing. Sos loved the Reunion memorabilia and the pictures that her friends sent. Dave and Sos celebrated their 50th anniversary in August—they fell in love in high school and are still lovebirds! Cindy Sorensen reflected on Reunion: “We are family’ rang so true throughout the weekend ... it was such a warm, comfortable and fun time. I had no desire to be a star in the Junior Show, but I loved being a late arrival to the kickline. What a parade!” Cindy had a visit from her brother and his wife, who were in town from Florida to visit their daughter and family. They were all happy tourists in Boston, enjoying boat rides and lobster. Susan Ford thanks everyone who supported, attended and participated at Reunion with youthful enthusiasm. “We were applauded and lauded in our tie-dyed T’s, earning RESPECT and confirming our reputation as ‘the FUN class.’” Susan Endel Kerner also thanks everyone who made Reunion such a delightful and deeply meaningful event. “I should have reported myself to Honor Court for neglecting to send news for Koiné Gold, but thanks for giving me another chance!” CC family ties are still strong: Susan’s mother, Louise Endel (ex-’43), is 96 and has a special bond with great-grandson Charlie. Son Andrew Kerner ’02 and daughter-in-law Alison Roth Kerner ’01 are also proud CC alums. Susan spent July working with professors at Tianjin U., China, in the Teaching in English program. She has been teaching theater at Montclair State U. for 19 years, which she still loves, and was privileged to direct the 20th anniversary production of And Then They Came For Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank with Eva Schloss (Anne’s posthumous stepsisiter) in attendance last fall at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park. Susan lives in New Jersey and in NYC with partner Paul Smirnoff, with whom she has traveled to China, England and the Cayman Islands, as well as on visits in Colorado with Paul’s family and in Massachusetts with Susan’s three sons and their families.

“Looking forward to our 55th!” Debby Greenstein loved every minute of Reunion, but seeing so many of the friends she made in the living room of Plant House on the first day of college was really special. Joining the bunny kickline at the head of the Saturday morning parade, complete with bunny ears and a fleece jacket for the chill, was also a highlight, proving we are never too old to have fun. Marcia Hunter Matthews found Reunion time to reconnect with old friends and to meet ones we had never known; for Marcia, that was Rena Rimsky Wing. Rena is a professor of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown U. and runs the National Weight Control Registry, and she was quoted in Time Magazine in the cover article on June 5. As they walked from one Reunion event to another, their husbands realized they had played football against each other: Ed Wing for Williams and Rena for MIT. As they talk against Bill Matthews for Bowdoin. As they talked about football, Rena and Marcia talked about their grandchildren. Marcia recently hosted Connie Cross ’63 and Virginia Turner Friberg ’66 at a lunch at her home in Kennebunkport, Maine. We are proud to announce the results of the fundraising campaign for our 50th Reunion Class Gift. One hundred and sixty-two members of our class (78%) made the following gifts: $267,362 for the Class of ’67 Scholars Fund, an additional $68,500 in multyear commitments to the Class of ’67 Scholars Fund, and $167,000 for restricted-use designations. That is just over $500,000! In addition, 20 classmates are members of the Rosemary Park Society for alumnae who have included CC in their wills. Thank you to everyone who generously donated to this fund, which will allow future generations to study at CC, and kudos to our dedicated Reunion Gift Committee members for all of their hard work. Koiné Gold is available online if you would like to view your friends’ profiles pages that way. Many of them contain great photos not included in the print version because of page limitations. Just go to www.Conncoll.edu and follow the prompts. You may now submit your Class Notes through an online form at www.conncoll.edu/news/cc-magazine/. Click Navigation, then click Submit Class Notes. As ever, if you prefer to send your news to us, we would love to hear from you. The Class of 1967 offers condolences to the family and friends of Linda Bell Tucker, who died on July 5 after a battle with cancer.

