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Connecticut College

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The background of the entire page is a photograph of a forest. A single, tall, thin tree trunk runs vertically down the center of the image. The branches of the trees are dark and intricate, creating a complex web of lines against a warm, golden-brown sky. In the middle-right portion of the image, there is a solid, bright orange-red circle, resembling a sun or a moon. The overall mood is serene yet somber, reflecting the theme of the magazine cover.

CC

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Magazine

THE BURN

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On the cover: Silhouetted trees burnt by the Creek Fire in Sierra National Forest in September. Photo by Kent Nishimura/Getty Images.

This page: Relaxing on the grass. Photo by Nick Caito

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Harold Shapiro

From the President

In our entire hundred-year history we have never known a year like this one. In the fall of 1918, Connecticut College experienced the Spanish flu pandemic; in 1930, the Great Depression; in 1968, urgent calls for racial justice. But in 2020, we faced all three at once, while experiencing a consequential presidential election. Even as these events transform everything we do, the Conn community has continued to thrive.

Over the summer, we entered into a new partnership with Hartford HealthCare—the most comprehensive healthcare organization in the state—to oversee all of our medical services. We redesigned our academic calendar to offer a flexible mix of in-person, remote, and hybrid classes nearly every day of the week. We created new COVID-19 protocols with the support of alumni experts and we even opened our own testing center to test everyone on campus twice per week. All this, along with the collective discipline of students, faculty, and staff, has helped us reduce the spread of coronavirus on campus and maintain a low positivity rate since August.

To advance our commitment to full participation and anti-racist education, this fall we convened a series of online summits for students, faculty, staff, and alumni, led by John McKnight, dean of institutional equity and inclusion. McKnight oversees the Gund Dialogue Project, a key initiative of our strategic plan endowed by a generous gift by Agnes Gund '60, that promotes critical theory and experiential learning to teach students how to broker courageous conversations across political, social, racial, and socioeconomic differences. The College recently became one of 50 inaugural institutions in the Liberal Arts Colleges Racial Equity Leadership Alliance, convened by the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center and offering access a range of educational resources for faculty and staff.

All these innovations were integral to the completion of a successful, albeit unique, semester, one that began with the welcome arrival of 440 talented first-year students and 20 transfer students and then continued many firsts, including our very first stay-at-home Fall Weekend. You can access my State of the College address, delivered that weekend, with the QR code below.

The highlight of this semester was our first online All-College Symposium, celebrating the second cohort of students to go through Connections. The tenacious students of the Class of 2021 who participated in the Symposium overcame countless obstacles to do independent research, to find internships in a virtual environment, to complete works of art and performance while maintaining social distance, and to develop new ways of making a lasting impact on their communities. Their creativity and conviction was very much in evidence during the symposium, a wonderful expression of the intellectual vibrancy of the Connecticut College community.

This issue of the magazine reveals the same vibrancy and impact that our alumni have had on their own communities during a tumultuous year. From working to control wildfires that burned across the Western U.S. to teaching our children during the pandemic to fixing a broken food system to researching new medicines in the race for a COVID-19 vaccine, the larger Connecticut College community reveals the enduring power of our mission, as they continue to put the liberal arts into action.

Katherine Bergeron



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For Class Notes submissions: classnotes@conncoll.edu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome your letters. The magazine publishes only letters that comment on the most recent issue's editorial content. Letters may be edited. Please include your return address, an email address (if you have one) and a daytime telephone number for verification purposes.

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Bob MacDonnell

Reimagine the Language of Dance

Elisabeth Wales '22 had never performed a dance piece outside, much less with the restraints of social distancing. But the shared challenges of dancing on uneven ground, wearing masks and creating a work that reflected the times we're living in felt surprisingly liberating to Wales and her fellow dancers.

"The whole process took some getting used to at first, but it was interesting to see how much you can

play with space outside when you're not constrained by the boundaries of a stage or studio," Wales, a dance and government double-major, said. "It was different, but I felt fulfilled to be performing for an audience."

The piece, titled *Reach*, was choreographed by Lisa Race, associate professor of dance and acting chair of the dance department. *Reach* was performed in the Arboretum for a socially distanced

audience. The event also featured musical pre-shows led by musician and composer for dance Richard Schenk.

"Dance is an embodied language, and COVID-19 rules have made many dancers feel somewhat akin to caged animals with our studios delineated into small squares for dancing," Race said. "So to dance freely, unencumbered, and to experience the joy of rigorous dancing felt rather momentous."

70 Million Years of History

What can the remains of microorganisms that lived millions of years ago tell us about the future? A lot, says Peter Siver, the Charles and Sarah P. Becker '27 Professor of Botany and Environmental Studies and director of the Environmental Studies Program at Connecticut College.

Siver, an expert in limnology—the study of the biological, chemical and physical features of lakes and other bodies of fresh water—has spent more than a decade leading a scientific mission to find out what ancient lakes can reveal about climate change and global warming. Now, he's been awarded a \$286,615 grant from the National Science Foundation to explore eight

different fossil sites in North America and establish an evolutionary history of freshwater organisms spanning more than 70 million years.

Over geologic time, shifts in global temperatures from warm to cold and vice versa have influenced the evolution and extinction of species, and caused large-scale reorganizations of ecosystems worldwide with the latest swing from Greenhouse to the current Icehouse beginning over 55 million years ago. Siver will study ancient lake locations that are between 83-million- and 12-million-years-old, which encompasses the transition from Greenhouse to Icehouse conditions and formation of ice at the poles.

"This will provide a framework for understanding ecosystem responses under future climate warming scenarios," Siver said. "Scientists are working to model what we think will happen as the Earth continues to warm and we experience a drastic shift in climate. But it already happened, so we just have to go back and look."

Siver will conduct the research with Anne Lizarralde, a senior research scholar in the Botany Department, as well as undergraduate student researchers. This is his 12th major grant from the National Science Foundation; his previous grants totaled more than \$2.3 million.

This grant is 100 percent federally funded.

Ocean Beach Cleanup

Winona Hunter '24 is interested in sustainability. She's also from the landlocked state of Ohio. So, when her First-Year Seminar staff adviser Maggie Redfern invited her to participate in a community cleanup event at New London's Ocean Beach Park, she jumped at the chance.

"It was my first trip to the beach and I absolutely loved it. I can't wait to go back and walk along the trail and collect shells," she said.

Hunter, who plans to major in environmental studies, was one of three students from the "Taming of American Rivers" First-Year Seminar who participated in the event with Redfern, the assistant director of the Arboretum and staff adviser for the course.

Redfern calculates a group of approximately 40 volunteers collected 2,570 pieces of trash weighing a total of 152 pounds during the Sept. 19 event, part of the statewide Connecticut Cleanup, which the nonprofit environmental group Save the Sound is sponsoring as part of the International Coastal Cleanup. Redfern helped organize the event at the request of 90-year-old Louise Fabrykiewicz '81, who has been leading beach cleanups for the last 30 years.

"Ocean Beach, relatively speaking, is clean, but we still find plenty of stuff," Fabrykiewicz told New London's The Day newspaper.

"If it keeps up, we won't have sand anymore. We'll just have remains of caffeine, nicotine," she added.

Jack Aleksa '24 regularly participates in trail cleanups in his home state of Colorado. He says he was excited to see the beach, and when he first arrived, he didn't notice any trash at all.

"Once you started to look around you noticed the candy wrapper here, the cigarette there, some fishing line buried in the sand. It's almost as if our eyes had filtered out the trash that was there," said Aleksa, who is considering a mathematics major. "There were a surprising amount of cigarette butts, and they are right out in the open."

Redfern says the group collected 886 cigarette butts, making them by far the most prevalent trash item on the beach. The most unusual? A 103-pound rail tie, likely from a roller coaster ride.



Bob MacDonnell

Acting Out

Conn is one of the first colleges to hold live performances during the pandemic

Theater reinvents itself every 100 years. COVID-19 has created opportunities for yet another reinvention inspired by the earliest days of theatrical performance.

In October, Conn students performed a play outside in response to the pandemic that has shuttered theaters from Broadway to small liberal arts colleges across the country.

The play, *Seven Twenty-Five*, written by Ana Reyes-Rosado '20, and directed by guest artist Jude Sandy and Andre Thomas '20, who served as associate director, centers on the marginalized population of Puerto Rican Americans whose voices are too often dismissed or misunderstood.

"We cannot progress towards genuine equity at Conn, in the U.S. and in American theater without supporting this kind of valuable work by one of

our own," Sandy said. "To come to a full understanding of our country, we must witness and listen to the lives, perspectives and contributions of Puerto Rico to U.S. society."

To adapt to the challenges of the pandemic, Conn's theater students studied the methods employed by ancient Greek theater and Shakespearean actors before electricity and fixed indoor performance spaces made possible what most of us think of a theater experience today.

Ken Prestininzi, who chairs the theater department, said it was important to revisit those ancient techniques and also consider how modern technology might be blended with them to create hybrid models for performing safely during a pandemic.

"People think of theater as being in an auditorium with people sitting

knee to knee, but that's not the actor-audience relationship that has existed throughout most of history, so we wanted to look at different ways of defining that relationship," Prestininzi said. "One of the most important elements of theater is to bring people together for a shared experience, so we can still do that with outside performances and social distancing."

For *Seven Twenty-Five*, simple logistics like costume fitting and design had to be done remotely, with the actors measuring themselves by following instructions over a Zoom video call.

Despite the challenges, costume designer Carly Sponzo '21 said, "These characters were such a treat to design for and I was so grateful to be able to do it during the pandemic when theatre everywhere is struggling."

Lab Tests

Two Conn alums help to safeguard campus health

Having completed her undergraduate degree in the middle of a global pandemic, aspiring physician Isis Torres Nuñez '20 knew she had an amazing opportunity to put her skills to good use.

"I was eager to work in a lab related to COVID-19," said Torres Nuñez, who majored in biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology and was a scholar in the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA) at Conn.

In July, she accepted a position as a process development associate at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard—the very same lab that began processing thousands of tests a week for Connecticut College in August.

"I wanted to be involved in any way possible, and this seemed like the most logical, personally interesting and satisfying way," she said.

As it turns out, Torres Nuñez isn't the only Camel in the building. Her classmate Conor O'Neil '20 is also a process development associate at the Broad Institute.

O'Neil, a biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology major, Italian minor, and CISLA scholar, said he was looking for a way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and was attracted by the Broad Institute's high-throughput COVID-19 testing facility, which has processed more than 1.2 million COVID-19 tests since March and now

processes approximately one in every 20 tests nationwide.

The program to support higher education was conceived in May, when the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts reached out to the Broad Institute to ask it to support its member organizations' desire for regular testing in the Fall 2020 semester.

"One of the reasons I was interested in applying is that Broad works with hospitals, nursing homes, homeless shelters, high-impact communities and educational institutions," O'Neil said. "It makes me happy to be helping reduce the risk of transmission and keeping the campus safe."

The Broad Institute has developed a specific Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing program for colleges and universities that provides results within 24 hours of receiving samples in their laboratory. Conn set up a testing center in the Athletic Center, and all students, faculty and staff who are on campus more than two days a week are tested twice weekly. Those on campus for two days or less are tested once a week. Those samples then make their way to Cambridge, Massachusetts, for processing.

Torres Nuñez typically works in "accessioning," where she and her colleagues prepare the samples for laboratory testing, although she has also

been training in "extractions," in which she uses automated processing machines to extract RNA from the patient samples transferred in accessioning. Those extractions then go off to a quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) team, which includes O'Neil, that ultimately helps determine whether a patient has tested negative or positive.

"Every step is critical and dependent on the others, making it crucial for us to work closely as a team," Torres Nuñez said.

Both Torres Nuñez and O'Neil approve of Conn's robust testing plan.

"I think testing twice a week is a great and responsible way to keep the campus safe. The swab does not take long and these tests work very well to detect if the virus is present," O'Neil said.

Torres Nuñez added that while getting tested so often may be tedious, it's very important to help identify cases and mitigate the spread, especially when students are living together in close quarters. And knowing that her work is helping to keep vulnerable populations safe keeps her motivated.

"Though some days are exhausting and truly physically and mentally demanding, I go home every day happy knowing that it's worth it," she said. "I look forward to going to work every day, recognizing that my efforts are contributing to our battle against this pandemic."

All-Campus Symposium

The ACS highlights students' integrative learning

Growing up on an island, Priyanka Ramchurn '21 has always been fascinated by the ocean's power. But can that power be harnessed for sustainable and eco-friendly, economic growth around the world?

This question has been driving Ramchurn throughout her undergraduate experience at Conn.

"Since the ocean is a transnational topic, I wanted to learn about the experience of other countries around the world and investigate the opportunities and challenges they are facing in transitioning to a sustainable, blue economy," said Ramchurn, who defines the blue economy as the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem.

An international relations and economics double major, finance minor, and scholar in the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts, Ramchurn presented the results of four years of exploration at the second annual All-Campus Symposium Nov. 6.

"I introduced the concept of blue financing and blue investments to my audience and made the case that transitioning to a sustainable blue economy requires sound ocean

governance, research and innovation, and finance."

Ramchurn was one of nearly 200 seniors in Conn's Interdisciplinary Pathways and Centers for Interdisciplinary Scholarship to participate in the virtual day-long symposium, which highlighted students' integrative learning through Connections, Conn's reinvention of the liberal arts, and showcased how their coursework and experiences had informed their studies and learning over four years.

Through 10-minute talks, poster sessions, performances, screenings and exhibitions, students presented on a wide range of topics, from Latinx political participation to unequal access to STEM in the U.S. to how social determinants of health can help explain COVID-19 case patterns in Connecticut.

"The All-College Symposium is an extraordinary celebration of our seniors' passionate engagement with questions that matter to them and to the larger world," said Dean of the College Jefferson Singer. "Our whole community—faculty, students, staff, alumni and parents—learns so much from these dedicated students."

Max Whisnant '21, an aspiring politician, joined the Peace and Conflict Pathway to learn about

developing solutions to entrenched political conflicts. A government and English double major, Whisnant interned for U.S. Representative Joe Kennedy's U.S. Senate campaign in Massachusetts and developed an interest in political rhetoric.

"Even in a Democratic primary, for a safe Democrat seat, I was able to see how conflict arises. I watched how both campaigns' rhetoric changed throughout the summer and became harsher and more biting," Whisnant said.

The experience led him to his animating question, "How Does Presidential Rhetoric Affect the Political Consciousness of the American Public?" He is now completing an honors thesis on presidential rhetoric during catastrophic times. At the symposium, he was part of a group presentation along with the other seniors in the Peace and Conflict Pathway.

"The presentation fit with how tight-knit our group is. We enjoy learning from each other and bringing in knowledge from our various majors and minors, so we decided this was the best way for us to demonstrate our collective research," he said.

For more ACS stories, visit www.conncoll.edu/connections/all-college-symposium



Bob MacDonnell

Crazy Brave

U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo speaks at One Book One Region

We are in a time of great distress, U.S. Poet Laureate and *Crazy Brave* author Joy Harjo told hundreds of members of the Connecticut College and eastern Connecticut communities during the virtual One Book One Region event this fall.

“The Earth is in distress, the governance of this country is in distress, there is distress between people. Everything has changed. How will we get through this?” Harjo asked.

Each person has been given a light, and light is meant to be shared, she said. One way to share this light is through art.

“Art meets the spirit, art holds the intangible. It expresses what we can’t express with words. It goes beyond. Art challenges us and takes us forward. We need it,” she said.

“So, when we come to these times, where there is a yearning and an absolute need to speak what has not been spoken ... art has the ability to hold and transform. That which can be very

difficult to transform as a human being struggling alone, art can access.”

Crazy Brave is a transcendent memoir by Harjo, the first Native American to be named U.S. Poet Laureate. She was appointed the 23rd United States Poet Laureate in 2019. She is also the winner of the PEN Center USA Award for Creative Nonfiction and the American Book Award. In addition to *Crazy Brave*, she is the author of nine books of poetry, as well as several plays and children’s books, and has recorded several albums.

Crazy Brave evokes the terrain and texture of Harjo’s birthplace in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as well as the mythology of her ancestors, tracing her story from childhood in an Oklahoma town to the discovery of her poetic voice as a young adult. Suffering the multiple indignities of racism, poverty and abuse, Harjo circumvented despair by embracing art, music and activism. *Crazy Brave* confronts the long American history of injustice against indigenous

peoples, while affirming the power of art to liberate and heal.

In her remarks during the live virtual event, Connecticut College President Katherine Bergeron said *Crazy Brave* “evokes the idea of a life in the most beautiful way, by insisting on the deep connections among lived experience, ancestral history, poetry, art and song.”

Thousands of people in the greater New London region read *Crazy Brave* as part of the One Book One Region of Eastern Connecticut initiative, including all Connecticut College first-year students. Harjo’s talk was the culminating event for the program, which included multiple book discussions and poetry walks.

“In these unprecedented times, One Book One Region continues to connect our community to ensure that we engage with one another,” Dean of the College Jefferson Singer said of the event, which he called, “an inspirational and thought-provoking evening.”

#ScholarStrike

Conn joins the Scholar Strike teach-in to protest racism

The national strike started with a single tweet following the police shooting of Jacob Blake, an unarmed Black man in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

"I would be down as a professor to follow the NBA and Strike for a few days to protest police violence in America," tweeted Anthea Butler, who serves as associate professor of religious studies and Africana studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

From this, #ScholarStrike grew into a national teach-in movement involving thousands of professors and students from colleges and universities across America who are determined to combat racism and police violence. The strike took place Sept. 8–9.

"Scholar Strike is meant to disrupt the everyday routines of academia, and to show solidarity with other workers striking for Black lives, particularly the athletes of the WNBA and NBA," said Cherise Harris, associate director of Conn's Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity, and associate professor of sociology. "In a variety of ways, academic professionals are disrupting the status quo and refusing to stand by while racism and violence devastate Black Americans' lives and communities."

Within days of Butler's original tweet, a dedicated YouTube channel was created for #ScholarStrike, which features dozens of lectures and discussions on race-related issues, and participating institutions

designed original programming for their students, faculty and staff during the two-day period.

Departments across Conn's campus demonstrated their solidarity with the strike through official statements of support and the sponsoring of live events that offered members of the community a chance to directly address the current national climate of racial unrest that has been exacerbated by a global pandemic, staggering unemployment and repeated acts of police brutality against unarmed people of color.

The Otto and Fran Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement held two Zoom events during the teach-in while suspending its normal schedule. The first, a discussion facilitated by Ariella Rotramel, the Vandana Shiva Assistant Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Intersectionality Studies, explored issues of cross-racial solidarity and confronting police brutality.

The second involved a live interview with Carroll Bogert, president of The Marshall Project, an award-winning nonprofit news organization devoted to U.S. criminal justice reform. The interview was conducted by Jozette Moses '21, editor in chief of *The College Voice*, and Amanda Sanders '22, managing editor, and examined how the media represents policing and racial injustice in America.

In addition, the Walter Commons created a shared list of anti-racist resources around white privilege and invited all

Conn faculty and staff to contribute. The list includes book and article recommendations; classes, groups, workshops and organized challenges; blog, web and podcast resources; and resources for children.

"We are all in. We devoted all of our meetings, including our meeting with our Walter Commons fellows, to the topic of anti-racist work in our own sphere of influence, and we postponed other meetings to disrupt business as usual," said Amy Dooling, director of the Walter Commons and associate dean of global initiatives.

"We are determined to do the work required at this historic moment to examine and dismantle the racist systems from which many of us have benefitted, and to dedicate ourselves now and in the future to the pressing work of anti-racist institutional and societal change."

Forceful statements of support echoed from every corner of the College and from a diverse spectrum of fields and disciplines. The Department of Chemistry posted a statement acknowledging several victims of police violence:

"Our thoughts are with the people all around the world protesting racial violence and police brutality, including the tragic deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd. We are deeply saddened by these incidents and write today to express solidarity with communities of color and all who are mourning. Black lives matter."

Let's Get Uncomfortable

From Conn's inception, the College has been guided by the promise of a future with ever-improving equality and social justice. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, and following a summer of unrest and police violence that has opened up the long-festered wound of racism, this commitment is as central to the College's mission and culture today as it was more than 100 years ago.

The Agnes Gund '60 Dialogue Project is one of the initiatives driving this commitment forward in new ways. From required seminars and dialogue sessions to civic engagement projects, faculty training and a social justice education series, the Conn community is addressing the modern challenges of racism and inequality from multiple angles.

The first phase of the Dialogue Project was originally launched with the support of a \$200,000 donation from David Carliner '82, and the initiative was later endowed with a \$1 million gift by philanthropist and social justice advocate Agnes Gund '60.

The Dialogue Project takes a comprehensive approach to facilitating intergroup dialogues by offering widespread opportunities to address difficult questions, listen to every side and gain exposure to diverse viewpoints, in a variety of settings on and off campus. The key ingredient is finding ways to ensure the dialogues are sustained, as opposed to one-off debates or isolated classroom discussions.

"Students have been deeply engaged, and there were some very uncomfortable but important moments, and even some tears, in our seminars," said John McKnight, dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion, who co-taught Conversations on Race, a First Year Seminar offered to students that has come out of the Dialogue Project, with Audrey Zakriski, professor of psychology and director of the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy.

Doug Daniels: Can you talk about the formative stages of the Dialogue Project and how you got it off the ground?

John McKnight: We started out by introducing just the concept. Of course, dialogue should be a helpful tool in terms of thinking about equity and justice, but there's teaching methodology that people weren't necessarily familiar with. So we began by spending that first year making sure we provided faculty and staff with opportunities to learn how to teach people about social justice through dialogue. As usual, the Conn community stepped up right away, and faculty wanted to know how they could incorporate some of these dialogue skills into their classrooms or with the groups they advise and in other contexts. So we trained as many people as possible that first year. And we were able to do all of that thanks to the generosity of that initial seed funding from David Carliner '82.

DD: How does this project stand out from similar programs at other institutions?

