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Connecticut College

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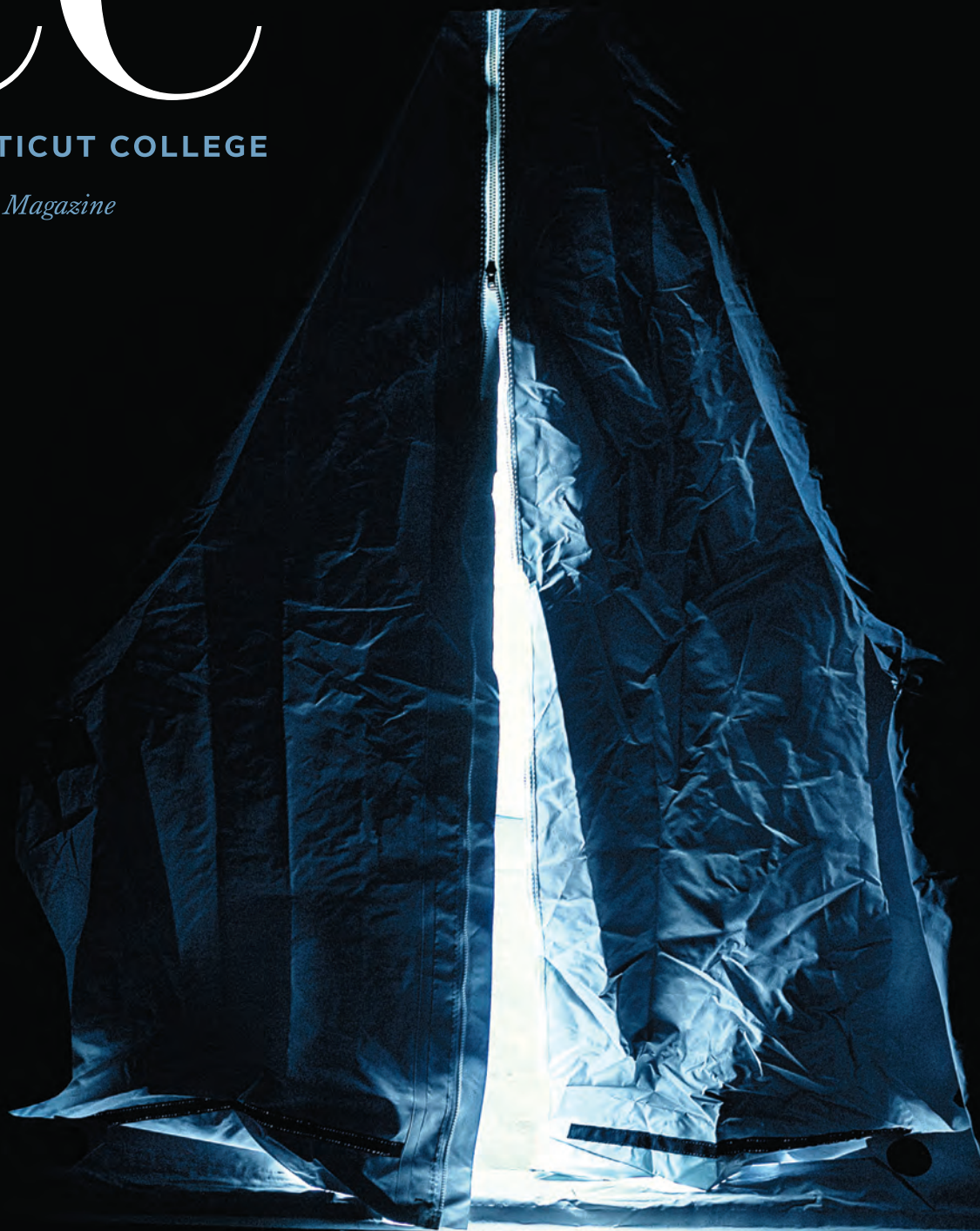
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# CC

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

*Magazine*



FLATTEN THE CURVE







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On the cover: An outdoor I.C.U. hospital located in Central Park.  
Photo by Misha Friedman (See also pg. 14)

This page: Through the trees. Photo by Miles Ladin '90





Harold Shapiro

## From the President

We are living through an extraordinary moment in history. The senseless killings of George Floyd and other Black Americans at the hands of white police and vigilantes have compelled people in every corner of the United States and around the world to take a stand against racism, and to demand the same of all our institutions. We have been deeply moved in the past week by the eloquent words of so many leaders, including our own students, faculty, staff, alumnae and alumni, calling on us to support black lives on campus, in our community, and in the world.

This historic moment will not reward bystanders. It calls for action.

Action is at the heart of our mission at Connecticut College: *to educate students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens of a global society.*

Therefore, based on the broad goals of our Equity and Inclusion Action Plan, found on our website, the College is making a commitment to advance anti-racist education through ten actions in three areas: campus safety and law enforcement; teaching and learning; and climate. For more information on our commitment, I invite you to read my June 8 letter to the community, published on my president's page on the College site.

I want you to know that we have prioritized equity and inclusion in the College's comprehensive fundraising campaign with a goal to raise at least \$5 million to support capital projects and programming. And we have made progress. In 2018, a gift from a generous alumnus provided the seed funding for us to begin executing our plans. Last year, another alumnus donated \$500,000 to help us bring a second cohort of Posse scholars from New York City to join our scholars from Chicago. And yet another gift of \$1 million from Agnes Gund '60 allowed us to endow The Dialogue Project, a comprehensive social justice education program that is already making an impact.

We know the road to justice and equity is long, but we hope that, with these concrete actions, our community will move a bit closer to realizing the values we profess.

As always, we thank you for your support and look forward to the results of our collective commitment.