Correspondent: Mary Clarke Phillips, 36 The Crossway, Delmar, NY 12054, mphilll2@nycap.rr.com Jane Ranallo Goodman is retired and works in her art studio/gallery (Yellow Cardinal Gallery), painting almost every day. ”I sell from the studio as well as online on Facebook.” Jane had a great conversation with a woman at her pool whose attention was caught by the pink cover of the CC Magazine Jane was reading. Jane has made it through reconstructive surgeries for another BC, hit her
three-year anniversary for OVCA and welcomed grandson James right after holidays. She invites any alums to stop by her gallery. Allyson Cook Gall and Marty are grateful for good health, great kids and grandkids, and the resources to live well and travel. She is busy programming and lobbying on clean energy issues and joining her synagogue board. Plus she helps out with four grandkids. This year includes a sailing trip on the Maine coast, three weeks in China and lots of concerts in Boston! Leila Gill (pen name Lfg Gill) writes that “after the post-college decades of marriages, divorces, single parenthood, special needs child-rearing, parent care, multiple forms of employment (sometimes two or three at once), and finally retiring on a pittance of Social Security, I am now working on a book. Or perhaps two. There are poetry, journals and short stories, along with a sprinkling of metaphysical thought, currently trying to find their most effective arrangement around the central theme.” Patricia Reinfeld Kolodny has certainly had a year for health issues! Last September she had a total left knee replacement. Then she had two gastro surgeries, one in February and one in March. She is on the mend now and went to Israel for a family celebration and then on to Greece for a vacation. She and Andy Hintlian Mendell met with Bridget McShane about our 50th reunion. We need volunteers. Hopefully, we will have a good response. Joyce Newman teaches one day a week at the New York Botanical Garden, where she got her horticulture certificate a few years ago. She also occasionally writes articles on gardening and “green consumer” topics for her local online news site and for gardening sites, which she republishes on her blog: https://joycenewman.wordpress.com. In August 2016, Adele Germain Purvis, Karen Karl Adams, Mary Jo Kirschman and Jean (Rovetti) Alexander met in the Berkshires for a few days to visit and hear the closing Boston Symphony concert at Tanglewood. In December, Pat Hitchens-Bonow visited Adele in Boston from her home in Chicago. They enjoyed catching up and reminiscing about growing up together in Seaford, N.Y., before heading to CC. Ricki Chapman McGlashan is grateful for her family’s well-being. The political situation makes them look inward for peace of mind; they have joined in several “Resist” efforts to try to be part of the solution not the problem. Ricki enjoys cycling and walking and volunteers with Sustainable San Mateo County. She is looking forward to our 50th reunion and hopes lots of classmates come! She had a great visit with Betty Flugelman Kahn in June. In March, Kathryn Bard gave a lecture at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, about her excavations at a 4,000-year-old pharaonic harbor in Egypt. She also went to Vancouver, where she saw an exhibit about these excavations in the Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology at Simon Fraser U. She still teaches full-time at Boston U. Elizabeth Davison has lived in the Netherlands since 1970 and keeps busy teaching, translating, doing all the bookkeeping for her husband’s plumbing business and her youngest son’s metal-working business, and guarding her 35 chickens from the local foxes. She teaches a lot. Although she retired from high school teaching at 65, she has “made a name for herself as someone who can fix up the English of any kind of manager/representative.” It is challenging, and she meets very interesting people. Her kids think she is crazy. She thinks it is fun. She hopes everyone else in our class is as happy as she is. The class sends condolences to the family and friends of Lois Balfour, who died in November 2014.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on these awards or to submit nominations please contact Bridget McShane, Sr. Director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving, 860 439-2300 or bridget.mcshane@conncoll.edu

Alumni Achievements

The College and the Alumni Association presents several awards that recognize outstanding achievements of alumni.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on these awards or to submit nominations please contact Bridget McShane, Sr. Director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving, 860 439-2300 or bridget.mcshane@conncoll.edu
das in the mountains in Blowing Rock, N.C., for the Symphony of the Mountains at the Chetola Resort. “Elaine and Jonathan double-dated with me and Richard at CC almost 48 years ago. And we are still ALL together!” Babette Gabriel Thompson’s son, John Gabriel Thompson, married Angela Evans in Menifee, Calif., on May 6. “We traveled there in our motorhome, which had to be taken apart in southern Oregon to rescue one of our cats, who had crawled under a slide and got stuck in some pipes. AnnaMarie Booth ’68, was in attendance—at the wedding, not for the removal of a very angry cat.” John and Babette love rural life on Whidbey Island in Puget Sound but are thinking of moving to a continuing care community in Seattle. Have any of you taken that step? “We like the idea of downsizing now, while we are still capable of making our own decisions, and moving into a community of still very active people our age but where additional care is an option.” They still do an “outrageous amount of gardening” and numerous volunteer activities. Babette loves reconnecting with old friends on the class’s Facebook page. Jane Weiskopf Reisman continues to enjoy working at Skidmore College as associate director of admissions. “My husband, Richard, and I have two grandchildren; a boy aged 3 years and a baby. My grandson is so ex-

70 Correspondent: Myrna Chandler Goldstein, mgoldst@massmed.org Rev. Nancy Reihl Leckerling is still a private pastoral counselor in Madison, Conn. Jon, her husband of 47 years, continues to practice law in Madison. They enjoy traveling and spending time at their home in Boca Grande, Fla., with their extended family. Son Peter is a real estate consultant in Shanghai, China, and son Kit teaches American history at the Mountain School in Vershire, Vt. Nancy and Jon love time with their grandchildren, Rowan (9), Cedar (7), and Anya (almost 3). Nancy officiated at the wedding of Lynn Robinson Taf’s son, Derek, inNovember 2016 in Hillboro Beach, Fla. Alison Stone Ament and husband Bob moved to Falmouth, Mass., on Cape Cod in 1973. Alison has been teaching biology at Falmouth Academy, a small Cap Cod independent school for grades 7 through 12, for 30 years. “I help my students make connections to nearby Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, where I did graduate and postdoctoral research in the ’70s.” She works with three other CC graduates: Ed Lott ’90, Christine Palmer Carter ’08 and Sarah Knowles ’12. Bob has been a zoning attorney in Falmouth since 1973, and son Seth is a tenure-track assistant professor at the U. of Maryland School of Medicine, where he studies the genetics of neurologic diseases such as bipolar disorder. His wife, Natalia Skolnik, works for a nonprofit that fosters leadership skills in Baltimore inner-city high school students. Seth and Natalia have two young daughters, Annabelle and Deyvn. Alison’s daughter, Elinor, is a gov-