JM: A lot of colleges and universities encourage intergroup dialogue by focusing entirely on the curriculum, with a course or two to teach students basic concepts of creating inclusive, equitable communities. Other schools have cocurricular programs where students engage each other in facilitated discussions on controversial matters. Both approaches can be powerful. But we tried to design something that was more wide-ranging in terms of the kinds of things that would be included, from course requirements to seminars to the community engagement projects that create the opportunities for students to really interact with people in different contexts off-campus. So we've been very carefully building this program in the hope that it can be sustained for a long time.

DD: You've mentioned that there were some "uncomfortable" moments during that First-Year Seminar on race. Were there times when the conversations hit a wall and couldn't move forward?

JM: We got stuck sometimes in class and had to work our way to get unstuck. That's an essential part of the work. One of the central principles behind dialogue as an instrument of inclusivity is that it has to be sustained.

The Agnes Gund '60 Dialogue Project is deepening intercultural awareness and understanding, says John McKnight, dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion, who sat down with Doug Daniels of CC Magazine.

The difference between a discussion or debate and a dialogue is that the dialogue is supposed to be ongoing. So when you reach an impasse or you realize that you're at cross-purposes in terms of your ideological beliefs, you actually have to get past the impasse, which is the hardest part—and most people don't stick around long enough to do that. The benefit of having a class environment is that you have to show up for the next class. Even if it's awkward and you feel like you got a little stuck during that last session, you give it another try. So that's the strength of the curricular component.

DD: The Dialogue Project will address many issues beyond race, including LGBTQIA topics and economic inequality, for example. Can you discuss the importance of having the first seminar focus on race, and why you wanted to make sure first-year students took it?

JM: We wanted students who were new to the community and were forming their impressions of the community to be having conversations centered around race. The topic of race and racism, for us, is at the core of our focus on justice and equity. It was challenging to get 16 first-year students to not only think about racism in a historical way but also to confront the ways in which each of them had been socialized [to think a certain way].

DD: What are some other ways the Dialogue Project is promoting social justice to a larger audience on campus and within the local community?

JM: We've been offering campus-wide opportunities for events and discussions, and we had a programming series last year that we also called Conversations on Race, which was open to the public and had very strong attendance. We've been intentional about partnering with The Day newspaper and the Coast Guard Academy to broaden the audience and open up the social justice and anti-racist education events, such as when Ibram X. Kendi, now the director of the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University, spoke at the Coast Guard about his New York Times bestseller *How to Be an Antiracist*.

DD: How have the recent protests and the racial unrest over police violence changed your thinking about the role of the Dialogue Project as an important piece of a Conn education?

JM: The events of the summer gave more people permission to engage in the conversation around race and racism, and around justice in general. I think people who have been hesitant to do so now feel like they don't have a choice but to speak up. We also have permission to name things with greater precision now than we had before.

So being able to say that systemic racism is a thing—some of us have felt comfortable saying that out loud for a long time—but being able to speak with that level of clarity and precision is a welcome change coming as a result of the events of this summer.

What we saw over the summer also added an urgency to this type of education. Dialogue is not giving people the answers; dialogue is encouraging people to stay in the conversation long enough to ask informed questions and to be open to hearing other perspectives. Through all of those processes, people will arrive at, I think, a deeper understanding, and a more complex understanding, of the issues at hand.

DD: What opportunities and programs can we expect to see coming out of the Dialogue Project over the next year?

JM: We held three equity summits last summer. We've created a cohort of peer facilitators who can lead small, group-facilitated dialogues on different topics. We'll continue the social justice education series, and we're also requiring all members of the College community to complete an online program offering foundational training around questions of diversity, equity and inclusion. This online instruction, EverFi, is meant to be just the first step in a much larger effort to promote advanced dialogue and understanding across difference.

Deep Background

Noah Feldman: I want to begin with a reminder of just how central the career of Congressman John Lewis was to the development of civil rights and especially voting rights in the United States. He was one of the original 13 Freedom Riders. He was one of the organizers of the March on Washington. He was one of the leaders of the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights marches in 1965. On March 7 of that year, a day now known as Bloody Sunday, Lewis and other marchers were attacked by armed police on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, an event that helped spur Lyndon Johnson into signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965. When you think of his legacy, what elements stand out most for you in terms of his inspiration?

Debo Adegbile: When I think of John Lewis, I think first of his exhortation to his fellow Americans: that you have to be prepared to put yourself in the way to achieve justice. He was fearless, a fearless advocate for justice, and he was motivated by an inner sense of moral courage that made him unbowed even in the face of risks to his life and well-being. And that example of an

unyielding commitment to the notion that America can be better tomorrow than it is today if we work at it is something that all of us should aspire to.

Feldman: There's something particularly extraordinary about the way that John Lewis put his body in the way of harm.

Adegbile: It's an example of moral courage that we should always return to, and that I believe future generations will return to. In so many ways we train people to be on the front lines. There are soldiers who are trained to be on the front lines. There is law enforcement that is trained to be on the front lines. These are the people we provide with weapons, and sometimes under the sanction of the flag or under state-organized authority they have the right to defend themselves with deadly force and take people's lives. In contrast, the civil rights marchers and John Lewis, they had only the strength of their convictions and the understanding that they were on the right side of history. And they presented themselves without weapons, with only the force of their commitment to justice. And they did so in the face of brutal forces on the other side.

Feldman: Lewis was a deeply believing and committed Christian and had a calling to be a minister already when he was a boy. And trained then as a minister. Talk a little bit about how that kind of religious faith and religious center was so important to the moral message that he eventually brought to the country.

Adegbile: I do think that the religious grounding that John Lewis had was part of the transcendence with which he approached his life on earth. That is to say, he organized his life around the concept that [one is] willing to sacrifice [one's] life if need be, because there is some moral imperative that is greater than the individual being. This is derived from many religious traditions, the sense of humanity, perhaps rising above the cause of the individual. I think it was part of this commitment that led him to understand that his work on earth was dedicated to being that of a servant. But he was in service of something that was bigger than his own individual needs and commitments. He was in service of the common humanity and dignity of all human beings. I think that was what made him willing to put himself in harm's way—being prepared to give his body.

Debo Adegbile '91, who twice defended the Voting Rights Act before the Supreme Court, discussed the legacy of the late Congressman John Lewis and his lifetime of fighting for civil rights with Harvard Law professor Noah Feldman on the podcast *Deep Background*.

That's a deeply Christian idea. One that is then transmuted, I think, in our civil rights tradition into the idea of people for the Constitution and for the values of the Constitution and of equality and equal justice, being able to sacrifice their bodies.

When he gave speeches recalling his work and his march with the other brave nonviolent marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, John Lewis used to say, "I shed a little blood for the cause, and for voting rights. I shed a little blood on that bridge."

Feldman: Let's turn a little bit to the question of voting, which has been one of the central focuses of your career as a civil rights advocate. And which was, of course, so close to the center of Lewis's career and life. When you think about the Voting Rights Act, what do you think its core promise was meant to be?

Adegbile: I regard the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as a national commitment to a minority inclusion principle in our democracy. That is to say that for the full sweep of American history, many people in our society were excluded from the most basic principle of a democracy, which is to participate in self-governance. And that exclu-

sion happened on account of race and discrimination that was state sponsored and enforced by state authorities at the barrel of a gun and/or through mob violence.

What happened on the Edmund Pettus Bridge and was followed closely by President Lyndon Johnson's speech before a joint session of Congress, it was a moment in which the gap between our promises of equal protection of the laws and the practices on the ground of exclusion and segregation was being intentionally narrowed in a way that would change the nation.

The Voting Rights Act was a national commitment that said, "We are going to use the power of the federal government ... to elevate the voices of democratic participation in the polity. And to stand for a minority inclusion principle that we cannot turn back from."

Feldman: The minority inclusion principle that you're talking about ended up being embodied in different parts of the Voting Rights Act. But one of the most important components was a practical process called preclearance. According to which, if you're in a part of the country with a demonstrated history of race-based voting exclusion, before you can change the way that you district and assign voters

to different districts, which of course is crucial to how voting outcomes are produced, you had to go to the Department of Justice and get the Department of Justice to review your plan, and then very probably, you'd have to go to a court and get the court as well to have a look at that plan before you could make a change. That practice came under attack in a very important voting rights landmark case called *Shelby County v. Holder* that the Supreme Court decided in 2013. And you were one of the people who argued that case before the Supreme Court, while working for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Tell us about what that experience was like. And then through that, maybe tell us how the case came out and what you feel about it.

Adegbile: *Shelby County v. Holder*, I believe, is rightfully regarded as one of the most significant civil rights cases of this generation. Unfortunately, and I will begin at the end, it stands in some ways for the proposition not only that a particularly effective piece of the Voting Rights Act has been rendered inoperable—the preclearance provision of which you spoke—but also for the proposition that there was a signal that the country was again in

retreat and stepping away from the minority inclusion principle that had been so central to our march toward justice and our march toward freedom.

Essentially, there were two roads that were diverging as the court was presented with Shelby County. Should the improvement that we had seen from the time of 1965 until 2013, should that leave us in the position that there's enough progress, and we can step away, or must we continue to follow consistent with the judgment of Congress, including a unanimous United States Senate that voted 98 to 0 in support of the reauthorization of the preclearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act? Should we continue to do more, to do better to perfect the union?

As I walked in the courtroom to argue the Shelby County case, it was the second time that I had defended these provisions of the Voting Rights Act before the Supreme Court of the United States. The *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Holder* case presented a very similar question. It's my understanding that the first Supreme Court argument that John Lewis ever attended was the Northwest Austin case. He was there again on the day of the Shelby County argument to witness the defense of the statute that he literally

had given blood for, and that people he knew had died for. He wanted to be present. He wanted to bear witness to see our government at work and to stand again on the front lines of the fight for equality.

And to be in the courtroom, it was a weighty responsibility. I said of the earlier case that it was humbling, exhilarating, and terrifying all at once. All of those emotions are coursing through your body as you rise to the podium, in some ways to try and speak what many people regard as a self-evident truth to power: that discrimination continues in America, and that voting discrimination continues. And that the protections that Congress had committed to over a long period of time remained important and were doing vital work. That was the self-evident truth.

In some ways you feel as if your argument and your presentation are trying to prove that the sun will rise tomorrow. It is that self-evident, and it was difficult to be there, and to see the extent to which even during the oral argument, the court was signaling that it was going to cast aside under our constitutional system, the judgment of the Congress. And I think we have seen on the backside what has happened in the wake of Shelby County, that is those things that were self-evident have proven

to be true. That many are taking the signal that the federal government is in retreat from minority voter protection. And those who wish to win elections through nefarious means are trying to have their way.

Feldman: The day that the case came down I remember sitting at my computer, doing what I always do when the Supreme Court decides its big cases. They come down, I get them on the computer. I read them as fast as I humanly can. Then I sit down and I write something for my column about it. And my opening line that day was "The civil-rights era ended today." I wonder, in retrospect, if I overstated the case, in your view?

Adegbile: I'm reminded of the work of Professor Alexander Keyssar, of the Harvard Kennedy School, who wrote an important book titled *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States*. One of the central tenets of *The Right to Vote* is that there is a dominant, and somewhat ubiquitous, understanding or theory out there that America and American democracy has been on a path of unidirectional progress. That is to say, that things always get better. We're always improving, and things are always moving

“The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it.”

—JOHN LEWIS

forward. What Keyssar, among other things, added to the conversation is that when you look at the story of voting in America, what you see is not a pattern of unidirectional progress, of a march that is ever forward. What you see is a history of ebbs and flows. Concerted efforts to push and expand the reach of the franchise, and then efforts that push back and try and limit the franchise.

I understood that Shelby County was a very disappointing and important mark on the course of civil rights and voting history, but would not be the final word. It would not be the end of the nation's quest for civil rights, but was perhaps the end of a chapter that signaled that there were gathering clouds ahead and that there were difficult days ahead. But those of us who remain, like John Lewis, undaunted in the face of long odds, would continue to put our shoulder against the boulder and push for greater inclusion and to try and move the country forward again.

Feldman: When you think about what you can do going forward, what strikes you as the biggest challenges?

Adegbile: I think about the fight for educational opportunity and the

inequities that we see both in K through 12 education and in higher education, and how important education is as being a tool in some sort of civic transcendence. It is a pathway to opportunity. I think, of course, about the issues of criminal justice and the relationship between minority communities and law enforcement across the nation. I think about the path that the nation has walked of increasingly militaristic policing tactics, but also the opportunity and the possibility that is there to revisit the relationship between law enforcement and minority communities, and all communities. I remain committed to the idea that there is a way to align our democratic institutions, where we are not fearing the differences that exist in our society but are regarding them as a strength. That we can commit to and lift up voices in service of the common idea that we share, that we are stronger together than we are when we curry divisiveness in the people.

John Lewis understood that he was able to be a catalyst for change. He was able to put himself on the front lines, but he was also able to recognize that there were generations of people who were coming behind him. And that their voices and contributions and

ideas were no less valuable than what his contributions had been in his day.

And so, one of the ways that I have tried to carry forward the lessons of the civil rights movement is that piece of transcendence, that when people are coming together for collective aims, you should not feel that any leader or any one person has all the right ideas or has the single path to improve things. You have to make space for those who come from different places and at different times, to try and advance the ideal of perfecting the union.

This story has been edited from the original podcast.

Debo Adegbile '91 is a partner at the law firm WilmerHale, which he joined after a long career with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Adegbile was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the United States Commission on Civil Rights in 2016. He is a member of Connecticut College's Board of Trustees.

Deep Background is hosted by Harvard Law School professor and Bloomberg View columnist Noah Feldman. The podcast is produced by Pushkin Industries. bloomberg.com/feldman





GET OUT THE VOTE

Professor of government Mara Suttmann-Lea
and voting activist Chakena Sims Perry '16
discuss what turned into the COVID-19 election.

BY DOUG DANIELS

There's a storm brewing. At least that's how things looked as of this writing, just a few weeks before Election Day.

The presidential election of 2020 was already poised to capture the dubious mantle of most-litigated political contest in American history, snatching that distinction from the 2000 Bush vs. Gore election. Then COVID-19 hit, scrambling the electoral process, straining the postal system responsible for delivering mail-in ballots, and exacerbating pre-existing inadequacies that impact how Americans vote and how their votes are counted.

Both the Trump and Biden campaigns spent months preparing for a protracted flurry of legal challenges. Thousands of lawyers mobilized across the country on behalf of the respective campaigns, national party committees and third-party interest groups.

By the end of September, the Republican National Committee and affiliated GOP entities were engaged in at least 40 separate state-level lawsuits. Their Democratic counterparts were involved in a comparable number of suits in roughly 20 states, challenging the GOP's resistance to various laws and regulations, many of which were created to mitigate public health risks during the pandemic, most related to mail-in voting and other alternative methods, such as ballot drop boxes.

The intricacies and objections vary widely from state to state, but if the intertwined political and legal arguments can be distilled to their most basic levels, Republicans want very stringent regulations to combat what they claim is a system ripe for voter fraud, and Democrats want to ensure legitimate voters

aren't disenfranchised. That concern is particularly relevant to voters of color, younger voters and first-time voters—blocs that studies and data suggest have their mail-in ballots rejected at disproportionate rates by unnecessarily onerous and confusing voting processes.

“One of the biggest challenges is that we have a completely decentralized voting system in this country,” said Conn's Mara Suttmann-Lea, a professor of government who has researched elections data and mail voting extensively. “There are nearly 8,000 local jurisdictions that administer elections, with a wide variety of ways to vote, different voting requirements, and different types of technology used both to vote and to count votes.”

Suttmann-Lea says that the patchwork system is stitched together with poll workers who are often volunteers and local election organizations that sometimes lack the resources to do their job properly, even in normal times. In the midst of a pandemic, and with record-shattering numbers of mail-in ballots, counting and assessing votes and adhering to various rules surrounding signatures, deadline dates and other requirements will invariably lead to more votes being rejected.

Overall, mail-in voting has historically been quite reliable. It hasn't been shown to impact the outcome of an election (in other words, to have an inherent bias for one party over another), and there is no data to support claims of widespread fraud. Some states, such as Colorado, Oregon and Washington, have had mail-in voting for years with no major instances of fraud.

“There are nearly 8,000 local jurisdictions that administer elections, with a wide variety of ways to vote, different voting requirements, and different types of technology used both to vote and to count votes.”

And in one recent high-profile lawsuit in the key presidential battleground state of Pennsylvania, federal Judge Nicholas Ranjan dismissed a challenge by the Trump campaign claiming mail-in voter fraud, ruling that the claims were “speculative” and based on “uncertain assumptions.”

But Suttman-Lea says that the generally positive overview of mail-in voting belies the need for substantive reforms and safeguards to ensure the electoral system is more accessible and equitable moving forward. She was part of a research team that examined mail-in voting in the 2018 midterm elections in Georgia and found that minority voters’ ballots were indeed disproportionately rejected. Early returns so far this cycle show a similar trend in other states, including in North Carolina, where minority voters’ ballots were rejected at more than four times the rate of white voters’.

For some broader context, in the 2016 general election, nearly a quarter of votes nationally were submitted by mail, with only 1% of them being rejected. But with the share of the mail-in vote exploding this cycle, especially among voters unfamiliar with that method, honest mistakes that lead to ballot rejection have surged as well, and even just 1% of a very large number means a lot of uncounted votes. During the 2020 presidential primaries, at least half a million ballots were rejected—close to twice as many as were rejected in 2016, and a share that has significant implications in terms of the number of minority and first-time voters who could be disenfranchised.

“When it comes to racial and ethnic minority voters, there’s not any reason to expect that these folks as individuals would be, on average, more likely to cast a ballot that gets rejected,” Suttman-Lea said. “So that tells me that there’s something going on in terms of the quality of bureaucratic services that those voters are receiving from election administrators. Simple things like prepaid postage for mail-in ballots, opportunities for voters to correct common errors, more voter outreach from local administrators and, importantly, allowing ballots to be postmarked by Election Day—instead of mandating that they be received by Election Day—would make a big difference.”

Barriers to voting for marginalized constituencies are nothing new in America, but the pandemic has aimed a blazing spotlight at many of the system’s shortcomings. Chakena Sims Perry ’16 has been fighting since she was at Conn to make participation in the electoral process easier for people of color and young people. This year, she and her colleagues have had to battle harder than ever to inform and protect voters. A Chicago native, Perry serves as chairwoman of the Cook County (Illinois) Young Democrats and is board president of Chicago Votes Action Fund, a nonpartisan organization that promotes increased engagement by young people in the political process. The rise in mail-in voting in Illinois this fall was extraordinary, with half of all votes for president expected to be cast before Election Day. If trends in other states are any indication, that means a disproportionate and significant number of votes from people of color and young people likely won’t be counted, which only



Bob MacDonnell

contributes to the sense among those voters that they shouldn't even bother to participate in the first place—a frustrating psychological wall that voting advocates like Perry confront daily.

“Young people need to understand that they're uniquely positioned to change the outcome of an election if they're engaged and mobilized,” argued Perry. “So it's important to provide people with the tools and resources to connect the dots between how the issues in their communities can be solved or influenced by the government and how much power they can have by participating in the political process.”

As chairwoman of the Young Democrats, Perry said one of the sharpest challenges in bringing more young people into the political fold is overcoming common feelings of cynicism or intimidation by fundraising events—an obstacle that became the core of political and party engagement strategies. The solution, she said, is to create programming that doesn't require giving money right off the bat, so younger people who don't have money or aren't sure yet of their commitment and interest level can gain some exposure to the system. That approach, along with establishing ways to train young people to organize and engage with other young people in their own communities, can have a positive ripple effect of building trust and combating disinformation.

College campuses are obviously an essential piece of the puzzle, and Conn is dedicated to providing more tools than ever before to students who want to participate in the process.

This past summer, Connecticut College President Katherine Bergeron joined more than 160 college and university leaders across the country by signing the All In Campus Democracy Challenge, a nonpartisan initiative that calls for 100% campus voter turnout for eligible voters.

The initiative, spearheaded by Conn's Holleran Center for Community Action, continues to build on the College's tradition of political participation and is being led by Angela Barney, assistant director of the Program in Community Action at the Holleran Center.

“I think now more than ever it is important to encourage young people to be engaged in our political system because they have the ability to shake up politics, whether that be through voting or other civic and political engagement initiatives,” Barney said.

And in October, the College hosted a virtual community discussion titled Conn Votes. Organized as part of the Agnes Gund '60 Dialogue Project, Conn Votes was presented via Zoom, and touched on a wide range of issues surrounding voter suppression and strategies for encouraging civic engagement.

“The struggle does continue,” Bergeron said. “As we witness unconscionably long lines at polls in Georgia, or listen to conspiracy theories about mass voter fraud, many of us are wondering what we should do to be sure all voices are heard. It is my hope that through dialogue with student, staff, faculty, alumni and trustee leaders we will become not only more

deeply engaged in the challenges of this election season, but also more inspired than ever to make our voices heard by exercising this right.”

This type of campus engagement works. In fact, Perry’s passion for community engagement sprang from an internship with Chicago Votes, which she held as a student at Conn in 2013. She spent the summer knocking on doors in 90-degree heat, speaking with people throughout the city and encouraging them to register to vote.

“One day during that internship, I met a man with a felony conviction who said he had been told he couldn’t vote,” Perry recalled. “Something seemed off about that, so I looked into it, and it turned out that in Illinois, people with felony convictions actually can vote. That’s when I realized how misinformation is leaving a lot of important voices out of our democracy, and I wanted to do something about that.”

In the years since, she’s worked on projects to expand political engagement and help reform voting in her state, from working with the public school system to register students to helping make the enormous Cook County jail an actual voting precinct so that inmates awaiting trial can exercise their right to vote.


“There are plenty of tactics that have been used over the years and are still being used today to disenfranchise people of color, from blatantly removing Black people from the voting roles to voter ID laws that unfairly impact people of color,” Perry said. “And when it comes to the issue of whether

incarcerated people and people with convictions should have the right to vote, that of course highlights the fact that Black people—particularly Black men—are disproportionately represented in our criminal justice system.”

Perry said that she and her team at Chicago Votes have pushed aggressively for legislation that makes voting easier and more equitable on a fundamental level, such as online voter registration, same-day voter registration and automatic voter registration, all of which broaden access in normal times but can prove critically important during a public health crisis that could have a lingering future impact on the 2022 midterm elections as well.