**Katherina Bergeron**

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VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS:

*Pamela Dumas Serfes*

EDITOR: *Edward Weinman*

ART DIRECTOR: *Benjamin Parent*

SENIOR WRITERS: *Amy Martin, Doug Daniels*

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER: *Miles Ladin '90*

CLASS NOTES COMPILED BY: *Alumni Relations*

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Editor, *CC Magazine*, Becker House,  
270 Mohegan Avenue, New London, CT 06320-4196  
Phone: 860-439-2500  
Fax: 860-439-5405  
Email: [ccmag@conncoll.edu](mailto:ccmag@conncoll.edu)

*Alumni: Send address changes to:*

**Alumni Office**  
**Connecticut College**  
**270 Mohegan Ave.**  
**New London, CT 06320-4196**

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For Class Notes submissions: [classnotes@conncoll.edu](mailto: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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## *From the Editor*

### Stay Safe

**A**nd then the world's citizens went inside. The virologists, epidemiologists, emergency room doctors and nurses implored us to: "Flatten the curve."

By the end of March, around 2.6 billion people—one-third of the human population—were obeying some form of stay-at-home order, according to Agence France-Presse. That's more human beings than were alive to witness World War II.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the trajectory of our lives. The novel coronavirus, said to have originated in Wuhan, China, has spared no community, including Conn's.

On March 11, President Katherine Bergeron announced that Connecticut College would operate on a mostly remote basis in order to flatten the contagion curve. In her announcement, Bergeron wrote that the College is "a community of character and a community of care. When faced with extraordinary circumstances we think about each other, coming together to work out solutions that are in the best interests of our students, faculty and staff.

One of Conn's core messages is that our community puts the world together in new ways. CC Magazine reflects what's taking place in the world around us, so it was inconceivable that we could publish a magazine that did not cover the ways in which our alumni, faculty, students, parents and staff are reconstructing our communities in new ways to fight this pandemic and save lives—from remote teaching and distance learning, to engagement in New London and around the globe, to the doctors, nurses and first responders treating the sick, to the medical researches searching for therapeutics to halt the virus. Therefore, the front of this issue of the magazine covers Conn's pandemic response.

Undoubtedly, we have left out numerous stories, since all of us, just by staying at home, are saving lives. In subsequent issues,

we will continue telling stories about how our community is coping with the pandemic.

Some readers might ask why the entire magazine doesn't cover news about the pandemic. When we went remote, the magazine team was puzzling together a themed issue about the environmental challenges facing our global society, and how our alumni are deconstructing the commonly held belief that reducing our environmental footprint to slow the warming of the planet is mutually exclusive from economic prosperity. In the midst of this pandemic, it's important to stress that our changing environment is connected to the spread of disease.

"As pathogens are exposed to gradually warmer temperatures in the natural world, they become better equipped to survive the high temperature inside the human body," wrote Justin Worland, a journalist for TIME who covers energy and the environment.

"And, with that, one of our body's primary defense mechanisms diminishes in effectiveness."

So we stuck with our original conceit. We organized the feature well around the pre-Socratic philosopher Empedocles' theory of the four elements: water, fire, air and earth. The writing and images serve to inform and transport our readers to the deep and total blueness of our world's oceans, to high above the Peruvian Amazon, to wind turbines reaching for the sky, and even to the chemistry labs creating meatless hamburgers.

During this stage of the pandemic, when we stay at home to flatten that stubborn curve, I wanted to provide the opportunity for our readers to travel.

Stay safe. And healthy.

**Edward Weinman**  
*Editor, CC Magazine*



# Remote Control

The College moves to online teaching and learning

When Assistant Professor of Government Mara Suttman-Lea tweeted a picture of podcast equipment set up in her cozy home-office space she captioned the picture, “Coming soon from my cabin in the woods, a ‘Podcast About American Politics.’”

She added the trending pandemic hashtag: #SocialDistancing.

After Connecticut College went remote on March 11, Conn’s faculty found innovative ways to adapt their in-person courses for remote instruction.

“It’s important to make learning as equitable as possible. Some students may not have consistent access to the internet, or a computer with a microphone or a video camera. I think being open and flexible is really key, both for students and myself,” Suttman-Lea said.

Michael Reder, director of the College’s Joy Shechtman Mankin Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL), along with his colleagues in the CTL and in Conn’s Information Technology group, created a tip sheet, “11 Teaching-Focused Things to Consider when Moving Your Course Online.” It has been shared hundreds of times and prompted inquiries from faculty as far away as Germany.

“Our students are going to learn better, and our faculty are going to teach better, when they feel connected and emotionally safe. It’s important to establish that online before you even start

the other parts of the course,” Reder told *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Lexi Pope ’21 said her professors have done a great job staying connected and acknowledging students’ unique circumstances.

“They made it clear that they were available to support and help us,” she said.

A psychology major and scholar in the Bodies/Embodiment Pathway, Pope created a study space in her home in Massachusetts.

“It speaks highly of Conn that I still felt a sense of community even when we were so far apart,” she said. “We used social media and technology to our advantage. The Conn community remained very active, and things like workout classes, motivation and advice were floating around. Students were reaching out and coming up with new ways to stay connected.”

Because Conn is a global community, Marc Zimmer, the Jean C. Tempel ’65 Professor of Chemistry, quickly realized he’d have to adopt different approaches for his different classes.

“My ‘Introduction to Chemistry’ class had students in Vietnam, Bangladesh, Africa, Hawaii—all over the world,” Zimmer said. “It would have been impossible to teach all of them at the same time.”

For that class, Zimmer recorded lectures, provided materials to download and broke the class into smaller discus-

sion groups that took into account their various time zones.

Zimmer scrapped plans to teach “Good Science, Bad Science, New Science, Old Science.” Instead, he taught “COVID-19: Diseases Without Borders.” It covered the impact of globalization, high-density housing and food supplies, as well as the differences in the international responses to different epidemics.

“I reminded students of all the chemistry that we learned in class that the coronavirus test uses,” he said. “It was a great opportunity to show them chemistry is not all theoretical; it has important practical uses.”

Some faculty in fields that rely heavily on in-person experiences, including the arts, had to get extra creative.

“I am so amazed at all of my colleagues at the College,” said Professor of Dance David Dorfman. “Where there’s a will, there’s a way. Many faculty and worldwide dance artists are still making dances, podcasts and master classes available online. There’s a lot we could work from.”

For courses, including “Dancers Act, Actors Dance,” Dorfman worked with students to identify spaces in their homes where they could dance.

