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Connecticut College

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Departments

3 Notebook Hiking in Patagonia, Blanche Boyd’s new novel, Baird The Great and Putin’s endgame

19 Object Lesson President Abraham Lincoln

43 Class Notes Lisbeth Scott ’80 performs

59 Connections Corner The latest on Conn’s reinvention of a liberal arts education

64 Full Stop Snow Day

Features

20 Dreamers The uncertain future of DACA students.

24 Bande à part Conn’s student filmmakers share scenes from their movies.

30 The Glow Bioluminescent proteins are changing the course of science and technology.

34 Creative Disruption Conn’s difference makers. Portraits by Miles Ladin ’90.

40 The Underdog Veronica Venture ’86 protects civil liberties and equality within the department charged with securing the nation.
The Liberal Arts in Action

Each year, the business magazine Forbes selects 600 young stars in 20 different industries to make up its Forbes 30 Under 30 list. I’m proud that three Connecticut College alumni were named in 2018 as 30 Under 30 recipients in the media, law and policy, and energy industries.

Jazmine Hughes ’12, Aditi Juneja ’12 and Emily Callahan ’11 were selected from more than 10,000 nominees in the United States, Europe and Asia. The College had more alumni named to the Forbes list than any of its NESCAC peers, which is representative of the tremendous impact our alumni are having in a wide range of fields. Hughes, Juneja and Callahan join a growing number of Conn alums from more than 10,000 nominees in the United States, Europe and Asia. The College alumni were named in 2018 as 30 Under 30 recipients in the media, law and policy category for her work as an advocate for immigrant youth and survivors of child trafficking.

The Forbes 30 Under 30 recipients have been called an “encyclopedia of creative disruption.” In this issue of CC Magazine, we present six alumni who are creative disruptors, all of them socially responsible leaders who are imaginative, adept thinkers finding solutions to the increasingly intractable problems of our time.

After graduating from New York University School of Law, Juneja (who appears on our cover) became a New York State Excelsior Service Fellow. She works to solve problems surrounding fair and equitable housing for the state of New York. Juneja co-founded the Resistance Manual, an open-source platform providing information about issues from immigration policy to voter rights.

Joining Juneja in this issue of CC Magazine are Hughes, an associate editor at The New York Times Magazine, media entrepreneur Fernando Espuelas ’88; award-winning playwright Stefanie Zadravec ’90; Vanessa Correia ’16, who leads the prestigious U.S. Health Justice Collaborative at Yale University; and Debo Adegbile ’91, commissioner for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. (Callahan was featured in the 2016 winter issue of CC Magazine.)

I am inspired to be part of this vast community of change agents. You’ll meet many more in this issue, from Veronica Venture ’86, who works to ensure equality and preserve civil rights within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to two members of our faculty who are propelling new waves of scientific discovery. I invite you to read about the many ways our students, alumni, and faculty are working to make a difference, with powerful results.

Katherine Bergeron
Zandy Mangold '96 bonded with fellow Conn student Grant Lipman '95 when the two were living in Smith residence hall. They've been friends ever since. Back then, Mangold had grand ambitions of traveling the world as a photojournalist, and Lipman dreamed of becoming a physician.

Zandy Mangold has fulfilled that wish, having won the 2017 Atacama Crossing, a seven-day ultramarathon that covers 250 km across Chile. As an endurance runner and photographer, Mangold has traveled to more than two dozen exotic locales, including Antarctica, Patagonia, Madagascar and the Sahara Desert for the Racing the Planet/4 Deserts series of endurance races. Lipman, now a physician, serves as medical director for the organization.

Mangold, who was captain of the cross-country team his senior year, as well as a CISLA scholar, says working for Racing the Planet combined all his passions that he had cultivated at Conn. During his first assignment photographing the 4 Deserts Atacama Crossing race in 2009, Mangold realized he was moving faster than several of the participants, even while lugging his heavy equipment around. So he decided to make the leap from observer to competitor.

"Full of high hopes, I entered my first ultramarathon in 2010 in Australia, and promptly finished in last place," Mangold laments. "But instead of being discouraged, I used what I learned from the Australia debacle to become more competitive in future races. Seven years later, I won the 2017 Atacama Crossing, which is where it had all started for me as a photographer."

Mangold’s remarkable triumph was featured in the "Faces in the Crowd" section of Sports Illustrated, and his global adventures continue, both as a photographer and race competitor. sandymangoldnyc.com
Fighting Opioid Addiction

Connecticut College has been awarded an $11,000 grant from the Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative to implement a comprehensive opioid education and awareness program on campus.

With the support of the grant, Conn will provide students and residence hall staff with training and information on safe medication storage and disposal; train campus safety officers and athletics staff on the administration of naloxone, a drug that can quickly reverse opioid overdoses; expand substance abuse prevention strategies; and work with community partners to host a program for the campus and local community on the neurobiology of—and pathways to—opioid addiction.

“We are eager to expand this work on campus and partner in our community to help increase education about opioid addiction and work to decrease stigma around seeking addiction treatment. Our state has seen a statistically significant increase in opioid drug overdoses over the past few years, and we must work together to decrease fatal overdose,” said CC Curtiss, Conn’s director of student wellness and alcohol/other drug education. “We can each do our part and Connecticut College is pleased to be part of the solution to this national epidemic.”

Established in 2004, the Connecticut Healthy Campus Initiative was created by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in partnership with Connecticut College and 24 other institutions of higher education in Connecticut. The collaboration brings together senior administrators and faculty from 35 member institutions, prevention experts, state officials and community organizations to examine aspects of the campus and community environment that may contribute to high-risk drinking and other drug use.
Faculty Diversity

C3, a consortium that promotes diversity in higher education and of which Connecticut College is a founding partner, has received a $5.5 million, five-year grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The C3 program, launched in 2012 with a $4.7 million grant from the Mellon Foundation, creates interventions at every step along the academic path to ensure that scholars from underrepresented groups get the encouragement and support they need to pursue graduate studies and an academic career. The new funding will help Connecticut College and other participating liberal arts colleges accelerate efforts to diversify their faculty.

"C3 has been instrumental in helping us advance our goals for faculty diversity while also creating new opportunities for student research," said Connecticut College President Katherine Bergeron.

“We are thrilled that this new funding from the Mellon Foundation will help us to continue this important work."

Since 2008, the College has increased faculty diversity from 16 percent to 26 percent, including a 4 percent increase since the launch of C3 in 2013.

The grant creates new C3 Professorships that will offer funding for up to two years of tenure-track positions in the humanities, as well as a New Scholar Series that will fund events that bring emerging underrepresented scholars to campus for talks or symposia that speak to new and developing areas of their disciplines.

The new grant, which began Oct. 1 and supports the program through 2022, will bring the Mellon Foundation’s commitment to the program to $10.9 million over a decade.

LGBTQ Friendly

Connecticut College is the most LGBTQ-friendly college in the state, according to BestColleges.com, which partnered with Campus Pride to find the most positive options for LGBTQ youth in each state.

Conn was recognized for its gender-inclusive housing policies and an LGBTQ mentoring program for first-year and sophomore students to help them transition into academic and dorm life. Conn also boasts an active LGBTQ community, and students can take advantage of the LGBTQIA Center, which offers a supportive space to study, socialize and learn, as well as educational workshops, an extensive library and leadership training sessions.

The ranking highlights the College’s founding as a women’s college that has “always embraced diversity in its student body. Today, the New London-based school is regarded as one of the best colleges for LGBTQ students in New England.”

Director of Gender and Sexuality Programs Erin Duran, who directs the LGBTQIA Center, said the ranking is an affirmation of the efforts of the entire campus community.

“What really sets us apart is the willingness across the institution to work together to make Conn a place that is welcoming to LGBTQIA students,” Duran said.
Ban the Box

What happens when job applications don’t include the question, “Have you ever been convicted of a crime?”

Good things, says Associate Professor of Economics Terry-Ann Craigie.

“Studies have shown that if employers get the opportunity to meet a job candidate in an interview setting, it helps eliminate the biases and preconceived notions of what someone with a criminal record looks like and acts like,” said Craigie, who specializes in the economics of crime and issues facing the U.S. correctional population.

“One in three adults in the U.S. has a criminal background. We need to start demystifying what it is to have been convicted of a crime so that these people can contribute to the welfare of society.”

Since 2004, the grassroots movement to “Ban the Box”—the check box on applications that asks whether the applicant has a criminal record—has been gaining significant momentum, with 29 states and more than 150 cities and counties adopting some form of the ban. The laws mostly apply to public sector jobs, although some are now being expanded to include private sector positions as well.

Most BTB policies don’t prevent employers from learning about an applicant’s criminal history at some point in the hiring process. But proponents argue that delaying that conversation increases the chance of employment for someone with a conviction. Critics of the policy, however, suggest the ban may actually put all black and Latino men at a disadvantage, because employers will make assumptions about their criminal status based solely on race.

So, do the policies work for the population they are designed to help? To find out, Craigie conducted a national study on the impact of BTB on public employment. She found that for ex-offenders aged 25 and older, BTB policies increased the likelihood of public sector employment by nearly 40 percent. She also found no evidence of racial discrimination.

“We have a long way to go to ensure equal hiring standards for all who have been through the criminal justice system, but my study shows that at least in the public sector, employers are abiding by nondiscrimination laws, and Ban the Box is working,” Craigie said.

That’s good news for individuals and for society since employment is crucial for reducing recidivism rates.

“The streets are always ready to hire,” Craigie said. “If we won’t hire them, if they can’t get food, if they have no access to health care, if they don’t have somewhere to live, what are they supposed to do? It’s not a black thing, it’s not a white thing, it’s not a Hispanic thing. It’s an economic thing.”
Deepwater Horizon

Professor of Biology Anne Bernhard has been awarded a two-year, $120,555 grant from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative to continue her work investigating the effects of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill on the salt marshes of Louisiana.

Bernhard is part of a group of researchers, led by the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, who are examining the effects of the spill on coastal ecosystems. The grant is Bernhard's third from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Research Board, an independent body established by BP to administer the company's 10-year, $500 million commitment to research the effects of the oil spill. She was previously awarded $301,956 in 2015 and $202,902 in 2012.

Since 2012, Bernhard and a team of student researchers have been collecting and analyzing microbial samples from salt marshes in Louisiana that were impacted by the 2010 oil spill. "We have now accumulated five years of data, and our results show that the abundance and diversity of these microbes are much more variable compared to similar microbes in New England marshes, and they appear to be more efficient at processing nitrogen," Bernhard said. "These comparisons provide us with important insights into how nitrogen is processed in these marshes and—since nitrogen is usually what controls plant growth—how the whole ecosystem might be affected."

Bernhard said her work suggests that there may be long-term impacts on the microbes from the oil spill, but more research is needed to determine if they are being directly impacted by oil toxicity or if they are responding to broader changes in the marsh ecosystem brought about by the oil or other stressors.

The grant provides funding for stipends for two Connecticut College student researchers to work with Bernhard this summer. Since the initial grant in 2012, 15 students have conducted research with Bernhard, and four more have completed independent projects during the academic year. Khushbu Pandya '16 and Carmen Zazueta-Ramirez '13 were co-authors on a poster presentation at the American Society for Microbiology General Meeting in 2014.
Sound Healing

The students riding in Rebecca Acabchuk’s van were excited and a little nervous. As Acabchuk, an adjunct instructor of psychology, was driving her students to experience sound healing—an increasingly popular form of meditation and therapy that uses percussion instruments like crystal bowls, drums and gongs—they discussed current events and sang along to music streamed through their phones.

On the way back, they were silent. “It was a deep and transformative experience for them,” said Acabchuk, who has a Ph.D. in neurobiology and physiology and is also a licensed Reiki master and yoga and meditation instructor. “I think they were taken aback by how calm they were without being tired. Having energy, but calm energy, was new for them.”

The trip to the Sound Retreat in Chester, Connecticut, was an immersive introduction to “Meditation and Mindfulness in Science and Practice,” a course offered through the Psychology Department that challenges students to explore meditation through science and hands-on practice.

People have been using sound, music and chants to heal the sick for thousands of years, Acabchuk says, but sound healing and other forms of meditation have only recently gained mainstream popularity as therapeutic treatment for anxiety, chronic pain, sleep disorders, PTSD, drug addiction and other conditions. And while the science behind the practice is still very new, a growing body of research shows meditation and yoga can lower stress, decrease inflammation and even alter the structure of the brain.

In the course, which is popular among psychology and neuroscience majors as well as athletes interested in improving their performance, students review and critically assess research findings on the physiological responses and neurological changes associated with meditation, while also practicing different forms of it each week.

“I encourage the students to be critical about any claims of ‘magical’ benefits of mind-body healing modalities and to approach such claims like a scientist by saying, ‘Show me the evidence,’” said Acabchuk.

In one landmark study, a Harvard Medical School neuroscientist found that people who had practiced meditation for an extensive period had more gray matter in the regions of the brain associated with attention and sensory processing, working memory, and executive decision making. A follow-up study found people with no previous experience with meditation showed changes in five different regions of the brain after just eight weeks of practice.

Still, scientists don’t understand exactly how mind-body therapies work, or how much of which kind is necessary for certain results. That’s why Acabchuk likes her students to experience the benefits firsthand. She scheduled the trip to the Sound Retreat early in the semester to help still-skeptical students better understand what can’t yet be entirely explained by science.

“Our entire class was put into a deep meditative state for approximately 45 minutes,” Noah Babbott-Bryan ’19 said of the sound healing session. “Personal experience of the benefits is undeniably powerful.”
Science Moms

Late one night in 2015, Natalie Newell ’05 was feeding her young son while casually reading a post on a parenting blog. The post, an open letter written by five women who worked in various fields of science, offered a rebuttal to the growing misinformation campaign against genetically modified foods (GMOs) and vaccines that was sweeping the country.

For Newell, who majored in psychology and human development at Conn and has a master’s degree in education, the letter held particular resonance. The authors—all mothers—were as relatable as they were knowledgeable about the nuances of bioengineering.

“During my time in early childhood education, and as a new parent, I saw and heard a lot of what seemed to be fear-based marketing and misinformation directed toward parents,” Newell said. “After reading that letter, I felt like I needed to do my small part in pushing back against that misinformation.”

This type of science-based parenting information, Newell felt, simply wasn’t being presented with the same zeal and ubiquity that the anti-vaccine, anti-GMO movement was generating. So she reached out to the letter’s authors to pitch the idea of making a documentary.

All five agreed, and the next thing she knew, Newell was producing and directing her first documentary, Science Moms, which was released last year. The film addresses common myths about vaccines and their debunked link to autism, describes the benefits that can be reaped by genetically modifying food, and takes on celebrity-endorsed fads that have prompted some parents to refuse vaccinations for their kids, leading to the resurgence of diseases like whooping cough and measles.

The experts in the film argue that by virtually any measure, there are few inventions throughout the history of civilization that have achieved the astonishing success of vaccines. Millions of lives have been saved over the last few decades alone. And as access to immunization continues to expand to underdeveloped regions of the world, the sharp declines in devastating illnesses such as measles and polio leave no doubt of their effectiveness. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, vaccines reduced the number of measles deaths by a whopping 92 percent between 2000 and 2008.

“There shouldn’t be measles outbreaks in 2018,” Newell said. “Anti-science campaigns, promoted by celebrities like Jenny McCarthy, have successfully convinced people to doubt the safety of vaccines, leading to real, negative public health issues.”

Another contributing factor to the anti-science conflagration that spreads through parenting circles and social media, according to Newell, is the increasingly common practice of viewing issues through political and ideological lenses, instead of evaluating them on the basis of credible evidence.

“Biotechnology isn’t a silver bullet solution to all food-related problems, but it’s certainly a tool that can be used for good,” said Newell. “Too many people conflate their personal feelings about biotech with their feelings about corporations like Monsanto, and that clouds their view of positive GMO developments like vitamin-enriched rice for undernourished populations.”

Newell enjoyed making the documentary so much, she’s confident she’ll produce another one in the future. In the meantime, she cohosts a weekly podcast called The Science Enthusiast, which examines these issues and related topics.

“The podcast will continue until we run out of things to talk about,” she said. “So, it looks like we’ll be podcasting into old age. As for films, I think there’s a lot of potential, because I feel like Science Moms is just scratching the surface of issues that need to be talked about.”

To learn more and watch the film, visit sciencemomsdoc.com.
Blanche Boyd Pens New Novel

Nearly three decades ago, readers were introduced to Ellen Burns, the central character in what would ultimately become a trilogy of novels written by Blanche Boyd, the Roman and Tatiana Weller Professor of English. This May, the third and final installment, Tomb of the Unknown Racist, will bring a surprising and satisfying conclusion to that story.