“Making people feel that voting is something that’s important—but also easy—is our goal,” Perry said. “Voting shouldn’t be something that you have to uproot your entire life to go do. It should be something that’s more normalized and accessible for more people.”

Perry concedes that Illinois isn’t perfect but that the state has made positive recent changes, including implementing early voting with expanded polling places.

“We’re headed in the right direction, but there’s still hard work to be done,” she said. “When we talk about civic engagement, we’re talking about normalizing the voting process, getting more families talking about the importance of voting, actually making a plan to go vote and really knowing what options are at their disposal. That’s how you encourage a culture of civic participation.” 





FOOD INSECURITY

The food industry nearly broke down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will take creativity and ingenuity to recover what's been lost.

BY AMY MARTIN

Empty grocery store shelves. Long lines at food pantries. Viral outbreaks at meat-processing plants. When the U.S. shut down in March to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the food system snapped.

As many families tried to stockpile supplies for a quarantine of unknown duration, grocery stores and food pantries struggled to meet the increased demand. Meanwhile, restaurants, schools and senior centers closed, leaving suppliers and food service companies without a way to get food to customers.

“The pandemic turned everything on its head, especially for congregate and emergency food providers,” said Cara Donovan Mitchell ’08, the food policy manager at United Way of Western Connecticut.

Almost overnight, food pantries lost many of their volunteers, since they tend to be retired people over the age of 60, who are at higher risk for COVID-19 complications, Mitchell said. At the same time, unemployment skyrocketed, grocery stores no longer had merchandise to donate to food pantries, and the disruptions in the supply chain—from closed factories to delayed shipping—meant pantries couldn’t order items in bulk. In some cases, pantry staff were forced to go to grocery stores and buy whatever items remained on the shelf.

“They couldn’t find a lot of the staple items like rice, tuna and pasta, and when they could, it was very expensive since the demand was driving up food prices. The price of pasta went up 40% at one point,” Mitchell said.

“They couldn’t get everything they needed, and more people were showing up at the door than ever before. In Danbury,

the number of people going to food pantries tripled, and in Stamford, we saw the numbers double.

“There is extreme disparity and inequality in this part of the state,” Mitchell said. “We were hit very hard. There were pantries running out of food and turning people away.”

While the initial situation was dire, Mitchell says the larger story is one of creativity and ingenuity within the emergency food system.

Younger people who had been laid off or furloughed stepped up to replace elderly volunteers. Senior centers pivoted from serving meals in person to delivery or grab-and-go models. Food pantries and nonprofit organizations began delivering groceries to homebound seniors and others in COVID-19 high-risk groups. Schools provided free meals to families.

Some restaurants and corporations also joined in the effort, in part to keep food service workers employed. Mitchell worked with Food Rescue US, the pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim and the food service company Sodexo on an initiative through which more than 50 Sodexo cafeteria, catering and kitchen employees at Boehringer Ingelheim’s Ridgefield, Connecticut, campus prepared more than 250 meals a day for community members in need.

“People worked collaboratively to problem-solve and figure out new systems to make sure others had access to food,” Mitchell said.

FARM-TO-TABLE FRAGILITY

Sustainable food entrepreneur David Barber ’88 has been in the farm-to-table restaurant business for more than 20 years. Barber and his brother, a chef, co-own Blue Hill, a working-farm

“This pandemic has exacerbated the disparities that exist in our food system. The people who were already experiencing food insecurity were more heavily impacted by the pandemic and economic fallout.”

restaurant and consulting company that supports sustainable agriculture. The company has two restaurant locations, one in Greenwich Village and the other at the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in Pocantico Hills, New York.

Barber remembers worrying about his employees' safety, particularly at the New York City location, when he first began hearing reports about a novel coronavirus spreading in China and Italy. The restaurant closed on Friday, March 13, and Stone Barns closed the next day. Blue Hill quickly went from 245 employees to 81, a decision Barber called “heartbreaking.”

“A business like ours is labor-intensive, with thin margins and a big staff. We were not prepared—there is no real way to prepare for something like this,” he said.

One week after closing, the company launched a to-go boxed-food program featuring themed boxes of produce, meat and fish. The initial goal was to have some activity for the remaining staff, but very quickly an imperative second goal emerged—to save Blue Hill's small farming and fishing partners.

“They are pummeled,” Barber said of the more than 70 farms and fisheries that supply Blue Hill. “Most farm-to-table chefs haven't bought anything since March, and if they have, it has been a fraction of what they would typically buy. How to get these farms through to next spring is a big question mark.”

That's also a concern of Rachel Black, assistant professor of anthropology, who has spent much of her career studying the production, distribution and consumption of food. This past summer, she worked with four student researchers to study the impact of the pandemic on small-scale farms in New London County.

As wholesale business and direct sales to restaurants dried up, many of the local farms worked to expand their community-supported agriculture offerings. There was, at least initially, an increased demand from consumers, which Black says was likely due to both supermarket shortages and concerns about contracting COVID-19 from food or from supermarkets themselves.

“I'm fascinated by this model of direct sales [between farmer and consumer] that is about building community and risk-sharing with the farmer,” she said.

Black and her students conducted interviews and surveys, and found direct sales to be a mixed bag of results. Some farmers were having success with the model, while others found it difficult or cost-prohibitive to get personal protective equipment and other necessary supplies to safely conduct business.

Interestingly, says Black, despite the increase in demand, none of the farmers raised their prices.

“The pandemic made costs go up and profit margins go down, but they kept their prices the same. When I asked why, local farmers would say, ‘These people I feed, I care about them.’ I learned that there was this economy of community that is something special, but this care work goes unpaid,” she said.

The people who run these small sustainable farms do so because they are passionate about it, but even before the pandemic, the razor-thin margins and unpredictability of farming—combined with minimal, if any, government support—caused so many small farms to close across Connecticut that Black says the first step in the research project was for the students to call farms to see which ones were still operating.



“Food-system change has to be structural. The state government is going to have to play a role; it hasn’t done a good job of supporting local farmers. There needs to be not just emergency help but policies and support to maintain these farms that are so important to their communities,” Black said.

While state and local governments need to step up, Barber says consumers need to do their part too.

“This could dial back farm-to-table for a generation,” he said. “If you are going to do more cooking, use this as an opportunity to understand what is grown in your region and how to use it. If you are going to a restaurant, take your dollars to one that supports local farms. Or the farmers won’t be here next year. They just can’t make it.”

THE FUTURE OF FOOD

In the short term, Barber estimates as many as 2.2 million restaurants around the world will close, but this may bring about new opportunities, he says.

“I think the restaurant industry will be changed for the foreseeable future. This isn’t about surviving to go back to the way things were; this is surviving to thrive,” he said. “Coming out of COVID, those restaurants that are producing quality food are really going to be ready to hit the ground running.”

Barber added that he hopes consumers will use their experiences during the pandemic to think more deeply about how they engage with the food system.

“We should capitalize on this time and get smarter about the way we eat,” he said.

Mitchell is hoping for change too, because the burden can’t all fall on nonprofits like the United Way.


“This pandemic has exacerbated the disparities that exist in our food system. The people who were already experiencing food insecurity were more heavily impacted by the pandemic and economic fallout,” she said.

While she appreciates how quickly communities worked together to relieve the immediate pain and suffering during the crisis, she would like to see more philanthropy, advocacy work and policies directed toward upstream solutions to eliminate food insecurity and develop a more just food system.

“We can’t measure success by how many people we serve at food pantries—if the numbers keep increasing, that just shows the problem is getting worse and we aren’t actually solving it. The real questions should be: ‘How do we get people out of the line? How do we address the injustice and the oppression in our food system?’”

These questions weigh on Black’s mind. As the coordinator for Conn’s new Food Pathway, part of Connections, she’s working to give today’s students the tools they need to apply the liberal arts to food studies and create a group of innovators who have the skills to tackle these pressing problems.

The response from students has left her encouraged for the future.

“These courses fill up so fast, and the students are deeply engaged,” she said. “They really care about where their food is coming from, and they are thinking very critically about what is happening in this country and in the world.” 



A photograph of a school hallway. A grey wall is the central focus. Above it is a shelf filled with books. To the left, a pile of colorful backpacks sits on the floor. The title 'EDUCATION DEFERRED' is printed in yellow capital letters on the wall.

EDUCATION DEFERRED

Primary- and secondary-school educators discuss the challenges of teaching during a pandemic.

BY AMY MARTIN

My youngest daughter's first day of kindergarten was just 13 minutes long. She sat in our dining room and watched a three-minute, prerecorded video of her teacher, whom she'd yet to meet, and completed a 10-minute activity on one of what seemed like countless apps she'd be required to learn.

We decided it didn't really count. We didn't take the customary first-day-of-school pictures until two days later, her first day of in-person school under our district's hybrid system. She stood on the sidewalk against the backdrop of the empty playground, looking adorable—and utterly terrified. “Kindergarten?” asked the principal, whose kind smile was completely hidden behind her black face mask. I nodded, and she gently led Lila toward the school's back entrance.

I waited until my little girl was completely out of sight before I burst into tears. I had cried a little when each of my older two had gone off to kindergarten. It's a milestone, as all parents know. But this? This was different.

She did love her first day of in-person kindergarten. Wearing a mask all day wasn't quite as bad as she'd thought it would be, and she made a few friends, although she didn't remember any of their names.

On day five, her school's vice principal was diagnosed with COVID-19. A few days later, the principal who helped Lila into the building on the first day tested positive; so did a third staff member.

Just 10 days into the new school year, Lila's school canceled all in-person classes.

DAVID HOWES '93 M'00 will never forget March 13, 2020. In his more than two decades as an educator and school administrator, he had never experienced anything as disruptive as a sudden closure amid fears of a global pandemic.

“We just looked at each other and said, ‘We'll be back in school in a couple of weeks.’ Then a couple of weeks became a month, and then another month, and then it became clear that we just weren't going back,” said Howes, principal of two schools in the EASTCONN regional education organization, and a former principal and executive director at New London's Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication.

Almost overnight, teachers had to completely rethink their approach to education and transition from live, hands-on, collaborative teaching models to a virtual model rife with technical difficulties and inequitable access.

“The mantra became ‘Do no harm,’ especially in terms of grades and attendance,” Howes said. “It wasn't fair to punish kids because they didn't have technology or internet access. The spring was really about just making it through.”

Lindsay Paiva '12, a third-grade teacher at Webster Avenue Elementary School in Providence, Rhode Island, was given just one hour's notice that her school was closing.

**“All of the kids wanted to be back, because school is great,
but this is not school—this is some weird alien version
of what school used to be.”**

“We had barely enough time to get the kids their Chromebooks and get them home. After that, we were flying by the seat of our pants,” she said.

Paiva teaches students who are learning English as their second language, and many of them recently immigrated to the United States. The main challenge in March was to get internet access for families who couldn’t afford it, Paiva said.

“I was calling Cox Communications and yelling at them every day, trying to get the promised free service for my families. I had kids who were off the internet for eight weeks.”

ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS spent the summer of 2020 trying to determine how to safely open this fall, attempting to balance the emotional, social and educational needs of the students with the health and safety of their entire communities. State and federal guidelines changed weekly, if not daily.

Largely, it was up to individual districts to decide whether to go fully remote, hybrid or all in-person. Those decisions have heavily impacted the daily lives of educators, students and families, while exposing and exacerbating the inequities in the American education system.

The Gordon School, a coeducational private independent Pre-K–8 school in East Providence, Rhode Island, where Carly Allard ’09 serves as the director of health and wellness,

welcomed students back five days a week this fall, although some opted for remote learning. Founded in 1910 as an open-air school, Gordon sits on 12 acres and promotes a progressive, multicultural curriculum for its approximately 350 students.

To prepare for the fall, Gordon increased its number of outdoor classrooms, even erecting large wedding tents to use for meals and instruction. Sensors were installed in indoor classrooms for air quality, students were divided into small cohorts of about 15, walkways were made unidirectional, and a safety app was implemented to monitor the health of students and staff daily. Everyone is required to wear a mask, and the youngest students also wear face shields while eating.

“For us, it is about having layers of protection,” Allard said. “With the small size of our student body and our large campus, we are able to practice social distancing fairly easily. But as happy as we are to be able to do this, we realize we are privileged, and it does feel inequitable.”

Just seven miles away, things are different at Paiva’s public school, where students are also attending five days a week in person.

“I have 20 students in my class who are here every day. I can’t fit them. They aren’t six feet apart; they aren’t even three feet apart,” she said.

Webster Avenue Elementary School is housed in a 115-year-old building that has no HVAC system, so the only ventilation in Paiva’s classroom is a dollar-store box fan that someone bolted



Julia Schott

into a now permanently open window with the air blowing outside. (It was just 45 degrees in the room when students arrived on one mid-September morning.) There is no electrical outlet on that wall, so the fan's cord stretches clear across one whole corner of the room, where students have cubbies and boxes for supplies.

"It's hard to watch the kids come into a space that you know isn't safe," said Paiva, who, as a founding member of the Providence Teachers Union's racial justice committee, protested the unsafe conditions on several occasions. One protest included setting up a scaled classroom on the lawn of the Rhode Island State House to show legislators just how close students would be sitting.

"The virus has illuminated so many of the glaringly obvious inequalities," Paiva said at another protest outside the Rhode Island Department of Education in mid-September.

"It was already so inequitable, but now it is literally a matter of life and death."

SAFETY ISN'T the only thing educators are worried about. Liz Gonzalez Quiñones '00 is a bilingual fourth- and fifth-grade teacher at New London's Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS). Her students are on a hybrid schedule: on Mondays and Tuesdays, she has six students in her classroom, while the

other students learn at home; on Thursdays and Fridays, she has just three students.

"Kids need socialization, and this is not normal," Gonzalez Quiñones says. "No class has ever had just three students. No kids have ever come to school for just two days."

In the classrooms, collaborative tables have been replaced with old-school-style single desks that all face forward. Teachers are discouraged from getting too close to students, and students are largely kept apart, even at recess. Lunch tables at RMMS that used to seat 10 now seat only two.

"Instead of 'Let's work together,' we are teaching them not to socialize, not to share, not to build together. This is a very cold environment for kids, and it breaks my heart," she said.

Gonzalez Quiñones likens following all of the protocols—from frequent handwashing and sanitizing to enforcing social distancing in hallways to making sure kids don't sing or get too excited at recess—to "orchestrating a circus of moving parts."

"We are mentally fatigued," she said of teachers. "And then, we can't get sick. I have to project my voice through a mask, so I get a tickle in my throat. But I don't want to cough, because then I'll scare the kids."

At Paiva's school, there is only one girls' and one boys' restroom for more than 300 students. Each class is assigned a six-minute time slot, after which a janitor has just two minutes to clean both. If a child has an emergency, the teacher has to call

the office to have someone sent to the class to escort the child to the restroom. That, Paiva says, works about as well as anyone can imagine.

“You can’t schedule children—you can’t tell a kindergartener when to pee. They have to go all day long! I refuse to tell children they can’t go to the bathroom,” she said, pointing out that this is just one example of how COVID-19 has completely transformed the learning environment.

“All of the kids wanted to be back, because school is great, but this is not school—this is some weird alien version of what school used to be.”

Associate Professor of Human Development Loren Marulis, a former elementary teacher who specializes in early cognitive development and educational psychology, worries about the long-term impacts, especially for students who already struggled to connect.

“Learning is inherently social. This is going to affect all areas of learning—academic learning, social and emotional learning, conversation, self-regulation,” Marulis said.

For students on hybrid or all-virtual models, the disconnect is even greater because no matter how teachers decorate virtual learning, or how interactive they make it, the human connection is missing. Therefore, most educators believe student success, especially at the elementary level, will largely depend on how much support students have at home.

“When and if schools get back to normal, there will be a big discrepancy. Kids with supportive families and funds will be okay, but the kids who are already behind will get even further behind. And it will be that much harder for them to catch up,” Marulis said.

Even in the best-case scenario, three to five days of virtual learning just doesn’t compare to five days of in-person learning. Looking forward, however, Marulis emphasizes that kids are resilient, and highly adaptable.

“Going through this painful period we all grow, and we may all become more adaptable.”

Having worked most of his career with high-risk populations, Principal Howes worries about the exacerbation of the achievement gap, but he does hope the disruption of the status quo might help move K-12 education to a more personalized, competency-based model, as well as decrease the emphasis on high-stakes standardized testing.

“In the short term, COVID has exposed these glaring gaps, but in the long run, maybe it will push everyone in a way no policy ever could,” he said.

Gonzalez Quiñones says that despite the hardships, she has tried to remain focused on the tenacity and resilience of her students.

“I’m looking forward to when we can all be back together again. That’s what keeps me going—it has to get better,” she said. ☺



THE BURN

As wildfires blazed across the American West this summer, Conn alumni from Connecticut to Southern California helped contain and manage the risks of an increasingly damaging fire season.

BY DANIEL F. LE RAY



As more than 45,000 fires scorched 8 million acres of land across the American West this summer and fall, national news stories were accompanied by stark images: orange-red skies over San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, smoke obscuring Seattle's iconic Space Needle, and evacuated towns across Oregon. In late July, Emily Shafer '18 and nine other East Coast firefighters drove across the country as part of the Connecticut Interstate Fire Crew to help tackle some of the blazes in northeastern California.

"We were assigned to an area called the Modoc Lightning Complex," said Shafer, who works for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Shafer arrived in Modoc County—which was at the center of a series of fires caused by lightning strikes—as part of a 10-person "initial attack crew."

"Our job was to patrol and, when any new start would pop up, jump on it and immediately put the fire out or get it contained," she explained.

There are two ways to battle wildfire. A direct attack on a smaller fire involves digging a fire line around the blaze, so "it runs out of brush and anything in the soil that could possibly keep it smoldering." For larger fires, Shafer's team employed indirect attacks, digging fire lines miles away from the wildfire's edge. Her role is as a certified sawyer.

"We were going to areas that were really thick and that were expecting thunderstorms that night, then cutting out a ton of fuel," she said. "Our sawyers would cut down trees and brush and we would pile it away from everything else, so if lightning did strike that area, it would be much easier to dig a line there."

Working fire lines, there is always a risk of spread.

"If an ember blows over and catches a bush on fire, that may start an entirely new fire that could be even bigger than

the original," she said. "If there's a spot fire, we definitely would get right on that, but you don't go into an area that's burning, because having fire on all sides of you is definitely not the situation you want to be in."

The Californians Shafer encountered seemed accustomed to the dangers; however, "the more experienced people were telling me that this has been one of the worst years they've seen, and it's getting worse and worse."

In San Francisco, Natalie Calhoun '16 saw the effects of the fires firsthand. After being under lockdown orders for more than six months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, "the fire season adds a whole layer of danger and difficulty to safely evacuating people."

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Calhoun has always thought of late summer and early fall as "earthquake season," but over the past several years it has become the time of wildfires.

"A lot of people have extra water and food ready in case of earthquake damage, but now we're ready for another kind of emergency: one where you're not sheltering in place due to an earthquake, but you're potentially fleeing your home from wildfire," she said.

"Even though we're pushed to the brink, I think people have responded well. We've done it before, and we see now that we're going to be doing it more and more frequently."

Calhoun has just begun a dual MBA-MS in environmental management at the University of San Francisco. Before that, she worked as environment and safety manager for Delaware North, a hospitality company that runs several facilities within the Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks, in California's Sierra Nevada mountains.

"It was a dream job," she recalled. Alongside sustainability and environmental impact projects, including

“If you don’t have the financial resources to support your environmental objectives, they’re not going to happen.”

reducing energy use and installing charging stations for electric cars, Calhoun took on some more unusual issues—like bear containment.

“I thought we might be able to have an outdoor compost pile off-site and make it an educational, interactive thing. Then the park service came and said, ‘Absolutely not. That will attract bears,’” Calhoun laughed.

A side benefit was spending time immersed in some of the country’s grandest landscapes.

“Every day was a reminder of why we are doing this—to preserve nature, to take care of our planet and to spend time with some of the largest trees on the planet,” like the General Sherman tree in Sequoia, which has been designated the largest living organism on Earth, at 275 feet tall and 25 feet around.

“There’s a spot where you can see people as they come around the corner and see it for the first time,” she said. “Their eyes get really big and their jaws drop. It’s stupidly big.”

Both Sequoia and Kings Canyon were affected by wildfires in September, while drought takes its toll every summer.

“The trees just get weaker and weaker, and then the weaker trees are more susceptible to bark beetles or other pests and blight,” said Calhoun. Pests like bark beetles decay the trees, which compounds fire danger because these desiccated trees become fuel to burn.

Climate change and, counterintuitively, a history of fire suppression have led to increasingly damaging wildfire seasons. Lightning-sparked fires—a natural part of the ecosystem—and Native American fire use actually kept the forest canopy open and burned out the biomass that now produces more severe fires during fire season.

On top of these issues, California has recently suffered from hundreds of wildfires linked to electricity grid

infrastructure. As an environmental scientist for the California Public Utilities Commission’s new Wildfire Safety Division, Colin Lang ’14 reviews power companies’ wildfire mitigation plans. The goal is to reduce ignition risk from things such as downed power lines, transformer explosions or blown fuses.

Lang, based in Sacramento, California, also stressed the importance of “vegetation management—how the different utility companies approach these areas of mitigation and how we can keep them accountable for actually doing the work they present in their plans.”

Lang’s work also focuses on reducing the risk of infrastructure failure. Here, age is a concern.

“This is a huge state, and a lot of these lines were put in a hundred years ago and no one’s really touched them since,” he said. “We’re working with a utility right now that still has several tree attachments—instead of putting up a pole, they just stuck the wires to a tree.”

In rural areas, which are more affected by fire, “you’ll also find uncovered conductors that are just bare lines with no insulation around them, so if anything falls on them and touches two wires, there’s an instant spark.”

Lang recently earned his master’s degree in environmental policy and management at the University of California, Davis. He first became interested in wildfire management when the 2018 Ferguson Fire, which burned in the Sierra National Forest, Stanislaus National Forest and Yosemite National Park, forced him to evacuate.

“I had to leave my home for a month while the fire almost burned down the town,” he recalled. “But that got me interested in fire ecology, and through that experience, I realized how broken wildfire policy was in the United States and California.”