“Sometimes it was a hallway, or a rec room, or part of a living room. Sometimes it was outside,” Dorfman said. “We made it happen.”

# On the Front Lines of History

Conn students work as EMTs, firefighters during COVID-19 pandemic

**H**ector Salazar '20 didn't head home to Chicago when Connecticut College went to remote modes of instruction because of the COVID-19 pandemic. A volunteer firefighter and an EMT with a local fire department and ambulance service, he had important work to do.

"I signed up to serve the community and I have a responsibility to do so; we can't just stop coming into work until this is over. People depend on us," said Salazar, who is one of at least five Connecticut College students working as EMTs on the front lines of the pandemic.

An environmental studies and anthropology double major and Posse Scholar, Salazar arranged to stay on campus. He had to balance his distance learning coursework while working up to 32 hours a week on the ambulance, and responding to fire calls as they came in.

"I was promoted in January to 2nd Lieutenant, and I'm very proud to serve and learn in the capacity of a fire company officer," he said. "Much like the student-athletes, I think of myself as a student-firefighter."

Taylor Chafey '20, a biology major and government minor, also worked and volunteered as an EMT in Waterford, Connecticut. She said the last few months have been unlike anything she's ever seen.

"It got more stressful as [the number of COVID-19 cases] increased," she said. "It's a different environment; the whole way we now approach patients at an emergency scene has changed."

While Chafey admitted that it can be scary to think about contracting the virus herself, she said she takes all necessary precautions.

"When it comes down to it, I'd rather have myself out there—someone who is young and able—than someone who is older and immunocompromised," she said.

Chafey said she would like to go to graduate school, and is considering a career as a physician assistant.

Working as an EMT during a pandemic, she's gaining hands-on experience.

"I may never see something like this again in my lifetime," she said. "And that's quite fine with me. But if I do, I'll be a little more prepared for it."

Sydney Bryan '21 usually spends her summers at home in Wyoming, working for the emergency medical department at Grand Teton National Park, where the bulk of her work includes search-and-rescue calls from the backcountry. But since the park was closed to limit the spread of COVID-19, she stayed in New London County to continue working for American Ambulance Service in Norwich, Connecticut.

"It's wildly different work," said Bryan, a dance major, biology minor and scholar in the Creativity Pathway.

"Here, since it's much more urban, we do a mix of emergency calls and hospital transports. We see more major medical problems, and not as much trauma."

While Bryan says she misses her family in Wyoming, she's glad to help the community. In her free time, she's also hand-making masks to help with the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Victoria Duszak '21 says keeping up with the near-daily changes to PPE protocol can be a challenge.

"It's stressful overall, but it's the same for everyone working in health care right now," she said.

A behavioral neuroscience and Slavic studies double major, physics minor and scholar in the Holleran Center for Community Action, Duszak is working as an EMT in Wolcott, Connecticut, near her hometown of Southington.

"Now, if we get a call, it's almost always going to be a COVID patient. Every time the radio goes off," she said.

The experience has solidified Duszak's interest in becoming a doctor, and she's currently applying to medical schools.

"It's definitely interesting living through something that we are going to talk about and look back on, but I guess that's the job. You take whatever comes at you in medicine," she said.



# Call to Action

## Alumni answer the calls for help

By the time Connecticut College went to remote modes of learning, some Conn students were stuck on campus, while others who traveled for Spring Break couldn't return to pick up their belongings.

In stepped alumni like Patricia Swonger '81 who contributed to the College's Student Emergency Fund.

"I was a financial aid student at Conn when I was there," Swonger said. "Had it not been for the support I received from the Connecticut College community, I doubt I would have been able to graduate. The College was there for me, and it's my job to be there for it now."

The Student Emergency Fund offered immediate support to help students with travel, housing, lost wages from campus jobs, shipping, moving expenses, and other unexpected hardships that arose from the pandemic.

"When I attended Conn, my family lived overseas in Nepal," said Rachel Peniston '11, who supported the fund. "Had something like this occurred during my four years, I would not have known where I could go. Thank you for setting up this fund to help students with limited options at a critical moment like this."

The Emergency Fund effort raised nearly \$70,000.

While hundreds of Conn alumni helped students return home, many

others continue in the fight to defeat the coronavirus.

As a volunteer in the emergency department at Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center in Los Angeles, California, Dylan Pinckert '18 says it is part of his job to make sure doctors and nurses have the PPE and tools they need to treat COVID-19 patients. Pinckert, who plans to become a physician assistant and is in the process of getting his EMT license recertified, takes seriously the mission of the hospital to provide all patients with top-quality care regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

"Since the pandemic, the number of volunteers is a quarter of what it was. The department relies on us for help," he said.

In addition to working directly with patients, Conn alumni are addressing the pandemic in other ways.

Anita Nadelson '88 owns Three by Three Seattle, a boutique design firm, and never thought she'd work with a business contact in China to track down swabs, which she and other Seattle business leaders donated to the University of Washington Department of Laboratory Medicine for COVID-19 testing.

"We work with 25 factories in China. I know how to get anything made," Nadelson told The Seattle Times.

Charles Griffiths '84 is also a maker.

Griffiths is president of Vigilant, a Dover, New Hampshire-based fin cabinetry, furnishings and mill-working company that specializes in custom wine storage and cigar humidor cabinets. Deemed an essential business, the company is still operating, but has also devoted staff and resources to produce face shields with a design approved by the National Institutes of Health.

"Our goal is 10,000 face shields for first responders and front-line healthcare workers in central New England," said Griffiths.

To make the shields, Vigilant's engineers remodeled a crowd-sourced prototype of a face-shield crown for the company's CNC machinery, which operates similarly to a 3D printer, processing a piece of material based on computer-programmed instructions. Griffiths has been working nearly around the clock to procure the rest of the supplies, including buckles, elastic bands and plastic sheets, while the company's staff members work to assemble the shields. In early April, the company shipped the first 1,000 masks to New Hampshire's Stafford County to be used in nursing homes. The second batch went to two local fire departments.

"We are doing this to help the people who are risking their lives every day," Griffiths said. "It's just the right thing to do."