Boyd, an award-winning author who also serves as Conn’s writer-in-residence, used the first two books as vehicles to explore issues relating to southern culture, racial discrimination and the sexual revolution of the 1960s and ‘70s through Ellen’s narration. In the new novel, Boyd shows the consequences of Ellen’s turbulent past in political activism and adds a new mysterious twist to her family story. The result is moving and wildly original, and despite being a work of fiction, also offers a chillingly realistic portrayal of family dysfunction that spans several tumultuous eras of American history.

After spending 20 years away from Ellen’s world, the author admits she approached the final book with some initial trepidation.

“It had been so long, I wasn’t entirely sure I could get back into it,” Boyd said. “It’s like a musician who takes a lot of time off and has to ease back into things by playing basic scales.”

Time has passed for Ellen, too. Tomb picks up her story in 1999; after a long struggle with substance abuse, she’s now sober and caring for her disabled mother in South Carolina. After hearing some news that her white supremacist brother, believed to have died a decade earlier, may actually still be alive, Ellen joins forces with her niece in an effort to track him down. Along the way, she gains a front-row seat to the growing racial strife enveloping the country, and uncovers some dark secrets about her family.

While Boyd believes the trilogy is more powerful when read in order, she intentionally wrote each book in a way that allows them to stand on their own.

“It was technically fascinating to make each book work independently, and it’s something that I had first become interested in trying back in graduate school,” Boyd said. “But for my first two novels I hadn’t yet found my voice or my footing.”

Boyd said she came into her own as a writer while working at the Village Voice in New York during the 1980s, where she wrote pieces of “autobiographical journalism” that often revisited her experiences growing up in South Carolina and her exposure to structural racism. Today, she teaches a course on narrative nonfiction storytelling that incorporates much of what she learned from that stage of her career.

Like most writers, Boyd’s fiction is also informed by her personal experiences. She, like Ellen, is a recovering addict, and helps run two New London sober houses for women in properties she’s owned for years. Even after 36 years of sobriety, Boyd’s past struggles help lend a level of realism to the trilogy. But despite the fact that she identifies with many aspects of Ellen’s character, the books certainly aren’t autobiographical.

“I’m more like Ellen Burns than anybody else, but I’m not her,” Boyd explained. “I want her story to feel like it’s all true, but it’s not all true. I blend fact and fiction in my novels, and that’s part of what makes them feel authentic to my readers. Ellen’s arc spans several decades, but the racial issues this book addresses are as real and as important today as they ever were.”

Tomb of the Unknown Racist is currently available for preorder, and will be released on May 8.
Urban Agriculture

Even deep in the clutches of a biting New England winter, Julia Pope '14 and her colleagues enjoy freshly picked organic spinach, basil and crisp romaine lettuce that they grow themselves at their offices in Boston, Massachusetts.

Their startup company, Freight Farms, founded in 2010, modifies large shipping containers to house hydroponic, sustainable growing systems that can produce thousands of different high-yield crops, from lettuces to herbs to popular greens like kale and rainbow chard.

After graduating from Conn with a double major in anthropology and art, Pope spent 12 months working for the AmeriCorps service program City Year in an underserved neighborhood of Boston, and then worked for a year as a school teacher. During that time, she learned about the glaring lack of access to healthy food and fresh produce in many urban areas throughout the U.S. and decided she wanted to address the issue directly.

Pope now serves as the head of education and farmer success at Freight Farms. The company’s customers span the globe—from Arkansas to Dubai—and include colleges and universities, corporate campuses such as Google, restaurants and even traditional soil farmers looking to supplement their income.

Each 40-foot shipping container farm dubbed Leafy Green Machines, produces about as much as a two-acre soil farm, and requires little more than a power source, a predetermined cocktail of nutrients, less than five gallons of water per day and a few hours of labor each week. The insulated, entirely climate-controlled “farm-in-a-box” is outfitted with LED lights and an automated irrigation system that can be monitored from a laptop or smartphone using Freight Farm’s custom-designed program, farmhand.

Pope says her dream is to see a Leafy Green Machine outside of every school in America, not only for the nutritional benefits but for the educational value as well.

“Having a background in education, I get really excited every time a new school gets one of our setups, because beyond providing good food, it ... serves as a great tool for teaching and practicing sustainability,” she said.

Pope hopes more urban areas join Freight Farms’ list of customers as funding for sustainable agriculture projects increases.

“People hear leafy greens, and they think we’re only talking about lettuce,” Pope explains. “But we’re able to grow things people probably never even dreamed about, like my personal favorite crop, spicy wasabi arugula. It’s amazing!”
“A local economy is a strong economy, and economic sustainability goes hand in hand with environmental sustainability.”
A Political Tenor

HIS EMAIL ADDRESS PROUDLY announces, “Baird the Great.” But this digital moniker belies his humility and earnestness when it comes to public service and local politics.

In November, Baird Welch-Collins ’18 was elected to a two-year term on the Waterford, Connecticut, town government atop a wave of successful local Green Party candidates.

The government major and lifelong resident of Waterford first developed an interest in politics as a high school student—a natural evolution from his passion for environmental activism. But Welch-Collins didn’t quite see where he fit into the traditional two-party system, so he began exploring alternatives.

“I knew that the Republican Party certainly didn’t reflect my political views, but a deeper analysis of the Democratic Party revealed it also wasn’t exactly what I was looking for,” Welch-Collins says. “The Ten Key Values of the Green Party directly lined up with my personal views, and so the next logical step seemed to be forming a local Green Party chapter.”

Before long, Welch-Collins was elected co-chair of the Connecticut Green Party and was serving on the Waterford Flood and Erosion Control Board as treasurer, where he gained experience managing and protecting the town’s many coves, streams and rivers from environmental threats.

He believes the success of his local Green Party can be attributed to coalition-building with Democratic officials in the state and a coordinated effort to offer nonpartisan, pragmatic solutions to problems that impact the broader community instead of focusing on a narrowly targeted constituency.

“Voters are looking to support candidates outside of the two parties, but who are still able to win and who are willing to work within the realities of that two-party system,” Welch-Collins says. “Simply pretending that system doesn’t exist helps nothing—redefining our role in that system is what will ultimately give us a bigger voice in government.”

The first specific legislative proposal Welch-Collins and his Green Party allies plan to introduce would implement a municipal ban on fracking waste, something he says should be a top priority for communities throughout the region. Longer term, he hopes to focus on developing an economic climate that allows small businesses to flourish in Waterford.

“A local economy is a strong economy, and economic sustainability goes hand in hand with environmental sustainability,” he argues.

One of the key figures in his development as a community leader is Welch-Collins’ faculty adviser, Professor of Government Mary Anne Borrelli, who has taught him to apply his ideology and theoretical knowledge to real-life government challenges.

“Professor Borrelli’s classes really brought home the nuances and realities of government and gave me a frame of reference where I felt confident turning my values into policy,” he explains.

Welch-Collins is also one of the few commuter students at Conn, which he says allows him to remain deeply involved in his local community and still continue to pursue an eclectic range of hobbies, such as blacksmithing, beekeeping and playing folk music. He performs frequently both solo and with local musicians, alternating between eight or 10 instruments, including the guitar, banjo and his Irish bouzouki (pictured).

“Being a folk musician has always related to my politics and to my interest in history,” he says. “Folk music tells the story directly from the mouths of the people who experienced it, and that’s a unique voice from both the past and the present.”

During the course of the campaign, Welch-Collins knocked on hundreds of doors in his district to speak with voters face-to-face. And while the sheer amount of time that required sometimes posed a challenge, he says it was enormously rewarding.

“In our modern society, walking up to your neighbor’s door and knocking is a rare experience, but getting to know the people in my community was definitely my favorite part of campaigning.”

That level of personal engagement is a key ingredient Welch-Collins believes is missing in politics today, and he plans to work with his colleagues from other parties, who he describes as his friends and neighbors.

The specifics of his post-Conn plans are still developing, but the busy senior doesn’t expect to stay in just one lane.

“I’m currently working towards my Connecticut education certification at Conn, and I’ll most likely remain in the area pursuing a career in education, politics or both. I’m involved in a lot of things: education, politics, blacksmithing and music, so I’m looking forward to having multiple careers.”
Laptops to Fight Inequality

BY AMY MARTIN

THE LAPTOP LAUREN SULLIVAN '19 brought to Conn wouldn't turn on unless it was plugged in. If it was accidentally unplugged, the four-year-old PC, issued to Sullivan by her high school, would crash. "I stopped carrying it to class, because it ended up being a useless weight in my bag," Sullivan remembered. "The worst part was, I was taking a computer science class at the time. Because of the software we were using, the only place I could do my assignments was the computer lab where we had class."

Then Sullivan learned about the Student Technology Resource Fund, which provides computers and other technology for students with financial need. She applied and was issued a new Mac laptop at the beginning of her sophomore year.

"I felt so relieved," said Sullivan, a biochemistry major with a computer science minor. "It was one less thing I had to worry about, and I was able to focus all my effort on my strenuous course load."

The fund, established in 2006, was the brainchild of the late Erika Berlinghof '05. A fiercely independent two-time cancer survivor, Berlinghof, her father William Berlinghof remembered, traveled to Conn by herself and decided to attend without ever consulting her parents. On campus, she was active in student government and quickly recognized a growing technological divide between students.

"She talked about how there were students who couldn't fully participate in all the things available at Conn because they didn't have a computer to connect them in the way that everyone else took for granted," said Mr. Berlinghof.

At the time, personal computer use was exploding, and professors were beginning to assign more online research, host online discussions and communicate via email. But for Erika the problem went deeper than just the logistical issue of completing classwork without a computer; it created a "have vs. have-not" culture on campus that was inherently inequitable.

"It branded them as different. She wanted to level the playing field," Mr. Berlinghof said.

At Erika's suggestion, the Berlinghof family established the fund after her graduation, and she moved to Washington, D.C., where she directed lobbying for the National Association of Water Companies.

Most recently, she was the director of communications and engagement for the U.S. division of SUEZ Environment, an international water and wastewater services company. She was also active with Water For People, a nonprofit that works to provide access to potable water for people in developing countries, and campaigned for Hillary Clinton both times she ran for president.

In 2015, after being in remission for 15 years, Erika was diagnosed with a sarcoma in her heart for a third time, and she died on May 1, 2016. Her family continues to contribute to the Student Technology Resource Fund as a way of honoring Erika's belief in the importance of reducing societal inequalities.

It's an impressive legacy, said Ricardo Olea '19, who received a new laptop thanks to the fund.

"This fund is continuously combating social inequities that make it difficult for students from backgrounds like mine to not only make it to a higher education institution but also complete a degree," he said. "Owning a computer as a college student is extremely essential; it allows us to stay connected..."
not only with professors and peers but on a national and global level as well."

The fund routinely provides computers for more than a dozen students each year, and the need continues to grow. Students receiving financial aid are eligible for the program if they do not have a computer or in the event that their computer fails. Associate Dean of the College Marina Melendez, who administers the program, oversees a committee that reviews each request and assesses the student’s need.

“It is difficult to imagine a world without computers, yet this is a reality for some college students,” Melendez said. “Too many still come to campus without one, which puts them at a great disadvantage.”

Giselle Olaguez ’19 is one of those students. The economics and gender and women’s studies double major is proud of her accomplishments at Conn. She’s a scholar in Conn’s Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts; she’s an active member of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicoano de Aztlan; and she’s volunteered at the Immigration Advocacy and Support Center in New London, as well as at a local elementary school. This summer, she will conduct research on women’s rights movements in Mexico.

“I have taken advantage of the Conn education I have been blessed with,” she said. “But behind my success is a story others often don’t know.”

The oldest of five children from a working-class family, Olaguez came to campus without a computer. In addition to her schoolwork, clubs and volunteer activities, she worked four jobs—three positions on campus and the overnight shift at a local McDonald’s. That schedule often made it difficult for her to get to the library or a computer lab.

“I remember the day I received a call that I could pick up my new computer. I was so excited—even the box was pretty,” she said. “I was finally able to do my homework at any time of day; between my shifts I could plop down anywhere and write a post for one class or do a reading for another.”

Mr. Berlinghof said Erika wanted students like Olaguez to have everything they needed to succeed not just during college but after graduation as well.

“She felt strongly that women and minorities were underrepresented in government and that more diversity would change the attitudes that lead to social and economic inequality,” he said.

The Student Technology Resource Fund is one piece of the puzzle. There are other funds designed to meet certain needs, including a Student Emergency Fund, which provides support for emergency travel and other expenses, and the Into the Future Fund, which helps seniors and new graduates offset costs for job and graduate school interviews.

Mr. Berlinghof, who has also supported scholarships at Conn, hopes to see the Student Technology Resource Fund grow to meet the needs of more students and to provide them with the emerging technologies that are quickly becoming as important to education as a computer.

“What is the cutting-edge software the students need? Do they need other devices? As technology changes, we want all students to have what they need to be able to fully participate,” he said.

To donate to the Student Technology Resource Fund, go to giving.conncoll.edu and note “Student Technology Resource Fund” in the comment box. For more information, contact Valerie O’Brien, director of donor relations, at vobrien@conncoll.edu.
Russian Resurgence

U.S. intelligence agencies have acknowledged that Russians associated with the Kremlin hacked the 2016 presidential election. Professor of Slavic Studies Andrea Lanoux, who specializes in Russian culture and language, explains what the post-Soviet state is after.

BY AMY MARTIN

Amy Martin: From the mid-'90s to the 2000s, when President Bush famously looked into Putin's eyes and got "a sense of his soul," there was a considerable thaw in diplomatic relations between Moscow and the U.S. For a while, Americans seemed to lose interest in Russia as an adversarial, geopolitical actor.

Andrea Lanoux: Russia is only big in U.S. news when something it's doing is relevant to us, or when something is happening that reflects our stereotypes of Russia. At the end of 2011 and into 2012, we saw tens of thousands of people taking to the streets to protest falsified elections in Russia. This is when Americans take notice—"People are rising up against their authoritarian government." We want to read about that. We want to read about Pussy Riot rising up against the repressive government, because that reflects a notion of Russia that we cling to, even though the reality is that Pussy Riot is widely despised and dismissed in Russia. And now, of course, the U.S. intelligence community has determined that Russia meddled with our 2016 presidential election. So, it's not that Russia has become more interesting—it always has been—Russia has just become more relevant to us.

AM: Has Russia's interest in the U.S. remained strong in that same time frame?

AL: Russians know a lot more about American society and culture than we know about their culture. Under Soviet rule, it was difficult to get news about the West, and that helped feed a fascination with Western culture and with American culture in particular. But I wouldn't call it a love affair. Russia is simultaneously striving to be a Western country and claiming an otherness to the West. That has created a culture of competition that I think explains why Russia has over-performed in nearly all cultural spheres—literary masterpieces, classical music, physics, ballet, painting, space exploration. They contribute so profoundly to Western civilization, but there is also very deep anti-Western sentiment, and that has been exacerbated by the sanctions America has imposed on the country.

AM: What impact have sanctions had on Russia's economy?

AL: The economic situation within Russia is tough right now. Sanctions have taken their toll. As an authoritarian government, but there is also very deep anti-Western sentiment, and that has been exacerbated by the sanctions America has imposed on the country.

AM: So why invade Ukraine? Why annex Crimea and risk international backlash?

AL: To understand that, you need to understand Putin's basic desire to re-establish Russia as a superpower. That imperial ambition is "playing to his base," to use a phrase we often hear in relation to our own president. Putin wants to show Russia as a great military force again even at significant cost.

AM: Is that also why he would be interested in influencing the U.S. election?

AL: It's no secret that Russians would like the sanctions lifted. And I think they thought they would get better traction with a Trump administration than a Clinton administration. As Secretary of State, Clinton developed a deep knowledge of Russia, and I think there was a feeling that the more she knew, the harder it would be to change her mind. But there's another possible reason being investigated. A lot of the
sources I read suspect that the Trump organization—before it became the Trump administration—was deep into debt with Russian sources and Russian banks. As the special counsel continues to investigate and "follow the money," it will be interesting to see if those suspicions are true, if there was some indebtedness to Russian financial institutions that would make working with the Trump administration easier and smoother for the Russians.

AM: Putin has suggested that "patriotic Russian hackers" may have been behind the meddling in the U.S. election, and not his government. Is that a plausible scenario?

AL: I would say it's highly plausible that there are some extremely savvy Russian youths in the provinces who could be messing with something like the Michigan electoral computer system. But that's certainly not the full story, or the end of the story. Russia, and Soviet Russia, has vast experience controlling elections. It's beyond our imagination how sophisticated they are at it, and how blatant they are about doing it. The 2011-2012 protest in Russia was a reaction to widespread election rigging in their own country. And now, people in Russia are talking about the Olympic doping scandal. What we see there is a state-sponsored, organized effort all the way down to planting fake urine samples for athletes. The Russian government is a coordinated machine, and has been for the past several centuries.

AM: So, you think it's possible that the Russian government launched a highly coordinated effort to influence the outcome of the 2016 election?