derment attorney in Washington, D.C. She directs an office that works with legislators on new Medicare regulations. Elinor’s husband, Aaron Hiller, is an attorney with the House Judiciary Committee. Elinor and Aaron have two young sons, Joseph and Alexander. “Bob and I visit the families often!” After selling their home and buy-
ing a condo, which they then rented out, Cynthia Howard Harvell and husband Michael, along with their dog, Louie, an Australian labradoodle, began a cross-country trip in their 32-foot RV in late April. According to Cynthia, they will spend a year traveling in the U.S., Australia and Asia. “We are calling this our gap year.” Classmates and others who wish to follow their travels should check out their website, www.travelswithlouie.com. Cici Holbrook visited Egypt, where she met Zahi Hawass and enjoyed tea with Jehan Sal-
dat in her home in Cairo. “Climbing up and down and crawling through tombs’ shafts throughout the Nile Valley provided great daily workouts!” Cici is looking forward to trips to Morocco and Sicily in 2018, as well as a trip to Florence for the 50th anniversary of her Sarah Lawrence Ren-

71 Correspondents: Lisa McDonnell, 134 W. Maple St, Granville, OH 43023, mc
donnell@denison.edu; Lois Olcott Price, 308 E. Mulberry St., Kennett Square, PA 19348, leoprice@yahoo.com Anne Maxwell Livingston has never submitted anything to Class Notes, “but our 50th is coming up and we should get on the ball!” She is the proud grandmother of Oliver Bernard Lopez (1) and takes care of him every Monday—“exhausting but fun.” Anne sees Ronna Reynolds and Fran Howland regularly; they both attended a party she threw for her husband’s 90th birthday. Ann Louise Gittleman can’t imagine retiring, as she is busier and happier than ever! She has updated her New York Times best-sellers and was honored to receive the 2016 Humanitarian Award from the Cancer Control Society. She’s on Facebook Live regularly and is publishing a new diet book next year. “Loving my homes in Idaho and Texas and a new grandson. Life is good!” Lois Olcott Price had an amazing time at Reunion last spring, and her travels continued for the rest of the year, with three weddings in the Midwest over the summer (a niece, a nephew and daughter of a friend) and a month in China in the fall, where she taught at the U. of Hong Kong and then spent three weeks crisscrossing Chi-
na, including a few days in Tibet. “Grover and I learned and saw so much—China is so compli-
cated, but the news now makes more sense.” Her semiretirement continues with ongoing projects, some teaching with the Iraqi Institute and U. of Delaware, and with the Winterthur building proj-
ect. Judy Heldman Oxman was pondering what to send as an update when she picked up her local newspaper, The Valley News, and saw “Julia Al-
varez wins Newport Library’s Sarah Joseph Hale Award.” “I knew a girl with that name freshman
Weddings

Rachel Lindmark Baucom ’10 married Chris Baucom on Dec. 9, 2016. The wedding was attended by Isabel Orbon ’10, Olivia Susman ’10, Nicole Reiff ’10, Allegra Thoresen ’10, Colin Edge ’10, Kate Sullivan ’10, Eliza Jackson ’10, Kristen Dirmasar ’10, Daniel Smith ’09, Sarah Napoli ’10 and Steph Quinn ’09.

Marilyn Kraj Sanford ’64 and her husband, Larry, at their daughter’s wedding. Kimberly Sanford was married to Robert Dossey on Sept. 24, 2016, at Cedar Plantation in Acworth, Ga.

Avi Ben-Zvi ’10 and Ruthie Thier ’12 were married at the Eolia Mansion at Harkness Memorial State Park on April 22, 2017.

Ivan Tatis ’10 and Jennifer Tejada ’10 were married on June 24, 2017. The ceremony was officiated by Lois Mendez-Catlin ’80. Camels in attendance: Blanca Drew ’10, Kirsten Frazer ’10, Colleen MacPhee ’10, Zuleika Munoz ’10, Aidyn Urena ’10, Melissa Sanchez ’10, Alexandra Felle ’10, Cristina Madrigal ’10, Naum Minchin ’10, Welbith Mota ’10, Emmet Markin ’10, Rafael Nunez ’10, Jari Tiejada ’15, Pedro Paredes ’09, Erica Lovett ’14, Andrew Musoke ’04, Geoffrey Taylor ’13, Martha Giffords ’73, Annie Scott ’84, Dena Wolf-Yeskoo ’75, Jaime Glanton Costello ’89, Ianthe Hensman Hershberger ’06, Lois Mendez-Catlin ’80, Sarah Schoellkopf ’73, Leslie Polanco ’12, Yoanu Barcena ’09.

Allison From ’94 (now From-Tapp) married Robin Tapp on a beach in October and then again with friends and family on May 14, 2016.

Elizabeth (Libby) Trainer ’10 married Brad Famularo on Sept. 17, 2016, in Newington, CT.


Ashley Clinton McMahon ’09, Elizabeth (Libby) Trainer ’10, Sarah Deckro ’10 and Allison Richmond ’10 at Trainer’s wedding Sept. 17, 2016.
She has edited a number of projects—everything from a mystery series to a fantasy trilogy to a bachelor’s degree thesis for a student in Germany. The variety keeps it interesting, and the income funds trips and other enjoyable activities.