Like Lang, Calhoun hopes that her dual graduate program will better equip her to contribute to wildfire management—but from a different angle.

Working for Delaware North, “I had been extremely focused on the environmental and ecological aspects, but I really loved being in the corporate environment. However, I had none of the language I needed,” she explained.

In the corporate world, sustainability is intrinsically bound to a company’s finances.

“If you don’t have the financial resources to support your environmental objectives, they’re not going to happen,” said Calhoun, adding, “Your general manager is not going to approve your low-flow toilets unless you can explain to them how much money that will save you in the long run.”

Her ultimate goal is to be “environmental plus.” She explained, “Environmental, plus engineering, plus marketing manager, plus human resources professional. As consumers become more environmentally conscious and want to support companies with environmental goals, I think more of these jobs will appear.”

Despite this year’s red skies and hazardous air, Lang also remains optimistic.

“The bright side is that people understand this problem and they want to see it solved. California is putting the money and the resources toward preemptively solving wildfire issues instead of just suppressing fire.” But, he added, “this is not just a California problem anymore.”

Shafer, who returned to Madison, Connecticut, in mid-August after 14-hour days in California, echoed Lang’s sentiments.

“When even Connecticut is dry enough that we’re getting nonstop fires and all burn permits are suspended, I think that really opens people’s eyes,” she said.

In her day-to-day role with DEEP, Shafer uses her skills as a sawyer to create the healthiest forest possible. This involves cutting down saplings that will not survive or removing trees affected by emerald ash borers, gypsy moths and other pests.


“It’s seen as such a negative thing to cut down a tree right now, but a lot of people don’t understand that sometimes the only way to create a healthy forest is to cut down a lot of trees so that better native, more self-sustaining trees can grow in their place,” she explained.

People must also understand the invaluable role that fire plays in the ecosystem.

“A lot of trees actually depend on fire to reproduce, like the pitch pine—the heat actually causes the cones to open and that’s how they drop their seeds,” Shafer said. And historically, indigenous peoples burned Connecticut’s oak forests, but long-standing policies of fire suppression mean that “the forests are getting so overpopulated with invasive or nonnative species that a lot of the oak trees are dying.”

On the other side of the country, the same is true. Lang, for instance, worked at Yosemite National Park, helping thin overgrown areas—“not only to reduce fuels for potential prescribed burns, but also to diversify the plant life and open up the ground so that a multitude of different species could flourish under the canopy instead of just a single species of pine or cedar,” he explained.

Calhoun, too, recognizes that working *with* the landscape is necessary.

As Californians continue to move closer and closer to the forest, the state and its residents need to be prepared, she said. “But maybe we would be better off letting some of these fires that happen in nature happen, while protecting the wildland-urban interface.” 







THE HEALTH OF THE WORLD

Drawing on his experience as a public health and immunization expert with the CDC and his current role with pharma giant Merck, Dr. Mawuli Nyaku '03 shares a hopeful outlook on COVID-19 vaccine adoption.

BY DANIEL F. LE RAY

Dr. Mawuli Nyaku '03 remains strikingly optimistic that COVID-19 vaccines will see widespread adoption, even as the global pandemic persists and more and more Americans decline once-standard vaccinations.

"When I look at the immunization system in the United States, what I'm happy about is that [those who choose not to vaccinate] are a small minority," said Nyaku. "So although I think there is some negative sentiment around COVID-19 vaccines, I think a significant part of the population will be getting them provided clinical trials demonstrate safety and efficacy."

A seasoned public health expert and epidemiologist, Nyaku has led multiple efforts to boost vaccine coverage in the U.S. and worldwide for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He is now global director of medical affairs for pediatric vaccines at the pharmaceutical giant Merck, which has two COVID-19 vaccines and one antiviral therapy in the pipeline. He also served as one of Conn's health advisers last summer, helping the college develop protocols so that it could reopen with students, faculty, and staff in the fall.

Nyaku says that clinical trials are due to start this year, and though Merck won't be the first to market, he hopes that its considered approach toward a single-dose shot will reach more people more quickly.

"We're really thinking critically, because we recognize that this is not the last pandemic we're going to have around coronaviruses. Making sure we're getting this right the first time is critical," said Nyaku.

A PREMED MAJOR at Conn, public health wasn't always in the cards for Nyaku, but he had an eye-opening experience with the Holleran Center's Program in Community Action, which bridges classroom study and community engagement.

In a class with Professor of Human Development Sunil Bhatia, students were asked to choose a location in New London, go there, and watch what happened.

"I thought it was the most ridiculous assignment. Why would

anyone in their right mind just go sit somewhere and stare into space?" recalled Nyaku, who has joined Bhatia for a campus lecture on vaccine skepticism. But his professor's insistence on the pragmatic value of observation has become integral to Nyaku's work.

On that bench in the New London train station, Nyaku first realized that an "ethnography" approach, as he calls it, is key to medical professionals understanding disease—why it is so prevalent or how it affects different parts of a population. And when considering a treatment regimen, he still takes this tack.

"The societal perspective is really critical," he explained. "You don't just come up with an intervention in a vacuum. Public health strategies are "not going to work if you don't truly understand the root" of people's behavioral differences.

Nyaku went on to receive master's degrees in public health and in business administration, and a doctorate in epidemiology and international health. His career at the CDC also began during this time when Nyaku contacted several CDC scientists and offered to help with their research. One Friday evening, "I got a phone call from one of the principal investigators [on tropical diseases]. She basically asked me if I could get on a plane to Nigeria the next day."

Nyaku said yes.

On the ground in Nigeria, he helped conduct a survey of certain neglected tropical diseases caused by parasitic worms.

"These diseases affect some of the poorest people on earth—about a billion people are at risk at this point in time," said Nyaku. Providing the incorrect treatment can also result in death, so "you need to know what the actual disease burden is, and then you tailor your intervention according to that."

After his success there, Nyaku was recruited by the CDC's Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria to provide technical assistance to ministries of health in under-resourced countries. From there, Nyaku was accepted to the CDC's prestigious Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), which offers a two-year field program on responding to epidemic

outbreaks. Posted to Michigan, Nyaku responded to airborne and foodborne outbreaks, led efforts to prepare communities for environmental disaster, and even investigated a case of contaminated steroids that had been put into circulation by a compounding pharmacy.

Working these cases taught Nyaku a lesson about the nature of bureaucratic competition, as well as public health.

“It gave me a good grounding in public health and how complex it is, because it’s not just the state—you have CDC involvement, the local health departments, and the county health departments [to work with]. It’s complex, and everyone doesn’t always trust everyone else in those situations.”

Nyaku’s experience in disease outbreaks and public health was put to good use this year, when he was asked by Conn President Katherine Bergeron to serve on a panel of alumni charged with guiding the college as it discussed reopening safely. The panel convened weekly to deliberate on how best to bring students, faculty, and staff back in the fall.

“We had in-depth discussions around the current scientific evidence on COVID-19 and considerations for resuming classes in the fall,” said Nyaku.

“I was more than happy to leverage my extensive experience from conducting and leading several infectious disease outbreak investigations and, most importantly, to give back to the college in a time of need. The plans currently in place are extremely rigorous and should severely limit disease transmission.”

ISSUES OF VACCINE adoption and coverage took center stage in Nyaku’s subsequent roles with the CDC’s domestic and global immunization divisions.

Domestically, he traveled to Pacific island territories such as Guam, the Marshall Islands, and Micronesia to understand why vaccination rates were lower there than in the continental U.S. Science skepticism was not the issue.

“In the Pacific islands, they all want vaccines, but it’s a matter of access,” explained Nyaku. “In an island group that

might have hundreds of small scattered islands, one ship might go to the farthest islands only once every six months.”

In the global immunization division, Nyaku led efforts to increase immunization rates worldwide for children in their “second year of life,” adding a second measles vaccine in countries that only had one, for instance. In many cases, the primary issues with getting a vaccine were education and access.

“You’re basically creating a new vaccination point, which was really confusing parents,” he said. “Many parents have returned to the workforce, making it more difficult to attend a doctor’s appointment, while others may simply have misunderstood new healthcare practices.”

This work paved the way for a better understanding of why some people in the U.S. decide not to vaccinate their children against diseases like measles. Nyaku prefers not to call these people “anti-vaxxers.”

“At one end of the spectrum are individuals who believe that vaccines cause harm, and most of those individuals truly believe that and, most likely, would never want to see a vaccine around them. However, there are also those who do believe that immunizations prevent infectious disease—they just don’t have all the answers.”

Painting everyone as an anti-vaxxer may serve only to drive away those who just want to know it is safe, those who only want more information about what they’re putting into their children’s bodies, “and this may cause them to swing to the other side of the spectrum,” said Nyaku.

There’s another factor at play as to why Americans shun certain vaccines: the many diseases that vaccines have stamped out now seem like remnants of a bygone age.

“When you don’t see disease, then you start asking yourself, why am I taking this vaccine?” Nyaku said. “People forget that, prior to vaccines, there was substantial morbidity and mortality related to vaccine-preventable diseases. Until we had the recent measles outbreaks, many young physicians had never seen a case of measles.”

NOW THAT COVID-19 is rampant, demand for vaccination will be high. However, there will be skepticism about the efficacy of any vaccine, even if it's championed by the CDC, because faith in the CDC has waned. Yet Nyaku says the CDC's response to the coronavirus crisis has, all things considered, been robust.

"For me, the CDC is really a beacon," he said. "There are very brilliant medical officers and public health professionals within those walls; they do fantastic work and very rigorous science. And around the world, most countries' governments look to the CDC for guidance."

Of course, responding to any international health crisis will inevitably include missteps, and Nyaku does see some missed opportunities.

"We have a very good idea of what [COVID] transmission looks like and how to mitigate it, and we've had the experience of seeing what is happening in different countries. That combination really should have set us up for success." Thinking back to the bureaucratic hurdles he faced in Michigan, Nyaku says that in the U.S., "you can't just put a blanket recommendation or ruling in place—what New York City does is very different from what Hawaii's doing."

One thing that Nyaku believes would have helped the CDC fight the pandemic more effectively is expanded testing.

"You have a lot of people who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic and they end up spreading the disease. Should you blame them?" he asked. "Maybe that person wanted to get a test and they couldn't get it, or maybe that person was very careless. It's hard to say."

What is certain is that public health in general has been significantly disrupted, from basic preventive medicine to food security to healthcare for chronic conditions. Inequity issues across race and socioeconomic status are also increasingly pronounced.

"You see higher rates of disease in minority populations, and these same populations don't have access to adequate healthcare services. That in conjunction with unemployment issues really exacerbates" the spread of disease.

As an expert in pediatric immunizations, Nyaku is also concerned about COVID-19's impact on society's youngest.

"There are lots of children who have not had their childhood immunizations because their healthcare provider is closed or they are not taking in any patients, and I worry about another surge in vaccine-preventable diseases."

During his early days at the CDC, Nyaku recalls feeling frustrated when he learned of vaccine shortages, because "I knew there were people or kids who were not going to get the vaccine. I would get so upset." Now, heading up Merck's pediatric vaccine division, he has firsthand experience of how heavily regulated the process is—under normal circumstances, the development of a new shot can take 10 years and many billions of dollars.


He describes Merck's approach to COVID-19—which encompasses an antiviral therapeutic and two one-dose shots—as "a step in the right direction. Public health is really the centerpiece."

In terms of upcoming vaccines, Nyaku stressed that although there are conspiracy theorists who may never be convinced to get immunized, as long as sufficient numbers of people do, coverage will be widespread and a so-called "herd immunity" effect will be in place.

As clinical trials move forward, next steps include determining how to distribute future vaccines equitably.

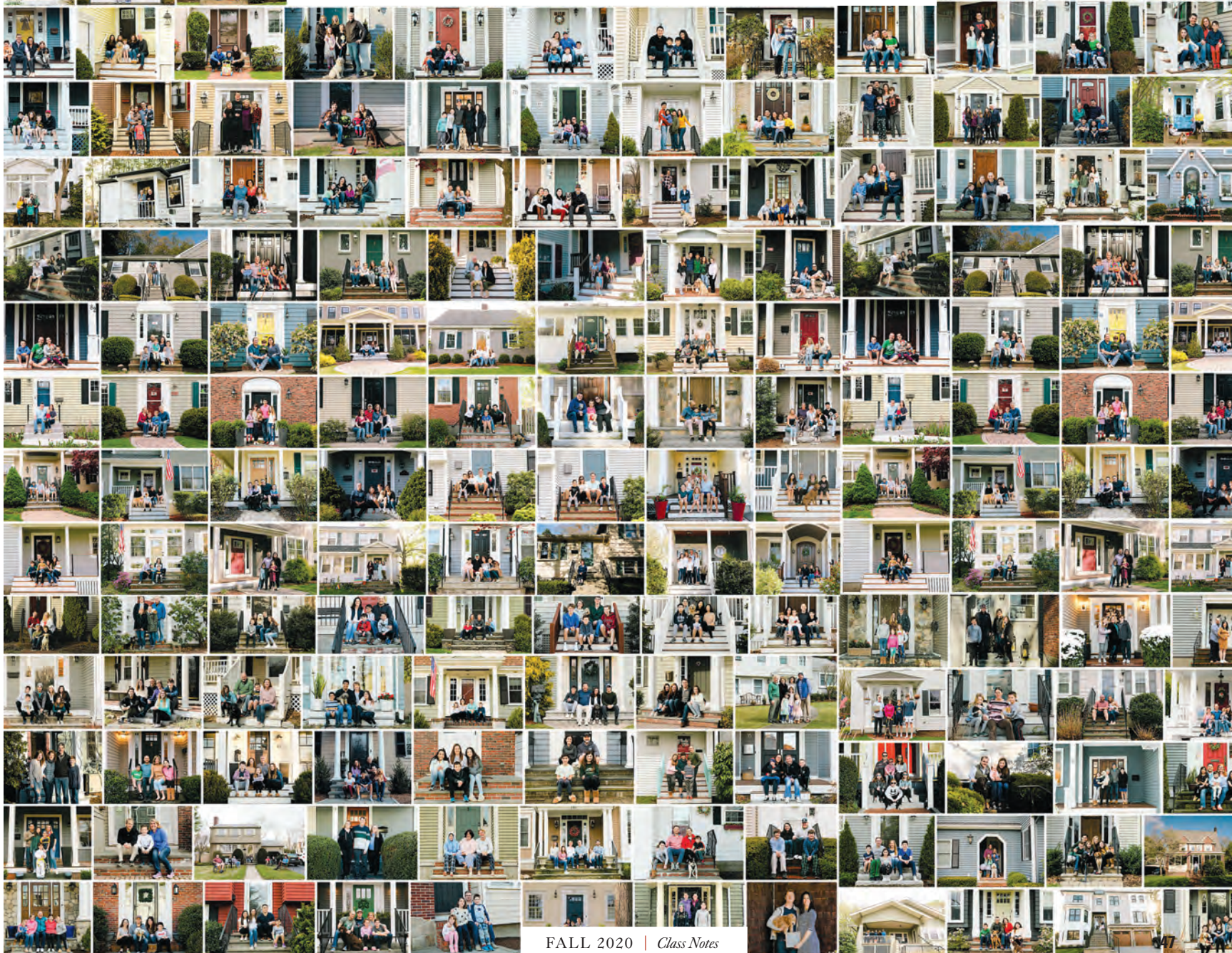
"That is a topic that is heavily debated right now," Nyaku confirmed. "When we have successful COVID vaccines, what should be the order of priority? Should we start vaccinating frontline healthcare workers, emergency responders, and adults who have comorbid conditions?"

Issues of access, he added, are being considered across the globe; a drug in development with Oxford University and AstraZeneca, for instance, will specifically target low- to middle-income countries first.

"What I'm hoping for is that vaccines come out, they have high safety and efficacy rates, and they're able to offer immunity extremely well," said Nyaku, ever positive. "And I'm very optimistic that most people will get vaccinated." 



THE FRONT STEPS PROJECT



Photographer Cara (Gordon) Soulia '96 sparked a global movement that raised more than \$3 million for charity.

It was an unseasonably warm March evening in Needham, Mass, and people were outside enjoying the weather. Still in the very early stages of the COVID-19 isolation that was thrust abruptly upon the world, neighbors were catching up from across their yards, socially distanced by a responsible six feet, as kids waved to their friends from afar.

Cara Soulia '96 had nearly 30 families to photograph that night, and her trusty apprentice (her 11-year-old daughter) was operating the GPS and helping to navigate the most efficient route through town. They pulled up to their next appointment to find a handful of people sitting in lawn chairs appropriately spaced out. "This is great," Soulia said, asking them to stay where they were while she retrieved a different camera lens from her car.

"They seemed a little bit confused, but they were very cooperative and

friendly, and the scene perfectly captured this strange moment in history during the pandemic," Soulia said. "It was such a statement about our society right now—that we're in this together, and that even though we have to be six feet apart, we're still here for each other; we're still going to make it work somehow."

After she'd taken the picture and explained that she had to wheel off to shoot the next family, the affable lawn chair loungers asked her what in the world she was talking about. It turns out she was at the wrong house.

This comical misunderstanding was only one example of the new connections Soulia would make in the coming weeks, as what began as a modest local fundraising effort, The Front Steps Project, exploded into a global viral sensation with photographers around the world helping to raise millions of dollars for charity.

Soulia, a photographer who primarily specializes in photographing families and children, says the idea initially came from her friend and business partner, Kristen Collins, who suggested documenting families who are enduring the tribulations of school closures and remote work on the front steps of their homes in Soulia's hometown of Needham.

In exchange for taking family photos, people were encouraged to donate to the Needham Community Council, a nonprofit that provides support for underserved families.

"We started with a fundraising goal on GoFundMe of \$1,000, and I wasn't sure if we'd even reach that goal," Soulia recalls. "I advertised the project on Instagram and Facebook, and within the first 24 hours we had around 100 families sign up, so we lifted the fundraising goal to \$5,000, then



to \$10,000 and ultimately we raised more than \$50,000 for the Community Council.”

The growth was so immediate and unexpected that Soulia needed to ask some other photographers in the area to help out. Her team eventually shot 850 images of Needham community members.

Within a few days of the project launching, a local NBC affiliate had caught wind of it and interviewed Soulia, then CNN featured it on their webpage, using the image Soulia had accidentally taken of the people sitting in their lawn chairs, and the movement burst onto the global stage.


Hundreds of photographers from around the world decided to follow Soulia’s lead and collectively raised more than \$3.2 million for charities ranging from food pantries to hospitals to animal shelters and beyond.

The Covid-19 pandemic has produced iconic imagery that will remain seared into the memories of an entire generation. Images of refrigerator trucks lining the street outside city morgues, shots of visibly exhausted frontline health care workers and young children wearing protective masks.

But Soulia believes the positive elements of her images are largely what resonated with so many people, along with a desire to help their local communities in some form.

“In the face of so much uncertainty and fear, people really responded to seeing simple images that showed the joy of families being together,” Soulia said, adding, “But the stars also aligned in the sense that people who were home from work and school, and who wanted to give back to their communities, found that this project provided a perfect avenue to do that.”

In November, Soulia and her friend Collins will release a book titled *The Front Steps Project*, comprised of images from around the world that were inspired by their simple idea that grew into an international phenomenon. Proceeds will go to charity.

“These photos portray the hope and courage and bravery and perseverance of so many people during this pandemic,” Soulia said. “From paying tribute to nurses and doctors on the frontlines to recognizing that basic rituals and celebrations continue no matter what, we see that a pandemic doesn’t stop a birthday or the arrival of a newborn baby, or so many of life’s other important moments.” 

To learn more, visit thefrontstepsproject.com and follow them on social media. The book will be released on November 10 online and in stores and is available now for pre-order on Amazon.

CC Magazine welcomes your Class Notes and submissions. Class Notes for the spring issue are due **Dec. 1, 2020**. Please contact your class correspondent, email notes to classnotes@conncoll.edu or submit Class Notes online at: conncoll.edu/news/cc-magazine

R denotes a Reunion class year. 2020 and 2021 Reunions will be held June 4-6, 2021.

45^R Correspondent: Ann LeLievre Hermann, (239) 410 - 0668, annhermann26@gmail.com Welcome classmates. At last writing we looked forward to our 75th reunion and the Olympics ... how quickly all has changed. I've been told we will be invited to campus next year to celebrate our 75th reunion. Our class provided scholarship support these past four years to **Mathieu Vigneault '20**. He graduated! He wrote before the pandemic struck (excerpt lightly edited here): "The rich and diverse community of CC is something I find so valuable. I have met many incredible and unique individuals here. My fellow Camels have helped shape my perspective, and they have challenged me to be the best version of myself. Last semester, I challenged myself by taking five very different and interesting courses. Two of my classes allowed me to research topics that sparked my curiosity: artificial intelligence and the moral dilemma behind self-driving cars. I find technology super fascinating as it is the future yet has changed our lives so much already. This year has been incredible, and I am extremely grateful to be part of CC's community. Without your generosity, I would not have experienced this amazing journey. I personally thank you for this scholarship. I am humbled to be a recipient and to have been able to pursue my academic passions here at Conn. I look forward to carrying on the values I learned here." Matthew, thank you for keeping us so well informed. Now for notes on life in the pandemic. **Toni Fenton Tuttle** is doing lots of reading, including two wonderful books on Churchill, *Clementine* and *The Splendid and the Vile*. She also plays bridge online about four days a week. "Sadly, I am still confined to a walker, but I'm holding out hope for better mobility. What a crazy world we are living in; here in Florida we are topping the virus charts." Toni was asked to speak at a discussion in April about her recollections of WWII, but it was canceled due to the virus. **Florance Murphy Gorman** wrote, "News? I feel like I am in jail." Her residence, Cedarfield, is taking every precaution to make sure they don't get sick, "but it is so BORING ... I am going bonkers." Her assisted living unit usually provides plenty of freedom but with lots of services. "Now of course we have lost plenty of freedom." The elected leader of their group is a CC alum, Class of '53—"a really nice person." She adds, "I read lots, exercise, walk, do jigsaw puzzles, sudoku, crosswords, etc. I did not plan to live this long, but I can still cope.