AL: I do, but I also think that we, as a society, can't quite wrap our minds around that. It just doesn't jibe with the American way of thinking. We have such respect for the democratic process that we can't imagine accepting the idea that that process could have been manipulated to the point where we have an illegitimate outcome. The consequences to our institutions are just too great.

AM: It has been reported that Russians used social media as one tactic to influence Americans, to the surprise of even the very people who created these social media platforms. How exactly did they manage that?

AL: I think we're way out of our league in terms of influencing elections and spreading "fake news." The Soviets invented fake news; they called it state-sponsored propaganda, and they were very good at it. The Russian people are used to it, and they understand that they need other sources before they can believe something they see on state television, for example. We are just beginning to understand it and recognize it.

AM: The phrases "fake news" and "alternative facts" are now part of our vocabulary.

AL: Yes, and that has global consequences. A good friend of mine in Russia said, "We used to know that everything we heard on television was fake, and if you wanted to know what was really going on, you had to ... read a Western source. But now we can't even believe the Western sources."

AM: Does that benefit Putin?

AL: I would say that both Putin and Trump share an interest in "how it looks," almost more than "how it is." And that has tipped us into a political world where reality and how state decisions actually impact people seem less important than how it looks on television.

AM: How does President Trump "look" to the Russian people?

AL: Trump's understanding of power is familiar to Russians. It looks similar to Putin's and that makes him more relatable, which I think to some extent makes him more likable. But, if there's something that defines Russian culture today, it's a desire for stability and predictability. This is a society that has gone through multiple revolutions that have had devastating consequences. If there's a system in place and there's a game to play, if you know how to play it you can live a normal life. Initially, I think the Russian people saw Trump and thought, "Here's someone we can deal with; here's someone who understands power the same way we do." But now they are watching what's happening in North Korea, for example, and in Syria, and they're starting to see Trump as unpredictable, and that's at odds with their desire for stability.

AM: Will that desire for stability keep Putin in power?

AL: There's a presidential election coming up in 2018, which Putin is expected to win. Surprise, right? But there are other candidates, like Ksenia Sobchak, a young woman and television personality who is running to make the point that it's time for a change. Many Russians don't trust her, though—they see her as a Kremlin-backed candidate whose real reason for running is to show the West that they are having a democratic election. Still, there are signs that the Russian people might be ready for something else, someone else, in the future.

AM: Is studying Russian language and culture more relevant now than ever before?

AL: I would argue it is. I encourage my students to study languages—any language—so they can understand what's happening in a country, in a society, within a culture. One of the things that I'm proudest of is that many Russians tell me what they're thinking. They treat me as someone who can understand and appreciate what's happening in the culture, almost as an insider. You can gain insight that way that you can never get from any news source. You can learn what people think, what motivates them, what their values are. I think it's critical that we have people in this country who have a more nuanced, more complex understanding of what's happening in the world.
Better Angels of Our Nature  The ribbon and booklet are from the papers of Cephas Brainerd, a small collection of whose we hold in the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections & Archives. Brainerd was one of the men who brought then-candidate Abraham Lincoln to New York to speak at Cooper Union in the winter of 1860. The Cooper Union speech is considered one of the key events that allowed Lincoln to rally enough support to win the Republican nomination for president. Brainerd would later serve as a groundbreaking lawyer, arguing on behalf of African-Americans who suffered losses in the 1863 draft riots and establishing the principle of municipal liability. Brainerd served as chairman of the international committee of the YMCA during a period of enormous change for the organization, overseeing its growth in the United States and Europe and the professionalization of its operations.
DREAMERS

Two undocumented students describe growing up in a country that might turn its back on them.

BY DOUG DANIELS
is haunted by uncertainty. For nearly her entire life, the Southwest Side of Chicago, an area composed of neighborhoods defined by their ethnic diversity and immigrant families, has been the place she calls home. But on paper, she has a different home.

When she was 11 months old, P (she asked to be identified by her first initial to maintain anonymity) entered the country illegally with her parents, immigrating from Jalisco, Mexico, and settling in Illinois. Although her parents always told her she was born in Mexico, P naturally didn’t grasp the legal intricacies of her undocumented status growing up, living her life as any typical American kid would. But as she grew older, she became increasingly aware of the risks undocumented immigrants face.

In 2010, when P was in 7th grade, the state of Arizona passed the SB 1070 law, which allowed police to use what critics viewed as racial profiling and other controversial techniques in an effort to crack down on suspected undocumented immigrants. The measure sparked a heated national debate and was challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld large portions of the law.

“That’s when I first really began to understand what it meant to be undocumented,” P says. “The Arizona law created fear in many undocumented families around the country, and the thought of losing my parents through deportation, or of being deported myself, has resulted in a lot of sleepless nights over the years.”

Today, P is one of the approximately 800,000 young people who were protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, enacted by the Obama administration in 2012. The act registered undocumented young people who came to the country as minors, and provided a two-year renewal period and work eligibility. The hope was that Congress would enact a permanent solution in the meantime.

But this past September, keeping with a campaign promise to implement hard-line immigration measures, the Trump administration announced it was eliminating the DACA program and that it would expire in March. Now students, workers, military personnel and others have been thrust into a churning political storm, and unless Congress acts, many of these individuals may face imminent deportation to a country they might not even remember, forced to leave behind the only home they’ve ever known.

“My biggest fear is that if Congress doesn’t find a fix for DACA, I’ll be deported,” says P, who intends to double-major in human development and sociology. After Conn, she wants to enter the nonprofit world and expand college access to underrepresented students. But this plan might be upended if the immigration reform impasse in Washington isn’t resolved.

“I wasn’t able to renew my DACA, so my permit will expire soon, and if nothing happens between now and then, I’ll no longer be protected against deportation.”

Conn isn’t the only college or university confronting the troubling prospect of students’ lives being torn apart as a result of partisan politics and legislative dysfunction in Washington.

In late 2016, Connecticut College president Katherine Bergeron joined more than 400 college and university presidents throughout the country in signing a letter that called for the preservation and expansion of DACA. Previously, in the days following Trump’s election, Bergeron declared in a letter to the Conn community that the college “remains steadfast in its support for our undocumented and DACA-status students—and for all students whose status might be threatened under the policies of a new administration.”

While P grew up with an appreciation for the cultural traditions of Mexico and has developed a love for the country through listening to her parents describe their experiences there, she still considers herself American.

“Although I can say that I am Mexican, I am really only Mexican on paper,” P explains. “I have not gone through the same experiences that people who live in Mexico have. So while I feel like I’m legally a citizen of Mexico, socially and culturally I’m a citizen of the United States.”

That’s a natural sentiment considering how young P was when her family came to the U.S. But for those who immigrated when they were older, even just a few years older, notions of identity can be more complex.

Liz (she asked to be identified only by her first name), a Conn student and fellow DACA recipient, was born one state over from P, in Michoacán, Mexico, and her family also settled in the Southwest Side of Chicago. Despite this shared background, Liz and P have sharply different perspectives. Liz, who came to the U.S. when she was five years old, still has fond memories of Mexico and feels a strong connection with that country.

“I will always identify with my birth country,” Liz says. “Even though I lived in Mexico only for the first years of my life and spent most of my life here in this country, I don’t feel like I can ever identify as American. The memories I do have of Mexico keep me connected to my home country, but most importantly to the culture and traditions. Even if at some point in the future I become an American citizen, I will not label myself as American, because I love where I come from.”
In Liz’s neighborhood, being undocumented was common among her neighbors, and never a source of discriminatory treatment. Although she recalls being angry that she wasn’t able to leave the country and visit family in Mexico as a child, it wasn’t until later that she began to notice the tendrils of her complicated immigration status stretching into other areas of her life.

“Things changed once I went to high school, because there were so many opportunities for scholarships, or to study abroad, and I couldn’t apply for things like that because they were limited to U.S. citizens,” Liz says.

P has faced similar obstacles. Despite her involvement with a variety of activities on campus, including being a member of the Mexican-American student organization M.E. Ch.A, and working with Unity House on race and ethnicity programs, opportunities that most students take for granted are just out of reach for P.

“My immigration status has prevented me from studying abroad, but I also can’t apply for jobs that require work-study, limiting the opportunities I have to earn money to help pay my room and board, and I can’t take internships that require residency or U.S. citizenship,” P says. “And if there is no solution to the rescinding of DACA, my DACA will eventually expire, making it difficult for me to travel to and from Conn, since I would not be able to provide a U.S. state ID when boarding an airplane.”

John McKnight, Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion, says his office is committed to supporting the college’s DACA students in any way possible.

“Although I can say that I am Mexican, I am really only Mexican on paper.”

“It has been a privilege getting to know and work with our DACA-status and undocumented students on campus,” McKnight says. “Sometimes these students are referred to as ‘dreamers,’ and while I can appreciate that idea, I think it falls short as a descriptor. These students are doers, who in the face of extraordinary challenges remain devoted to their studies and to their pursuit of a more just society. Individually and collectively, their stories inspire me to want to work harder to pursue equity at Conn and within all educational institutions.”

Both Liz and P work as activists in the growing national movement to reform U.S. immigration policy and to find a way to keep DACA recipients in the country. P, who was part of the team that helped organize the pro-DACA march in Boston last September, says she’s proud of the involvement of her fellow students. About 70 Conn students attended the Boston event, and several traveled to separate rallies last fall in New Haven and Hartford as well to show they stand with DACA recipients.

P also plans to become more involved with CT Students for a Dream, a Connecticut-based advocacy organization founded by undocumented students from across the state in 2010.

Liz, who has attended some of the same rallies as P, says it’s essential to keep pressure on elected leaders and ensure that the voices of DACA recipients and other undocumented immigrants are heard.

“I’ve participated in rallies and marches over the past three years because it’s important to be seen by the public and to raise awareness about these issues,” Liz says. “I participate because a lot of people are still scared due to their status, and I want to be someone who speaks for myself as well as for others who can’t.”

Over the past year or two, there is evidence that these rallies and activism have made an impact on public opinion. Last fall, in the immediate aftermath of President Trump’s announcement about rescinding DACA, large majorities of Americans in a variety of polls expressed their belief that young, undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay in the U.S., and that Congress should offer a pathway to citizenship for them. Economists and business leaders have also pleaded for a permanent fix, and the Center for American Progress released an analysis last year that estimated the U.S. economy could lose more than $460 billion in GDP over the next decade without DACA.

While the fear of deportation is a constant reality for DACA students, P says she’s heartened by the vocal backing of the Conn community and beyond.

“I am scared for my future and I feel a lot of uncertainty and anxiety,” she admits. “But I also feel encouraged by the broad support I have received from the college, and I’m thankful for the government officials who have come out in support of us.”

Liz recognizes the precarious situation undocumented immigrants face in Washington’s increasingly hostile political climate, but remains optimistic that those challenges will be met with persistence from the immigrant community.

“DACA is one of the reasons I can live a ‘normal’ life here in the United States and have the basic opportunities that Americans have, such as working and going to school and not having to be scared of being taken away,” she says.

“These recent developments make people like me more likely to push for something even better, and I feel that because we are all facing the same issue, we can come together to create change.”
Bande à part

“A story should have a beginning, a middle and an end ... but not necessarily in that order,” the French director Jean-Luc Godard is purported to have said. At Conn, Ross Morin ’05 is educating a new wave of filmmakers.
Alice (2012) by George Scarles '15: A horror dance film that goes down the rabbit hole and into a twisted vision of our oppressive institutions.
The Red Wax Candle (2016) by Ellen Heuer '17, Katherine Lipman '16 & James Lafortezza '16: Two young sisters, bitter rivals, explore an abandoned haunted house in this character drama about pride and resilience.
Beatrice Brought Dessert (2016) by Lauren Young '16 & Emma Radest '16: A dark comedy about three friends who get together for their annual dinner party, during which they will compete to kill their fourth guest.
Meta (2017) by Connor Gowland '17 & Charlie Losiewicz '19: On the brink of a psychological breakthrough, two researchers discover a way to manipulate the past.
Bioluminescence is expanding the boundaries of science.

BY AMY MARTIN
It’s dark. You can’t see much, but suddenly tiny flashes of yellow-green lights illuminate the night. A swarm of fireflies.

For centuries, these strange little bugs have captured imaginations with their ability to produce their own light. Other creatures, including jellyfish, can do it too. It’s a phenomenon of nature called bioluminescence, and the glowing proteins responsible for it are revolutionizing the world of biotechnology.

“We don’t yet understand all the facets of bioluminescence, but scientists have harnessed its glow and are using glowing proteins for everything from tracking the process of bacterial infections to detecting chemical and biological agents planted by terrorists,” says Marc Zimmer, the Jean C. Tempel ’65 Professor of Chemistry.

Zimmer is a computational chemist who works with green fluorescent proteins (GFP). A few doors down in Hale Laboratory, Bruce Branchini, the Hans and Ella McCollum ’21 Vahlteich Professor of Chemistry, runs one of only three labs in the country researching the bioluminescent pathways of fireflies.

By using glowing proteins as tracers in cancer to bacteria to stem cells, scientists can see proteins being made and moving in real time. Proteins are extremely small and can’t be seen even with an electron microscope. But when they give off light the brightness can be detected.

Zimmer uses this analogy: “Imagine you are standing at one end of a football field at dusk. There’s no way you’d be able to see a little bug all the way across the field. But then that bug—a firefly—lights up, and suddenly, you can see it.

“It’s like the microscope. It’s the modern way of seeing.”

**NOBEL PRIZE FOR GFP**

Doctors have noticed a strange trend. Pregnant women who have had heart attacks seem to recover better than other women and men.

“The doctors developed a theory: When someone has a heart attack, a distress signal is sent for other cells to come help, but none respond,” says Zimmer. “But if the woman is pregnant, embryonic stem cells go through the bloodstream to help mend the heart.”

But how to prove it?

Hina Chaudhry, an associate professor of medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, had an idea. Researchers in her lab took a normal female mouse and bred it with a male mouse genetically modified with GFP to produce glowing offspring. After the female gave birth, no fluorescent proteins remained in her body. But when they repeated the experiment and induced a heart attack, glowing cells were visible in the injured area of the pregnant mouse’s heart.

“Using GFP, Chaudhry was able to prove that the stem cells of the fetus quite literally mended the mother’s broken heart,” Zimmer says.

It’s one of Zimmer’s favorite examples of GFP use in medical research, but there are countless others. GFP, which was first cloned in 1994, is now used for hundreds of thousands of experiments each year by scientists across the world.

Justine Miller ’07 is one of them. A senior scientist at the biopharmaceutical company AbbVie, Miller uses GFP in her research into neurological disorders.

“There are certain proteins that are key hallmarks of diseases like Alzheimer’s—proteins that pass from one cell to another. If we tag them with GFP, we can track what is happening to them inside of a live cell culture,” she says.

While GFP is now a staple in scientific labs (it’s so common that GFP-modified fish are now sold in pet stores), it was a relatively unknown molecule when Zimmer first learned about it during a campus lecture in 1995. Intrigued by the possibilities for GFP, he wondered if he could use computer models to determine the underlying chemistry that made it fluoresce. He has since focused his research efforts on trying to better understand what makes certain proteins light up, how to manipulate them to glow brighter, and how to more easily change their colors and turn them on and off.

With funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Research Corporation for Scientific Advancement, Zimmer has published dozens of papers in academic journals, including many co-authored by student researchers. But perhaps his greatest contribution to the field is the work he has done to tell just about everyone about it. He is the author of *Glowing Genes*, the first popular book about jellyfish proteins and firefly bioluminescence, and *Illuminating Disease*, which details GFP’s role in biomedical research from malaria to HIV. He also runs a GFP website that has become popular among high school science teachers.

In 2008, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences—the organization responsible for awarding the Nobel Prize—invited Zimmer to Stockholm to answer questions about GFP and the scientists who pioneered its study. Later that year, the Academy awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry to three of those scientists; the official announcement included a link to Zimmer’s website.

**LIGHTNING BUGS**

A yellowed 1987 newspaper clipping hangs on the door of Branchini’s laboratory. In the article, the professor says he hopes to someday solve the mystery of exactly how the firefly glows.

Two years ago, he did just that.

To produce light, you need energy. Branchini explains. Fluorescent proteins like GFP require an external light, like a black light, to glow. The bioluminescence of the firefly doesn’t require any external light; instead, a chemical reaction takes place inside the bug’s body.

For decades, the widely held theory among scientists was that the reaction happened when regular oxygen mixed inside the firefly’s abdomen with calcium, adenosine triphosphate and the chemical luciferin in the presence of the enzyme luciferase. But Branchini had another theory; he believed the reaction was actually set off by a highly reactive form of oxygen called superoxide. After decades of work with firefly luciferase, he was convinced. But because of the speed of the reaction, he wasn’t able to produce definitive proof.
Then he got an idea, and it involved a short trip down I-95 to Yale University. There, researchers would use a technique called electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) to try and make the superoxide stable enough to measure.