Margo looks forward to an annual mini-reunion with Barb Witter Ennan and Sherry Page Bode in Williamstown in October. Basically, life is good and has only gotten better in retirement. Amy Lewis Tabor and Bob continue to enjoy their retirement with travel, theater, museums and books. In September, they will go to Boise for the celebration of Bob’s aunt, who is turning 100. In December, they will travel to Texas to visit son Scott and his family and return to New York with their granddaughter, age 9, so they can introduce her to the lights of Broadway. Ted Chapin is happy to take on something new! He is the new producer of the Lyrics & Lyricists series at the 92nd Street Y in NYC. Although Ted still hangs his hat at Rodgers & Hammerstein, the company has changed hands and his role has changed. Lyrics & Lyricists began in 1970 with an evening with a living lyricist and has morphed into interesting views into the American Songbook—five different events each year. Ted did three over the past few years, and quite unexpectedly, he was asked to take on the leadership. His new project starts in January with the Bobby Darin songbook. “Come, anyone in New York!”

Peg Jackson and Paul are enjoying their second home in Waikiki. They have vacationed in Honolulu on an annual basis for some time and decided that purchasing a small penthouse condo would be the perfect arrangement. It’s across the street from the Hale Koa Hotel (military hotel) and Waikiki beach. The weather is always beautiful and the beach is a block away!

At writing, her latest abode was a rental in New York! “Peg Jackson’’s 73rd visited Connecticut College the week of May 18 for Alumni Association meetings and for the College’s 99th Commencement.

Claudia Farrar ’73 and her husband, Michael, stopped by the home of Hester Kinnicutt Jacobs ’73 in Melstone, Mont., on June 24 as they traveled to their new home in Texas from Rhode Island.

Daniel Clark ’73 visited Connecticut College the week of May 18 for Alumni Association meetings and for the College’s 99th Commencement.

Barb Witter Ennan, kimtoyuhg@yahoo.com CHANGING to Stuart Sadick Class President Lisa Podoloff Boles thanks everyone who joined us for a great Reunion weekend. “I think I can safely say a wonderful time was had by all. Also, a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with Reunion planning and execution. Your efforts made it a success. For those of you who couldn’t attend, it’s not too early to start planning now for our 45th in 2022!” Louise Richter Gorman’s 60th birthday was “the best ever.” Her children, Benjamin and Amy, enlisted the help of several of Louise’s close friends and threw a wonderful surprise birthday party. Many extended family members and good friends from far away attended. Louise took a lengthy hiatus from her corporate law career to raise a family and is now back in the workforce full-time with a position at the law firm Ropes & Gray, in Boston. She is a lawyer in the private equity practice group within the corporate department. She is working hard but really enjoying it, commenting that she recently returned to the workforce while some of our classmates may be contemplating retirement! Benita Garfinkel Goldstein wrote, “What better way to celebrate the ’70s than to go on a ’70s Rock and Romance Cruise?” In March, Benita and her husband were transported back in time with a Celebrity cruise out of Fort Lauderdale that featured the bands America, Little River Band, Three Dog Night, Christopher Cross and Orleans, among others. Peter Frampton came on board in Cozumel. They have already signed up for another cruise in 2018. The Goldsteins have a vacation rental business in Delray Beach and...
spend summers in New York, where their daughter has a naturopathic medical practice. Contact Benita at beng2002@aol.com if you’re thinking of enjoying the best of the ’70s. Kimberly-Toy Reynolds-Pellerino and husband Giorgio welcomed their grandson, Cassius George Huh, born in July to her son Ming and his wife, Eugenia. They attended our 40th reunion, along with Kim’s son Marcus, who came in from Atlanta. Kim is stepping down as class correspondent after nearly a decade. She will now be living full-time in Italy. Stuart Sadick is taking over, and she wishes him the best! Sheila Saunders still enjoys her work as a military and family life counselor. She enjoyed our 40th reunion. Sheila stays in touch with college friends and makes new ones at each Reunion. Michael Tulin has been married to wonderful wife Cheryl for almost four years. Cheryl used her skills as a brilliant swimmer (and National Masters champion) to teach him how to breathe in the water. Michael began swimming at the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center and on his 60th birthday he joined U.S. Masters. It’s wonderful to have this newfound passion, not the least of which is swimming with his wife. A side note: Connor Beaulieu, the new assistant swimming coach at CC, was the assistant coach for Rose Bowl Masters. “Connor is a great guy and a tremendous coach.”

Les Munson and wife Stacey are celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary. Les has been with Becton-Dickinson for 27 years and just celebrated his 26th anniversary with HFR Block. Their two daughters are doing well. Jaclyn is a third-year law student at Northeastern U., and Alexandra, who graduated summa cum laude from CC in 2014, is a second-year law student at U. of Pennsylvania. Les and his wife enjoy summers at the Cape, an occasional cruise and visiting their girls.