# Celebration of Seniors

## An alternative way to honor Class of 2020

Emma Benington '20 was supposed to join her classmates on Tempel Green on May 17 to celebrate the most momentous day in a college student's academic career: Commencement.

She'll have to wait another year.

In mid-April, President Katherine Bergeron and Benington, the Class of 2020 president, broadcast a video message to the graduating class announcing that Conn's 102nd Commencement would be held May 30, 2021, during Memorial Day weekend. A special remote event, featuring video clips submitted by the students themselves, recognized the graduates on their originally scheduled date.

Benington, who leads the student subcommittee of the Commencement Task Force, said she felt that it was important to recognize May 17 as a day of celebration for the class but also to make sure it didn't replace the in-person Commencement.

"On top of the many events that our class has lost, our celebrations together are among the most missed," she said, adding that the in-person ceremony next year gives members of the class something to look forward to.

After the announcement was made, Benington emailed the entire class, asking for short video clips of seniors in order to compile the clips into a single celebratory video. Those submissions included students donning

Conn apparel, smiling, waving, skipping rocks and dancing. One student, Benington said, tossed a graduation cap into the air with one hand, then caught a piece of rolled up paper—a "diploma"—in the other.

"This video provided a way to 'see' each other in an intimate and meaningful way, and hopefully, gave us a sense of closure before we reunite at next year's ceremony," said Benington, a dance and behavioral neuroscience double major from Portland, Maine.

"It felt like the perfect way to bring a glimmer of joy to this day."

The remote celebration also included a video message from keynote speaker Patrick Awuah, founding president of Ashesi University College, Connecticut College's partner college in Berekuso, Ghana. Awuah, a 2015 MacArthur "genius grant" winner, is a visionary leader who created Ashesi University College in 2002 with the mission of educating a new generation of ethical and entrepreneurial leaders in Africa.

Awuah will address the graduates at the 2021 ceremony and receive a doctor of humane letters *honoris causa*, an honorary degree that reflect his revolutionary achievements in higher education in Ghana, as well as his commitment to the values that animate our mission of the liberal arts in action.

When the class does convene next year, Viridiana Villalva Salas '20 will realize her lifelong dream of giving a speech at her own graduation.

Villalva Salas is a Posse Scholar from Chicago, Illinois, an English major, a scholar in both the Holleran Center for Community Action and the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, and is pursuing her teaching certificate in secondary education. She was selected to address her classmates by members of the Commencement Student Speaker Selection Committee. In keeping with the tradition of informing student speakers of their selection from the top of Tempel Green, Dean of Students Victor Arcelus took a laptop to the green to give Villalva Salas the news over a video call.

"It felt so unreal," Villalva Salas said. "It's not often that people with my background are given the opportunity to go to a college as prestigious as Conn, much less speak at Commencement."

Villalva Salas said COVID-19 is just the latest of several obstacles that the resilient Class of 2020 has had to overcome, and that she looks forward to a well-deserved celebration next year.

"We will all be coming back together after a full year of graduate school, jobs and fellowships. It won't be like any other Commencement that has been seen on our campus."



# Disease Control

Stephanie Hackett '09 shapes public health decisions

Usually, Stephanie Hackett '09 spends at least a quarter of her time traveling around the world.

An epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) based in Atlanta, Georgia, she specializes in pediatric and adolescent HIV care and treatment. She visits some of the 50 countries that receive support from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), helping local country offices and ministries of health scale up pediatric and adolescent HIV testing and treatment.

Now, like so many of us, Hackett is working mostly from home.

"With the current travel restrictions, I can no longer work in person with my colleagues around the world," she says. "The CDC has moved meetings and communication largely to virtual platforms to still provide effective and personal public health expertise."

That may be more important than ever for the vulnerable populations Hackett serves. Over the last few weeks, her work has shifted significantly as she tries to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on HIV-infected children and their families.

"Not only do people who are HIV-positive deal with the risk of getting COVID-19, they also deal with the effects that COVID-19 can have on their ability to access HIV care, such as lack of public transportation to clinic visits,

difficulty maintaining social distancing at health care facilities, or potential medication shortages if global supplies are affected," Hackett says.

Launched by U.S. President George W. Bush in 2003, PEPFAR is a U.S. governmental initiative that addresses the global HIV/AIDS epidemic and works to save the lives of those suffering from the disease. Since its inception, it has provided more than \$80 billion in funding for HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention and research, making it the largest-ever effort by any one nation to address a single disease.

Now, PEPFAR is addressing one disease while dealing with another.

"I now serve as the pediatric and adolescent COVID-19 point-of-contact within my CDC division to help ensure HIV-positive pediatric and adolescent populations are being considered and planned for in the PEPFAR COVID-19 preparation and response efforts," Hackett says. "This means daily communication within and across agencies to discuss and distribute the latest information and recommendations related to COVID-19."

At Conn, Hackett majored in biology, minored in Latin American studies and was a scholar in the Holleran Center for Community Action. She then went on to earn a Master of Public Health and a Master of Medical Science from Emory University. She served for nearly five

years as a pediatric infectious disease physician assistant for the Atlanta, Georgia-based Grady Health System, providing comprehensive HIV/AIDS and pediatric primary care to HIV-infected children and young people from birth to age 25, before joining the CDC in 2017.

She still works one day a week treating HIV-positive children and teens at Grady Hospital's Ponce De Leon Center.

"These visits have also largely shifted to telemedicine to limit our patients' potential exposure to COVID-19," she says.

Like so many working parents, Hackett is also homeschooling her two young children. It's a lot for anyone to handle, but Hackett says her work is exciting and rewarding.

"I love using my clinical skills as a physician assistant as well as my background in global public health on a daily basis and in a variety of ways throughout the agency to do my part in responding to this pandemic," she says.

As the pandemic evolves, so might Hackett's role. The CDC's 24/7 emergency operations center, which has been coordinating the COVID-19 response, is largely staffed by CDC employees who have volunteered for the mission. Hackett has volunteered, and is ready to serve when necessary.

"I am prepared to deploy fulltime to support the COVID-19 response for as long as may be needed," she says.