It worked perfectly on the very first try. Branchini was able to measure the superoxide and definitively prove it was this form of oxygen that makes these lightning bugs glow.

“We were right. Even the postdoc who ran the EPR couldn’t believe it. There it was—the evidence we needed. The final piece of the puzzle,” Branchini says.

It was a crowning moment in the career of one of the leading researchers in firefly bioluminescence in the world.

Branchini’s research group—which includes three technicians and, at any given time, several undergraduate students—has published more than 50 scholarly articles in the last 13 years alone. Nearly all of Branchini's work is funded with grants, mainly from the National Science Foundation and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, which has awarded Branchini nearly $1.7 million to date.

“The Air Force is interested in using bioluminescence as a marker. They want us to transform bioluminescence you can see into an area of light you can only see with something like night vision goggles,” Branchini says.

Branchini isn’t privy to exactly how the Air Force applies his work, but it could be used to create a helicopter landing pad invisible to the naked eye and undetectable by heat sensors. The underlying technology, however, could also have implications far beyond national defense.

“The near infrared technology that the Air Force is interested in is also important for the bioimaging of live animals, because near infrared travels best through tissues,” he says.

By working to better understand the biochemistry of bioluminescence at its most basic level, Branchini and his team can produce luciferase proteins with different properties ideal for different applications, from drug screening to mechanistic studies to in vivo imaging, a noninvasive technique used to track molecules inside of living animals.

A NEW DNA

The entire genetic alphabet—the building blocks of all life on earth—is made up of just four letters: A (adenine), T (thymine), C (cytosine) and G (guanine). And since A is always paired with T, and C with G, these letters make up the two DNA base pairs that are used to make all proteins in all living cells on earth.

Until now.

At the Scripps Research Institute in California, chemist Floyd Romesberg and his team, including Aaron Feldman '13, have added two more letters—a third base pair.

“The idea is with a six-letter alphabet, we can make more ‘words’ and ‘sentences’—amino acids and proteins,” says Feldman, co-author of the groundbreaking paper published in the November issue of *Nature*.

Other researchers have added unnatural base pairs to DNA before, but they’ve never been used to actually make a new protein. To prove it is possible, Romesberg, Feldman and their colleagues created a strain of *E. coli* bacteria that used the new base pair to produce a genetically modified version of GFP.

Sure enough, it glowed.

“This is the first time ever a cell has translated a protein using something other than G, C, A or T,” Romesberg said in a release announcing the study. “I would not call this a new life-form—but it’s the closest thing anyone has ever made.”

The four natural DNA bases are used by organisms to produce 20 different amino acids. With the additional two letters, organisms could produce up to 152 new amino acids, which could be used to make new, more efficient medicines.

“GFP has been the workhorse in this type of research for a long time,” says Feldman. “It’s incredibly useful and abundant. Everyone who can take advantage of it does.”

That won’t change anytime soon, Zimmer says. In fact, he predicts all of today’s students who pursue careers in biology or medicine will use fluorescent proteins.

And the possibilities are nearly endless. Fluorescent proteins could be used to help remove cancerous cells in humans, for example.

“There’s bacteria that collects on the margins of tumors. You can make that bacteria fluoresce. One day, doctors may be able to turn on a blue excitatory light during surgery and see additional tumors they couldn’t see before,” says Zimmer.

The ability to image deep within the brain is also a conceivable possibility in the future. And the burgeoning field of optogenetics, in which light is used to control neurons in the brain, is another example of the incredible power of the glow.

“Glowing gene technology is really just in its teenage years,” says Zimmer. “We’ve only begun to unlock it’s potential.”
Creative Disruption

"Some believe there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world's ills ... Yet many of the world's great movements, of thought and action, have flowed from the work of a single man," Robert F. Kennedy said.

Or woman. Kennedy's words are well understood by the six disruptors featured here, men and women pushing to reshape the existing landscape in order to ease the burden for the disillusioned and dispossessed.

Two of our provocateurs are 2018 Forbes 30 Under 30 recipients: Jazmine Hughes '12 and Aditi Juneja '12. (Emily Callahan '11 was also named to this year's list. She was featured in the Winter 2016 issue of CC Magazine.)

Hughes (@jazzedloon), who appears on the opposite page, is an associate digital editor at The New York Times Magazine, where she's responsible for editing the "Letter of Recommendation" column and the back page of the magazine. Not settling for a career at one of the nation's top media outlets, Hughes is also an activist, and co-created Writers of Color, a database to help editors discover diverse writers.

After graduating from New York University School of Law, Juneja (who appears on our cover) became a New York State Excelsior Service Fellow, working to solve problems surrounding fair and equitable housing for the state of New York. Juneja (@aditijuneja3) also co-founded the Resistance Manual, an open-source platform where users can access and contribute to the portal, which provides "the resistance" with information on a range of issues, from immigration policy to voter rights.

"My vision for a brighter America involves an informed citizenry that respectfully and zealously debates to come up with the best solutions to serve everyone, including those who are marginalized," Juneja says.

PORTRAITS BY MILES LADIN '90
Fernando Espuelas '88 is an entrepreneur, senior executive and political strategist in Washington, D.C. Espuelas advises corporate leaders and governments across the globe. He has bridged the worlds of communications, technology and politics and was one of the pioneers of the consumer internet, launching the first pan-Latin internet portal. He is a Henry Crown Fellow at the Aspen Institute. @EspuelasVox
Stefanie Zadravec '90 is a resident playwright at New Dramatists in New York and a Core Writer at the Playwrights’ Center in Minneapolis. Zadravec's plays are part politics, part poetry, peppered with dark humor and her own brand of theatrical storytelling. She received the 2009 Helen Hayes Award for her breakout play, Honey Brown Eyes, set during the onset of the Bosnian War. Her work has received support from The Ford Foundation, the NEA, The Mellon Foundation, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Kennedy Center, among others. @stefzadravec
Vanessa Correia, RN '16 is currently studying to become a pediatric nurse practitioner at Yale School of Nursing. Correia's CISLA internship with Save the Children Jordan inspired her present concentration in global health. Correia is certified in plant-based nutrition and leads the U.S. Health Justice Collaborative, an interprofessional student group at Yale University. Also soon to become a yoga instructor, Correia is entering health care with the goal of helping people heal themselves. @YaleUSHJ
Debo Adegbile '91 is a lawyer who serves as a commissioner for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Adegbile was previously nominated to serve as the U.S. Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. The Senate rejected his nomination because he had filed a brief arguing that there was racial discrimination in jury selection for the trial of Mumia Abu-Jamal, who was convicted of the murder of a law enforcement officer. Adegbile serves as vice chair of Conn's Board of Trustees.
The Underdog

Veronica Venture '86 protects civil liberties and equality within the department charged with securing the nation.

BY AMY MARTIN

A custom superhero bobblehead sits atop a bookshelf in her office. A superhero because Veronica "Ronnie" Venture '86 fights daily for the rights of nearly a quarter million U.S. Department of Homeland Security employees, as well as every single member of the American public?

"Someone gave that to me," says Venture, DHS’s Deputy Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Director of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity.

"It's supposed to look like me. I'm not sure it does, but it's supposed to."

Within a massive organization charged with safeguarding America from myriad threats to national security, Venture works to preserve individual liberty, fairness and equality under the law. She wears a red power blazer instead of a cape, but in a world where terrorist attacks occur nearly daily, and security and liberty are often at odds, championing civil rights is no easy task.

DHS is the federal government’s third-largest cabinet department. It is made up of agencies with varied responsibilities related to security, including Citizenship and Immigration Services, Customs and Border Protection, the Coast Guard, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Transportation Security Administration and the Secret Service.

Venture’s work is twofold. She is responsible for ensuring equity for each of DHS’s 240,000 employees—from border patrol agents to helicopter pilots to cybersecurity analysts—as well as for the members of the general public who interact with these government employees on a daily basis.

She’s been busy lately.

On Aug. 17, Hurricane Harvey slammed Texas as a Category 4 storm, setting new records for rainfall and causing catastrophic flooding. Less than two weeks later, Hurricane Irma ravaged the Caribbean before making landfall in Florida. Then, Hurricane Maria devastated the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

"It was wild—we had a whole bunch of disasters at once. FEMA was responding, the Coast Guard—our office even sent people to help with disaster relief," Venture says.

Over the span of 25 days, FEMA and partner organizations deployed tens of thousands of personnel across 270,000 square miles, and the response to Maria in Puerto Rico became the longest sustained air mission of food and water in FEMA history.

In the worst of disasters, Venture is thinking about those who might be left behind.

"We worked a lot with FEMA on providing services to those with disabilities," she says. "For example, when we hear about shelters not taking service dogs, we have to remind them, 'This isn't a pet. This person needs this dog.'"

In Puerto Rico, where many were—and still are—without power in their homes, FEMA was broadcasting most emergency announcements over the radio.

"We have to stop and think, 'What about people who are deaf or hard of hearing? How are they going to get these important messages?'"

TAKING ON THE POWERFUL

Each year, the DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties reviews as many as 3,000 complaints from members of the public. Some, like the one made by neuroscientist Malaika Singleton against the TSA in 2013, make national news. Singleton, a black woman, said that while she was passing through security at Los Angeles International Airport on her way to London, TSA agents squeezed, pulled and patted down her hair, which she wore in a stylized form of dreadlocks known as "sisterlocks." When the same thing happened during her return through Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, she contacted the American Civil Liberties Union and learned that one of the lawyers there had similar experiences. The two filed a formal complaint.

"If African-American women are being pulled aside so agents can look through their hair, the big questions is: Is there a racial element at play here, or are the agents just following proper procedure?" Venture says.
Adopting procedures that are fair and equitable and that respect individual liberties at the outset is in the best interests of the agencies and employees who are carrying them out, Venture says. She encourages divisions and managers to work with her office to hone their procedures, before complaints are made.

"I always say, 'Call me now and get advice. Because if I have to call you later, it's going to be an unpleasant conversation.'"

In response to Singleton's complaint, the TSA agreed to retrain agents at both airports to ensure they are upholding the organization's "commitment to race neutrality" in security screenings. It also agreed to track complaints about excessive hair searches at other airports to make sure black women aren't being singled out.

Venture is quick to point out that DHS employees have a responsibility to uphold the law, and that the vast majority of the time they are following policies and procedures that have been carefully developed. Her office does significant public outreach to help members of the public better understand the work of DHS, and to let them know that the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties is there in cases where procedures weren't followed or where the procedures themselves need review.

While working with the general public is perhaps Venture's favorite part of the job, much of her work is internal. She is an expert in federal EEO processes and diversity management, so when DHS employees feel they are being discriminated against, they come to her.

"Every once in a while, it's blatant. But most of the time, it's more subtle," Venture says of discrimination in the workplace.

"It's rarely a single interaction; instead, things happen and you start to recognize a pattern."

When employees make formal complaints, they are investigated within the specific component of DHS and then land on Venture's desk for adjudication. But Venture prefers to mediate situations before they get to that point.

"We've made it mandatory for managers to sit down and talk if the employee requests it," Venture says. "Most don't realize how their actions are impacting other people. A lot of them are surprised; they never intended their actions to be taken that way."

Still, Venture says, "some managers are never going to get it." And despite EEO laws, better training and changing societal norms about the workplace, discrimination and harassment are still rampant everywhere. The MeToo movement and high-profile cases of workplace sexual harassment and assault in politics, film and news are evidence of that, Venture says.

"It's a really interesting time, and I'm glad to see so many people coming forward. It's never easy for the employee, but we can't discipline perpetrators if no one comes forward."

'YOU TALK FUNNY'

Venture sees her work as fighting for the underdog, and that comes naturally to her. She's been doing it since she was five, when her family immigrated to Long Island, New York, from her birthplace in Guyana, South America.

"I had an accent, so, kids being kids, they would say things to me like, 'You talk funny.' I started sticking up for myself, and then for other people, and I sort of started to bully the bullies," she says. "My mom got nervous and sent me to Catholic school."

In school, Venture excelled in math and science and was recruited to apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. She spent a week on campus but quickly decided that "getting up at 5 a.m. and having people yell in my face wasn't for me."

Instead, Venture looked across the street.

"I thought, 'What's that place?'"

That place, of course, was Connecticut College. Venture applied and was granted enough scholarship money to attend.

At Conn, she found she was one of only a handful of students of color in her class.

"I went to predominantly white Catholic schools, but it was still a shock," she says.

A government and English major, Venture was active in Conn's chapter of Society Organized Against Racism, and she participated in the 1986 takeover of Fanning Hall that led to more concerted efforts to recruit underrepresented students to the college. After graduation, she worked for a year in the humanities department, then went to law school at American University. She had dreams of campaigning for international human rights at the United Nations but also learned that those jobs typically went to lawyers with, well, experience.

Instead, Venture began her career as a law clerk with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and subsequently worked her way up to EEO director. After 12 years, Venture, who jokes that she suffers from a form of "professional ADHD," took a position as the assistant director of EEO for the FBI.

"That was another culture shock," Venture remembers of her first day on the job. "Here's me, who comes from ... a civil rights background, and I walk into a meeting and every person there has an ankle holster strapped to their leg. I'd never shot a gun. I'd never even held a gun."

Venture spent nine years at the FBI, serving under Robert Mueller, before taking the position at DHS in 2011. It's an impressive career for someone who, in many ways, remains the underdog.

"At the FBI, I was often the only woman, only person of color in the room. And I was the 'civil rights person.' I had to fight to get a seat at the table," she says.

Still, Venture says 27 years in government have left her with a tremendous respect for law enforcement and those who serve in public positions.

"People don't like the FBI, the police, DHS—they say, 'Oh, you are spying on us!' As government employees, we are often criticized for doing our jobs," she says. "But people who do this work don't get paid like they do in the private sector—they aren't doing it for money. They are doing it because they have a sense of duty; they want to serve the people."

Venture's mission is to make sure they balance the need for security with respect for civil liberties.

"We aren't going to stop screening people," she says. "But we need to screen them fairly in a way that is justifiable."
Lisbeth Scott '80 is a singer-songwriter whose music has appeared in more than 150 films and television shows, including Munich, Spiderman, Avatar and Shrek. Scott spent an afternoon at Conn sharing her music and stories at Evans Hall last November.
I

def you’ve been to the movies in the past few years, you’ve probably heard Lisbeth Scott’s haunting voice over the theater’s sound system.

The Los Angeles-based singer, songwriter and composer is one of the most prolific musicians in Hollywood. She returned to campus this past November to perform, reminisce and offer some advice for students directly from her piano bench.

The event, which brought Scott back to Evans Hall for the first time since she graduated with a degree in music, featured an eclectic mix of songs, punctuated by stories that traced the path of her career from playing the piano in a modern dance class to working with some of the most renowned composers in the world, including John Williams, who has described Scott’s voice as “absolutely ravishing.”

Remarkably, that voice was concealed for years by Scott’s crippling shyness, and it very nearly remained a well-kept secret.

“I started playing piano when I was six, and my teacher always encouraged me to pursue a career as a classical pianist,” Scott recalled of her early days growing up in Boston. “But I was fascinated by singers and songwriters, and I would hide in my closet and sing harmonies to music I liked at the time, from Led Zeppelin to Joni Mitchell. But I never, ever sang in front of anyone.”

After college when Scott was living in California and developing her skills as a solo singer and songwriter she began to build her confidence as a performer. One day, while playing piano and singing for a dance class in the Idyllwild hills, located in the San Jacinto mountains, a moment of serendipity stepped in and ignited her film career.

A musician working with the Oscar-winning film composer Hans Zimmer heard Scott’s voice, and in 1992 her work appeared in the Robin Williams film *Toys*. After this break word quickly spread, and demand for Scott’s singing—along with her confidence—began to grow.

Williams was so impressed with Scott that he wrote a solo specifically for her that appeared in Steven Spielberg’s film, *Munich*.

While Scott’s distinctive voice is arguably her most prominent asset, the lyrics she crafts are known for their sophistication and vivid imagery. And recently, she’s begun composing film scores.

Once Scott is brought on to a film or TV project, she makes an effort to learn as much as she can about the story, the tone, and the style by reading the script, looking at storyboards, and
even reviewing daily footage during production.

"The music is another character in the story, and it's a character that has to relate to every theme and element in the film, which is challenging but also a lot of fun," Scott said.

Always eager to explore new musical opportunities, Scott seems determined to constantly push herself outside of her comfort zone. She is collaborating with the composer Nathan Barr on a Broadway musical adaptation of the wildly popular HBO series, True Blood. The play, which is Scott's first foray into theater, will begin preview performances in 2020.