Classmates describe their favorite memory from Reunion: Gay Sweet Bitter thought the David Smalley art sculpture tour was the best, especially “listening to my old art prof, Peter Leibert, and hearing other staff describe his work.” She also really enjoyed seeing the smaller pieces at the Lyman Allyn Museum. Rich Vancil writes, “Easy! Dancing with my circa-1980s dance partner Lynne Rooney Kozlak to Fountainhead!” Cara Schirmeister enjoyed her great conversations with old friends as well as new acquaintances. She loved finding out that Putt Goodwin is a fifth-grade teacher beloved by his students (but of course) and that Craig Lissner works for the World Health Organization in Geneva, specializing in woman’s reproductive health. Julie van Roden thought it was great to see everyone at our 35th and hopes more will show up for our 40th. She lives in Stamford, Conn., and is officially an empty-nester. She is an ESL teacher in a Greenwich elementary school and finds the work “fulfilling, creative and totally challenging.” Son Macaulay, 25, is pursuing farming, photography and music in Vermont (but will be in Bend, Ore., for eight months). Daughter Elizabeth is 23 and lives in L.A., working in the preproduction film business and writing scripts. “Wish they were closer, but I’m proud of their independent natures.” Liza Helman Kraft found it hard to pick one favorite memory out of so many, but “I’d have to say dancing Friday night with Lynne Rooney Kozlak, Muj Morse Bell and Bill Butterfly at J.A. with the Class of ’12 and their hoppin’ DJ!” Liza enjoyed meeting and chatting with classmates she hadn’t known, as well as spending time with some old friends. “Reunion was a blast, and I am already looking forward to our 40th!” Andrew Chait loved being on campus with his wife and son, who hopes to be in CC Class of ’21! “Loved visiting the Arboretum, the class dinner and reconnecting with old friends.” Tatiana Lopukhin has moved to Guangzhou China and is the elementary principal at the American International School of Guangzhou. She and her daughter Sophia are very much enjoying the country and culture.

Correspondent: Jenifer Kahn Bakkula, 51 Wesson Terrace, Northborough, MA 01532, JKBBlue@gmail.com Our 30th reunion was fantastic! We had a wonderful turn-out, with lots of great times and great conversations. It was good to see old friends and meet new ones, too. Thanks to Debbie Brooks Tullo and her many helpers for their hard work, to Clement Butt for bringing the wine, and to Ross Dackow of the Rhythm Method for providing good tunes under the tent on Saturday afternoon. Margaret (Peg) Van Patten (RTC) won a bronze medal in March at the U.S. Figure Skating Adult Sectional Championship in Wayne, N.J., for her Light Entertainment Program set to the Beatles’ “‘When I’m 64.’” She had previously earned a first-place gold medal at a Boston open competition. “Life is good!” May (Janet) Hall is beginning a new career as a registered nurse. She plans to complete her degree in December. She still lives on Chebeague Island in Maine with her daughter, Beatrice, who has just entered high school, and her son, Cassidy, who is in his final year at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass. May is still in regular contact with her freshman roommate, Tracey Thomas, and friends Joan Edwards, Rachel Reiser ’90 and Ricky Prah’ 90. She has also had some great conversations over the past few years with her old housefellow boss, Mariji Lipshez. Kathryn Terdiman Spindel’s two daughters are in college. Cecily is a junior at Emory, and Pippa is a freshman at UCLA. Kathryn was looking forward to participating in her first Spartan race in Charlotte, N.C., last spring. Stephanie Schacher is a clinical psychologist in practice in Westport.
and Branford, Conn., with her husband, Marty. They have twins, a son and daughter, who are in first grade. Stephanie reports that both kids are loving school. Greg Ewing has relocated to San Antonio, Tex., where he lives with his wife and two children: Isabella, 7, and Matthew, 6. Peter R. Bakkala and I (Jennifer Kahl Bakkala) made a short trip in July to enjoy a performance of the Rhythm Method in New York City, after enjoying their show at Reunion. Ross Dackow and bandmates David Warner ’86 and Mike Stryker ’86 appeared live at Brother Jimmy’s BBQ in Union Square, and it was an energy-filled evening, complete with dancing in the aisles! Bill Ultan and Gardner Bradlee were just some of the CC alumni who enjoyed the good food and good time along with us.

89 Correspondent: Mark Howes, mark@howeastexas.com Kieran Murphy is being recognized for his amazing ice cream—somehow we need him to come to the 30th to share a tasting with us! Dave Grann continues to be recognized for his books; even Clinton recommended him. If you have not seen his movie, The Lost City of Z, check it out. Tony Rey continues to have a successful sailing life. Allen brags that it all started with him! The 50s Club continues to gain more class members by the day. It’s the new 30’s! Pictures on Facebook show many of us barely aged—maybe that graduation storm preserved our youth. Hannah Treitel Cosdon, Sarah Monsma, Caren Fishman, Elisabeth Peter, Michelle Heidenrich Barnes and Stephanie Vanderslice had a mini-reunion weekend in the Berkshires in July to celebrate turning 50. The agenda included lots of walks, late-night talks, great meals and reminiscing. And there was a 50th celebration in Switzerland with Tappan Heher, Paige Margules Tobin, Chescsa Sheldon, Deb Dorman, Marianna Poutasse, Alix Davis, Anna Claire Korenman, Heidi Holst and Elizabeth Kraft Jones. Paige Margules Tobin reunited with Helen Bird in Spain this summer. Paige even tried some surfing while there! Warren Cohen and Mark Rutitzky continue their annual tradition of gathering at a baseball game. Remember to check out the Class of ’89 page on Facebook!