Stay well!" **Ruth Veevers Matheiu** commented, "Like everyone, I am home most of the time. Going to the grocery store is a treat." She had planned to attend our 75th reunion and hoped to see some familiar faces. She is hanging in there and hopes this terrible virus will pass soon. "My best wishes to my former classmates, and keep well." I, **Ann LeLievre Hermann**, am in an assisted living facility at Shell Point Retirement Community, where the management has so far done a wonderful job of keeping us all healthy. At writing it's been four months since the staff started bringing meals to our apartments and limited our wandering to the hallways and short walks outdoors, with masks, of course. Our fitness room is across the hall from my apartment, so I can keep active. Many of us have learned to join group activities via Zoom, like book groups, concerts, Easter dinner, family visits, and political meetings. We eat lunch in shifts in the dining room, socially distanced with friends, and they hope to expand to other meals. I hope you are all surviving and thriving. I hope to hear from more of you before the next issue. **Joyce Stoddard Aronson's** daughter, Ann, shared the news of Joyce's peaceful passing on January 28. **Shirley Armstrong Meneice's** daughter, Peggy, shared the news of Shirley's passing on July 16. *Editor's note: Sadly, shortly after writing this column, Ann Hermann '45 passed away, on Aug. 26, 2020.*

49 **Irma Schachter P'78 GP'15**, Westport resident and 1945 graduate of the Northfield School for Girls (Northfield Mount Hermon School, NMH), was honored with the school's Lamplighter Award. This award is the highest honor given by the Alumni Association for service to the school, awarded to those who have gone beyond the call of duty in their dedication to NMH. Irma has served the NMH Alumni Association for parts of eight decades and continues to bring a tireless energy to her work promoting NMH. She has volunteered as reunion chair, class agent, and gift chair, a position she has held since 2000. In 2005, for her 60th reunion, Irma worked tirelessly to achieve 100% participation from the class for their reunion gift, a feat unmatched by any class since! Irma earned an associate's degree from Hartford Junior College before attending CC. She also took graduate courses in management training at Harvard Radcliffe, preparing her for a career in business management. She worked for department stores including G. Fox, Bloomingdale's and Lord & Taylor. She was devoted to her family and her beloved Northfield, where she made lifelong friends and learned lifelong lessons. Congratulations on this award, Irma!

54 Correspondent: Joanne Williams Hartley, 69 Chesterton Road Wellesley MA 02481, jodihartley69@icloud.com, (781) 235-4038, cell: (617) 620-9385 I look forward to hearing how you are faring in this time of COVID. We have remained in Florida for months, in a quiet, lovely condo community. We miss being home, but this is an easier place to live and navigate with the current limitations. My daughter came for a week in March and has remained,

helping us with food and errands during this difficult period. Through a mutual friend I heard that **Carol Bernstein Finn** passed away January 1. Carol had lived in Chestnut Hill, outside Boston, but moved to a retirement community two years ago. She'd lost her husband a few years before. She had four daughters. She lived an active life in Palm Beach, Fla., during winter, busy with theater and other arts. **Irene Ball Barrack** has been energized to prepare her house in Connecticut for sale; she sees that many people are moving from the urban New York area to the suburbs in this time of turmoil. **Leila Anderson Freund** wrote to correct my note about her husband, whose name is Gene, for Eugene, not John, as I wrote. Leila is thrilled that the Cincinnati Art Museum had reopened, though in a limited way. It is her favorite volunteer activity. Ann Robertson Cohen '56 called me; you may remember her as **Mary Alice (Mar) Robertson Jennings'** younger sister. Ann said Mar passed away on June 10. Mar was widowed many years ago; she has two daughters, Annie and Alice. Mar was married shortly after college, lived in NYC and was a guide at the UN before moving to the L.A. area. After being widowed she returned to the East Coast and worked at Dana Hall as an adviser and at the Babson College Conference Center. Mar then returned to the West Coast to be near her daughters. She had her master's degree in library science and worked at a girls' secondary school in L.A. She loved libraries and was dismayed when they converted the library to the digital era! She attended computer school at night and then got calls all the time from people wanting her to fix their computer; I think we can all relate. About 10 years ago some classmates gathered at the Isle of Palms, S.C., for a rendezvous. Mar was driving when we were stopped by a young policeman. He asked if she realized she was going 80 mph; Mar replied, "Oh officer I am so glad you stopped us; this is a rental car and I don't know how to turn on the lights!" The officer turned on the lights and asked for her license, looked at her and said "Oh! I never knew anyone who lived on Sunset Boulevard!" Our own vivacious Mar flashed him her beautiful smile: "Well officer come on out! I'll introduce you to William Holden!" The startled young starstruck officer waved us on our way to a chorus of laughter; he most surely had never heard of William Holden. And ... no ticket. Mar eventually moved to an assisted living community in Santa Barbara with her devoted partner, Howard, where she lived many years. Her sister, Ann, lives in New Canaan, Conn., right around the corner from **Irene Barrack**. They hope to connect soon. I can include pictures for the magazine and would love to share a special picture if you send it to me. As always, I hope to hear from you. The Class of '54 sends deepest condolences to the families of cherished classmates **Carol Bernstein Finn** and **Mary Alice Robertson Jennings**.

57 Correspondent: Elaine Diamond Berman, 100 Riverside Blvd., Apt. 20C, New York, NY, 10069, elainedberman@comcast.net **June Ippolito Hoye**, at home in East Lyme, Conn., wrote: "In April, when we began to

really focus on COVID-19, I thought we would be dealing with this 'storm' for about six months. So I decided to accomplish something. First I resolved to practice piano every day. That didn't happen, but I did learn my eyes are not as sharp, nor my fingers as nimble, as they once were. But I have not given up on it yet. My second goal was to write a 'history' of the East Lyme Public Trust, a group my late husband, John, served for more than 22 years, and for which I have been publicity chair for 23 years. This group was instrumental in creating the Niantic Bay Boardwalk, beloved by our citizens and neighbors. I covered the original organizers (the Dreamers) and the outstanding volunteers (the Doers). I also covered the group's contributions to Boardwalk improvements and non-Boardwalk projects we supported. These 20+ articles are on Facebook at East Lyme Public Trust Foundation. Be sure to follow us there. Having a goal has helped me navigate these perilous waters. Ask me next time how piano is coming!" **Sandy Weldon Johnson** and her husband sold their house in Winthrop, Maine, after 43 years. They moved to beautiful Camden, Maine, into a senior living facility that was originally a small hospital and has been converted into 40 cottages. **Joan Schwartz Buehler** was among the classmates I spoke with in July, wondering how they were faring during the pandemic. Almost everyone said they were sticking close to home because of the statistics on how the virus affects senior citizens. Joan, who loves Broadway shows, movies, ballet and so much of NYC culture, said she had to make many adjustments. She plays a lot of bridge so currently takes a weekly online lesson with two friends and plays it online. Temple Emanu-El in New York has a marvelous lecture series, which she has been "attending" online. Joan enjoys reading mysteries on her Kindle. Grandson William is a senior at Emory, and granddaughter Kimberly is a freshman at Washington U. in St. Louis. **Joan Heller Winokur** enjoys Florida living but misses her New England family. She relishes her poetry group of about 10 people who meet on Zoom twice a month. She enjoys ballroom dancing but in July her studio was still shut because of the coronavirus. "This was not the way I expected my golden years to be." All is well with **Lucie Hoblitzelle Iannotti** and Larry and their extended family. They get together frequently with **Betsy Hahn Barnston**, often meeting for outside dining. **Flo Bianchi Ahern** had planned a cruise to Nova Scotia with her best friend and a trip to Alaska to visit her daughter this summer. COVID-19 canceled those plans. She has enjoyed piano lessons for the past three years. When the virus pushed the lessons online, Flo did not mind at all. When I spoke with **Judy Hartt Acker** she was awaiting knee surgery, postponed because of the virus. One granddaughter is beginning a master's in public health, another is pursuing a master's at Eastern Mennonite U. in conflict resolution, and her grandson recently completed a master's in international economics with a specialization in China from Johns Hopkins.

59 Correspondent: Carolyn Keefe Oakes, 3333 Warrensville Center Road, Apt. 412, Shaker Heights, OH 44122, 216-

752-5384, carolynoakes07@gmail.com, and **Marcia Fortin Sherman**, 602 Red Maple Way, Clemson, SC 29631, 864-654-1957, marciasherman@bellsouth.net **Carol Bayfield Garbutt** has nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her family is spread from Colorado to Atlanta and Ontario to Connecticut. **Sandy Sidman Larson** had an op-ed piece published in the Minneapolis Star Tribune concerning the George Floyd killing and making four points regarding the police: personnel accountability, paramilitary thinking, community violence and racism. Sandy worked on police relations in the 1970s in Maryland for three years and in Minnesota for three years. She headed the police planning division of Minnesota's Commission on Crime Prevention and Control, a citizen's commission to administer federal funds for the criminal justice system. We extend sympathy to the family of **Edwina (Chi) Czajkowski**, who died Jan. 4 at her farm in Hillsboro, N.H.. Our sympathy also goes to the family of **Laurel Seikel McDermott**. After CC, Laurel earned a master's degree in religious education. She and her husband had teaching degrees and settled in Baltimore, where she taught at Bryn Mawr, a private girls' school. She had three children and five grandchildren. She retired to California to be close to her grandchildren, and she traveled and volunteered at church and Meals on Wheels. Our sympathy goes to **Liz Pugh King's** family. Liz worked with Dr. Brazelton in NIH research, then in a psychiatric alcoholic unit of an emergency department, and then on a med ward at Mass General. She served on the Lincoln (Mass.) Council on Aging for 17 years. She co-founded the Lincoln soccer program, coached soccer and was a volunteer case aide at the psychiatric after-care program at Emerson Hospital. She had three children, loved nature, hiking and gardening. She compiled a family cookbook and created a dog park at Kendal at Hanover, NH, where she final-

ly lived. Our sympathy also goes to **Alicia (Lee) Dauch Kramer's** family. Lee lived in Connecticut, New York and California and finally settled in Atlanta. She was well respected in her real estate work. She loved long walks with her husband and visiting her three sons. We have also learned of the death of **Ann Freedman Mizgerd** in Florida. Ann graduated from Drexel U. School of Medicine and later completed an internship and residency at the U. of Michigan, where she met her husband, Joseph. During her varied career, mostly in the Maryland and Fairfax, Va., area, she practiced pediatrics, worked in public health and was a clinical assistant professor at the Georgetown U. School of Medicine, before retiring to Florida. We know our current situation has kept you from usual activities, but we welcome hearing about anything you or your family have done in 2020 ... even new skills learned: I (**Marcia**) have managed to cut John's hair with borrowed electric clippers without cutting anything I shouldn't have. Carolyn and I welcome news from you sharing what you are DOING right now—rather than having to report what you DID!

60 Correspondent: Millie Price Nygren, 1048 Bedford St. Fremont CA, 94539, (408) 464-2907, m.nygren@att.net Put our 60th reunion date on your calendar: **May 28-30, 2021** (tentative). On-campus housing is in Lambdin House (the "plex") and off-campus housing at the Holiday Inn (New London) or SpringHill Suites (Waterford). The class dinner will be held at Lyman Allyn Art Museum with other classes. **Christine Steinfelder Barlow** died Feb. 17, 2020, at Robinson Terrace in Stamford following a long illness. She was a registered nurse, getting her education and first working in hospitals in NYC, then at Catskill Regional Medical Center in Harris, NY, and finally settling in Delhi, NY, and retiring from O'Connor Hospital.



Congratulations to our 2020 Alumni Award Recipients!



Agnes Berkeley Leahy Award
Alumni Tribute Award
Goss Award
Mach Arom '89 Award
Harriet Buescher Lawrence '34 Prize
Harriet Buescher Lawrence '34 Prize

Gwendolyn H. Goffe '70
Eric J. Kaplan '85
Dr. Lois Mendez Catlin '80
Alexandra Felfle '10
Katie O'Sullivan See '70
Mary-Jane Atwater '70

We are looking forward to celebrating these amazing alumni, along with our 2021 award winners, at our double Reunion June 4-6, 2021.

To make a nomination for the 2021 Alumni Awards, please visit <http://bit.ly/2021AlumniAwards>. Nominations are due by January 15, 2021.

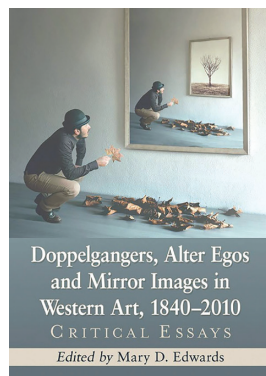


GIVING BACK IN EVERY WAY

Since graduating in 1957, Helene Zimmer-Loew has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to Connecticut College. She has given of her time and resources, engaging her classmates and other alumni in the life of the school and supporting new initiatives. She has served as a Class Gift Chair for fifty years, as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and as a member of the Board of Trustees. Along with her dear friend, Joan Gilbert Segall '57, she spearheaded a study abroad scholarship in honor of their 50th Reunion that raised \$100,000. In recognition of her exceptional dedication to Conn, she has received the Alumni Tribute Award, the Agnes Berkeley Leahy Award and the College Medal, the highest honor the College confers.

Helene encourages everyone to consider planned giving as a smart way to give back. "For someone who came from very little, I have had a good deal of success and good fortune. When I was creating my living trust, I decided I would give the College \$100,000. I've been very impressed with classmates who recognize Conn's role in their success, as I do. I think it's incredibly important that we support young people in pursuing the fine education like the one I received. I believe that is the way to go, to help people whenever you can."

Contact Laura Becker at Office of Gift Planning for information on leaving your own legacy at Connecticut College: giftplanning@conncoll.edu (860) 439-2416 conncoll.giftplans.org



Mary Douglas Edwards '61 published a new book.

She loved animals of all kinds, a passion that led her to buy a farm in Delaware County, where she enjoyed several animals. **Josephine (Jody) Jackes Ross** died on June 2, 2020. Jody was a devoted wife, mother, volunteer, community leader and business owner. She valued giving back to her community and to those less fortunate. She was past president of the Junior League of St. Louis and served on local boards including the St. Louis Zoo and Maryville U. She appreciated hard work and was a successful businessperson as co-owner of Prints Charming. **Karen Hoffman Hanson** died June 11, 2020. Karen came to Conn as a freshman, then met the love of her life and eloped on Dec. 15, 1957. She lived in Bernardsville, N.J. She co-founded the Paige Whitney Babies Center, named in honor of her grandchild, which helped families in need by providing necessary infant supplies—more than 7 million diapers over a 15-year period. Later, the center provided scholarships to advance the educational and vocational goals of parents in need. In keeping with her kind and compassionate spirit, Karen donated her time and formidable talents. Faith was a central part of her life. She founded God's Co-op Pantry at the Good Shepard Church in Bernardsville and was a volunteer for Homeless Solutions in Morristown. She was a long-time trustee of the Meland Foundation and a trustee of Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich., the seminary from which her father graduated and commenced his ministry. **Linda Lou Randall Wrege** passed away on Dec. 21, 2019. The family requested that memorial donations be made to the Wounded Warrior's Project. The class sends sympathy to the families of Christine, Jody, Karen and Linda. After 26 years as music director at the Schenectady (N.Y.) Unitarian Society, **Gareth Griffiths** finally "retired"—maybe! She works with a long-running chamber music series to bring grad students from the Mannes School of Music in NYC to the Capital Region for free concerts. She also helps schedule and run a weekly winter concert series at the Schenectady library. Gary has joined a music study club and is doing what she loves—playing chamber music. She still gardens and paddles on the Mohawk River, just minutes from her house. "I am busier than when I worked,

and I get to stay home on Sunday mornings now!" **Jane Silverstein Root**, still in Houston, was thinking of attending our 60th reunion, but plans were dashed by COVID-19. As I told her, please keep it on your calendar for 2021! Class of '60 Book of Memories: The committee decided we should compile a memories booklet: What do you remember of your time at CC? For inspiration: mixers, wearing skirts to dinner, signing in and out, curfews, posture pictures, Songfest (losing sophomore year), the Grench, knees covered during Dean Oakes' class. These are just ideas. Write your own memory in a short paragraph and send it to the alumni office. Only a few of you have done this, but there is still time! Send to Dena Poblete (dpoblete@conncoll.edu) by March 15, 2021.

62 Correspondent: *Marcia Brazina Littenberg: littenmb@farmingdale.edu* We in the Class of '62 have been designated "at risk" for COVID-19 because of our "advanced age," although it feels like only a few years (not decades) since we were students on campus. This is the first pandemic of our lifetime (and hopefully the last). And we cope in various ways with "stay at home" orders or risky behaviors of others. Among the snowbirds in our class, **Cami Boitel Burgess** and I had to decide when it was safe to travel north, as Florida quickly overtook New York in the number of fatalities from this novel virus. I hope you are all safe and surviving. Aside from my drive back to Long Island with my two rescue dogs, my activities are restricted to grocery shopping, cleaning, organizing and cooking. More than I ever imagined! I have taken master classes in Pilates from an instructor in San Paulo, Brazil, thanks to Zoom. This and virtual "cocktail" meetings with friends from the world over have kept me sane. How have you coped? (This, alas, is the mantra of 2020!) **Louise Brickley Phippen** shared her frustrating journey by Amtrak from her home in Mystic, Conn., to visit her sister in Princeton, N.J. While, as expected, the trains were nearly empty, she did not anticipate that the car to Princeton was not in service. With the frustration and lack of communication, "This whole episode is indicative of the breakdown of our normal lives." To quote Kurt Vonnegut, "And so it goes ..." Please let me hear from you for the next issue of CC Magazine. We have lost several classmates (not from COVID-19): **Ellen Freedman Dingman** on March 25 and **Susan Feldman Copeland** on March 22. And last fall we lost **Barbara Burris van Voorst**.

63 Class Notes Correspondent: *Bonnie Campbell Billings-Wauters 1315 Winding Oaks Circle, East Unit #903, Vero Beach, FL 32963, (802) 734-1876, bsq22@aol.com* Many thanks to those who shared—and apologies for the need to condense some very insightful observations and

remarks. **Marcia Rygh Phillips** wrote of being delighted, before the Great Shutdown, with a visit from **Tina Savell Treadway** and husband David on their way to Florida. “So nice to be able to catch up with old friends; it never feels like more than a minute since we last saw each other. Whenever I get the alumni magazine, I wish more of my classmates lived nearby.” And that more wrote in! (ed. note) Regarding protests in Richmond and dismantling of statues of heroes of the Confederacy: “Interestingly for me, most of the local population have been in favor of moving away from the shadow of the war and its ugly Jim Crow racist aftermath.” Marcia reminded us that as “weary Class Giving Officer,” she urges more classmates to contribute. “College rankings are heavily influenced by fundraising participation ... our percentage of classmates donating is low. Remember how important CC (for Women!) has been in your life and make some/any contribution!” **Marcia Mueller Foresman** and husband Chilly find themselves at home in Vero Beach, Fla., rather than on an 80th birthday celebratory cruise in Europe. Likewise, plans for summer family visits to the Cape and to Bermuda were scuttled. “I am more than thankful for our health and the feeling of safety in our little community of Vero. I can’t think of a better place to be “socially distant.” Marcia’s feelings were echoed by fellow Vero Barrier Island resident, **Nancy Feuerstein Milsten**. With her daughter and family visiting for over a month from New York, life has been “pretty exhausting at times” but wonderful too. Other denizens of Vero—myself, **Aggie Cochran Underwood** and **Sue Kellogg Grigg**—all departed for homes, coincidentally all in Vermont, by late spring. Our Vero communities were all put in “safety mode,” but walking, biking and private beaches provided plenty of space for socially distanced chats and small get-togethers. While we missed family visits, none of us experienced the isolation that many others did, or that we might have at other times of our lives. We felt very fortunate! **Cynthia Norton Scoggin** and husband Jim spent more time than planned in their new condo in Vallejo, Calif., seeing no one but family, which often included 2.5-year-old grandson Maverick in lieu of daycare and preschool. “Over July 4 we gave everyone in the family a haircut, washed the dogs, and enjoyed a good meal and some wine in the backyard.” **Anne Ryan** writes: “At one level, the pandemic has been a positive experience ... with many examples of how various communities adapt, given social, structural unpreparedness.” She continues to be concerned with issues of “cyber-based stalking and harassment.” Shortly before the pandemic, **Barbara Drexler Lockhart** went on a “compassionate listening” trip to Alabama, visiting historic cities and places, “listening to many voices of people who lived through some of the worst times in our history ... a powerful and humbling experience.” Her CC group—**Connie Cross**, **Helen Frisk Buzyna**, **Wally Coates Paprocki**, **Susan Young Sanders**, **Ginny Olds Goshigian** and **Chantal LeHouou**—Zoom every Friday. “We are not letting this pandemic get us down!” **Diana Altman** and husband Richard Siegel decamped from NYC as the outbreak began and have now been at their summer home in

Raymond, Maine, for five months, never seeing another person, except the lawn mower. They never thought to bring summer clothes! **Martha Joynt Kumar** Zooms into board meetings, including CC and the White House Historical Association. Working from home, with fewer visits to the White House, her “presidential transition work is in full swing.” She continues to direct the White House Transition Project, a nonprofit, nonpartisan group of presidency scholars. She has recently been studying President Trump’s interchanges with reporters and comparing them with those of Presidents Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush and Obama. She presented on this work at both Harvard Law School and the Kennedy School and recently published on it. A family visit to relatives in India preceded the pandemic; monthly trips to NYC to see grandchildren have halted. We are sad to report the passing of three classmates: **Alice Orndorff Gordon**, **Sarah (Sally) Wood McCracken** and **Anne Alexander Lathrop**. Alice spent 20 years as a docent and research assistant at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC, even commuting there while living and bringing up her family in Madison, Conn. She was very involved in her community and also served as a docent at the Lyman Allyn Museum. Sally became a renowned landscape architect and established her own very successful landscape architecture practice in Lyme, Conn. She was an active member of the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, sang in the choir, and designed and supervised the church gardens. Anne spent three years at CC before graduating from U. of Michigan in 1963. She brought up her family in Toledo and was involved with her husband’s company and philanthropies. They lived in Boca Grande, Fla., for 30 years. She was an avid athlete and contributor to her communities.