Barr and Scott worked together on the HBO series, and Scott describes their working relationship as effortless. "Working with Nathan is wonderful, because we've known each other for years, and the way we collaborate is very organic," Scott said. "That type of relationship is my favorite, because a lot of conversation isn't really necessary; we just click."

Collaborating in different musical arenas has taught Scott how to draw from her training so she can be successful whether she's working on a long-term project on Broadway, or scoring a TV series with tight deadlines. That mix is something that keeps her learning and keeps her excited, Scott said, and she can't imagine focusing solely on one aspect of her career, such as singing or writing or scoring.

"All of these things are part of who I am," she said.

After Scott's performance in Evans Hall, she answered questions from students and then mingled with them at a reception afterwards, offering a glimpse of what to expect when she takes on yet another role, this time as mentor.

Conn is in the process of creating a funded internship program with Scott's recording label in LA, where Scott will offer direct guidance for students interested in pursuing a career in music.

"I'm thrilled about the prospect of working with Conn College students who are interested in learning about the world I work in, and hopefully I can help them on their path," Scott said.

"I think of the people who offered me support when I had no idea which direction to go, and that support is so important. And as an artist, as many people as there are who tell you early on that you can't do it, there are also people who tell you not to give up, and that you have to keep going. I want to be that positive voice."

For more information on Lisbeth Scott's music, visit lisbethscott.com.
45 Correspondent: Ann LeLievre Hermann, 239-410-0668, annthermann26@gmail.com As I write, I wish you Happy Thanksgiving, classmates, and I might as well add Merry Christmas and Happy 2018 as well ... In October, Corrine Teed Myers Strausky sadly let us know that Shirley Mellor Petry had passed away a few weeks earlier. We offer condolences to Shirley’s friends and family. Corrine added that she still sees Louise (Mugsy) Schwarz Allis several times a year, but “our troops really seem to be shrinking!” Florence (Flo) Murphy lives at Cedarfield, a senior residence near Richmond, Va., commenting that “so many nice people come and go with alarming regularity, but we have to face it.” Flo’s in the midst of a spate of grandchildren’s weddings, writing of a grandson’s wedding last fall. “It is hard to try to disguise the same old clothes in the pictures. The new styles are not for old ladies! Oh well! Love hearing from classmates!” Mariechen Wilder Smith is adjusting to having no car; she is doing more and lunching more on campus, thus saving money too! She is traveling again, writing of a four-day trip to West Virginia, where she visited the bunker at the Greenbrier resort, a former working coal mine, and two mountain outlooks to view the gorges and the New River. “The scenery was breathtaking, as were the fall colors.” Mariechen is enjoying these new activities in addition to volunteering at Carolina Meadows, as well as swimming, playing golf and zooming around in her golf cart. Toni Fenton Tuttle wrote of Hurricane’s Irma devastating effect in Naples, Fla.; sadly, she lost her 1939 house (very old for that city) and all her furnishings due to the damage from 15 inches of water. She’d lived there for 29 years, and her parents resided there before her. Toni has since moved into a very nice furnished condo in Wilderness, a gated community, but unfortunately had to give away one of her dogs. “Whoever expected this?” Toni wrote that Virginia Bowman Corkran has 24/7 care and is not doing well, and she also wonders where Elsie Scottie McConnell is. I, Ann LeLievre Hermann, was also here when Irma struck, but my experience was very different. Shell Point Retirement Community has developed its own hurricane shelters, and for the first time both were put into use. All 2,500 residents were moved to the shelters, where we were fed and protected for three nights. A few homes suffered wind or water damage, but mostly we were able to move back into our own facilities without trauma. We count our blessings and wish we could do more to help those who are still suffering from hurricane damage. Here’s something to make you smile: My 40-year-old granddaughter sent me a special gift for my 94th birthday — two wigs that she had hand-painted, one rainbow and the other green, blue and purple! I have been wearing them daily since August and everyone who sees me smiles and comments. I feel only a little bit silly, but that’s OK because so many people experience a little joy from my granddaughter’s gifts. Please send updates for the next column — in the meantime, I wish you all good health, happy holidays, and a wonderful new year!

51 Phyllis Hoffman Driscoll experienced another hurricane (Irma) in September. Fortunately, she did not incur the kind of damages that happened in 2016’s Hurricane Matthew, which caused major tree and landscaping losses. Phyllis has been replanting seedling trees, bushes and flowers. She also keeps busy walking golf courses and volunteering at a food bank on Hilton Head. Nancy Bath Roof reports from Lenox, Mass., that her family has expanded from three children to include six grandchildren and spouses plus two great-grandchildren. Nancy is very involved in the new paradigm, publishing Kosmos Journal and Kosmos Online and building Kosmos Community. Her special interest in this program is co-creating a new interspirituality movement. Pat Roth Squire and David recently attended Parents Weekend at CC, where they showed their eldest daughter the Roth Writing Center, named for Pat’s parents. They were also happy to visit with their sponsored student. Ever on the move, Pat and David had a wonderful trip to Morocco, and they welcomed a second great-grandson, Max. Barbara Wiegand Pillole and husband Bob have moved to a continuing-care retirement community in Rockville, Md. The good news is that they enjoy their new residence, with new friends and new activities to keep them busy. The not-so-good news is that Bobbie is dealing with macular degeneration and its consequences, but she says Bob is a patient and accommodating chauffeur. Amity Pierce Buxton (my sophomore roommate at Grace Smith, way back when) continues her writing, as well as operating her nonprofit organization, the Straight Spouse Network. Amity happily resides in a retirement community with her partner, Russ, in Oakland, Ca. Joan Andrew White’s entire family gathered in Atlanta, Ga., for her grandson’s wedding in September. They came from California, Colorado, Texas, New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut — the first reunion in many years. Their beautiful dog Jami carried the ring. The bride was beautiful too. On vacation in Michigan in August, while hurrying to get outdoors to take a photo of a deer, Virginia Weinmann fell and broke her left arm and shoulder. After spending four weeks in inpatient rehabilitation in Michigan, Ginny and her son, who had stayed to give her moral support, chartered a plane so they could get home to New Orleans in time for a special evening at Tulane Law School dedicated to her late husband, Jack. Ginny was one of the speakers. Her five children, including the one who lives in Beijing, along with their spouses and several grandchildren, assembled for the memorable event. In June, Ginny’s oldest grandchild was married in the garden of her family’s home in Atlanta. In November, another grandchild was married at a destination wedding in New Orleans. Ginny’s home was the venue where the bridesmaids got dressed, the wedding photos were taken and a brunch was held the day after. I, Betty Beck Barrett, still lead my double life — summer in Maine and winter in Arizona. I love both places and hope to continue for the near future. Thanks to everyone who sent news. Hope more will answer the call in the next go-round!
see the streets full of people and the sights of Detroit coming back from difficult years.

Leila (Lee) Anderson Freund still lives in her home in Cincinnati and plans to stay there, although she lost husband Gene two years ago after 60 happy years. While “nothing will ever be the same,” she keeps very busy and finds some joy in her life. Her four children and grandchildren live outside of Cincinnati but visit often. She volunteers a lot and is busiest at a food pantry and being a docent at the Cincinnati Art Museum. She and Gene had traveled often; last year Lee went on another European river cruise with a friend and enjoyed it. She has good memories of CC! Catherine Pappas McNamara reports that Houston is recovering slowly from Hurricane Harvey. Her high-rise condominium was untouched, but friends had to be rescued by boat from their homes. The hype and excitement surrounding the Astros’ World Series win were a great boost for the morale of Houston residents—they even closed the city schools for the parade! Cathy heard from Lois Keating Learned after the storm, who asked how she had fared. Loie is in a community in Southbury, Conn., and seemed fine. Jan Rowe Dugan had no hurricane damage in Sarasota. She is very active, playing duplicate bridge three afternoons a week, playing golf (poorly, she states), and working on politics in the evenings. She comes north each summer to Maine and Cape Cod. Others with homes in Florida include Kathryn Hull Easton, Janice Smith Post and Cynthia Fenning Rehm. Kathy and Peter had to live with their daughter for a few weeks while water damage was repaired but are happily back to normal. Evelyn Connolly Meyers lived in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., but I haven’t been able to reach her. Cynthia and Jack are moving from the hustle of NYC to Essex, Conn., to a retirement community, closer to their lovely summer home in Fenwick, which many of us recall from a Reunion visit. Barbara Blanchard and Dudley are still in their home on Long Pond on beautiful Cape Cod, surrounded by woods and overlooking the water: “It’s a bit challenging during snowy winters, but so worth it!” Irene Ball Barrack’s son, Bill Barrack ’81, and his wife, Kate, live in Wellesley, Mass., so I occasionally see Irene when she visits from New Canaan. She still has the lovely summer home in Martha’s Vineyard that she has enjoyed over many years. Ann Heagney Weimer is also on Cape Cod, active and healthy. She plays Scrabble in French and Spanish with a group of friends in the area and loves it. Four of her grandchildren live and work in Boston, so she stays in touch with them. The Class of ’54 extends deepest sympathy to the family of our beloved classmate Elizabeth (Esu) Cleveland Lackey, who died at home in Groton on Sept. 8. She will be sorely missed by her family and in her community, where she and husband Dan had been very active over many years.

57 Correspondent: Elaine Diamond Berman, 100 Riverside Blvd., Apt. 20C, New York, NY 10069, elainedberman@comcast.net Sandy Weldon Johnson reports that her twin, Betty Weldon Schneider, lost husband Ron on July 10 after a long illness. The class sends condolences to Betty and her children. Betty and Sandy enjoyed two long visits this past summer. “Betty and her neighbor share a very regal, grey-brown cat with glorious long fur, who spends evenings/nights with Betty and daytime with her neighbor; the cat is quite happy with her choice of caregivers.” Sandy also wrote that “Jeanne Krause, thanks to the glorious free time of retirement, is close to completing a book about her eight great-grandparents, who migrated from northern Europe to various locations in southwestern Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio. Her research skills, developed while a journalist at Fortune magazine, came in handy as she pursued genealogy resources for relevant information. She reports that pursuing her forbears has greatly expanded her knowledge of American history.” Jeanne formerly published, in print and online, a technical journal for the National Institutes of Health. She currently volunteers at the Children’s Inn at NIH, which supports families with sick children receiving inpatient treatment. Jeanne says, “the freedom of retirement makes me feel younger every year.” June Ippolito Hoye has recently completed her third three-year term on the board of directors of the East Lyme Library as chairperson for the public relations committee. In addition, she and husband John continue to serve as co-chairs of the program committee of Fort Trumbull State Park in New London. June is also publicity chair for that group. And she continues to serve as publicity chair for the East Lyme Auxiliary of Child & Family Agency after just completing a five-year term as secretary. This year June is “most proud of my work on publicity for the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation. I was able to conceive and write the text for a drone video entitled A Bird’s Eye View: The Boardwalk by the Bay (view it at www.publictrustfoundation.org/website-revised/).” June and John have worked on this foundation for more than 20 years. What a wonderful list of community activities. June humbly says, “I will do whatever I can, for as long as I can, to try to make a difference.” When we spoke with Flo Bianchi Ahern, she was planning a trip to Alaska to visit a granddaughter. One of Flo’s sons has been a naval architect at Electric Boat since his college graduation. He and his wife recently
completed a biking tour of Italy. Flo’s other son is a lawyer, and her daughter lives in Philadelphia and works with the National Park Service. Nancy Keith LeFevre has lived in a retirement home in Wilmington, N.C., for three years. Son Ted, a set designer, and his partner, Keith, live in Montclair, N.J. Their twin sons are 16. Nancy also has a daughter living in California, north of San Francisco, who has a daughter, 10, and a son, 15. Nancy particularly enjoys singing, having lived in a retirement home in Wilmington, N.C., for three years. Son Ted, a set designer, and his partner, Keith, live in Montclair, N.J. Their twin sons are 16. Nancy also has a daughter living in California, north of San Francisco, who has a daughter, 10, and a son, 15. Nancy particularly enjoys singing, a choir, and keeps her garden blooming. The elder was a physicist at a German university; he died from heart trouble. The younger was also a physicist; he had French and American citizenship and was one of the world’s leading ecologists, working and teaching at Paris, Princeton and the U. of Colorado, and serving as a counselor to the French government. Tragically, he committed suicide. “We had planned to meet last December, but this was not to be.” His urn was buried in their family tomb near Roswitha’s home, and many of her German family were with her. “Now we are all hoping that we can live on in peace and that politicians all over the world will be able to collaborate toward this aim!” The class offers condolences to Roswitha and her family on their loss.

58 Roswitha Classen teaches English and American lit (short stories), plays the violin, sings in a choir and keeps her garden blooming. Sadly, last year she lost her two brothers. The elder was a physicist at a German university; he died from heart trouble. The younger was also a physicist; he had French and American citizenship and was one of the world’s leading ecologists, working and teaching at Paris, Princeton and the U. of Colorado, and serving as a counselor to the French government. Tragically, he committed suicide. “We had planned to meet last December, but this was not to be.” His urn was buried in their family tomb near Roswitha’s home, and many of her German family were with her. “Now we are all hoping that we can live on in peace and that politicians all over the world will be able to collaborate toward this aim!” The class offers condolences to Roswitha and her family on their loss.

60 Class President Millie Price Nygren visited CC in October in the interest of maintaining a strong connection between our class and our alma mater. “One of the best ways to preserve connections is via this Class Notes column—and we need a class correspondent! Please contact me (m.nygren@att.net) with your interest in becoming our next class correspondent(s). One volunteer is great, and two working together would make the task even more fun!” Although she can’t volunteer for the role, Patricia Wertheim Abrams sends Millie’s appeal for a correspondent, adding, “You both (Joanie Webster and Del Welch) have done a superb job, and I’m very grateful.” Jane Harris Alexander is in good health, and she wrote of her trip to England last summer, where she stayed with English friends for 17 days at their town home in London and their country home, built in 1576, in Somerset. They went to operas at Glyndebourne and Covent Garden and to York, Durham and the Lake District. Jane continues her work on the College for a Day Committee; one of the three speakers scheduled for their January event was Prof. Blanche Boyd from CC’s English department. Joana Murphy Bezzant wrote from London: “I attended Trooping the Colour in June, which celebrates the Queen’s official birthday and takes place along the Buckingham Palace Mall. Most of the members of the Royal Family are in attendance, and it’s quite a spectacular event.” Harriet Kaufman Breslow is self-employed doing social work, and she plays tennis every day. She plans to ski out west this winter. She and husband Jerry took a trip to London, the Amalfi coast and Barcelona. Her children live nearby; granddaughter Jayna, 6, is learning to read. Harriet keeps in touch with Patricia Wertheim Abrams, whom she saw with husband Dick last spring in New York. Cynthia Enloe thanks Del and Joanie for keeping all of us connected. She sent greetings from a rainy morning in Stockholm, where she had just spent three days among nice people who investigate how social media insinuates into our lives—“lots of talk about algorithms, oh dear! But I also got to hang out with wonderful young Swedish women activists who recently won the Nobel Peace Prize! Very hopeful!”

Annemarie Margenau Lindskog sent an update: She and Carl have been married for 59 years. Their four children “all seem happy.” Oldest daughter Laura is a nurse at Yale New Haven Hospital, happily married with four children. Her two oldest boys are both doctors, her daughter teaches preschool, and her youngest is a senior in high school. Annemarie’s daughter Kristina and her son, Stefan, live with them in the Lindskogs’ in-law apartment. “Stefan is our special child and has more gold medals from his Special Olympic sports events than we have space to hold them.” Eric, their third child, lives in Florida and is the chief financial officer for a health care company. He and wife Iris, a flight attendant, have no children but spend their time following Clemson and the Miami Dolphins. Dieter, Annemarie’s youngest, is the only orthopedic oncologist surgeon in Connecticut, practicing at Yale. His wife, Carrie, a hand surgeon, is also at Yale. Annemarie and Carl have traveled extensively, thanks to her job as a travel agent. Carl is still busy with private clients, while Annemarie volunteers (past president of the YNHH Auxiliary and currently vice president of the Yale University Women’s Organization). “Greetings to all my classmates. I wish you health and happiness in 2018.” Ann Milner Willner and Chuck retired to St. Augustine, Fla., five years ago.
After selling their Connecticut home last summer, they had nowhere to go to escape the Florida heat and ended up buying a summer home in the mountains of North Carolina. "Although our hiking has slowed down, we still enjoyed the mountains, as did our Bernese mountain dog, Ise." Ann and Chuck welcomed their first great-grandchild, Oliver, in June. "Of course, he might have been affected by hurricanes and wildfires, wondering how they are faring."

She was in touch with Lenore Fiskio in Naples, Fla. (no problems), and Marion Fitzrandolph Coste, farther northeast, who had mostly minor damage but was without power and internet for three days. Nancy is a Red Cross volunteer but stayed home in the Seattle area and helped get others deployed to assist with disaster relief. She still lives on Whidbey Island, staying in her house rather than moving to smaller quarters. "So, I'm 'downsizing in place' and renovating. Red Cross is my one major volunteer activity in addition to researching family genealogy."