90 Correspondent: Toria Brett, 30 Washington Ave, Northampton, MA 01060, victoriabrett@comcast.net Greer Hendricks still lives in NYC with her husband and two children. After 20 years as a book editor at Simon & Schuster, Greer left to work on her own writing and has sold her debut novel. “I am extremely excited!” It’s exciting times for Rob Anker and his family in southern California. Daughter Morgan is thriving at Washington U. in St. Louis, where she has a weekly radio show that the Ankers listen to online, “allowing us to hear her voice and stay attuned to her college experience over the air.” Daughter Natasha finished her fourth and final varsity girls’ soccer season in high school and was accepted to universities across the country. Finally, after 25 years working as a private school educator, Rob is retiring and relocating with his wife to northwest Montana. “We’ve made an offer on a ranch in Bigfork, about 20 minutes from Glacier National Park. It is the ideal place for me to continue my training as an equestrian eventer and for us to ski in the winters and fish and hike in the summers. Look us up if you get to Big Sky Country!” Rob had a great reunion weekend skiing in Kirkwood, Lake Tahoe, with Drew Todd ’92. “I hope to do the same with Zach Samton, if he can pull himself away from family and work!” Congratulations to Doriel Inez Larrier, who has launched her new product line, SeedsofMani, an organic line of Ghanaian-harvested, shea butter–based, natural hair and body care products. She reports, “Along the journey to a destination, when Camels cross each other’s path, great things always happen. Either they continue on the journey together or they make way for each other’s growth.” When Davida E. Arnold ’95 reached out to Doriel regarding sponsorship for her VisionSocial vision board–making salons, “I immediately saw synergy.” “VisionSocial is the plug my start-up, Girl Game Changer, uses to connect women to power,” says Davida, CEO and founder of Girl Game Changer, which is tasked with connecting women to power. Doriel sponsored Davida’s premier VisionSocial event on Feb. 26. Both entrepreneurs reside in Brooklyn and are proud Camels. Thad Ring and Mario Laurenzi attended the 1911 Society Gala Event and wanted more, more, MORE!

91 Correspondent: Diane Stratton, dstratton@cox.net Entertainment Weekly film critic Chris Nashawaty has just finished his latest book, Caddyshack: The Making of a Hollywood Cinderella Story (published by Flatiron Books) comes out in April. The book grew out of a story he wrote for Sports Illustrated. Heather Pierce Stigall’s second child is applying to colleges, and CC is on his list! “Otherwise, our status hasn’t changed much. Still holding at five children and a dog.” Heather’s husband, Steve, is an assistant U.S. attorney in Camden, N.J. Heather teaches an enrichment class to preschoolers, along with writing, sewing and running around after the kids. Pam Goldberg played at CC on April 6 on a program around the naming of CC as an all-Steinway school. Her series on Governors Island, the Rite of Summer Music Festival, has completed its seventh year. They had great press over the summer; you can see a podcast on Facebook or visit their website at www.riteofsummer.com. Pam lives in NYC with husband Jeff Rabin and two boys, Max and Henry. As for me (Diane Stratton), I got to see Bill Meyer and Joanne Meyer ’90 and Chris Perkins ’93 at a lacrosse tournament at Yale in June. Bill and Joanne and I were watching our sons play, and Chris was there as the new head lacrosse coach at Berkshire Academy.

Makiko Ushiba Katoh ’94 with her daughters Anni and Yuzu pictured at The Children’s International Workshop with their preschool teacher Jessica Van Itallie ’95 and her son Caetano.
Allison From (now From-Tapp) married Robin Tapp on a beach in October and then again with friends and family on May 14, 2016. Her dad came up and cooked 200 pounds of crawfish for the celebration. She thoroughly enjoys country life with their goats, chickens, dog and four kids on the outskirts of Louisville. “If you are ever around Bourbon Country, please come visit.”

NYC continues to be home for freelance graphic designer Makiko Ushiba Katoh. Her daughters, Annri (8) and Yuzu (5), attended the Children’s International Workshop, where Jessica Van Itallie ’95 was one of their preschool teachers. Makiko keeps in touch with Xuan Phan, Kim Laboy, Nick Szechenyi, Laura Manzano Liebert ’93, Meredith Phillips ’93 and Katy Everett ’93.

Tim James enjoys a peripatetic lifestyle, which has taken him from Pennsylvania to California and Maine to Oregon over the past few years. His next adventure will (fingers crossed) find him living on a sailboat. Tim welcomes visitors to Philadelphia or, later, his sailboat.

In May, Sarah Gemba launched Spain Savvy, curating creative travel experiences for private, leisure and educational clients. Check out her website/blog at www.spainsavvy.com.

Dave Brown recently led Dwight School’s boys varsity basketball team in Manhattan to the 2017 NYSAIS Division B championships for the third time in four years. An alumnus of Dwight, he is proud to have returned to his high school alma mater, where he was on the 1997 winning team, to coach a new generation of champions. After playing at and graduating from CC, Dave coached basketball at Collegiate High School, John Jay College and Susquehanna U. and then attended Bucknell U. to earn a master’s degree as an instructional specialist. After spending four years with the NBA’s Brooklyn Nets, in 2012 Dave founded Basketball Stars, the largest youth basketball program in NYC for children ages 3–17. He and his wife, Sonia, have a daughter, Emma, age 2.
CONNECTIONS is Conn College’s reinvention of liberal arts education.
S hane Collins ’20 knew the transition from high school to first-year student at Connecticut College would be an adjustment. Registering for classes seemed particularly daunting—until he realized he had a team of advisers on his side.