64 *Correspondent: Platt Townsend Arnold* Given the restrictions of life in a pandemic, I am in touch regularly with a gratifying number of classmates: **Pat Edwards Anderson** and I exchange news as I pick up books she is clearing out, and I see **Hope Batchelder-Stevens** briefly when I drop things off at her condo, about six miles from me. Hope is proceeding gingerly after a tricky operation in May to restore the hearing she lost in her right ear from that bad fall 10 years ago—slow recovery. Seven of us (**Sue Hackenburg Trethewey**, **Cathy Layne Frank**, **Kirk Palmer Senske**, **Donna Richmond Carleton**, **Marcia Silcox Crockett**, **Ann Weatherby Gruner** and I) moved together during our years at Conn, and we have gathered intermittently since then at CC reunions and celebrations of our own, notably for milestone birthdays: 50 in Vermont, 60 in Seattle, 70 in Virginia. This spring, on May 11, Sue died from cancer diagnosed months before. The remaining six of us Zoom every few weeks to keep in touch. **Donna Richmond Carleton** writes: “**Sue Hackenburg Trethewey** was my dear friend and an integral part of our CC Seven group. We were bridesmaids for each other and enjoyed many special times over the past 60 years, including reunions, family gatherings, and our meaningful phone visits, which extended through May.” Donna and Bill will celebrate

their 54th anniversary in August, counting their blessings with children Liz ’91, Larry and Melissa ’95, and Dave ’95. Oldest grandchild Lauren will be a sophomore at Brandeis, with Asher, Jaclyn and Noah in high school. **Pat Arnold Onion** has fun with her five grandkids and is grateful for play-reading group, poetry group and book club. “You all inspire me to do some writing myself! All the best to everybody.”

65 *Correspondents: Susan Peck Hinkel, 1064 N. Main St., Danby, VT 05739, rero@mac.com; Pat Antell Andrews, 2800 S. University Blvd, Unit 4, Denver, CO 80210, pandre0615@gmail.com* **Joan Havens** writes from Falmouth, Maine: “I guess people have been doing unusual, if not overly exciting, things during this time of virtual living. I’ve taken up the guitar again after about a 40-year lapse.” She also gardens and walks in the woods with her dog. Her son and his family live nearby, so she sees them and some select friends. “On the downside, our trip to visit my daughter and family in Portugal was canceled along with other trips. I’m sure many were similarly disappointed.” **Sandy DeMartino Kiesel** is part of a group making 200+ sack lunches each week for a homeless shelter. “Till the school year ended I was the remote tutor and supervisor for my grandkids, who live 3,000 miles away ... parents too busy with work. I also tested the theory ‘You never forget how to ride a bike.’ My drawers, cupboards, cabinets and closets have never been more organized, but that got old after the first month.” **Jill Andrist Miller** retired in 2018 from her gardening business, Woman’s Touch Gardening, and finally has time to care for her own garden. She is active in the Natick (Mass.) Garden Club, and she designed, installed and maintains a pollinator garden in front of Natick’s library. Her horticulture newsletter inspires others to use native plants to bolster ecosystem health and educates them to remove invasive plants from their yards and public spaces. Jill is a partner in Miller Microcomputer Services (specializing in free, open-source software: FOSS) and is in a knitting group that makes items for charity. **Donna Maulsby Asnani** suspects she’s not alone in enjoying some aspects of the shelter-in-place limitations. She’s learned how to make roti (Indian flatbread) “truly round, instead of shaped like the map of India!” She sews face masks for a homeless shelter in Boston. “Then there are the ‘someday’ projects, like putting 10 years’ of predigital photos into loose-leaf notebooks and going through the Super 8 movies to be converted into DVDs.” And she enjoys idle time: watching a nest of juncos on their deck go from eggs to gone, or the two broods of orioles at their feeders. “I’m valuing the time to think; I have gained several new insights.” **Joan Lebow Wheeler** says it’s true that timing is everything. “If moving after 42 years is stressful ... add obtaining a new license and car registration in another state (when the DMVs are closed). Then finding a buyer for the house and moving during a pandemic, when stores are closed, it’s critical to avoid other people, and, because charities are closed, you can’t donate clothing and other

things. Fortunately, we sold our house in two weeks and moved to a spacious apartment with room for all our furniture.” **Barbara Barker-Papernik** reflects, “Mine has been a good life.” She has been married for 50 years to Joel Papernik, a corporate lawyer in NYC. Other than extensive travel, she has stayed near her roots. They have a small apartment near the Metropolitan Museum and spend weekends in New Jersey. The Papernik gardens have included Golden Delicious apples, strawberries and tomatoes. Daughter Ilana lives in Barbara’s parents’ home, and daughter Debbie blessed Barbara and Joel with their first grandchild. Barbara first worked in human genetics at Rockefeller U., then earned a master’s degree in biology at Yale and attended medical school at Rutgers and Mount Sinai. “Two years ago I fully retired from ophthalmology. My office was in the same building where I lived for most of my career (morning coffee on the elevator). My specialties were glaucoma, cornea and cataract surgery. I taught at Mount Sinai Hospital, the Bronx VA, and the New York Eye and Ear, where I did surgery until developing arthritis some years ago.”

66 ^R *Correspondents: Carol Chaykin & Pat Dale; ccnotes66@gmail.com* **Kathleen Dudden Rowlands** has retired as emeritus professor in the Department of Secondary Education at California State University, Northridge, and plans to move back to Honolulu. **Ellie Macneale Elkington** can’t believe she’s been retired for 14 years. She stepped down from her longtime role as director of admission and financial aid at Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia in 2006. Ellie has been active with board and committee work for the Mendelssohn Club Chorus of Philadelphia (board chair for 11 years), Germantown Friends School, the Friends Council on Education and her Quaker Meeting. COVID-19 has prevented trips to the West Coast to visit family, but Ellie has enjoyed biweekly Zoom gatherings with **Helen McCulloch Schmitz**, **Pokey Davis Kornet**, **Barbie Goff Takagi**, **Toni Graglia Gordon** and **Kay Landen**. **Lenore Farmer** has been reading *War and Peace* in Russian and having delightful conversations with her three cats and dogs during the COVID



Betsey Nodler Pinkert '67 with classmate Brien Mutrux Chelminski '67 and Rudy Chelminski

lockdown. **Betsy Greenberg Feinberg** reports that the Harvard Museums, once reopened, will extend the “Painting Edo” exhibition until Jan. 4, 2021. Meanwhile, enjoy a virtual visit on Vimeo at bit.ly/PaintingEdoVideos. **Ellen Kagan** has been campaigning for her senator by telephone while social distancing at Mashpee-Wakeby Pond on Cape Cod during the pandemic. **Deborah Nichols Losse** stepped down from the Connecticut College Alumni Association Board of Directors. We thank Debby for her service and important contributions during the past six years. We hope it will be safe to travel to New London in June 2021 and that you will join us for our 55th reunion. We invite your ideas and suggestions for Reunion; please send them to us at ccnotes66@gmail.com. Please also continue sending us your news and photos. We love hearing from you! Stay safe, stay healthy.

67 *Correspondents: Deborah Greenstein, debbyg837@verizon.net; Marcia Hunter Matthews, marciamatthews3@gmail.com* Attorney **Vicki Plevin** has worked from home since March. Pre-lockdown she worked part-time and cared for her granddaughters (ages 3 and 5) two days a week. “I miss that more than words can express.” She is working on the upcoming election with the group Bend the Arc: Jewish Action. **Nancy Blumberg Austin** shares: “It started at our 50th reunion in June 2017 ... friends, kind-of-familiar friends and others we didn’t know in 1967 but felt like friends. Five who live in Manhattan (including one in the suburbs) got together for dinner: **Rae Downes**



Betsey Nodler Pinkert '67 was named a “Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Merite” by President Macron.

Koshetz, Dana Freedman Liebman, Suzy Endel Kerner, Judi Rosman Hahn and Nancy Blumberg Austin. What a success! We got to know each other over more meals. Then came the COVID-19 shut-in; no more meals and no more sharing.” So now they get together via Zoom, adding CC friends **Marcia Hunter Matthews** and **Sue Leahy Eldert**, discussing current issues with bright, thoughtful, active women. “We all look forward to our weekly chat. Fifty years ago, who could imagine we would have small computers or phones that can connect so many at once?” **Debby Greenstein** delayed her return to DC from Florida and traveled on the auto train. Her DC neighborhood is quiet, but a trip downtown showed the damage done to the city: lots of plywood-covered storefronts. Debby also gets together with CC friends via Zoom, including a gathering of DC- and Maryland-based classmates: **Pat McMurray, Judy Betar Metro, Wendy Thompson Noyes, Laura DeKoven Waxman, Anne Maloney Black and Marilyn Silton Khoury**. “Even without the food and the hugs, it was a pleasure to see each other and catch up on how they were coping in these strange times.” In early February, before news of the pandemic, **Susan Cohn Doran** went to Boston to help her daughter, scheduled for major surgery, care for her young sons. She planned to stay for six weeks. By the end of that time, COVID-19 was upon us. She stayed with them and became part of their bubble. “All was going well until April 23, when I suddenly had terrible stomach pains.” Imaging at urgent care led to the emergency room; the MRI showed two intestinal blockages. “I had surgery



Class of 1967 weekly Zoom chat. Top row: Judi Rosman Hahn, Suzy Enders Kerner, Sue Leahy Eldert. Middle row: Nancy Blumberg Austin, Marcia Hunter Matthews, Rae Downes Koshetz. Bottom row: Dana Freedman Liebman



Class of 1967 Zoom gathering. Top row: Debby Greenstein, Laura DeKoven Waxman, Wendy Thompson Noyes. Middle row: Pat McMurray, Anne Maloney Black, Marilyn Silton Khoury. Bottom row: Judy Betar Metro

and returned to my daughter's house. It was her turn to take care of me! Such are the ironies of life." **Jackie King Donnelly** and husband Patrick enjoy their dual locations: San Miguel Allende, Mexico, and Sarasota, Fla., where they can be closer to their kids and grandchildren. **Wally Lindburg Nicita** moved to the Palm Springs area, where it is hot and no one is around. "That suits me fine since I'm a writer and there is nothing to distract me ... at all. I thought 2020 was going to be a significant year because I liked the cut of its jib. 'Significant' is putting it mildly. 'Catastrophic' is closer to the truth. Needless to say, the first thing I did here was register to vote." **Marjorie Singer** left her job as executive counsel at John Jay College last fall. She was traveling and doing work in Seattle, where she hopes to live part-time. She is "stuck in NYC but engaged in a Seattle-based social media initiative to encourage young people to vote. Whatever the politics, voting could not be more important this year." She speaks with **Betsy Lodge Bremer** in Hawaii. **Betsey Nodler Pinkert** and husband Dale happily renewed contact with **Brien Mutrux Chelminski** and Rudy during trips to France. They had a festive reunion at the Chelminskis' country home near Fontainebleau. Betsy was named a chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merit  by President Macron and the French government for her many years of service in the promotion of the French language and culture. "The ceremony was one of the most memorable moments of my life!" **Rita York Fogal** stays connected with **Pat McClure**. She and Lee are fine in Acton, Mass., where Lee has become a master of ordering food and supplies online. They attend small outdoor gatherings with social distancing. **Ashley Hibbard**, in Sun City, Ariz., stays home except for grocery shopping and doctor appointments. She volunteers at a local food bank and signs people up for mail-in ballots. "We canceled the fall semester of Lifelong Learning Club and most of our clubs stopped all activities. I read a lot of books and online news articles that I never had time to read while working. My one regret is that our fitness centers are closed (again). I don't like exercising at home. Otherwise I am healthy and my house is cleaner than it has been in a while!" Because of the individual and countrywide upheaval we've endured, **Carol Friedman Dressler** is particularly grateful for new grandson Robbie Grigsby Marchick, born May 15 to her son, Adam, and his wife, Libby, in Atlanta. **Elayne Zweifler Gardstein** was sorry to miss Hank's 50th reunion from George Washington Medical School, postponed due to the virus. Daughter Tracy graduated from Conn in 1992 so attended her 25th reunion when we celebrated our 50th. Elayne works for Adelphi, now as a remote librarian. She co-authored an article about cataloging Adelphi's Alice Hoffman Collection, which will be published in Technical Services Quarterly this year.

68 *Correspondent: Mary Clarkeson Phillips, 36 The Crossway, Delmar, NY 12054, mphil2@nycap.rr.com* We have had a tough several months. But undeterred by a mere pandemic, **Lila Gault, Cathy Hull,**



Andy Hintlian Mendell '68 took the opportunity to connect with Jane Ranallo Goodman '68 in Virginia on Father's Day Weekend.

Sue Feigl O'Donnell and **Gale Rawson '69** met weekly for over three months on Zoom to chat about their stay-at-home lives. Sue called from St. Barth; Cathy from Carmel, N.Y.; Lila from NYC; and Gale from near Philly. Normally this "posse" convenes several times a year, celebrating five decades of friendship. Hopes are high for the annual holiday dinner at River Cafe or Le Bernardin! **Allyson Cook Gall** and **Marty** are healthy in their condo with a gorgeous view, living the Zoom life. They bought cotton face masks in January to wear in Australia because of the fires but never used them there; that began March 10 flying home from their month-long adventure to Australia and New Zealand. **Brooke Johnson Suiter** quarantines at home, enjoying her garden and reading, with phone calls, FaceTime and Zoom. One daughter, a physician specializing in public health and infectious diseases, says Brooke will be quarantined at home until there is a safe, effective and widely used vaccine. She equipped her sunroom as a home gym and enjoys visits from her trainer twice a week. **Pamela Berky Webb's** husband, Peter, a physician, sees patients in his office, using all the safety precautions. Daughter Allison is an ob-gyn doctor and has worked in the clinic and hospital throughout the pandemic. Her husband stays home doing tele-education

with their children (ages 3, 5 and 8). Son Tyler, a middle school teacher, taught via the internet. Daughter Hilary, a physician assistant, does telemedicine consults and started seeing patients in the clinic on June 1. Her husband works from home; they have an active 2-year-old, so Pam helps with childcare twice a week. Pam takes an oil-painting class, plays bridge with friends, and is in a book group and a small-group Bible study, all via Zoom. She walks several times a week and keeps busy cooking and staying in touch with friends who are older or live alone. **Dinsmore Fulton** and husband **Leo Cohen** moved from Vermont to Durango, Colo. several years ago. Son **Brooke Redford Den gre** (grandson of Louise Redford Den gre '43) and wife **Darcy** live nearby; they have two young children, **Lane** and **Cassy**. Darcy is an emergency department doctor, and Brooke is a stay-at-home dad. Dinsmore and Leo have never lived near family before; it is a joy. Durango is paradise for those who enjoy hiking, camping, skiing, biking and walking trails all over town, along the Animas River. They are healthy, though the chemo drugs keeping cancer away are fatiguing. Leo is finishing his third novel, and Dinsmore is learning to garden in a low-water, high-altitude climate. **Sue Sharkey Hoffman** and **Tom** stay home. They were in Naples, Fla., when COVID-19 hit and decided to return home. On March 16 they drove 800 miles in 12 hours to get back to East Tennessee. Their younger daughter and her family are nearby and their second son is in the state, so they can see them. Unfortunately, their older son and his family live in L.A., and their older daughter and her family are in Denver. While visiting her daughter in Charlottesville, Va., **Andrea Hintlian Mendell** connected with **Jane Ranallo Goodman**. "My husband and I visited Jane in her bright, sunny studio in downtown Charlottesville; we caught up and saw her beautiful paintings. Jane exuded the same energy and enthusiasm we remember from Conn. Despite

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A Message from the Alumni Association Board of Directors

We are honored to represent the 25,000 alumni across the globe, and are committed to providing an enduring relationship between ourselves and the College community. Our Board, comprised of alumni from the classes of 1958 – 2020, stands ready to support and enhance alumni activities on campus and beyond.

This past year, 2,600+ Camels came together at over 65 unique events. From Houston to Hollywood, Portland to Paris, New York to San Francisco, Camels gathered at Holiday Parties, Volunteer Sessions, Sailing Tailgates, Virtual Workouts, and Mock Interviews hosted in 24 cities, 14 states, and four countries. We celebrated our successes, reconnected, gave back to our communities, and welcomed new alumni into our ranks. We invite all to join us for our upcoming virtual events related to careers, wellness, and celebrations of our alumni community.

Alumni also supported the College in record numbers this past year. Nearly 500 alumni filled vital roles as volunteers serving as Class Gift Officers, Reunion Committee Members, leading events and engagement efforts, supporting careers, and providing other vital services to the College! Alumni have paid it forward by sharing over 200 internships and full-time opportunities with students and peers this year, strengthening our herd at organizations like Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Citi, PwC, Children's National Hospital, Platt Psychiatric Associates, and E-Cast Productions.

In this spirit of connecting, the College has launched a new online alumni com-

munity called the CONNector, a multifaceted platform that brings our community to you, wherever you may be. We hope that the CONNector will be a resource for you to engage and interact with fellow alumni and enhance both your personal and professional connections. Some of the CONNector's highlights are:

- an easy-to-use Alumni Directory to search for classmates and peers
- an Alumni Job Board to share and search for career opportunities
- a Mentor and Networking platform with direct messaging functionality
- interactive Industry-based Networking Groups to share career news, information, and advice.

Log in, update your information and communication preferences, search for upcoming digital programs & events and get reacquainted with the College community. Be sure to check out the CONNector (conncollege.force.com/alumni/s/)

Thank you for being part of our community, and for your ongoing support of Connecticut College. We would love to hear from you. If you have suggestions about how the Alumni Board can better engage or support alumni, please email Evan Piekara '07, President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, at evan.piekara@gmail.com. For information on volunteer opportunities, please visit www.conncoll.edu/alumni/volunteer/ or email alumni@conncoll.edu.

Go Camels! Best,

The Alumni Association Board of Directors

health issues and caring for her grandchild, Jane paints up a storm! Keep it up, Jane!" **Joan Pekoc Pagano** and husband James have sheltered at a dear friend's home in Southampton, N.Y., since mid-March, grateful to be surrounded by a natural haven of water and green space, keeping up a fitness regime. As Zoom became her new best venue, Joan participated in two virtual events: the Three Tomatoes Renewal Summit and the New York City Leadership Council's fundraiser to expand Plan International USA's mission to support girls' rights globally. **Susan Kennedy Bishov** has resided in Chelmsford, Mass., for 35 years, where she has been active as a choral singer, accompanist, piano teacher and public school music teacher. She retired from public school 12 years ago and LOVES being a piano teacher! She has been married to Sheldon Bishov for 47 years; daughter Deborah (Swarthmore, U. of Pennsylvania) is a research librarian at Villanova. Susan's primary interests are her family (including dog Ernest) and classical music; her recreations are reading and language study. Please send your news; we all love to know what's happening in your lives.

69 *Correspondent: Judi Bamberg Mariggiò, 1070 Sugar Sands Bl. #384, Riviera Beach, FL 33404, jgmariggi@bellsouth.net* Summer's heat and the pandemic turmoil have made us eager to connect, by video chat and sending news for Notes. John and **Zoi Aponte Diamond** skipped their annual summer escape to New Hampshire. Despite the Florida heat, she plays tennis and he golfs. Zoi cooks and bakes, and they enjoy social-distanced takeout and drinks with neighbors. Quarantining in NYC, **Nancy Barry-Manor** "watched old operas and listened to favorite tenors, sopranos and baritones." Getting her hair done "after four months of going native" made her very happy. COVID-19 reunited the "4 Cs of Blackstone." **Constance Hassell** and **Cathy Frank Halstead** (Honolulu), **Clotilde Luce** (Miami), and **Carol (Cee) Bunevich** (Nantucket) meet Sundays on Zoom to discuss music, art, politics and life. With their Scandinavian trip canceled, **Kathi Dilzer Milch** enjoys their cottage on Cape Cod and swimming, kayaking and hiking there. John and **Babette Gabriel Thompson** indefinitely postponed moving to a senior high-rise in Seattle to remain "safer on beautiful, rural Whidbey Island." Besides packing and then unpacking, they read and watch TV, streaming European offerings on MHz. "Scandinavian mysteries are favorites. We watch so often we are nearly fluent in Norwegian and Swedish." She also cooks, but most of her energy is in politics. In the Dominican Republic, **Donna Hicks Pérez-Mera** and her husband isolate at home with few forays out. After pandemic and related news updates, "I decompress by cleaning out closets, digitizing old papers, and reorganizing our library of some 5,000 books, collected over 50 years to provide interesting reading during our 'golden

years.” She cooks and works with new software for graphic design and video editing, “and I enjoy talking about gaited horses with **Ann Barber Smith** by Skype.” Instead of attending a family celebration in Ghana in March, **Anne Hutchinson** worked to hold their local food bank together. Now they have a solid network of volunteers and food sources, with the “shopping” outdoors under a tent, using local Berkshire County farmers. Anne wrote grants to pay a part-time manager so she could get to Silver Lake, N.H., where they are in an extended family pod. “I learned how to cane chairs and am on my second New England porch rocker. Erving completed eighth grade online with no soccer but a lot of trampoline work. We hope that local schools can open but are planning for distance learning.” **Ellen Lougee Simmons** enjoyed being in Maine instead of Houston this summer. Youngest daughter Lydia moved from San Francisco to stay with her and “is great company.” A tough time for travel agency owner **Stephie Phillips**, especially after she fractured her foot and could no longer garden. “Favorite moments” are FaceTime chats with grandson Jonah (2) in California and weekly extended-family Zoom sessions. **Diana Robinson Nelson** appreciates living in rural Ohio, with small shops nearby. “We sought less-used hiking trails in local parks this spring and camped twice in state parks with friends.” She finished several weaving projects, and they completed a new dining-room cabinet. In December, David and **Ellen Robinson Epstein** and all five children, children-in-law and 16 grandchildren visited San Antonio in anticipation of his 85th birthday in June, by which time the world was in lockdown. Their Brooklyn-based son and family moved in with them in Maryland in April, so the entire family spent the summer “together” in the DC area. In celebration of their 50th anniversary, Ken and **Mary Saunders Hande** gathered with their three children, spouses and eight grandchildren at Kiawah Resort, S.C. “We knew Kiawah had the acreage, miles of bike paths and expansive beach to socially distance from others.” Mary helped the grandchildren with online schooling this spring, evaluating websites and planning science lessons. Her participation in a racial equity challenge organized by several churches has been meaningful. **Pam Schofield** is being careful, following presidential politics, and visiting her daughter and grandson with social distancing. Her playwright husband, Walter Wilson, had a reading with a NYC theater on Zoom. **Shelley Smith** has regular Zoom sessions with seven friends from CC. She enjoys her vegetable garden and working on a new website called Peachy Life. Bob and **Prudy Wilson Barton** stay close to home by the Hudson. Her hip replacement just before the shutdown went smoothly, and she’s busy with house projects, gardening, socially distanced time outside with neighbors and, more recently, careful visits with kids/grandkids. “My love for them is stronger than my fear of the disease.” The last part of their old farm in Massachusetts is on the market. “We hope someone wanting to escape from a city will snap up the former guest cottage and acreage with the same gusto we did 33 years ago. It was a fine adventure.”