Bonnie Hall Davis thanks Del and Joanie for their great job as class correspondents. Bonnie and husband Ross celebrated their 50th anniversary in mid-June when the tall ships were in Boston, sailing with family and friends on a cruise ship that toured Boston Harbor on a glorious summer evening. The ship was chartered by the Revels—a group they've sung with for many years. The only dance she has been doing is hula at her ukulele class and trying to learn Ethel Shuta's "My Stetson Hat" number from Eddy Cantor's movie Whoopee! She has seen Emmy Erda Devine, who lives in NYC. Emmy can visit her children and grandchildren often now since she's retired from a satisfying teaching career at Sarah Lawrence. Marge's new love is the ocean: She and her husband bought wet suits and boogie boards and ride the waves whenever possible. She's very active in the Daughters of Norway group and now paints the traditional rosemaling and plays the guitar.

Carole McNamara Malcolmson visited Genevieve (Jenny) Bartlett Fricks in London last year, when Jenny stayed there for a month in January. They also met up in Santa Fe, where they attended five operas in five days. Leslie Setterholm Curtis and Tim finally visited the West Coast, focusing on Victoria, B.C.; Seattle; and Portland, Ore. In Victoria they visited the famous Butchart Gardens (a must-see!). While there they ran into Nannette Citron Schwartz and her husband, who live in Huntsville, Ala. "The water taxis are ubiquitous and very charming." In Seattle they stayed right downtown where they could visit the sites, and in Portland they were very impressed by the public transportation systems. They visited the Willamette Valley vineyards and the northwest Oregon coastline, including the mouth of the mighty Columbia River, where it meets the Pacific Ocean, and the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria. This year has been a busy and happy one for Pam Bycroft Wetherill. She and Dave put their family's Nantucket summerhouse on the market, celebrated some big birthdays, took an amazing trip to Scotland, and worked on improving their tennis games. After 30 years of working as a genetic counselor around the country, Beth Overbeck Balkite is retired and living in Durham, N.C. "I love having free time and often use it to travel to Portsmouth, N.H., and Charleston, S.C., to see my grandchildren." Beth has an interest in genealogy that has expanded into genetic genealogy—applying DNA to your family tree. She co-teaches a class at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Duke in the winter with a genealogist. "My genetics and her genealogy background make for an interesting course."

Beth is in touch with DAnne Atherton and recently heard from Joan Gray. "Sorry I missed our 50th; I look forward to reading the Class Notes." James C. Saunders, Ph.D., retired as professor of research otolaryngology and neuroscience from the U. of Pennsylvania 10 years ago. After graduate work in psychology at CC, he completed doctoral work at Princeton, and for the next 35 years studied the biology of the normal and abnormal hearing apparatus of the inner ear at universities in Melbourne, St. Louis and Philadelphia. Jim serves on the board of trustees of the Hearing Loss Association of America. His first novel, Animal Dances, set in the WWI period, was announced by
Shorehouse Books in December, and he is working on a second novel, *Baylee’s Across the Bay*, set on Cape Cod in 1943. Jim and Elaine spend spring and fall at their place on Cape Cod, where he does “blue water” kayak fishing. They regularly visit grandkids in Atlanta and the Silicon Valley, and in the US and Morocco. They completed a major renovation on their 115-year-old house in the Philly suburbs four years ago. “Friends consider us psychotic for not following the ‘downsizing’ protocol for our age ... However, it’s fun to be crazy at times. While Elaine and I enjoy good health, we know downsizing is coming. Best wishes to all!” Martha Williams retired and moved to Charlottesville, Va., in 2009. Despite the uproar last summer from the “Unite the Right” rally on the U. of Virginia campus and the continuing debate over Civil War statuary, Martha continues to find Charlottesville a very progressive community with an overall tenor of sophisticated thinking and compassionate human values. Genevieve Bartlett Fricks had a great year connecting with classmates. Along with Carole McNamara Malcolmson’s visit with her in London and their opera fest in Santa Fe, Jenny and Sue Harris Griffin swam and sunbathed at Jenny’s home in St. Simons Island, Ga., during Sue’s summer trip there with family. On a recent Road Scholar trip to the San Juan Islands, Susan Heller found herself seated next to a woman who looked familiar—it was Holly Hammond Fisher. “We had been in the same dorm freshman year, and she had left CC in her sophomore year to marry the Coastie sitting next to me. After 54 years we meet again!”

Correspondents: Carol Chaykin & Pat Dale; cccnotes66@gmail.com
We requested news of hurricanes and fires; here are the responses we received ...

Alice Daghlain Kanayan earned the nickname “Plucky” because she stayed in her Houston home throughout Hurricane Harvey, even though her house became an island amid the floodwaters. In Maine, Bridget Donahue Healy and husband Michael weathered the fierce storm (70 mph winds) that upended scores of trees on an unprecedented scale—downing power lines and causing vast and lengthy outages. Bridget and Michael also announced daughter Abigail’s wedding, which took place in September at Wagner Cove in Central Park, NYC. Diana Neale Craig watched Hurricane Irma take its toll on Florida from afar. She and husband Marshall had flown to San Francisco to attend a memorial service at the home of Carol (Cyrie) Lumb Okie in Santa Rosa, Calif., for Carol’s husband, Grif. Also present that weekend were Bennett White Swingle and husband Dick from Baltimore and Audrey Kuh Strait’s “Foggy” and Michael from Boston. Little did they know that in less than a month, Cyrie would need to evacuate her house because of wildfires in Sonoma County. Cyrie had to leave without her beloved horses but was able to return several days later to rescue them. While in San Francisco, Diane and Marshall also spent several evenings with Tessa Miller Melvin and husband John. Lorna Wagner Strotz, husband Cris, their Pickberry vineyards and their Sonoma home survived the terrible wildfires that swept through California wine country. Fire came within a quarter of a mile to the north and to the south. They are grateful to be alive and unscathed by the fires that left so many homeless and/or jobless. They ask all who drink wine to buy Sonoma and Napa wines or to donate to a disaster relief agency. In other news ... In November Carol Chaykin attended CC’s Distinguished Alumni Event in NYC featuring Laura Montano ’93, Ruth Zaleske Leibert’s daughter-in-law. Laura is currently VP of sales with the Auberge Resorts Collection in New York, after a career path that spanned Mexico, Tahiti, Hawaii and the Caribbean. Carol also met Ruth’s son, Michael Leibert ’92, at the event. Ellen Kagan went to the JFK library in October to see *In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America*, a documentary about bringing peace to Northern Ireland in the 1990s. Ellen is now a member of Cape Cod Grandmothers Against Gun Violence. CC closeness lives on: A dedicated dozen KB dorm-mates gathered at the home of Elizabeth Leach Welch in Massachusetts for a reunion in September. The weather was lovely for beach walking. They came from Massachusetts, NYC, Virginia, Texas, Seattle, Canada and Germany. Some of the husband’s (who had heard about fabulous lobster dinners with champagne from years past) also attended. Before leaving, Tom Knudsen, husband of Lynn Kuster, serenaded all with a cappella renditions of Cole Porter songs. Mary MacFarland Slidell and Betsy Reid Creedon got together in July on the shores of Lake Huron at Mary’s summer cottage in Ontario. The last time the two of them were there was after graduation, when they took a road trip together. Pam Mendelsohn has launched a website for the Peter E. Palmquist Memorial Fund for Historical Photographic Research. Pam created this fund to honor her deceased partner and to help independent photographic researchers. The beautiful website (www.palmquistgrants.com) provides information about recipients and more. Ann Stoddard’s solo exhibition “Seeing Things” was shown in the fall at ABC Gallery in Dumbo (Brooklyn, N.Y.). The exhibition uses video and conceptual installations and social sculptures to challenge racial and ethnic profiling. FYI, CC has created the Bridge A. McShane Scholarship to honor Bridge’s 30 years of service in alumni relations. In planning our class reunions, Bridge was an invaluable and very special partner with our class. If you would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, please contact Matt Glass at mglass@conncoll.edu.
Judy Dubben Ryland, marciamatthews3@gmail.com

Elayne Zweifler Gardstein and husband Hank celebrated their 50th anniversary with a cruise to Italy and Croatia. The Venice Biennale Arte was a highlight of the trip to one of their favorite cities. A week later, Elayne was in New London for a grand reunion weekend. Her daughter, Tracy Gardstein '92, was invited to campus to give a reading. Elayne’s special collections work was featured in the fall issue of Adelphi U's Academic & Creative Research Magazine.

Judy Dubben Ryland and Liz McCaslin Passela got together for lunch in Westwood, outside of Boston, in early September to reminisce about Barbara Brush Wright, who died of pancreatic cancer three years ago. They both miss her. Judy saw Liz's studio and some of her absolutely stunning paintings. Liz has turned from banker to artist in recent years. Judy says that Liz should have been the art major and she an economics major, as things have turned out. Judy finished two years of volunteer tutoring at Rady School of Management at U. of California San Diego in June. One student from China has returned to build his own startup, and another from South Korea, whom she continues to mentor, is now working for the PGA Tour. Susan Galves Lapointe thought that we had a great reunion, thanks to the excellent planning by our classmates, truly testifying that it’s “bettah and bettah every [year].” She pointed out that we were noticed all weekend, especially with our tie-dyed tees and twinkly necklaces at Saturday night’s dance party. She thought that our wooden camels were great mementos to bring home and remind us of a special time. Susan had a lovely summer, hanging out at home and enjoying short trips around New England.

Jan Robinson Alferi sent a glowing review of Reunion and said what a terrific personal experience it was—certainly for her and, she is sure, for others, too. Jackie King Donnelly had a fabulous time at Reunion rocking and rolling with our class—“the stars of the event with our tie-dyed T-shirts, high spirits and the great affection we all still feel for each other.” She wrote from Victoria Falls, where she and husband Patrick were on a 15-day train trip from Dar es Salaam to Cape Town seeing animals in their natural environment. When Hurricane Irma came to Macon, Ga., Ethel Bottcher Cullinan and husband Neil were in Spain. While in Spain, Ethel walked the final 75 miles of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. Neil was her driver, and son Michael and his girlfriend, Isabelle, joined her from France to walk the final 15 miles. “The walk was lovely, tranquil, challenging, rewarding and different around every turn, sort of like life—on the good days.” Ethel and Neil have also been to Greenville, S.C., to celebrate grandson Patrick’s 7th birthday.

Andrea Hricko finally retired after 20 years at the USC, where she worked on connecting science to the public—i.e., mostly near the Ports of L.A. and Long Beach, where air pollution from trucks, locomotives and ships continues to be a major public health problem. She could not make Reunion due to the need for a hip replacement (now accomplished), but she loved reading our stories in Koiné Gold. Joan Lacouture Brink and husband Joel (Wesleyan '66) celebrated their 50th anniversary Sept. 15 in Chianti on a wine estate with seven other couples, family and friends. It was a true homecoming to Italy, as they hadn’t returned since moving back to North America in 1985. They had lived outside Florence for five years with their daughters in the 1980s. Deb Funkhouser Perlman enjoyed a recent mini-reunion: Expanding on a tradition of many years of meeting at Trish Carr’s house on the Cape, Deb and several CC friends met Martha Birkett in her wonderful town of Jackson Hole, Wyo., in June. They hiked up the Wildflower Trail to the top of the gondola, Rendezvous Peak (10,446 feet), at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, starting from about 7,000 feet. It was a very memorable long weekend in an extremely beautiful place. Trish, Deb Benjamin, and Deb and husband Eliot also made a day trip to Yellowstone National Park. They saw Old Faithful erupt in a rainstorm with wind and hail! Katherine Lane Hunt was sorry to miss Reunion ... maybe next time.” She still lives on Mill Farm in Dover, with one remaining horse. One of her sons flies for the Air Force and Southwest, two grandsons live in Arizona, and she has a lovely daughter-in-law. “I have not fled to the warmer climates. Still go to winter shows in Wellington and still love it!” Your class correspondents, Debby Greenstein and Marcia Hunter Matthews, had a mini-reunion with Marty Kidd Cyr while Debby and a friend were on vacation in Maine this summer. The funniest moment of the evening was when Debby’s friend looked at the three of them and asked if there is an official CC hairdo.

November saw a mini-reunion in D.C. with Pat McMurray, Laura DeKoven Waxman, Wendy Thompson Noyes and Debby Greenstein. They met at the National Gallery, where they had lunch and then toured the exhibit of paintings by Vermeer and others of the genre school of painting. For the last 15 years, as a member of the Outer Critics Circle, Karen Klebe Isaacs has regularly reviewed Broadway and off-Broadway shows. Check out her reviews at her blog, Two on the Aisle (Zontheaisle.wordpress.com). Karen still teaches at the U. of California.
of New Haven as a practitioner-in-residence in the Department of Communication, Film and Media Studies. She also continues to write reviews and articles on theater for Shore Publishing Weeklies. “I keep thinking of slowing down some, but it hasn’t happened yet.” The class sends condolences thinking of slowing down some, but it hasn’t happened yet. “The class sends condolences

Hill Dwellers, a community organization founded in 1954 that advocates for artists, renters, parrots, human-scale development, parks and trees, art and culture, good public transit, and many other urban issues. Still a filmmaker, she is researching a possible new film about time, called Species of Time.

Carrie is now an editor of The New York Times Learning Network, a resource for teachers and students. Her daughter Megan graduated from CC last spring. Plans for our 50th reunion are underway. You should receive a letter from the reunion committee with details. Nancy Finn Kukura has agreed to head our *Korn* memory book. Each class member will have a chance to tell her story and include photos. Contact Patti Reinfelt Kolodny (patricia.r.kolodny@gmail.com) or Andrea Hintlian Mendell (ahmendjoy@aol.com) with questions or to volunteer to help. Please keep your news coming; we all love to know what is happening in the lives of our CC friends. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our 50th reunion, June 1–3, 2018.

**Correspondent: Judi Bamberg Mariggiò, 1070 Sugar Sands Bl. #384, Riviera Beach, FL 33404, jgmarijgio@bellsouth.net** Nancy Barry has begun writing her memoirs in a creative writing class, beginning with recent experiences with American Ballet Theatre. “It’s great fun, and my classmates are about 30 years younger than we are! I continue to help the Opera in Williamsburg, Va., and went down for recent performances of *The Barber of Seville*, which were first-rate.” Nancy’s broken foot is finally healed and she is walking very well. On a trip to her home country of Norway, Dagny Hultgreen Griswold connected with friends and second cousins, saw the family’s old summer cottage by a fjord, attended a wedding in Sweden, and visited Bergen, Oslo, Amsterdam and Copenhagen. Ken and Julie Henry McPartlin moved to a condo at the Harbour Island Club on the river in Vero Beach, Fla. They look forward to enjoying Florida’s winter weather and summertime travel to visit kids and grandchildren in Concord, N.H., and NYC. “We welcome any CC ’69 visitors to Verol Also of interest: Our daughter Happy is with the Broadway show *Come from Away*, a great treat if you happen to be in the city!” Rene Kolanko Shedlosky and Tom visited their son in San Jose, Calif., en route to an Alaska cruise. “Those trips convinced me that my decision to retire was absolutely right! When Stephie Phillips stopped in Old Lyme on her annual trip to Maine, we visited the Florence Griswold Museum to view the paintings of the Old Lyme Impressionists and the special exhibit of the Wee Faerie Village.” Stephie also enjoyed an August visit to Acadia National Park and a wonderful visit with Alice Reid Abbott at her amazing house at Sealawall—“clear blue skies, unbelievable ocean views and fresh air!” Ellen Lougee Simmons now has grandchildren (two boys and three girls) in San Francisco, Houston and Boulder. “The youngest, Annie Elizabeth Walker, daughter of Abby Simmons Walker ’04 and Tim Walker ’04, will be CC Class of 2038, following her sister, Hallie, who will be Class of 2035!” On a five-week trip to Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and New Brunswick last summer, Diana Robinson Nelson and Mike saw whales, icebergs and puffins and got a chance to visit with second cousins in Acadia, whom she had previously known only online. Seventieth birthdays have been celebrated in special ways: Mary Scheckman Hubka organized a walking tour of Tuscany with six friends, including Heather Morrison. After a few days in Florence to get over jet lag, the group moved to the countryside, where they took daily hikes, had cooking lessons and enjoyed a wine tasting. Mary and Heather spent an additional four days in Rome, and Mary spent her actual birthday in Paris with husband Terry. Gary and Sharon Smith Broughton celebrated with friends on the big island of Hawaii over Mother’s Day, then spent Memorial Day weekend rafting Cataract Canyon and rappelling 80-foot cliffs in southern Utah. “In August, we took our two grandchildren east to visit Boston, Plymouth and New Bedford, Mass., as well as Mystic, Conn., and NYC—a fun,
Travel is our favorite hobby. After biking in New Zealand in 2015, Sharon bought an e-bike and got in shape putting 700 miles on it last summer, which helped her navigate the hilly terrain of Andalusia when they biked in Spain in October. They also spent a week in Barcelona with a group from Gary’s college, enjoying Gaudi, Picasso and Dali, and the Costa Brava. After the holidays, they volunteer in the Tax-Aide program January thru April. “If I avoid the news, socialize with friends and exercise, life is good.” Susan Thorward Sheinfeld and Bob celebrated by spending October in Australia (their sixth continent and 10,000 miles from home in Spring Lake, N.J.) and New Zealand. They enjoyed experiencing the diverse landscapes and visiting the many historic sites of both countries, as well as snorkeling, sailing, swimming, and going on safari to see kangaroos, koalas and other native animals. Susan and Bob have two daughters and two much-loved grandchildren, for whom they were the “granny-nannies” from 2011 to 2015. Rebecca, 37, an economics major who worked in project, data and account management, earned a master’s degree in nursing from Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in May and is currently employed as an emergency department nurse at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Maria Varela Berchesi’s California family, with three birthdays in August, visited Montevideo to celebrate theirs and hers. “I invited 80 members of our extended family and had a great celebration at the new secondary school building everybody was eager to see. I also traveled to the Mediterranean with a friend, and I spent a day at Avignon, France, 50 years after I had taken a course there when I was a student at CC. Beautiful memories.”