“My student adviser answered my questions about how the registration process worked, and offered me advice on how best to enter the course registration numbers and what to do in case I didn’t get into a course,” Collins said.

“The advising team is there to lend a hand when a student feels unsure of a decision, big or small. They are there for you no matter what.”

It’s all part of Connections—Conn’s reinvention of a liberal arts education. It’s a new kind of curriculum that lets students integrate their interests into a meaningful educational pathway to carry them through college and into a fulfilling, effective career and life. To help them orchestrate their educations, students have the support of a team of advisers: a faculty adviser, a staff adviser, a career adviser and at least two student advisers.

Advising starts from day one, when first-year students work with their faculty, staff and student advisers in their first-year seminar course. Here, students learn all about Conn College—its mission, core values and commitments. In the first-year seminar course, students get the nitty-gritty on the Connections curriculum. They find out how to conduct top-notch research, how to give a persuasive presentation and how to enhance their writing skills. It’s where students explore their seminar topic from every angle imaginable.

“We want students to find a mentor at the College, and for some, that may be their faculty adviser. For others, it’s their staff adviser. Whoever it turns out to be, the goal is to help students build those relationships so they can have the resources needed to thrive here, and find their own unique path,” said Emily Morash, associate dean of the College and dean of first-year students.

Staff and student advisers are in place for year one; however, advising continues over four years, and when students determine majors and minors, they will gain a major adviser. Career advisers are with students every step of the way as they explore career and internship opportunities, meeting with students for two workshops during the fall, and students can make appointments any time with a student career fellow. This enables students to take advantage of Conn’s funded internship program. The funded internship program is one reason Conn ranks 4th in Best Schools for Internships by the Princeton Review.

“We talk a lot about integrative education and intentional learning, and that is what team advising is all about,” Morash said. “Rather than tell you what to do, the team is there to help you figure out what you want to do and how to navigate life at Conn. Connections is about choosing your own academic path, and the advising team is the support network you rely on to achieve those goals.”
Now a sophomore, Collins is close to declaring chemistry as his major. But while he always knew he was interested in science, he needed some help choosing his Connections courses. His faculty adviser, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Slavic Studies Christopher Colbath, steered him toward a unique course: “Theater of the AIDS Epidemic” with Assistant Professor of Theater Virginia Anderson.

“College is supposed to stretch your comfort zone and make you think differently. Professor Colbath encouraged me to take a course that would interest and challenge me intellectually,” said Collins, who is now ready to give back to his peers by serving as a student adviser.

As both a staff and career adviser, Lori Balantac enjoys working as a team with faculty and student advisers through the first-year seminar program where students gain perspective from their professor, student advisers and staff advisers.

“I really enjoy experiencing the rhythm of the academic classroom and connecting to the students and professor through their study,” said Balantac, a senior associate director of the Office of Career and Professional Development. “Co-advising with faculty and student advisers streamlines each student’s experience in a powerful way.”

The benefits extend well beyond academics, too. Apple picking at a local farm, visiting a bowling alley or enjoying a home-cooked meal together are some of the creative ways Conn’s advisers have fostered community and connection across campus.

“People who work here are connected to the community in different ways,” Balantac said. “The idea is to provide a unique perspective and that our lives aren’t separate. This campus has a context, and it’s the liberal arts.”

When with Connections, our students will:

**Orchestrate their education**
With the support of a team of advisers, they will discover their passion, find their voice and make their way forward.

**Learn for life beyond college**
They’ll learn to collaborate, innovate and solve new problems for a complex world.

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Learn more at: www.conncoll.edu/connections
Herta Payson
1933–2017

Herta Payson, a former theater professor who worked at the College for nearly 30 years, passed away July 14 in her Groton, Connecticut, home. She was 84.

Payson joined Connecticut College in the spring of 1975 as a visiting lecturer in theater studies, teaching costume construction in classroom and laboratory sessions. In the fall of 1975, she became a visiting instructor in theater, and she was an instructor and costumer until she was named assistant professor and costumer in 1998. She was acting chair of the Theater Department from 1998 to 2001. Herta retired from the College in 2004. Payson’s colleagues remember her as a core and generous member of the theater department.

Before joining Connecticut College, Payton costumed numerous Broadway and off-Broadway theater and dance companies in 1950s and ’60s, including the New York Shakespeare Festival and Juilliard Dance Theater.

Payson was born in Oak Park, Illinois. A lifelong learner, she earned a bachelor’s degree from Goddard College, a master’s degree from Vermont College at Norwich University and a doctorate from The Union Institute. Along with her teaching, Herta led an active life in the local community as a psychotherapist, weaver and fabric artist.

Payson was predeceased by her partner, Betty Walther, and her former husband, Elliott Proctor Joslin III. Survivors include her three children Allen Joslin, Rachel Joslin Whitehouse and David Joslin, and four grandchildren. A celebration of Payson’s life was held August 5 at Noank Baptist Church, Noank, Connecticut. Donations in Herta’s honor may be made to Pendle Hill Quaker Study Center, Wallingford, Pennsylvania.

Thomas Ammirati
1941–2017

The Connecticut College community gathered to remember Professor Emeritus of Physics Thomas Ammirati on Saturday, Sept. 30, in Harkness Chapel. The service gave the community the opportunity to say good-bye to Professor Ammirati, who joined the College in 1969 and served as a professor of physics for 44 years until his retirement in 2013.