# The Spanish Flu

What can the 1918 Flu epidemic teach us about COVID-19, asks Professor Marc Zimmer

**CC Magazine:** The Spanish Flu didn't start in Spain. Why did the Iberian country get stuck with the name?

**Marc Zimmer:** It's commonly believed that the 1918 pandemic started in Camp Funston, Kansas. The camp hospital received its first influenza victim on March 4. By April, 30 of the 50 largest cities in the United States, most in close proximity to military bases, reported increased deaths. It spread to England, France, Germany and Spain. Spain was the only country hit by the virus that was not involved in World War I; therefore it was the only country to report the true extent of the pandemic. This resulted in the mistaken belief that the 1918 flu originated in Spain.

**CC:** The Spanish Flu was the last pandemic. How does it compare to the COVID-19 outbreak?

**MZ:** The 1918 flu pandemic haunts all epidemiologists. It's estimated that between 50 million and 100 million people died. The world is more prepared now and science has dramatically advanced. However, the U.S. response to COVID-19 shows there are some important lessons we haven't learned. COVID-19 isn't like the flu. It's its own beast. It's caused by a coronavirus, not an influenza virus, and there are many differences to the 1918 flu. But there are also similarities. In 1918, we

hadn't yet developed drugs or vaccines for the flu. This is also true for COVID-19. In addition, the 1918 flu virus was a spillover virus. Like COVID-19, it came from nonhuman hosts and no one had immunity to this new virus.

**CC:** What lessons do we still need to learn from the 1918 flu pandemic?

**MZ:** COVID-19 originated in China. Its heavy-handed quarantines may have saved thousands of U.S. lives. Although we may have wasted the advantages given to us by the Chinese, we need to pay it forward to our neighbors in the southern hemisphere and slow the spread in the U.S. To mitigate resurgences of the virus and to prevent future pandemics, global cooperation is required. Withdrawing from the World Health Organization and blaming China won't help. It will antagonize our allies, which may further weaken our medical supply chains and endanger our epidemiological early-warning systems.

**CC:** We've been told to practice social distancing. Where did that come from?

**MZ:** The first cases of 1918 flu among civilians in Philadelphia were reported on Sept. 17, 1918. Authorities downplayed their significance and on the 28th the city held the largest parade in its history: the "Liberty Loan Drive," a massive gathering designed to get people to subscribe

to war bonds. This provided the newly arrived virus a feast of victims, resulting in a tenfold higher death rate due to the flu than was observed in the more careful St. Louis over the same period.

**CC:** Does the Spanish Flu inform us about how the COVID-19 pandemic ends?

**MZ:** In 1918, the U.S. Army requested George Soper—who discovered Mary Mallon, or Typhoid Mary, an asymptomatic carrier of typhoid—to investigate the flu pandemic. He found that the complete isolation of flu patients was the only way to control the outbreak and that "the disease is carried from place to place by persons, not things or by the general atmosphere, as was once supposed. Its rapidity of spread is due to its great infectivity, short period of incubation, missed cases and absence of timely precautionary measures. The epidemics stop themselves ... either by the exhaustion of the susceptible material, by a reduction in the virulence of the causative agent, or both." Despite this knowledge, and although public health officials advocated keeping a distance, not everyone adhered to the advice—with deadly consequences. Sound familiar?

*Marc Zimmer is the Jean C. Tempel '65 Professor of Chemistry. He teaches a new course, "COVID-19: Diseases Without Borders." He is the author of the soon to be released The State of Science (Prometheus Press, 2020).*

# Coping with a Pandemic

**CC Magazine:** Aside from teaching, you are a psychologist who specializes in child, adolescent and young adult mental health. How have you been making it through this difficult time?

**Nakia Hamlett:** It's challenging. It's interesting. It's anxiety-provoking. I try to limit my intake of news, because I got to a place where it didn't seem helpful to watch all the time.

**CC:** What are some coping mechanisms students, faculty and staff should consider if struggling during the pandemic?

**NH:** Self-care is critically important. Broadly speaking, self-care is anything that promotes your sense of having some control and feeling good. Getting plenty of rest, eating well and getting exercise are all important, as well as my personal favorites, meditation and mindfulness. Self-care also means connecting with significant others, online if you can't be with them in person (while keeping six feet apart).

**CC:** What about for those who are living with others and have less control over the mitigation of risk factors?

**NH:** It can be good to agree on household rules: communicate about who will be leaving the house and how often during the pandemic, and what sorts of proce-

dures you should have in place for managing risk once somebody returns to the house. Naturally, this planning can create some anxiety, but establishing routines will ultimately lead to stronger feelings of control and security. Finally, we all need to remember that this situation will improve. It's a matter of diligently and patiently waiting this out as best we can.

**CC:** No person is an island. How can we reduce the sense of isolation and loneliness now that we can't gather with those outside our household?

**NH:** I'm a strong believer in practicing mindfulness in combination with other tools that can help combat thoughts that make people feel bad. Focusing attention on joyful activities and memories, and spending time on passion projects that you suddenly have more time to complete are great ways to get out of your mind and stay busy with life. Also, watching TV shows that are more lighthearted, funny or interesting is another way to distract from the constant dialogue in your mind. Given that we're all living through a real-life trauma, avoiding dark shows that focus on disturbing or stressful topics is probably a good idea. In general, anxiety and depression thrive when we give our attention to fearful or depressing thoughts. So the more we learn to focus our attention and distract ourselves, the less intense these symptoms can be.

**CC:** What behaviors should people look for, both in themselves and among friends, family and coworkers, that could be a signal that mental health treatment should be sought?

**NH:** Depression is a complex and insidious disease that can wax and wane over the course of somebody's life. Some people suffer from constant low-grade depression or experience an acute episode of depression that comes on suddenly.

Symptoms to look out for are feeling tired or listless, no longer enjoying activities that you previously enjoyed, increased isolation from other people, and even talking more about feelings of helplessness or suicidal thoughts. Many of those thoughts and feelings can easily go unnoticed by others if they're not verbalized.

In acute cases, when somebody stops engaging in basic life activities, expresses suicidal thoughts or suggests they might have a specific plan for harming themselves, they may need to seek emergency resources. But for friends, family and other supportive people in the life of anybody who is suffering from depression, it's important to continue being supportive, empathetic and available, but also realize that those efforts won't magically change how somebody in a dark emotional space thinks or feels overnight.