To join the Camel Athletics Club, contact Stephanie Schilke at (860) 439-2114 or visit www.conncoll.edu/camelathleticsclub

70

Correspondent: Myrna Chandler Goldstein, mgoldst@massmed.org

Kathie Thompson Otte continues to work as an adoption consultant. “It is such a rewarding career to help build families through the miracle of adoption.” However, Kathie was profoundly impacted by Hurricane Harvey. “Sadly, I was one of the flood victims. I had four-and-a-half feet of water in my house for 12 days. The first floor of my house was a total loss. I will be living in an apartment for at least nine months until my house is rebuilt.” Donna Rosen reported on her September food and wine tour in northern Spain. “This was my third trip to Spain, but the stops were all places I had not seen, except Madrid.” The tour began in Santiago de Compostela, the end of the Camino route. “We worked our way across northern Spain, visiting the wine country regions of Rioja and the Ribera del Duero, and ending up in Madrid. We visited seven wineries. The food and wine were outstanding. This was perhaps the best trip I have taken.” Donna plans a trip to Southeast Asia in February: “I have wanted to go to this part of the world for at least 15 years.” Pamela Bliss is busy with music and fiber arts. She teaches weaving at an art center in Lakewood, Colo., and she is part of Lakewood’s Art Attack program, creating a spontaneous woven work in cooperation with a spoken word artist. Pamela also weaves and dyes Japanese shibori style. For fun, Pamela plays bodhran and hammered dulcimer for contra dancers. Pamela reports that her husband, John, and her dogs “fill her life with joy.” On Martha’s Vineyard, Terry Appenzellar and husband John Caldwell enjoyed getting together first with Lucy Thomson and her daughter, Tory, then with Lucy and her husband, Arthur Peabody, who have purchased a cottage in Vineyard Haven overlooking Lagoon Pond, which they will be renovating for a while. In October Terry and John reconnected with Carol Campbell and husband Jack McKenna over the Yale/Dartmouth weekend in Hanover. John recently retired and is cultivating a photography hobby while they continue traveling. Last year they spent a month circumnavigating Australia, visiting inland at Uluru, and also Papua New Guinea, Bali and Komodo Island, and had plans for a trip to Spain later in the year. Terry is on the board and serves as treasurer of a small nonprofit focused on protecting Vineyard wildlife and educating the community about local species.

Every fall, Barb Witter Enman and Margo Reynolds Steiner travel to Williamstown, Mass., for their annual reunion with classmate Sherry Page Bode and her husband, Bob. Naturally, this year they all wore their Never Underestimate a Woman Who Graduated from Connecticut College T-shirts! The fall colors hadn’t quite turned yet, but their Saturday evening lobster extravaganza was as messy and delicious as ever. In October Margo traveled to Berlin for a week to care for two rabbits while their owner vacationed in London. She belongs to a website that seeks pet sitters for everything from dogs and cats to larger farm animals for people traveling for a week or two, with worldwide locations. Paying only roundtrip airfare of $450, Margo enjoyed a week in one of her favorite cities for free. However, there was some adventure, as one of the rabbits died on the second day—she spent the first two days hustling back and forth to the vet! Fortunately, Margo speaks fluent German and has experience with rabbits, having owned 10 over the past 30 years. Everyone tells her that there’s a short story there—we look forward to reading it! Carol Neitlich Bridges enjoyed visiting her daughter, Jamie Bridges Walzer.
Weddings

Sage Shanley '07 married Michael Cuqua on September 9, 2017. Sage's fellow Conn alums in attendance included Robert Logan '07, Beret Remak '07, Pete Sterling '07, Amanda Poe '07, Bro Smith '10, David Driscoll '08, Sean Driscoll '10, and Ed O'Reilly '08.

Vicki Chesler (second from left) and her husband Matt Kovner (right) celebrated their daughter Melissa's wedding to Nicholas Levine on August 5, 2017, at Glen Toniche in Shokan, NY. Their daughter Kelsey (left) was the maid of honor.

Caroline Abbott '12 and Robert Moccia '12 were married August 12, 2017, on Cape Cod, MA. In attendance were Paul McCarthy '12, Alex DeShields '12, Nick Rodricks '12, John Lenehan '12, Trevor Prophet '11, Cailth Mckee '12, Patrick Shanley '12, Anthony Peros '05, Matt Doyle '12, Ellen Folan Peros '05, David Moccia '05, Sara Kerney '12, Hope Barone '12, Robert Moccia '12, Caroline Abbott '12, Lauren Gaffney '12, Diane Esse '12 and Dominique Moccia Cortese '04.

Bryson Cowan '12 and George King '13 were married on September 2, 2017, in Rockland, Maine, at the Cowan family residence and boatyard. A solid camel crew was in attendance for the celebration, including Seth Williams '10, Sara Yeransian '12, Jacqui Durand '12, Gina Dietz '13, Elyse Lebel '12, Cara Hass '12, Carrie Rubury '12, Ben Murphy '13, Rose Wall '12, Ipek Bakir '12, Laura Profeta '12, Cody Stephenson '13, Kyle Riffe '13, Anders Nielsen '12, Audrey Sperry '12, John Lenehan '12, Catherine Lawton '12, Julien Boutel '12, Charlotte Davis '12, Quinn Menchetti '13, Sammi Shay '13, Mark Roberto '13, and Steve Swenduk '12.
Eliza Bryant '12 and Alex Teller were married by Megan Reback '12 on July 29, 2017, in Freeport, Maine. Other Camels in attendance were Liz de Lise '13, Catherine Monahan '12, Liza Gordon '12, Mollie Doherty '12, Ann Marsh-Daly '12, Zoë Diaz-Martin '12, Ruthie Ben-Zvi '12, Avi Ben-Zvi '10, Sammi Shay '13, and Quinn Menchetti '13.

Katie Conway '08 married Geoff Jones. The wedding was attended by Grace Juster '16, Samantha Hubball '08, Andy White '08, Kathryn Winder '08, Misha Johnson '08, Taylor Katz '08, and Carly Baptiste '08.
In August, Anne Fitzpatrick Rothenberg ’67 and Doreen Chen Allen ’72 joined a crowd of thousands at Caltech in Pasadena, CA, to view the solar eclipse.

‘00, who lives in the northern part of Israel with her husband and three children, and she visited with Lynne Miller Moshe, who lives about an hour away. “It is always wonderful to get together and reminisce about our college days.” While Carol was in Israel, she missed being with CC friends who had a mini-reunion in Kennebunkport, Maine. Carol loves staying in touch with so many CC friends! Meg Gemson Ashman and husband Jay had a surprise visit from Betty Cohn Simpson and husband Mark in Burlington, VT over the summer. The last time they had seen one another was at the 30th class reunion. Betty and Meg hope to round up former dorm-mates to attend their 50th! Norma Drab Walrath Goldstein directs a national institute that provides training to college boards of trustees, usually one state at a time, traveling across the country. She and hubby Allen celebrated their 30th anniversary in a driving trip to Alaska and now have a freezer full of halibut and salmon. When not working, traveling or sailing on their 38-foot Bavaria cruiser, Norma spends time with her book club and organizing an international dinner club. Barbara Hoffman Keiser’s busy year culminated with the birth of her first grandchild, Owen Andrew Keiser, born Aug. 11. She is delighted about her new role as Grammy. Since April, Barbara has traveled to Ireland and Scotland, San Diego, Scottsdale, Orlando, Minneapolis, and Atlanta, and taken multiple trips to Arkansas. Most of this travel was for fun, but some was for her retirement job with Empowering Writers. After 31 years in the classroom, this new per diem position allows her to work with both teachers and students as a trainer/coach. Barbara also continues to compete in American Smooth ballroom dancing. Now in the senior division, the level of competition only increases, and she is thrilled that her hard work is paying off.

When Ruth Ritter Ladd’s mother-in-law passed away in November 2016, Ruth and husband Larry became the elder generation. Scary thought! They have now raised 13 puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind and plan to continue. It’s a lot of work but very rewarding. Ruth has become a Lexington (Mass.) Conservation Commission member—a huge time commitment but extremely interesting and right up her alley as a wetland scientist. Retirement is still off in the distance because she feels so invested in what she does. Peg Muschell Jackson and Paul are enjoying their condo in Waikiki and planned to spend the holidays there. The last time they spent Christmas and New Year’s there was when Paul was a Coast Guard officer stationed aboard the USCGC Jarvis in Honolulu. Peg continues to work as a compliance officer for the Academy of Art U. in San Francisco, and Paul is an executive with Marine Design Dynamics in D.C., managing the West Coast office, which now includes assignments in Hawaii. On August 21, Doreen Chen Allen and Anne Fitzpatrick Rothenberg ’67 joined a crowd of thousands at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena to view the grand solar eclipse celestial event. They randomly sat down next to each other and shared vision-protecting glasses. Chatting pleasantly, they were surprised to discover that they both attended CC! Anne was an English major, Doreen physics/astronomy. They reminisced about life at Conn and about beloved Dean Alice Johnson. They each married a guy from Pittsburgh and have been living and raising their families in Pasadena for many years, with their children attending Polytechnic School. Both are very involved in the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. Anne is the current chair of the board of trustees. Doreen and husband Charley, as book producers, have made beautiful books for the Huntington Press, with a total of 16 over the past 10 years. What a wonderfully connected world this is—full of amazing coincidences!

Patty Reilly (patricia.reilly@citeline.com) sends greetings and hopes that our classmates will send in some news. “With an eye towards retirement and deciding how to spend my time, I’ve taken some classes and have passed my wildlife rehabilitation licensing exam for Massachusetts. It’s been over a decade since I rehabbed in Connecticut, and a lot has changed.” She works evenings at the New England Wildlife Center, a wildlife hospital near her home, helping in the med ward “with an array of beautiful animals.” Spring and summer were busy times feeding baby animals who have since been released, and they’ve been busy caring for some beautiful
raptors, gulls and geese, blown around by storms and in need of help. Patty spends weekends with her family and playing with her three grandchildren, 3-year-old identical twin girls and a toddler boy who loves to run—anywhere! “The kids love to help in the vegetable gardens but are not really sure what the word ‘ripe’ means. Tons of fun followed by utter exhaustion. Wishing you all a fantastic holiday season! Hope to hear from many of you!”

78 Life is good for Rindy Regan Hallaran and Peter Hallaran.

The highlight of their year was the marriage of daughter Nicole to Ethan Wais on July 1. “The city of Chicago glowed in the summer sun as they said their vows, officiated by Nicole’s brother, Sean. Now we are all looking forward to continuing the celebration at a party in Paris, where Ethan grew up, followed by Christmas in Rome!” The newlyweds live in Menlo Park, Calif., and Nicole is a project leader with Boston Consulting Group. Sean lives in Seattle, Wash., where he works in the digital music division at Amazon. He spends his days curating music and meeting with artists ranging from Led Zeppelin to Sam Smith. When not traveling, Peter continues in his dermatology practice, and Rindy has a practice working with high-functioning teens on the autism spectrum. After 25 years, Rindy has retired from teaching psychology at the College of Lake County. They return to CC at least twice a year, serving on the President’s Leadership Council. “If you haven’t kept up, check out the exciting things happening on campus, from a new curriculum to building renovations. And we hope to see many of you for our 40th reunion next spring!”

79 Vicki Chesler’s big news of the year was that daughter Melissa was married on August 5 at Glen Tonche estate in Shokan, N.Y., near Vicki’s home in Ulster County. “It was a wonderful weekend celebration, from Friday’s poolside tiki party to yoga overlooking the Ashokan Reservoir to the ceremony and dinner outdoors in the courtyard and dancing in the Great Hall.” In other news, Vicki and husband Matt Kovner had a wonderful visit with Peter Flint and Denise at their beautiful waterfront home on Maryland’s Eastern Shore last spring. “Along with plenty of reminiscing, we had a great weekend of swimming, boating, tennis and, of course, Maryland crab cakes!” After working on Capitol Hill and exploring Puget Sound with then-soulmate Leigh Anderson, Peter B. Clifford returned to the East Coast and graduated from Boston University School of Law in 1986. He’s been practicing law in central Massachusetts, where he grew up, since then and has been self-employed since 1994. In 1988 he married Susan Meyer from Southborough, Mass., and now lives in a small rural town west of Worcester. Peter’s three children, who went to Colby College and U. of Rochester, have grown up and are self-sustaining; one is married. Peter is contemplating retirement next year: “If I had only bought stock in Microsoft when I interviewed with Bill Gates in 1981!” Peter says his health is good; he still golfs and enjoys downhill skiing. Barry Norman wrote that his dog Scooter celebrated his 16th birthday in October: “This is amazing as he is diabetic (and now blind as a result), has a heart murmur and liver disease. He has surpassed all vet prognostications for him, and he eats like a horse, and on cool days can still gambol about for an hour or more, often only stopping when I get tired.” Colin Ewing is thankful and proud of his two daughters and three granddaughters—“Yes, I will attempt to persuade the little ones to go to Conn!” Christine Fairchild is still happily immersed in her UK life, with no immediate plans to return to the U.S., except for occasional trips for work or to check on her house on Cuttyhunk Island and to reconnect with friends and family. “It’s been nearly seven years now, and I think I’m beginning to get the hang of it! No, I don’t speak with one of those silly contrived English accents, but yes, I do find myself saying ‘whilst’ and ‘biscuit’ instead of ‘cookie.’” Christine still loves her job with the U. of Oxford and welcomes visitors:

78 Colin Ewing’s ’79 three granddaughters.

79 Peter Flint ’79 and Vicki Chesler ’79 aboard the Flints’ yacht on a recent visit to Peter and his wife Denise’s Maryland home.

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Invitation for Public Comments as part of the College’s Reaccreditation

Connecticut College will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit April 8-11, 2018 by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The College has been continuously accredited by the Commission since 1932 and was last reviewed in 2007. Our NEASC accreditation encompasses all aspects of our organization and governance, staffing, academic programs, student life, financial management, facilities, and integrity. For the past year, faculty and staff have been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission’s Standards for Accreditation. An evaluation team will visit the institution to gather evidence that the self-study is thorough and accurate.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding Connecticut College to the address below.

Public Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution. The Commission cannot settle disputes between individuals and institutions, whether those involve faculty, students, administrators, or members of other groups. Comments will not be treated as confidential and must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments. Public Comments must be received by April 11, 2018; the Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after that date will be considered.

Public Comment on Connecticut College
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100
Burlington, MA 01803-4514
E-mail: cihe@neasc.org
“Oxford’s such a special place, and it’s only an hour outside of London, so consider this an open invitation!”

82 Tatiana Lopukhin is now the elementary principal of the American International School of Guangzhou. “I am enjoying immersing myself in a new culture and exploring this part of the world.” Daughter Sophia is now a junior and the prospect of college application looms in the near future ... “How time flies!”

83 Correspondent: Claudia Gould Tielking, 6533 Mulroy Street, McLean VA 22101, charlesbudworth@gmail.com

Gregg Hartvigsen and Meredith Drake live in rural western New York, south of Rochester. Gregg is a biology professor at SUNY Geneseo, rides a motorcycle (sometimes around the U.S.), and plays guitar and tennis. Meredith gardens, cooks and sews. Son Tom is a grad student in data science. Daughter Phoebe is a junior bio major.