70 ^R *Correspondent: Myrna Chandler Goldstein, mgoldst@massmed.org* What a year! As I write in late July, I hope that by publication, COVID-19 will be a distant memory. Reunion chairs **Mary-Jane Atwater** and **Martha Sloan Felch** write: “We hope it will be possible to gather on campus and have a safe and fun reunion next June 4–6. The College is exploring a number of Reunion scenarios; we will be in touch as we know more and the plans develop. In the meantime, stay safe, well and connected.” In 2010, **Ginger Henry Kuenzel**, who spent her career in Munich, Germany, and Boston, moved back to her hometown in New York’s Adirondack Mountains. She works remotely as a freelance translator, editor, writer and communications consultant. Ginger’s book, *Downtown*, is a collection of tales about the quirky characters in a fictional Adirondack town. A reviewer called the book “an edgier *Lake Wobegon Days*.” Ginger loves the quiet remoteness of the Adirondacks, but last year decided to spend winters in Englewood, Fla., closer to son Stefan and his wife and children, Brianna (24), Lexi (15) and Josh (12). Stefan owns and operates Kayak Excursions in Fort Myers and in Kennebunkport, Maine. Ginger’s younger son, Toby, lives in Munich, Germany, where he works as a chemist. **Karen Blickwede Knowlton** and Kim are doing well, with no regrets about moving to Idaho. This year they’ve been camping (comfortably, in their trailer). “That fulfills our travel needs this year. No big long trips. Just here and there in the northern U.S. Rockies.” They hope to travel more extensively when the world reopens. They lost their cat in January to kidney failure and old age. They were weekly popcorn volunteers at the local hospital until the lockdown; at home they are cataloguing family photos and documents. “We are healthy so far and thankful for that. Wishing everyone well, and looking forward to our 51st reunion.” Since moving from the Chicago area to Greenville, S.C., **Elaine Frey Hester** has become involved in mental health advocacy. She raised funds for the local National Alliance on Mental Illness affiliate and served on the board and as the Walk manager for two years. “With the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for mental health care has increased markedly.” She adds, “Traveling the country when my children were young has led them to explore the world. Jonathan, a techno music producer and DJ, lives in Berlin, Germany. Katie taught second grade in Hangzhou, China, for two years and will teach in Shanghai for another two.” After retiring from elementary teaching in the Chicago area in 2014, **Barbara Hermann** moved to the Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers, Fla., a CCRC where her parents and aunt moved in the 1990s. Her youngest brother and his wife also live there, and her mom still does too. The normally busy community has moved activities to Zoom: meetings, parties, book groups, church events, even flute lessons. Barbara’s current passion is politics, with a Democratic focus. Barbara was a longtime friend of **Susan E. Lee**, who died in June. After graduating, Susie earned a master’s degree in student personnel administration from The Ohio State U. and returned to Conn to work as a career placement officer. In

1976, she earned an MBA from Wharton and began a 27-year career with Northern Trust Company in Chicago. A horrible accident in 2005 left Susie quadriplegic and dependent on a ventilator. “I lived in the Chicago area most of the time Sue was there,” Barbara wrote. “So I’ve been to numerous Cubs games and theater and music performances with her. Since her accident, my visits were yearly. We watched sports together, discussed politics and caught up on family.” **Karen Kuskis-Smith**, another longtime Conn friend, wrote that Sue was part of a group of CC friends. After a visit to Sue 10 years ago, they pledged to spend a few days together every year. “We kept that promise and enjoyed our travels all over the country. We credit Susie as our inspiration and will forever be grateful.” Our (the Goldsteins) book, *Dietary Supplements: Fact versus Fiction*, is available. It presents the research on a host of different supplements.

71 ^R *Class Correspondents: Lisa McDonnell, 134 W Maple Street, Granville, OH 43023, mcdonnell@denison.edu; Lois Olcott Price, 933A Alto Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501, loprice@yahoo.com* **An-Ming Sze Truxes** says 46 classmates (from 13 states and British Columbia and Quebec in Canada) had a blast at the May and June Zoom cocktail parties. **Jane Difley** of New Hampshire reflected, after one gathering, how much she loved spending time with “interested and interesting women, hearing what we’ve done and who we’ve become.” She planted this seed: “What might we—fabulous CC grads—do to ensure that future generations have the same possibility of growing into fabulousness?” More virtual happy hours are planned this fall and winter. As a result of the pandemic, **Weezie Hammond Garrison** moved permanently to their summer home in Harwich Port on Cape Cod after 20 years in Boston. Selling their city condo took weeks of organizing and packing, a good distraction from the monotony of staying home and making the best of Zoom calls with friends. After quarantining, they welcomed visits from their healthy sons and families, who are successfully handling the chaotic schedules of working from home, educating and caring for small children, and social distancing. Her biggest issue is how quickly we have been relegated to the “elderly” category. She hopes classmates are finding ways to negotiate this challenging time and that positive social changes result. **Joan Hart Weigle** celebrated her 90th birthday with a weeklong family celebration in Sarasota, Fla., at Siesta Key.



Linda Herskowitz Kriger '71, center, with husband Jake Kriger and one of her sons, Ezra Solway, in November 2019 at a little post-Thanksgiving get-together. Right of center, Susan Palay Setnik '70, with husband Dr. Gary Setnik.

They walked to the beach for glorious sunsets, ate Screaming Goat pizza, enjoyed flag ceremonies and saw porpoises swim. They attended shows at the Florida Studio Theatre, where son Clarke is the IT man. Joan returned home to Mystic for a scheduled Mohs surgery on her forehead followed by radiation. She is minus a right eyebrow but healing well. She is a rare person who saw Cherenkov radiation lights like an aurora borealis. "Worth the price of admission!" She is again a proud great-grandmother; she saw the newest arrival from her socially distanced porch. Life goes on; our '71 RTC classmate wishes all good health, and please wear your masks! After several years of great countrywide trips in their camper van, this year **Susan Scott Kelley's** camper hasn't left the driveway. But they are not complaining! They keep busy reading, gardening, cooking and enjoying music. She takes online music courses, building on a love of classical music begun in Professor Shackford's class at CC years ago. "Looking forward to our 50th reunion!" In Britain **Kathy Wilson Mansfield** says they locked down late but forcefully. Their spring weather was the sunniest on record, and they spent much time outdoors doing the only exercise allowed, walking on the many permitted footpaths along the River Thames or in the nearby hills in Oxfordshire. A French chef delivered meals to their village on Saturday nights; they joined friends in their garden or barn at safely spaced tables. Part-time work kept them busy: Kathy worked on articles and photographs while Peter wrote up interesting patents on wave power and train flywheels. She took an online course at Yale, did many Zooms and webinars, and helped organize a community group that delivered food, medicines and good cheer. They feel lucky, though they think everyone is distracted and tired as they wonder what's next, and they despair of their politicians. **Terry Swayne Brooks** and **Byron** are at their Maine lake home with both sons and their families—great distraction from the stresses of the past months. Amid the quarantine chaos, they sold their home of 34 years and moved six miles to a new condo—the perfect size and location. Mastering Zoom is the tip of the iceberg for **Barbara Stewart!** She has taught ESL online at a Seattle-area community college since March—a ton of work and less rewarding than face-to-face classes, but better than nothing. She keeps sane with daily walks and livestream dance classes with her husband (in their kitchen)! They did social ballroom dancing before the pandemic and are grateful for teachers who provide wonderful *virtual* classes. They also play classical music on recorder and piano and feel lucky to have great activities to do at home. **Cynthia Parker** walks every day, reads a LOT and for the first time in years, cooks for one. No Zooming, TV or car, but she's "happy to report that our liberal education fostered enough interests to keep me reasonably invested in life. Gotta admit, though, the thought of another six-month stint of lockdown, during winter, is daunting. Ready to go out and lick doorknobs if that is how this plays out." The Class of 1971 sends sympathy to the families and friends of **Maria Kondon**, who passed away April 3, and **Linda Herskowitz Kriger**, who passed away May 29.

72 *Correspondent: Barbara Vosburgh Omohundro* **Barbara Vosburgh Omohundro** has taken over as class correspondent. Thank you, **Peg Muschell Jackson**, for your years of service as correspondent. **Mary Seaverns Saner** wrote, "It's been awhile since I've written in with news. I've recently written a book called *What Else You Got? Freelancing in Radio*. Don't let the title fool you. It's crazy and different."

73 *Correspondent: Hester Kinnicutt Jacobs, PO Box 277, Melstone, MT 59054; (406)358-2279; djacobs@midrivers.com* **Karen Hartigan Whiting** is a great-grandma to her newest family member, Lily. She is also working on her 27th book with a traditional publisher. *Growing a Mother's Heart*, for moms, comes out in February. See her other books at www.karenwhiting.com. In January, **Dave Clark** was delighted to be on campus as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of men's basketball, representing the very first Camels team. "We watched a heart-stopping double-overtime game against Trinity College." He says recovery after his third heart surgery is going well, and he thanks all classmates who supported the annual appeal. Lapsed and new donors always welcome. **Margie Bussmann Gillis** writes, "It's been a wild and crazy time since COVID-19 hit. I am in education; we had to shift gears immediately to provide professional development for teachers virtually. Most of our schools did well, but we have a lot of work to do to ensure the achievement gap is addressed in substantive ways." **Susan Weiss Moritz** enjoys the Facebook group "View from my window": "Many beautiful and sad views, many inspiring and heartbreaking stories. The optimism and kindness expressed was the same no matter the view, which was an uplifting testament to humanity's better nature. It is out there!" As usual in the spring, Susan was busy with yardwork, projects, and taking care of their 32-acre property and all their animals. "I am almost ashamed to say that the quarantine had minimal effect on us. It has not been the same experience we see on the news, except that our community, like everywhere, has suffered financially, especially small businesses. I hope life has not been too difficult for others out there." **Mindy Ross-West** and family are sheltering in their Manhattan apartment for the duration. "My husband and I set up separate offices to work at home; my son's new job is on hiatus." He is a 2019 college grad with a business degree. "Most of our neighborhood friends stayed in Manhattan too. We live by a park along the water, so we have access to fresh air and long walks." Mindy is a business development professional responsible for building and strengthening relationships for the Museum of American Finance and finds it difficult to have all contacts working remotely. "I do not expect the situation to change substantially in the near future, but as they say on Wall Street, I am guardedly optimistic." **Jean Kelleher** plans to retire in 2021 to spend more time on Cape Cod and with her three grandchildren (William, 4, and twins Kendall and Margaret, 1) in Scituate, Mass. She has been director of the Office of Human Rights in Alexan-

dria, Va., for 20 years. Her next chapter will hopefully include pro bono work for the Virginia Law Foundation. **Dave Clark, Brian Robie** and **Jean Kelleher** want to set up Zoom calls with up to 20 classmates at a time, so the College will be emailing everyone a short Google form to complete if interested—a great way to connect and build excitement for our 50th reunion! **Janet Shannon Farrell** traveled 5,900 miles on their boat over one year with her husband on the Great Loop, a route circumnavigating the eastern half of the U.S. They stayed in Marathon, Fla., in the Keys for two months when COVID-19 first hit. They are glad to be home with their seven grandchildren. Janet misses hugs the most during quarantine. **Hester Kinnicutt Jacobs** hosted her grandchildren (ages 7 and 9) for nine weeks of remote learning. Her daughter brought them to Hester's ranch where they could have room to run. "Otherwise, life on the ranch has not changed much, and Montana has done better than most states. My sister organized a weekly Zoom call so all four siblings could keep in touch; we will probably maintain this contact even after COVID. Stay safe, stay healthy and stay happy."

74 *Correspondent: Barbara Herbst Tatum, Barbara.tatum52@gmail.com* **Kathi Freed** (transferred to RISD in fall '72) is alive and well (so far), in a ravine-view basement in Wooster, Ohio, where she landed when she took a marketing job with Rubbermaid in '87. "Later, I hustled for admissions at The College of Wooster, where I discovered that East Coast kids picture us somewhere near Kansas (NOT!). I'm Midwesty by nature and glad to be in the heartland after living everywhere from Seattle to Antwerp. Still, I often dream about my years at Conn! Loved Branford and the whole CC surround." **Peter Russ** appreciates and lauds how CC has kept things together during the pandemic. He and wife Debbie live in western North Carolina, where she is a successful entrepreneur and he practices with Doctors Making Housecalls, seeing patients mostly in assisted living facilities—services needed more than ever during the pandemic. "Debbie and I continue to walk together in the grace of God, striving to love and serve Him as we strive to focus on what He is currently doing in the world, both now and in the future." **Sandra Shahnian** writes, "COVID came on with a vengeance mid-March in NYC and northern New Jersey, where I live. I went from living alone to sharing my home with six children and grandchildren." Three of the seven people under her roof had the virus, but thankfully, they were only mildly ill and, also thankfully, Sandra did not get sick. She lost her 95-year-old mother, who had been healthy up until then and contracted the virus in an assisted living residence. "I hope we are on the road to a better situation in this country and wish my classmates good health in the days ahead." Despite COVID-19 and the challenges of interstate travel, **Charlie Morrison** and wife Annie made it to New England from North Carolina for the summer. They are buying a condo in Northampton, Mass. **Janice Curran's** daughter Juliana has been



Janet Lawler '74 with one of her newly published books



Deidre (DeeDee) Kaylor Richardson '74 and family recently visited Japan where they met up with her fellow classmate David Russell '74.

home from Hobart since mid-March. She has a two-week vacation planned in Falmouth, Mass., this summer. **Roma Taddei Mott** is retired, but she loved teaching in public and private schools in Connecticut, Michigan and Missouri. Roma taught everything from K-1-2 multiage to K-3 to college educational psychology. No matter the age or state, the excuses for not doing homework were usually similar! Roma thanks all her CC professors who prepared her for her challenging, exciting career. Roma and husband John (a VP at a biologics company) live in Michigan. They celebrated their 44th anniversary and love visiting their grandchildren on each coast. Roma would love to connect with other Emily Abbey classmates. Like many of us, **Ellen Feldman Thorp**'s life has slowed down; she recognizes the blessings of the moment. She and her husband enjoy more time together and making future plans and dreams. They are selling their home of 30+ years and have sold their cabin, which was a 14-hour drive. Future plans include a winter home in southern Utah and a summer ranch in Wyoming, at lower altitudes and with cleaner air. **Amy Cohen** is happy that her husband, family and friends are all well. Her letter speaks for many of us. "As long as everyone we know and love stays healthy, we can cope with the other restrictions—the masks, the social distancing, the loss of access to movies and plays, and so on. The worst part is not being able to hug and kiss kids and grandkids." Thanks to the wonder of Zoom, Amy celebrated 50 years of friendship since freshman year with **Didi Coyle**, **Marion Miller Vokey** and **Melissa Fleishman Pruitt**. Amy has enjoyed miles of walks, "Zoomed 'til our eyes bugged out" and spent the summer in their cottage on the Cape. She researches and

Weddings



Rebecca Overholt '05 married Sam Lopresti (Fordham '11) in NYC on August 24, 2019.



Melissa Shear '08 married Adam Setterburg in Nantucket, Massachusetts, on June 5, 2020.

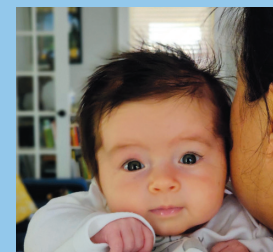
writes about family history, which is the basis of her in-progress second novel. **Janet Lawler**'s latest picture books, *Kindergarten Hat* (Little Bee) and *Good Night, Little Engine* (Grosset & Dunlap; celebrating the 90th anniversary of *The Little Engine That Could*), were published in June. She does virtual story times, presentations and guest blog appearances. Janet encourages everyone to repeat Little Engine's timeless, determined mantra, "*I think I can!*" to sustain positive energy while working toward social change and better days. May we all be sustained by positive energy until we are reunited and can hug our children, grandchildren and friends, while we do our parts to make the new normal a better one.

77 Correspondent: *Stuart Sadick*, stuart.sadick@gmail.com **Mary Pomeroy Hennessy** has a private therapy practice for children and teens and lives in Hudson Valley, N.Y.—"idyllic despite the pandemic!" She's in touch with friends from CC and has fond

Births



Robbie Grigsby Marchick, born May 15, 2020. New grandson for Carol Friedman Dressler '67



Jon McKee '08 and wife Meghan Pillai welcomed their first child, Maeve Elizabeth Laurel McKee, on April 21.



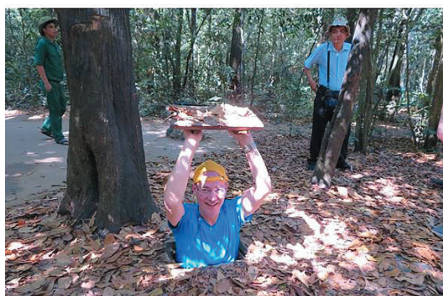
Arthur Speight Drummond born 6/7/2020 to Andy Drummond '10 and Michi Drummond '11

memories of those years. **Beth Barry** is "holed up in the Hamptons! Not a bad thing. Crazy times, that's for sure!" Things have been quiet for **Nick Keen**—a trip to Brittany canceled, a broken furnace and air conditioner replaced. He works on drawings for online art classes with a teacher in Moscow. An avid swimmer, he's grateful that "our 1920's Rose Valley outdoor pool has reopened, if in a limited way." **Jim McGoldrick** and Nikoo live in San Clemente, Calif., and love SoCal life. Their boys are grown, and they are busier than ever with writing. "A publisher approached us last year to write a series of Western historicals, a genre that has a problematic history of racism and sexism, so we're in the middle of that contract and having a lot of fun with it." The first three books come out every other month under the pen name Nick James, starting in May 2021. Their 50th book came out in August. *When the Mirror Cracks* is a work of general fiction (with some suspense elements) set in Istanbul, published under the name May McGoldrick writing as Jan Coffey.

"As always, it's a collaborative effort!" **Ann Ramage Fritschner** is not working during COVID. "Will return when it's safe, now that I'm an official geriatric (still wearing high heels, thank you very much)." She's in touch with **Bill Farrell**, who has a great bass voice, and **Scott Davis**, who is still working during all this. **Lissa Perlman-Hulkower** works from home in NYC. **Tom Howland** has been a pensioner in England for four years. In November he moved to a new apartment: "It's been a while since I found anything so complicated and frustrating as selling and purchasing a property in England." He hopes it will be the last move until he enters a retirement community or care home. Over the winter holidays he toured Vietnam, and 2020 started out well. In January he skied in Switzerland; in February he skied in France. In March he had another week of skiing planned in Italy, but the pandemic put an end to that, along with all other plans for the year. "I survived the lockdown by writing, playing the piano and trying to learn Spanish. Fortunately, my tennis club reopened at the end of May and I started some volunteer work in June. Now the pubs and restaurants are reopening, so things are livelier. I hope the theatres will reopen soon and that we will be able to travel later in the year." **Bob Zwick** retired in 2008—"the best move of my life." He and business partner Brooksie Wells founded Wild Card Development to help artists advance their work. "We helped finance *The Crusade of Connor Stephens*, by Dewey Moss, which went to Off Broadway in New York, and helped bring another play, *Yalta*, by Dirk Johnson, to New York for a table read. We are the executive producers of *Blue Moon of Kentucky*, a film project about the life of Bill Monroe, with the soundtrack by T-Bone Burnett. Our newest film project is *Blossom, the Wild Ambassador*, by Anna Carner, which is currently being packaged for production. We also hold the film rights to a young adult science fiction series, the Lalana Series, by Katlynn Brooke. We are invested in the Tennessee Whiskey Theater project, which will bring a major theater and arts center to Nashville when completed. We are still looking for investors (shameless plug); if anyone is interested, contact me at bz@zwick.net or (540) 364-1781." **Sheila Saunders** has enjoyed being a military and family life counselor for the past seven years, work that has taken her to Korea, the UK, Germany and Italy. Living overseas allowed her to regularly travel to many cities and countries, where she "enjoyed the benefits of the European lifestyle of sidewalk cafés, lovely drives and bike rides, and of course, the wine!" Someday she'll share the many photos she's taken. She's in touch with Conn friends in L.A. (Jeff Oshen '76, Dana and Paul Kiesel '82, Paul Escoll '81, and Michael Tulin '77) and New England (Dave Sargent '77) and many more through Facebook. "I love attending reunions and already look forward to our 45th in 2022!" Other than a global pandemic, **Lisa Podoloff Boles** is doing well. Older daughter is Bethany Boles-Sheslow '08; younger daughter is Natalie Boles '17, who lives in NYC. "I know this is a tough time for many who have been laid off. I encourage you to network with classmates via LinkedIn or on our class FB page.



D. Shepard Cook '77 and Victoria Cook '79 taken during their Stephen Ambrose tour, War in the Pacific, at the Halona Blowhole Lookout in Hawaii in March 2019.



Tom Howland '77 during a visit to Vietnam.