## Visiting Professor of Psychology Nakia Hamlett discusses mental health in the time of quarantine.

Still, if you know somebody suffering from severe depression, don't ever give up on getting them the help and support they need, even if they threaten to end your relationship. They'll thank you later.

**CC:** Past national or global tragedies and challenges like the Great Depression have defined the philosophies and mental health of entire generations. What can we do now to proactively combat the long-term consequences of the trauma we're experiencing during this outbreak?

**NH:** Illness and death caused by the virus, as well as the economic fallout, are going to produce traumatic aftershocks that persist for months or even years to come. Most important, we should be thinking of ways we can help within our local communities or on a national level. Families will need support, workers will need jobs, communities will need resources, and engaging in those types of positive efforts to rebuild and help others is a potent way to build agency and feel empowered. We're already seeing stories of people all around us sharing resources and helping each other. I expect that will continue for months and will play a key role in helping us heal both individually and as a country.

I also believe that it's helpful to think about some of the positive developments that can still come out of this crisis. For one thing, many of us will reconnect with

family and friends in more meaningful ways than we have in years. We're also harnessing the promise of new technology and finding innovative ways to do our work. This is also causing parents to develop a greater appreciation for teachers and will lead to more collaboration between parents and their children's teachers in the future.

So, despite the fact that this is a traumatic event that will have lasting memories, like generations before us who have lived through catastrophic times, this will build a legacy of resilience, humility and renewed confidence and optimism.

**CC:** You've researched mental health disparities and challenges unique to minority and underserved populations. How are those communities faring during this crisis?

**NH:** I hope this time causes us to rethink what and who we value with the assumption that everybody deserves health and life's basics. COVID-19 doesn't discriminate, but unfortunately our systems and communities do. Our systems are fundamentally flawed, and a crisis like this highlights those flaws, such as when poorer communities that are disproportionately black and LatinX don't have access to the resources they need to combat the virus and its physical and mental health impacts.

**CC:** How do young people process trauma, anxiety and stress differently than older people?

**NH:** Young adults are developmentally different. We know the frontal lobe is not fully developed until around the age of 25, so young adults are likely processing these events differently. My experience so far with my students is that they're less vocal about their anxiety, even if they are perhaps nervous about the virus. And it's important to remember that the age group that has seen the largest increase in mental health services in recent years has been the 18-to-25-year-old group. Students are struggling with depression, anxiety, sexual assault issues, domestic violence and other potentially traumatic events. We all need to understand that for young adults already contending with such difficulties, the pandemic may be creating even greater difficulties for them right now.

**CC:** What role will young adults play after this pandemic passes?

**NH:** Our students and young adults everywhere will be essential to rebuilding our communities and recovering from this crisis. They're the harbingers of hope in our culture, as they're activists, scholars, computer scientists and techies who know how to build communities.

# Art in Lockdown

Professor of Art Timothy McDowell and his students find ways to create while studying remotely.

There's a popular myth that the French philosopher and mathematician René Descartes would climb into an old oven to escape the distractions of daily life, only to emerge with creative new takes on the human condition and groundbreaking geometric theories. Today, Art Professor Timothy McDowell, in his 40th year at Conn, and his students are mining inspiration from pandemic-induced isolation.

**CC Magazine:** How has this unprecedented time of working remotely changed the way you approach your job?

**Timothy McDowell:** This current situation has obviously required some adjustment, because in a studio environment, normally we'd be walking around and offering constructive feedback on each other's work and offering advice on process or nudging each other to improve a project. At the moment we're viewing work on screens where the work isn't quite as clear or well defined. But despite that challenge, we've continued to keep the dialogue going and the minds working to create things.

**CC:** Why is it so important to do whatever is necessary so that students can still access art and have the opportunities to create it?

**TM:** This is essential to the well-rounded approach of the liberal arts. We need to keep feeding both sides of the brain and keep the creative and inventive connections between the brain and the hand and the mind strong. I was just telling my class that this situation has required reinvention, and reinvention is one of the most creative and important things a person can do. We need to look at our situation and find new ways of achieving our goals.

**CC:** Have the stay-at-home requirements impacted you and your art personally?

**TM:** For a lot of studio artists, since we spend so much time alone anyway, the solitude might not feel so foreign and difficult. There's really no way to be in a studio and concentrate and be creative if there's a crowd there, so personally the isolation hasn't been so bad. I'm very lucky to have my studio attached to my house. I've felt fortunate to be able to find more moments here and there where I can duck into my studio and do some work or truly concentrate on what my students are doing. Finding those spontaneous moments can be difficult when I'm at work surrounded by people.

**CC:** How has the pandemic changed your process or affected your job as an artist?

**TM:** For one thing, the pandemic has obliterated the gallery world. At the moment, it's not possible to attend openings and exchange ideas with people while looking at work firsthand. You can view art online, but it isn't the same. There's no tactile reference.

I had a solo exhibition planned for the beginning of June that's now on hold, and I don't know when it will occur. I was working toward that exhibition concerned about issues like economic inequality, greed, and political and financial polarization. The work was inspired in part by another time in history when a pandemic took hold, during World War I, and those events influenced art. I hope that when this exhibition is finally seen, I've created a body of work that causes viewers to stop and engage each piece as a part of a larger puzzle. But I'm exploring new places as an artist that I've never been. What better time to reinvent yourself than at a time when the whole world is having to reconstruct how it functions?

**CC:** Since you've had a show postponed indefinitely, you can identify with students who won't have their final exhibitions or attend the many end-of-year ceremonies that seniors, in particular, look forward to. What advice have you given your students about coping with this disappointment?



Timothy McDowell, *Blind Love*, 2020, Oil on Panel, 48" x 48"

**TM:** I think it's important to remind them—and I know they understand this—that they're making art for themselves and feeding their own need to create art. The exhibition at the end should be seen as the icing on the cake of that creative process. It isn't the exhibition that makes the artist—it's the artwork that makes the artist. I know that the activity of being in the studio or at home and making something and imagining an exhibition can be motivational sometimes, because there's an impetus to participate and display and share your work. But you're making art because you have a need to do it. It makes you feel whole. It allows you to have a dialogue about the events in your life.