Recent sightings of fellow alums include Tim Bishop, Rocky Ackroyd, Wendy Stark Westerlund and Judy Temple ’84. Laurie Hoffma says hello from Nashville! She is working at an amazing nonprofit that partners with parents to reduce trauma, is involved in creative music and art projects, volunteers with multiple animal advocacy and social justice groups, and is having fun juggling it all each week. She would love to connect with alumni in the area and is looking for contact information for Deborah Aronovici. Judith Krigman works at Ohio State University Core Microscopy and is in charge of developing live-animal imaging for their multiphoton microscope. She lives in Columbus, Ohio, where she tries to stay active in the gym. Older son Martin is in the military as a Chinese linguist, and younger son Samuel is applying to train engineer schools. Judith hopes to get to Reunion if the work schedule allows. Eric Brunstad asks, “Where did the time go?” as he imagines many other classmates also have children now attending and graduating from college. Son Rob graduated in 2017 from Yale with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry; daughter Alex attends Oxford U. in the UK, studying English literature; and oldest son Eric works at Google in California as a software engineer, having graduated from Carnegie Mellon School of Computer Science. All are well. As for Eric, he practices law as a partner at Dechert and now has two academic appointments: senior research scholar in law at Yale and adjunct professor of law at NYU. Adele (Deedee) Sands lives in Upton, Mass., and has recently been appointed superintendent of Bristol County Agricultural High School in Dighton, Mass. Her three children are pursuing their passions: James, 24, works for CollegeVine, a consulting company focusing on college admissions and student mentoring; Emma, 23, is the communications coordinator for the Office of Economic Empowerment in the Massachusetts Office of the Treasurer; and Charlotte, 21, is a singer/songwriter in Nashville, Tenn. In 2017 Julie Grossman published two books, Ida Lupino, Director: Her Art and Resilience in Times of Transition (co-authored with Therese Grisham, Rutgers University Press, 2017) and Adaptation in Visual Culture: Images, Texts, and Their Multiple Worlds (edited volume, with R. Barton Palmer, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). Laurie Reynolds Rardin’s oldest, daughter Brynne, graduated from CC in May on a gorgeous day, accompanied by a tremendous Class of 2017. “We said goodbye to the campus when all the excitement was over, sitting on the lawn outside of Cummings, where Brynne, a double major in studio art and psych, spent a lot of her time. Experiencing CC again through our daughter’s eyes made us even more grateful for this college community, where Jed (Jared Rardin ’85) and I learned so much, found our life partners, got married (in the Arbo), and watched Brynne grow and flourish in so many ways as she developed lifelong friendships. Thanks, CC, for another round of education and life learning, and we will be back to visit as often as we can.” Barbara Lasley Reid enjoys the final year of her teaching career in Boston, as she plans to retire in the fall. She stays in touch with a bunch of Camels and hopes everyone will come to Reunion. “Thirty-five years is CRAZY!” Alan S. Cohen is excited to be promoting his second book, The Connection Challenge (TM): How Executives Create Power and Possibility in the Age of Distraction, and enjoying his life in Manhattan and Miami with spouse Barry and their wheaten terrier, Bueller. Peter DiMuro has been back in Boston for almost five years; he is now executive artistic director at The Dance Complex (“Please stop by!”), often hosting CC alums and their dancers in the theater and studios: Audrey MacLean, Betsy Miller and Jeffrey Kazin, to name a few. CC dance professor Heidi Henderson has also been teaching and presenting her work there. “We are a mighty force!” Peter continues to create dances with his company, Peter DiMuro/Public Displays of Motion, and has a yearlong appointment as the 2018 choreographer-in-residence at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. “I am always grateful for the early guidance of former dance chair Martha Myers, and I keep tabs on her with an occasional visit in NYC and through other alums.”

87 Correspondent: Sean Kane, P.O. Box #43, Quaker Hill, Connecticut, 06375, sean.kane@conncoll.edu

Greetings, classmates, I am Sean Kane, your newly appointed class correspondent. After 25 years working as a trained and educated social worker with the older population (I earned an MSW from U. of Connecticut in ’94), I am enjoying the local altruist privilege of auditing classes on campus. Over the past seven years, I have audited more than 10 courses in five different departments. I am taking subject matters that I was unable to take as an undergrad ... arts, music, theater, yoga. I have three grown children: Mariah, Olivia and Nicholas. I enjoyed seeing many familiar faces at our 30th reunion in May ... even some dorm-mates from Marshall! My life goal right now is to spend more quality time with my 20-something aged children before the empty nest sets in, so I am planning a “gap year” for my family. Here’s hoping it all works out with our schedules! Keep in touch with all your classmates by sending me any news about you and your family, accomplishments, or other life updates. Clement Butt has spent the past few years traveling throughout the great wine regions of France, tasting wines from boutique wineries. He has curated, and now imports, a
Flexible Minds

A new project-based learning approach to education brings real-life work challenges into the classroom.
How do you gather enough data about early-stage startup companies to be able to develop a successful venture capital strategy?

That is the question venture capitalist Brian Laung Aoaeh '01 posed to students in Assistant Professor of Statistics Priya Kohli's statistical computing class this fall. Aoaeh and Nnamdi Okike, founding general partner at 645 Ventures, worked with the students to give them an inside look at the industry and challenged them to analyze real data to identify and monitor early startups for technology venture capitalists to invest in even before peer seed-stage investors.

"I know how hard they had to work to get data they could use to try to reach meaningful conclusions from their analysis. Data and information is unreliable, or sometimes unavailable in a form that directly answers the questions under examination. Yet, the research analyst's job is to make sense of it all and draw conclusions that lead businesses to take actions to affect their future direction," said Aoaeh.

"I was very impressed by the depth of the presentations the students gave on the final day of class."

The innovative project is part of a new Career Informed Learning initiative that is energizing students, faculty and alumni across the campus. Developed as part of Connections, Connecticut College's reinvention of the liberal arts, Career Informed Learning is a project-based learning approach to education that brings real-life work challenges into the classroom for students to research, analyze and develop solutions. The challenges are proposed by Connecticut College alumni and parents who have expertise in the areas the students are studying in class.

Career Informed Learning teaches students to innovate and to come up with solutions to real problems. They are learning to be flexible problem-solvers, as well as to present and communicate more effectively.

The program, a collaboration between faculty, the Academic Resource Center, the Office of Career and Professional Development, and the Office of Alumni Engagement, is a prime example of how Connections distinctly integrates career preparation into the academic experience. With Career Informed Learning, students can take the content they are learning in the classroom, apply it to the problem posed by the career expert and immediately see that what they are learning in the classroom is highly applicable to what they are going to be doing once they graduate.

"The students benefit from a sustained interaction with a career expert, who is someone at the top of her/his field," said Noel Garrett, dean of academic support and director of the College's Academic Resource Center. "This behind-the-scenes examination of how a business works, or how professionals solve real-world challenges, is unique to Connecticut College."

After a successful pilot last spring, Career Informed Learning was expanded this semester to 15 courses across many disciplines, including anthropology, government, biology, East Asian studies, mathematics, statistics, art history, music, economics, psychology and education.

In Biology Professor Anne Bernhard's marine ecology class, students worked with Mark Kirk P'18, a professor of biological sciences who has served as a National Science Foundation program director, to write their own National Science Foundation grant proposals. In Professor of Sociology Ron Flores's "Race and Ethnicity in U.S. Baseball" course, students visited the Baseball Hall of Fame and met with Hall President Jeff Idelson '86 to explore how a player's race and place of birth affects the value of memorabilia.

And in Professor Judelysse Gomez's seminar in clinical/community psychology course, Maria Gallagher '95, a practicing bilingual licensed clinical social worker and adjunct professor of social work and child advocacy at Montclair State University, helped students find ways to provide culturally sensitive psychological care in their internships throughout the region.

"Ms. Gallagher brought a perspective to the class that made us consider different aspects of the material we were learning about," Laura Henderson '18 said. "I found it fascinating to learn about different techniques in class, like active listening or awareness of nonverbal and verbal cues, and then have the chance to use that knowledge to inform how I interacted at my [practicum] placement."

At the heart of this initiative is a unique collaboration that combines the Academic Resource Center's focus on developing powerful learning skills with the applied learning opportunities offered by alumni identified through the College's Office of Career and Professional Development. The office, which was recognized by the Princeton Review as one of the top 20 programs in North America, coordinates the logistics of putting students in touch with alumni and parents who are industry leaders."

"Career Informed Learning enables all students at the College to have the opportunity to work within teams to strengthen their career-related skills and see the impact of their work, which makes them more competitive in the marketplace for internships and full-time jobs," said Persephone L. Hall, the Hale Family Director of Career and Professional Development.

On a recent Thursday afternoon, sophomores in Professor MaryAnne Borrelli's "U.S. Government and Politics" course hosted guests from one of the world's premier biopharmaceutical companies: Trustee Emerita Sally
Susman '84, executive vice president of corporate affairs at Pfizer, and her colleagues, Chief of Staff and Senior Director of Operations for Corporate Affairs Anneka Norgren, and Director of Pfizer Political Action Committee Matt Meehan. The students interviewed Susman, Norgren and Meehan before breaking into small groups for less-formal conversations about lobbying, corporate ethics, political action committees, corporate organization, and gender in business and politics.

Dexter Willett '20, who is interested in the ethics of corporate interactions with the government, said he was able to ask specific questions relevant to his research.

"I gained insight into how Pfizer's PAC operates, how they make decisions with their money, and how the company feels about and is working to solve the opioid crisis," he said. "You simply can't get that kind of personal insight from reading articles and reports."

Ashley Camacho '20 said she relished the opportunity to talk one-on-one with someone so well established in her field.

"Ms. Susman's interview enhanced my understanding of how the corporate world works, and what steps need to be taken in order for actual change to occur in communities that corporations work with closely."

Susman said the discussion with students was energizing and gratifying.

"It's a real treat for us to get out of our offices and be able to come here and meet students. I graduated in 1984, and we never had a class like this," she said. "Weaving practical application into theoretical courses is an excellent way for students to gain an understanding of a subject. I think it's fantastic."

Cheryl Banker, senior associate director of the Office of Career and Professional Development, said Susman's enthusiasm has been echoed by other alumni serving as career experts for Career Informed Learning courses.

"The feedback has been wonderful. Alumni love the interaction with the students. They love to give back, and this program allows them to do so in a special way."

Jefferson Singer, dean of the college and Faulk Foundation Professor of Psychology, said faculty are planning to offer more than a dozen Career Informed Learning courses in the spring semester. The program has already received support with a gift from a member of the Class of 1980, and he anticipates seeing the program continue to grow.

"Career Informed Learning teaches students to innovate and to come up with solutions to real problems. They are learning to be flexible problem-solvers, as well as to present and communicate more effectively," Singer said.

Singer said the Career Informed Learning experience is important because it better prepares students for the workplace, and gives students the skills employers are looking for.

"It's helping students develop a quality of mind that is needed for today's society. Students have to be more nimble than ever before. This is what employers are asking of employees in the workplace, and it's what our contemporary liberal arts experience delivers."
collection of small-production estate-bottled wines, which he labels with his own ZOLA® brand. Clem’s wines are sold in shops and restaurants in Connecticut and New York (www.zolawines.com). Alison Cornyn is working on Incorrigibles, a transmedia project about the history and present state of youth justice for girls (www.incorrigibles.org). She received a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2017 to develop a web platform for the project. Alison was recently a TED resident and did a TED talk about it, which you can find on YouTube: “Alison Cornyn: Rediscovering wayward girls.”

Lisa Cliggett is deeply ensconced in Kentucky. She is chair of the anthropology department at the U. of Kentucky in Lexington and—surprisingly to everyone who knows her—now a basketball fan! After 18 years in the region, she writes, her immunities have worn off. Lisa continues research in Zambia, still kayaks in the Bluegrass State (though on calmer waters these days), and enjoys silly games with her three stepgrandchildren. She would love to hear from old CC friends: “If any of you are passing through Kentucky, get in touch!”

After 23 years as a high school history teacher and a librarian, Helen Murdoch has taken on a new two-part job: social studies coach and technology integration coach for her school district. She still lives in Santa Barbara, Calif., and in September she completed the AVON 39 The Walk to End Breast Cancer (39.3 miles in two days). “What an incredibly rewarding experience!” We are sad to report that Flora Pizzoferrato passed away in October after a battle with Alzheimer’s disease. Flora was born in Italy and joined our class junior year after transferring from Hartford College for Women. She went on to become a successful lawyer in Connecticut. The Class of ’87 offers condolences to Flora’s friends and family.

Deborah Carr recently joined Boston U. as a professor of sociology after 15 years on the faculty at Rutgers. She lives in Providence with Sam Zwetchkenbaum (Brown ’83) and their beagle. Liz Irwin Schlosser would love to see more notes from the Class of ’88 and learn where everyone lives and what they’re doing. She still lives North Carolina and is almost an empty nester—her son is a sophomore at Wake Forest and her daughter is a high school senior who will probably also stay in the South for college. Liz retired from NASCAR three years ago and is now an independent licensing and marketing consultant—but NASCAR is still a topic in Liz’s home since her husband continues to work in the sport. “I still play golf but surely not enough. Hope all my classmates are well!”

Chuck Stackhouse has moved to the New Jersey suburbs with Allison, Gavin (4) and Charlie (1). He commutes to Manhattan, where he still works for Wafra Capital Partners. “Kids are growing up happy, and the three of them are adapting to the suburbs more adroitly than me.” Chuck messages or chats daily about politics and sports with the likes of Dan Levine, Dana Rousmaniere and Andrew Bogle, and he often runs into Bogs while he’s walking back from “a leisurely afternoon gym workout.” Chuck recently had “a terrific long-overdue catch-up lunch” with Craig Kaplan ’93 (married to Rosie Kaplan).

Curran Ford graduated from Florida State University College of Law in May and recently learned he’d passed the Florida bar exam. He is working as an attorney in Tallahassee and was looking forward to a visit with Rick Johanson in Orlando.

Annie Tselikis traveled to Dubai in September to promote Maine lobster. She also met a familiar friend along the way, #wheremycamelsat. Her partner, Andrew Lively (not a camel), was also in Dubai for work and joined the alumni reunion on Jumeirah Beach.
In Memoriam

1940s
Martha Chapman Laughton Poe ’41, 
died November 20, 2017
Eleanor “Honor” Koenig Carleton ’45, died June 12, 2017
Shirley Mellor Petry ’45, died September 19, 2017
Kitty Oplatek Branton ’47, died September 1, 2017
Nancy Immerman Friedlander ’47, died September 10, 2017
Phoebe Blank Goodman ’47, died October 22, 2017
Laurie Turner Dewey ’48, died May 19, 2017
Estelle “Markie” Miriam Markovits Schwartz ’49, 
died October 8, 2017

1950s
Roberta Goldbert Bernstein ’50, died April 25, 2017
Marilyn Packard Ham ’50, died October 27, 2017
Marilyn Malizia Schlegel ’50, died October 21, 2017
Josephine Frank Zelov ’50, died November 8, 2017
Mary Bezark Strauss ’51, died December 2016
Marie Godfrey Weicker ’52, died October 26, 2017
Virginia Menghi Hogan ’53, died November 6, 2017
Elizabeth “Esu” Cleveland Lackey ’54, 
died September 8, 2017
Joan Flaherty Johanson ’55, died October 29, 2017
Nancy E. Richards ’59, died October 12, 2017
Joyce C. MacRae ’59, died August 2, 2017

1960s
Louise Dougherty Stalnaker ’61, died August 25, 2017
Paula Berry Mursell ’62, died November 7, 2017
Marcia Comstock Alderfer ’63, died October 7, 2013
Ruth Connette Gray ’67, died September 6, 2017
Josephine Bresnahan ’68, died April 16, 2005

1970s
Sarah Schenck Merrill ’77, died October 14, 2007
Sarah A. Merrill ’79, died September 20, 2017

1980s
Richard A. Rose ’81, died November 18, 2017
Todd Lilienfield ’81, died August 25, 2017
Linnea Elsesser Weiss ’81, died summer of 2017
Julianne Rhodes-Purvis ’83, died October 25, 2017
Flora Pizzoferrato ’87, died October 17, 2017

1990s
Joseph Guerrera ’90, died November 13, 2017
Registration opens at the end of March. Watch your email or go to reunion.connoll.edu for more information. Looking forward to seeing you back on campus!

Weekend highlights include:

**FRIDAY, JUNE 1**
- Sykes Luncheon
- Faculty and Alumni Presentations
- New England Cookout
- Food Truck Festival
- All campus welcome party

**SATURDAY, JUNE 2**
- Alumni Parade
- Convocation and Alumni Awards
- All Class Picnic and Kids Carnival
- Alumni Beer Garden
- Class Receptions and Dinners

**SUNDAY, JUNE 3**
- Farewell Breakfast
Bande à part

Associate Professor of Film Studies professor Ross Morin '05 and his band of outsiders (www.conncollfilm.com). See page 24.