You never know if a fellow Camel might be able to help! Take care and stay safe!" I, **Stuart Sadick**, thank all who have stayed in touch and who have contributed to our Class Notes. Please keep it up! All's well here; our son finished sophomore year of high school (online), I'm still working (remotely), taking PureBarre classes (online) and riding my bike through Newton in the early morning (not online!). Reading a lot, doing all I can to maintain sanity in these unusual times. Be well, stay well. Read about **Shepard Cook** and his wife, Victoria Fitzgerald Cook '79, in the Class of 1979 section.

78 Correspondents: Susan Greenberg Gold, sgold51@yahoo.com & Laurie Heiss, laurieheiss@gmail.com Your correspondents, **Susan Greenberg Gold** and **Laurie Heiss**, were living in NYC as the coronavirus shut the city down around us. Forgive us for forgoing our typical active pursuit of your news, and indulge our report from the "front lines" of COVID-19 in NYC and Connecticut. We've been extremely busy in lockdown, and like many, take pride in the tristate response. Laurie had leased an apartment on West 65th to facilitate two semesters of the intensive graduate gemologist course at Gemological Institute of America, returning to Connecticut farm life on weekends. Her lab colleagues were mostly international, and the young woman who sat next to her had returned from Wuhan after the holiday break. The course was suspended on March 13, 60 days before graduation, and her bustling Lincoln Square neighborhood became a ghost town with ambulances rushing toward Mount Sinai. Laurie returned to Connecticut and started virtual cocktail gatherings for neighbors, helped launch yoga classes and hosted book groups, all on Zoom. She volunteered at a local hospital and reverted to her former activism with Indivisible Greenwich,

which organized the massive Greenwich Cares: Rally for Justice on June 6 in support of the BLM movement. Her son found his Brooklyn apartment too small for his home office (and his girlfriend's). Laurie's father died at a rehab facility in Arizona, alone, in May. Susan, as executive director of Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, found COVID-19 impacting her entire community. From calming the fears of her many constituents to limiting in-person worship to comforting families with losses to launching BHS homeShul worship and education, she has had her hands full for many months. And she had to settle family affairs following the death of her father, too, in late April. Unlike Laurie, Sue was able to spend precious minutes with her father on the COVID-19 wing of his nursing facility in Pennsylvania and, true to schedule, she herself contracted a mild case of the virus in May, which fully resolved. With virtual High Holy Days ahead for her community, she's learning a whole host of new technical skills. What's that about old dogs and new tricks? We are offering to host a Class of '78 virtual cocktail gathering if there is interest. For an emailed invitation, please contact Sue at sgold51@yahoo.com or Laurie at laurieheiss@gmail.com and we will try a virtual Class Notes gathering!

79 Shepard Cook '77 and his wife, **Victoria Fitzgerald Cook**, have been busy since last writing! In 2015, they retired from the Central Intelligence Agency, where Shep was a senior imagery analyst detailed to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and Victoria was a senior counterintelligence officer. They moved to Delaware near Indian River Bay, to the very town where Shepard's grandfather, the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware in the 1930s, held services at Prince George's Chapel (talk about destiny!). Shep realized his dream of owning a sailboat and enjoys sailing and racing with the Rehoboth Bay Sailing Association and Fenwick Island Yacht Club. Still active in Civil War reenacting, Shep also discovered a new interest: Western reenactments. Victoria has almost completed certification to become a Pilates Reformer instructor. Since retirement, they have enjoyed ski trips to Kitzbühel, Austria; Whistler, British Columbia; and Lake Placid, N.Y., and have traveled with friends to Munich, Geneva, and Salzburg, Austria. In March 2019, they accomplished a bucket list dream by taking a three-week Stephen Ambrose War in the Pacific tour, exploring Pearl Harbor, Guam, Tinian, Saipan and Iwo Jima. Shepard worked tirelessly to catalogue Victoria's father's service as a waist gunner on the B-29 bombers Sad Saki and Lassie Too on Tinian, and it was an emotional experience for them both to walk in his footsteps. Along with multiple Honor Flight World War II heroes, they climbed Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima and collected volcanic ash from the beach where Victoria's uncle came ashore with the 3rd Marine Division, to give to his widow. And after 24 years, Shepard gave Victoria the ultimate gift by fulfilling her mother's wish to have her ashes scattered in the Pacific Ocean on Waikiki, Hawaii. Also of note, Shepard's niece, Maddie, earned a degree in



Dr. James C. Garvey '79 and Janine Frazza Garvey '81 celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary where they honeymooned on Nantucket Island, in July of 2020.

financial planning from the U. of Cincinnati, and Victoria's niece, Lura, graduated from Fordham Law magna cum laude! Despite pandemic restrictions, they enjoy lovely sails on Rehoboth Bay, bike and walk in the wonderful state parks of Delaware, and visit the beautiful state beaches, which are open thanks to strict protocols established by the governor. In June, they celebrated 35 years of marriage in the age of COVID-19 at home with a lovely Fortnum & Mason basket of goodies (the basket becoming a wonderful cat toy!).

81 ^R Correspondent: Brooke Perry Pardue, bpardue@gmail.com **Lynn Lesniak Needle** is proud of her son, Max, who received his MBA from the U. of Chicago Booth School of Business and is off to San Diego with his new bride to work as a CEO for Alpine Investors. She is still teaching, creating new work and performing throughout the pandemic, and she recently collaborated with Joh Siff on a new art, nature and purpose platform entitled *Inside/Out+*. Cynthia and **Scott Kling** attended the inaugural event. Sending wishes of health, hope and wellness to the Class of '81.

82 Correspondent: Liza Kraft, liza.kraft@gmail.com I, **Liza Helman Kraft**, am thinking of all you in the midst of this crazy COVID-19 and hoping you and your families have survived the quarantine, the first wave and possibly the second, and have remained healthy. I know I don't have to remind you smart CC grads, but I will: don't let your guard down! I have been Zooming regular happy hours with **Chris Fascione**, **Peter Bernson** and Kim Jaeckel '83, with an occasional drop-in from **Isa Rubin Kramer**! I am grateful for every day, as I spend most of them with my grandson, Tate, and my horse, Tyler. Take care, friends. And send me some information! And don't say, "My life is boring, nothing to report" (calling you out, **Bob McBride**). Since leaving Conn, **Ken Abrahams** has been in the entertainment business and currently works for FUN Enterprises, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Ken has been there since day 1! Through his job he gets back to Conn occasionally, and he finds it interesting to see both what has changed and what has not. He keeps in touch with Camels Harry Moore '81, Sonia Caus Gleason '85, Topher Hamblet '83, David Gleason '83 and **Jean Williams**. Jean and Ken actually

live about a mile apart, west of Boston, and get together a few times a year. Last October **Lynne Rothney-Kozlak** moved from Maine with her husband and three cats to a new forever home they built in Slaughter Beach, Del. And on her 60th birthday, in April, she closed her health care consulting practice after 10 years. She is excited to pursue a modest retirement career in the healing arts as a Reiki Master and yoga dance teacher. Lynne continues to do autocross with her husband, and in 2017 the Sports Car Club of America introduced the inaugural Rothney-Kozlak Cup, a perpetual trophy awarded at the conclusion of each SCCA Solo National Championships event to the woman with the best result running in an open division class, traditionally comprising male competitors. Lynne is very proud of that legacy and her passion for mentoring women in her sport.

87 Correspondent: Jenifer Kahn Bakalla, 51 Wesson Terrace, Northborough, MA 01532, JKBBBlue@gmail.com After years away, **Dawn Ellingboe Carleton** moved back to her home state of Minnesota to be closer to friends and family. For the past 20 years, she was in the San Francisco Bay Area, which she loved, but "the call to return to my roots was strong." Dawn is an administrator at the International School of Minnesota; she is learning the new ropes and loving the challenge. Her two adult children stayed on the West Coast, "which is hard, but they are happy and healthy, so life is good." **Peter Bakalla** continues to serve on the board of directors of CC's Alumni Association, which gives him a chance to work with Camels from many classes, geographies and talents. "I'm lovin' it!" Peter, who finished his 10th marathon, was featured in a "Camels Helping Camels" video focusing on running.



Julie Fuller '88 had the privilege of working with five "Camels" this summer: her son John Fuller '22, a runner and part of the Cross Country and Track & Field Teams, recruited some Camels to work at the National Hotel on Block Island of which Julie is the General Manager. Front row: Meredith Cronin '21, on my right, and Eva Brydson '19, on my left. John is behind me with Morgan Baughman '22 on his right, and Price Day '19, on his left.

89 Correspondent: Tamsen Bales Sharpless, camel89news@gmail.com Please let us know how you are holding up and coping in these challenging times. If you want to connect on Facebook, send me a note at camel89news@gmail.com or request via Facebook to join the private group Connecticut College Class of 1989. In April, after **Frank Suher** brought his daughter back from CC, they embarked on family trips to their living room, dining room and basement. He reports it was great having the whole family together for such an amazing experience! In fact, they had so much fun, they repeated the same trips a few more times. **Stephanie Hamed Borowy** wishes everyone a happy summer. She worked from home as a school psychologist from March 13 to mid-June, while her son, Andrew, missed much of the fun of his high school senior year—and now college will be online! Her husband, David, is also working from home, so the house feels pretty small. The highlight of their summer was a Cape Cod vacation/quarantine at the beach! Any of this sound familiar? Please check in—we love to hear from you and hope everyone stays safe and well.

90 ^R Correspondent: Toria Brett, Correspondent, 30 Washington Ave., Northampton, MA 01060, victoriabrett@comcast.net **Brian Field** was awarded first place in the Associazione Amici della Musica "Guido Albanese"—Ortona competition for his setting of Pablo Neruda's "Cuando yo muera" for voice and string quartet. The performance was scheduled for August 13 at the Istituto Nazionale Tostiano, Ortona, Italy. **Kirsten Ward**'s move to California had a few "bumps" in the road, and COVID-19 certainly had an impact. "But, I am super happy to have a job that is now completely virtual, and my Yorkie is in dog heaven with his mommy home all day! Any Camels living in the SoCal area, please feel free to PM me on Facebook. It would be great to connect (maintaining social distance of course!)"

94 Correspondent: **Daniella Garran**, dgarran@gmail.com The Class of 1994 has endured the pandemic with lots of humor (join our Facebook group if you're not already a member!), lots of productivity (believe it or not) and lots of prolific writers! Congratulations to **Sue Seabury Cotter**, who published *Shear Will* (available on Amazon), and to **Hannah Roberts McKinnon**, who published *The View from Here*, available at all major bookstores and on Amazon. A giant thank you to **Dana Rousmaniere** who participated in Pan-Mass Challenge 2020 Reimagined in honor of our classmate, **Esther Potter Zaff**. The Pan-Mass Challenge is—in a normal year—a 192-mile bike ride across Massachusetts to raise money for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dana rode to support the Zaff Family Fund at Dana-Farber. This fund was created to support ongoing and cutting-edge research into graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), a very common, and deadly, complication of stem-cell transplantation, with which Esther has struggled. PMC Team Haggis consisted of Dana, Esther, Jon Zaff '95 and Ben Tyrrell '95. Dana

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also reports that during quarantine, he and his family watched several films by fellow Camel Andre Robert Lee '93. In August 2019, **Tara Duffy** moved to Taipei, Taiwan, from Galway, Ireland; she writes, "I taught Iyengar yoga and enjoyed the Emerald Isle for three years. I have been drawing on my major again here as I teach yoga in Chinese, as well as learning additional ways to say 'broaden' and 'quieten the breath.' It was an amazing coincidence to end up in Taiwan this year, as it is one of the countries that emerged a model of how to contain a pandemic. We've been able to carry on life pretty much as normal, albeit wearing masks in many public places. Even my daughter's school only went online for a couple weeks in February and March before resuming in-person classes for the rest of the academic year. Before the virus brought international travel to a near standstill, I saw **Aurelia Robert** when she visited in November and met fellow Camel Michael O'Neill '07, who works at my daughter's school. I had coffee with **Makiko Ushiba Katoh** last summer in New York and have been in touch with **Judy Williams Corless** and **Maisha Yearwood** on other visits to the city. I also caught up with Maixuan Phan in Cambridge, Mass., last summer and even saw my freshman Harkness roommate **Megan Hughes Fischer** in Galway when her family visited Ireland in 2017. So while I missed Reunion, I saw a few Camels across the world when it was such a different world."

00 ^R **Thomas Richardson** was appointed to the board of the Massachusetts Business Aviation Association. He is an associate in the Business Aviation Group and Corporate Practices at global law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP.



Thomas Richardson '00

04 *Correspondent: Nora Mirick Guerra, noramguerrera@gmail.com* **Jordan Geary** won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Children's or Family Viewing Program as producer of the TV series *Ghostwriter*. The series airs on Apple TV+ and is produced by Sesame Workshop, where Jordan works as senior director of production and development. The Emmy win was historic, as it was the first time a streaming platform won in its first year of existence. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, this year's Daytime Emmy ceremony was streamed virtually, allowing Jordan to watch and celebrate with his wife, Chloe Schon Geary '03, parents John and Jay, and daughters Athena and Tatum.

05 ^R **Rebecca Overholt** married Sam Lopresti (Fordham '11) in NYC, on August 24, 2019.

06 ^R *Correspondent: Julia Jacobson, julia.jacobson@gmail.com* **Abby Geller Wein**, husband Spencer and 2-year-old Sunny welcomed baby Jude on April 10, 2020. **Charlotte Bothe Rutledge** has managed the King Arthur test kitchen for the past three years. The New York Times published an article about a pizza recipe she developed last year. **Emily Cohen** finished her postdoc and started her role as a research scientist at a biotech startup in Cambridge, Mass., focused on cancer therapeutics. She was excited to learn that the CSO's son is a fellow Camel, who graduated this spring (also from the chemistry department!). **Josh Posner** co-wrote the feature film *The Comeback Trail*, starring Robert De Niro, Tommy Lee Jones, Morgan Freeman, Zach Braff and Emile Hirsch. The film is slated for release in theaters later this year (or whenever the pandemic allows). Aighleann

McKiernan '04 also appears in the movie in the role of Harriet.

08 *Correspondent: Areti Sakellaris, asakellaris@gmail.com* On April 21, **Jonathan (Jon) McKee** and wife Meghan Pillai welcomed their first child, Maeve Elizabeth Laurel McKee. She was born in Morristown, N.J., at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and mom and baby are both doing well. Jon was promoted to principal at JEMA Architects and is working remotely from their home in Dover, N.J., splitting time between diaper changes and virtual client meetings.

10 ^R *Class Correspondent: Grace Astrove, gca1223@gmail.com* **Molly McRoskey Morrow** and Justin Morrow '07 welcomed their second child, Owen, on February 3. Maggie is a proud big sister. **Michael Haviland** and his wife, Kristyn, welcomed their son, Elliot James Haviland, on March 30, 2020. **Erin Brady-Wiggins** and Jonathan Wiggins welcomed their daughter, Olivia Colette, on June 22, 2020. **Brian Sager** married Carey (Brown) Sager on February 22, 2020 in Delray Beach, FL with **Ryan Thuma** and **Gordon Nye Sleeper** standing by his side as groomsmen. **Alexis Levensgood** earned her PhD in November 2019 from University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia. Alexis is a behavioral ecologist focusing on social evolution and social complexity in long-lived, highly gregarious species, with a particular interest in marine mammals.

19 *Correspondent: Victoria Slater, victoriaslater28@gmail.com* Quite a few 2019 Camels are up in Boston: **Isabelle Cookson** is a new business presentation designer at advertising agency MullenLowe. During the pandemic, she continues to do at-home workouts and has even added paddleboarding to the mix. **Brooke Downey** is a learning systems administrator at Partners Healthcare, and **Julia Dearden** works at Rapid7 in Boston in the Growth Strategy Rotational Program. She is on the User Experience team, and her next rotation will be on the Web Team. And **Sam Barnes** is a software engineer at Wayfair in Boston. **Emma Schenker** works at Michael Zenreich Architects, a small firm based in midtown NYC. During the pandemic, she has been staying with her family in Southampton, N.Y. **Scott Brown** is a third-grade teacher at Greenwich Country Day School in Greenwich, Conn., and also coaches squash and tennis there. **Andrew Godwin** is a software engineer at Fidelity in Smithfield, R.I. **Dylan Chase** is a data integration analyst at Strata Decision Technology, in Chicago, and has enjoyed playing golf and barbecuing there. **Eli Mitchell** is an investment sales associate at Fidelity in Dallas, Texas, and has taken up tennis.

In Memoriam

1940s

Elaine Perry Sheldon '40 died April 27, 2019
Lois Altschul Aaron '41 died April 6, 2020
Joan Purington Davenport '41 died February 26, 2020
Mercedes Matthews Williams '42 died May 25, 2020
Barbara Murphy Brewster '43 died March 31, 2020
Margie Livingston Campbell '43 died May 4, 2020
Louise Reichgott Endel '43 died April 27, 2020
Mary-Jean Moran Hart '44 died December 1, 2019
Jeanne Jacques Kleinschmidt '44 died December 20, 2019
Dorothy Raymond Mead '44 died November 24, 2019
Ann LeLievre Hermann '45 died Aug. 26, 2020
Barbara Wadsworth Koenitzer '45 died May 28, 2020
Shirley Armstrong Meneice '45 died July 16, 2020
Joanna Dimock Norris '45 died June 23, 2020
Barbara Thompson Lougee '46 died March 7, 2020
Frances Fisher Merwin '46 died December 10, 2019
Virginia Stauffer Hantz '47 died April 8, 2020
Margot Grace Hartmann '47 died August 18, 2018
Joan Brower Hoff '47 died June 29, 2020
Jacquelyn Greenblatt Tchorni '47 died March 1, 2020
Virginia Rocke Grainger '48 died March 13, 2020
Helene Sulzer Guarnaccia '48 died April 26, 2020
Roberta Richards Hopkins '48 died May 19, 2020
Janet Mellen Johnson '48 died April 13, 2020
Margaret Milliken Tyson '48 died April 27, 2020
Susan Farnham Ford '49 died August 8, 2019
Norma Gabianelli LeFebvre '49 died July 15, 2020

1950s

Martha Goodrich Goldman '50 died March 24, 2020
Brenda Ginsburg Silin '50 died January 14, 2019
Nancy Puklin Stolper '50 died April 15, 2020
Carol Wedum Conklin '51 died April 8, 2020
Betsey Colgan Pitt '51 died July 12, 2020
Barbara Scheib Brazill '52 died June 3, 2020
Winann Meyer Curran '52 died April 11, 2020
Nancy Day '52 died February 13, 2020
Judith Nirenstein Plotkin-Goldberg '52 died April 3, 2020
Marlene Roth Ances '53 died April 16, 2020
Juliana Griggs Marty '53 died June 2, 2020
Virginia Wilson Thomson '53 died April 3, 2020
Carol Todd Vasko '53 died March 9, 2020
Sarah Wing '53 died February 27, 2020
Frances Hake Alexander '54 died July 24, 2020
Judith Yankauer Astrove '54 died May 17, 2020
Evelyn Steele Barrett '54 died July 10, 2020
Carol Bernstein Finn '54 died January 12, 2020
Mary Robertson Jennings '54 died June 10, 2020
Annette Studzinski Mead '54 died November 23, 2018
Patricia McCabe O'Connell '54 died April 4, 2020
Joan Aldrich Zell '54 died January 7, 2020

Mary Rossman Bird '55 died April 24, 2020
Joan Lake Kaiser '55 died June 13, 2020
Anne Shaughnessy '55 died May 1, 2020
Joan Gaddy Ahrens '56 died July 25, 2020
Janet Frost Bank '56 died April 25, 2020
Martha Canterbury Buford '56 died May 18, 2020
Margery Blech Passett '56 died February 3, 2020
Penelope Howland Cambier '57 died May 12, 2020
Joan Kosches Rodger '57 died March 22, 2017
Joyce Brooks Quinn '58 died December 3, 2018
Elizabeth Pughe King '59 died February 25, 2020
Alicia Dauch Kramer '59 died May 13, 2020
Ann Freedman Mizgerd '59 died June 6, 2020

1960s

Christine Steinfelder Barlow '60 died February 17, 2020
Karen Hoffman Hanson '60 died June 11, 2020
Josephine Jackes Ross '60 died June 2, 2020
Linda Randall Wrege '60 died December 21, 2019
Judith Warner Edwards '61 died March 3, 2020
Barbara Thomas Yeomans '61 died March 12, 2020
Susan Feldman Copeland '62 died March 22, 2020
Ellen Freedman Dingman '62 died March 25, 2020
Myrna Gimp Raffkind '62 died January 31, 2017
Susan Kane Breitman '63 died July 15, 2019
Alice Orndorff Gordon '63 died March 5, 2020
Anne Alexander Lathrop '63 died April 6, 2020
Sarah Wood McCracken '63 died April 12, 2020
Douglas Skopp '64 died May 27, 2018
Susan Hackenburg Trethewey '64 died May 11, 2020
Diane Claiborne Clements '67 died December 28, 2019
Kay Lane Leaird '68 died February 4, 2020
Priscilla Young '68 died June 17, 2020

1970s

Susan Lee '70 died June 25, 2020
Maria Kondon '71 died April 3, 2020
Linda Herskowitz Kriger '71 died May 29, 2020
Catherine Duncan Pray '73 died October 15, 2019
Kenneth Johnson '74 died March 29, 2020
David Shuman '74 died December 29, 2016
Roy Taylor '74 died July 2, 2020
Kathleen O'Brien '77 died April 9, 2020
Noeleen Parker '78 died April 9, 2020
Carolyn Painter Billet '79 died January 23, 2015

1980s

James Starke '82 died July 16, 2020

1990s

William Toscano '91 died May 13, 2020
Constance Henson '96 died June 12, 2020



A Social-Distance Dance

Dance Company-in-Residence David Dorfman Dance (DDD) was invited to perform at an event hosted by The High Line in New York City on October 1, 2020. The evening was a revitalization effort to bring performance back to public spaces during city-wide COVID19 closings. Dancers Nik Owens, Douglas Gillespie and Aya Wilson of DDD. Photo by Rowa Lee, courtesy of the High Line.



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Nick Carito

After two months of testing protocols and adherence to social distancing, mask-wearing and other public health measures, the College met the threshold to lower its alert level to Modified Green status—the least restrictive status.