**CC:** Are you considering other ways for your students to share their work with the Conn community?

**TM:** We're thinking about putting together a catalogue of their work that can be printed and shared, and we'll probably create a website with all the projects. We would also definitely still like to have an opening once we're back on campus, and those students who have recently graduated who are able to come back would certainly be invited to participate.

**CC:** Have there been any pleasant surprises or positive aspects of remote teaching that you didn't expect to encounter?

**TM:** I've been impressed with how well students have adjusted and adapted. I think part of this is thanks to a generational exposure to technology. They've grown up used to creating and interacting with screens, and so I think that has helped. I also think they've had greater access to me or have taken advantage of video conferencing to discuss their work and have learned to plan and manage their time in new ways. I'm having more brief video chats with students where we just check in, which I really like. It's much better and more personal than just reading an email, so I hope that new piece of our daily communication remains after we return to normal.





Misha Friedman





# Flatten the Curve

BY AMY MARTIN

Days in the lives of  
three doctors treating  
COVID-19 patients.

In early March, Andrew Duarte '13, a third-year rehabilitation medicine resident physician, was working to improve the quality of life for patients who had suffered injuries or impairments at an NYU Langone Health clinic for veterans.

Then the first cases of COVID-19 were identified in New York City. Within weeks, the city became the epicenter of a global pandemic.

Almost overnight, life changed for Duarte.

The veteran's clinic temporarily closed. Duarte and his colleagues, who never expected to practice internal medicine again, were asked to volunteer to care for COVID patients. Duarte went to work at Bellevue Hospital, one of the largest hospitals in the country.

"It's been six days a week, 12 to 14 hours a day," Duarte said. "The hospital is totally flooded with COVID patients."

On a normal day in the hospital, Duarte says he'd hear one or two overhead pages for patients who were crashing and in need of emergency intervention. Now, it's hourly.

"You hear the page and you realize it's your patient and you are sprinting up the stairs," he said. "We go in [to treat them] only if absolutely necessary. We are told there is no such thing as an emergency in a pandemic."

When the first information about COVID-19 began filtering out of China, where the virus is said to have originated, it was reported that those suffering the

severest symptoms were older individuals and those with comorbidities. That led some younger people to resist early social distancing measures.

"We've seen young people and old people. We've seen old people you'd expect to have a bad outcome recover, and then some 20-to-30-year-old patients who are ventilated. We have to figure out why that is," Duarte said.

"It's not just your 84-year-old grandmother or your 64-year-old uncle who is a smoker. It could be your friends," Duarte added.

As the global death toll mounts, doctors and scientists around the world are racing to understand more about COVID-19. Dr. Donald Pasquarello '86 says he has never seen anything like it in his 23 years in emergency medicine.

"I was in training when HIV surfaced, and it was scary because we didn't know much about the virus, we just knew people were dying," said Pasquarello, an emergency medicine physician at Beverly Hospital, about 20 miles north of Boston.

"When Ebola surfaced in the U.S., I think that was a wake-up call for people, but an epidemic never materialized. COVID-19 is different, because it's so contagious and can be spread by people with minimal to no symptoms," he said.

To prepare for an influx of COVID-19 patients, Beverly Hospital split its emergency department into zones—one for patients without respiratory symptoms

and an isolated zone for people with COVID-19 symptoms.

"As this has progressed, the isolated side of the emergency department is getting bigger and bigger," Pasquarello said.

But Pasquarello also noticed that the hospital's regular volume of patients has dropped off significantly. He attributes the decline in part to the stay-at-home orders, which are leading to fewer traumatic injuries, like broken bones and motor vehicle accidents.

Still, that doesn't explain the drop in cardiac patients or those suffering from abdominal pain and appendicitis, for example.

"I think more and more people are afraid to come to the hospital, afraid they might be exposed and contract the virus," he said.

That's a concern for doctors, too. Duarte says that although his hospital has been able to maintain sufficient levels of personal protective equipment (PPE), he purchased his own P100 respirator, which filters out at least 99.97% of airborne particles, on eBay.

Pasquarello said it's been an adjustment to wear PPE at all times, and that the hospital has implemented other policies and procedures in an effort to keep staff healthy and prevent the spread of the virus.

"Everybody who is working on the front lines is concerned about contracting this virus and bringing it home to our families. We see the worst of it, because most people who are coming to the hospital are very sick. You think about it,



*“Right now, we don’t have enough tests to test everybody. We are just burning through PPE because everyone has to be treated as presumed positive.”*

but at the end of the day, you go to work and you do your job,” he said.

Dr. Kimberly Spence ’94 says doctors and nurses are scrambling to keep up with the near-daily policy changes, which impact nearly every aspect of their work.

Spence is both an associate professor of pediatrics at Saint Louis University School of Medicine and a neonatologist at Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital in St. Louis. She says changes in visitor policies—designed to protect both patients and hospital faculty and staff has been particularly hard for labor and delivery and neonatal intensive care (NICU) patients.

“Laboring mothers are limited to one support person, and if they are COVID-positive, it’s no support person. Your support person might be on an iPad,” she said.

Recommendations for how to manage the care of newborns born to COVID-positive mothers are continuously evolving, but in some cases, Spence says, mothers are being instructed to stay at least six feet away from their newborns, or the babies are being cared for in a different room entirely.

“It’s completely the antithesis of what you want new moms and babies to be doing,” she said.

The policy changes have also been devastating for babies in the NICU, particularly older babies who thrive on social interaction.

“They are allowed only one person to come and visit, and that’s a real problem

for children who have been here a long time,” Spence said. “We have 8-to-10-month-old children with chronic health issues who really depend on socialization.”

Spence says the policies could be amended with greater testing capacity. Ideally, everyone coming into the hospital would be tested on arrival.

“Right now, we don’t have enough tests to test everybody. We are just burning through PPE because everyone has to be treated as presumed positive,” she said.

“This has unmasked a weakness within our medical care system.”