Ammirati was an esteemed colleague and dear friend to many members of the College community. He passed away last spring after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, former Dean Theresa Ammirati, and their daughters Jennifer Doyle ’91, Jessica Ammirati ’94 and Camilla Ammirati, as well as many friends and colleagues here at the College and in the broader community.
1930s
Dorothy Hazard ’36, died May 23, 2017
Augusta Straus Goodman ’38, died March 31, 2017
Jeanne Murphy ’38, died Dec. 18, 2012

1940s
Catherine Elias Moore ’41, died May 15, 2017
Mary Reisinger Stevens ’41, died June 6, 2017
Justine Clark ’42, died May 17, 2017
Frances Hyde Forde ’42, died May 30, 2017
Mary Franklin Gehrig ’42, died April 2, 2017
Louise Daghlian Belcher ’43, died Feb. 20, 2017
Eleanor Horsey Blattmann ’43, died April 14, 2017
Jean Kohlberger Carter ’43, died May 18, 2017
Frances Diver Burt ’44, died May 2017
Ethel Sproul Felts ’44, died July 11, 2017
Delois Taylor Blumer ’47, died July 20, 2017
Elsie Tytla Claypool ’47, died June 24, 2017
Lois Filley ’47, died May 2, 2017
Edna Ghetler ’47, died April 2017
Eleanor Farnsworth Slimmon ’47, died May 8, 2016
Saretta Klein Barnet ’48, died March 24, 2017
Laurie Turner Dewey ’48, died May 19, 2017
Rita Large Gerzanick ’48, died April 29, 2017
Vivian Shepatin Liebenau ’48, March 30, 2013
Shirley Roos ’48, died May 6, 2017
Jane Richard Sedlmayr ’49, died April 15, 2017
Mary Strassburger Treat ’49, died April 1, 2017

1950s
Hyla Alderman Raphael ’50, died March 30, 2017
Joan Stephens McKay ’50, died Dec. 27, 2015
Mimi Obstler ’50, died June 25, 2017
Alice Green ’51, died July 6, 2017
Joan Bulkley deSelding, ’52, died April 30, 2017
Alice von Schrader Mayfield ’52, died June 15, 2015
Sherry Smith Stancliff ’52, died Jan. 9, 2017
Beverly Gehlmeyer ’53, died May 23, 2017
Alice Bronson Hogan ’53, died Oct. 24, 2016
Carolee Hobbs Charlton ’54, died Jan. 13, 2017
Helene Handelman ’54, died April 4, 2017
Elizabeth Stieren Kelso ’54, died March 30, 2017
Alicia Allen Branch ’55, died Nov. 10, 2016
Ann Brockman ’55, died Jan. 18, 2017
Barbara Bruno Cooke ’55, died April 15, 2017
Christine Geer ’56, died May 1, 2017
Janet Ziegler ’56, died Jan. 12, 2017
Myrna Goldberg Geiges ’57, died April 23, 2017
Sylvia Marsh ’57, died March 14, 2017
Charlotte Bancheri Milligan ’58, died June 21, 2017
Lois Potter Wallace ’58, died July 4, 2017
Edith Glassenberg Gipstein ’59, died March 13, 2017

1960s
Mary Lee Robb Seifert ’60, died March 7, 2017
Damon Reed ’62, died April 7, 2017
Betsy Dietz ’63, died May 11, 2017
Ann Worcester Sethness ’64, died July 1, 2017
Diana Hall Jones ’66, died July 12, 2017
Linden Tucker Bell ’67, died July 5, 2017
Lois Balfour ’68, died Nov. 24, 2014
Martha Budington ’69, died April 26, 2017
Gail Goldstein ’69, died July 15, 2016
Nancy Daniel Johnson ’69, died May 23, 2017

1970s
Marcia Asquith Kaufman ’73, died March 17, 2017
Peter Johnson ’75, died March 17, 2017
Sheila Taylor-Flamm ’76, died Dec. 24, 2012

1980s
Andrew Young ’85, died Feb. 26, 2016
Jacqueline Dimmock ’88, died April 7, 2017

1990s
Andrew Weber Donaldson ’90, died July 27, 2017

2000s
Alexis D’Elia ’03, died Oct. 26, 2016
Gesamtkunstwerk  Raja Feather Kelly ’09, artistic director of The Feath3r Theory, received the 2017 Princess Grace Award for dance and choreography. “My movement-based performances combine fashion show, gallery exhibition, drag, stand-up comedy, minstrel show and stage-play into a single, overwhelming, oversaturated Gesamtkunstwerk in which artists and audience alike experience their shared humanity.” Read the full interview at ccmagazine.connoll.edu
Opening Doors

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- Funded internships to prepare students for competitive jobs across the globe
- Resources for collaborative student-faculty research
- Reaffirm your commitment to Conn and help us continue to open doors of opportunity.

Please consider a gift to the Connecticut College Fund today:
giving.conncoll.edu
Avery Lowe ’18 pedals past Fanning. Sign out bikes from the library for the day. Free of charge. All cruisers maintained by Spokespeople. Follow @ConnCollege on Instagram and Twitter; @ConnecticutCollege on Facebook.