Spence says more transparency is needed in the medical supply chain throughout the U.S. so states can collaborate and share resources instead of being forced to compete against each other.

“That’s how we can get through this. It comes in waves. When it hits in New York, we should be shipping our ventilators to them. And then when we need them, they ship them back to us.

“But the federal government needs to be able to take the lead on this. You can’t just sit it out.”

Duarte agrees that the pandemic quickly exposed the cracks in the country’s social systems.

“It reinforces the fact that the health care system overall is grossly inadequate,” he said.

“But it’s not just that. We saw how many people lost their jobs so quickly, for example. It’s impacting life in so many different ways. I think there will be lots

of conversations going forward about the need for post-COVID societal changes.”

Imagining a post-COVID world, with still so many unknowns, is difficult. Vaccines may not be ready for the general public for more than a year, antibody tests aren’t yet fully reliable or readily available, and experts still don’t know for sure if those who have recovered from COVID-19 will have prolonged immunity.

But there is some good news.

“Staying at home and social distancing really is helping—it is working to flatten the curve,” said Pasquarello. “I like to look at the positives. We know about 80% of people have mild to moderate symptoms. People who have recovered or who have been asymptomatic will develop some protective immunity.

“I think we’ll get through this.”

In New York, Duarte is scheduled to continue working with COVID-19 patients through at least the end of June. But he is beginning to think there is a chance he could return to rehabilitation medicine before then.

“We are definitely seeing a downward trend. We are seeing fewer new diagnoses, and we are collapsing some of the repurposed units,” he said.

“I volunteered not only to help COVID patients but to help out my resident colleagues. There has been great camaraderie, and it has been an honor to work with them. I’ll be there as long as they need me.”

# Hope

BY EDWARD WEINMAN

Shortly after returning from Wuhan, China, a man fell ill with a persistent fever and cough, symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. On Jan. 20, 2020, the man checked into Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett, Washington.

He was, at the time, thought to be Patient Zero for COVID-19 in the U.S.

Stable when admitted to the hospital, the patient's health quickly went sideways. He required oxygen. Chest x-rays revealed pneumonia. Doctors administered intravenously an antiviral drug that had shown efficacy in animal trials for the treatment of Ebola, the virus that ravaged the West African nations of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone from 2013 to 2016, killing more than 11,000.

Desperate times called for desperate measures.

With the investigational drug remdesivir flowing through his blood, Patient Zero showed improvement overnight. He eventually recovered, and doctors sent him home.

One patient's positive response doesn't prove the drug treats a disease, because there are numerous factors—including the important question of whether the patient's response to the drug was coincidental.

After Patient Zero's story circulated through the U.S. medical community, though, requests for remdesivir poured in.

It was suddenly "all hands on deck"

at Gilead Sciences, the biopharmaceutical company that produces the antiviral, said Susan Guillet '94, director of clinical operations oncology at Gilead.

"We are pulling in all hands on deck because we want to process as many requests for the drug as possible," said Guillet, whose team has been engaged in the fight against COVID-19.

Production of remdesivir has kicked into high gear. As of now, Gilead has 1.5 million doses, enough for 140,000 patients. The company is working with partners around the world to boost its manufacturing. Its goal is to produce more than 500,000 treatment courses by October and more than 1 million treatment courses by the end of this year.

It's clear today, however, that more treatment courses of the drug will be needed.

At the end of April, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), told reporters that "remdesivir has a clear-cut, significant, positive effect in diminishing the time to recovery" from COVID-19.

The research that led to remdesivir began as early as 2009, through trials underway at the time to fight hepatitis C and respiratory syncytial virus. Gilead produces many drugs, including Harvoni and Epclusa, which have essentially cured hepatitis C, as well as PrEP™, which reduces the risk of sexually acquired HIV-1 infection in adults and adolescents.

During the Ebola outbreak, remdesivir showed efficacy in blocking the Ebola virus in rhesus monkeys. Under "compassionate use" protocols, a small number of Ebola patients received the drug. While the drug proved less effective than others against Ebola, the research established its safety profile. Subsequent trials showed antiviral activity against MERS and SARS, both coronaviruses said to be structurally similar to COVID-19.

Showing promise and obtaining regulatory approval are two different matters. However, as death totals rapidly rise, hospitals overflow with critically ill patients, and supplies of personal protective equipment and ventilators dwindle, doctors are desperate to find anything to treat this virus. After Patient Zero recovered, scientists set up trials across the world: in Wuhan and here in the U.S., both at Gilead and run by the NIAID. Some of these trials were nonrandomized, while others were randomized, meaning that some patients received remdesivir and others received a placebo.

"Data from controlled clinical trials are required to prove both safety and efficacy," Guillet said, adding that proper dosing also needs to be worked out. "We are conducting randomized trials in patients across different demographics and varying symptoms: those in critical condition (on ventilators); patients in severe condition,

Susan Guillet '94 is director of clinical operations oncology at Gilead Sciences, Inc., the biotech that developed remdesivir, the first drug to show a “clear-cut effect” in treating COVID-19.

who need oxygen support; and patients who are in moderate condition.”

Guillet’s team works in six-hour shifts processing individual requests for compassionate use of remdesivir, then return to their routine responsibilities of managing oncology trials, which still need to proceed within specific timelines.

It’s a pandemic. People at Gilead are working on weekends, seven days a week. “Our chairman and CEO [Daniel O’Day] has been on the phone routinely with the White House and with the FDA and other regulatory agencies around the world,” Guillet said.

That work has paid off.

In a randomized controlled trial overseen by NIAID, patients on remdesivir had a 31 percent faster time to recovery than those on a placebo. The NIAID study was composed of 1,063 patients who were hospitalized with advanced COVID-19 and lung involvement.

“Specifically, the median time to recovery was 11 days for patients treated with remdesivir compared with 15 days for those who received placebo,” the study showed.

Dr. Fauci told reporters, “Although a 31 percent improvement doesn’t seem like a knockout 100 percent, it is a very important proof of concept, because what it has proven is that a drug can block this virus.”

Remdesivir works by blocking the virus’s ability to replicate. The drug is

designed to interfere with an enzyme the virus uses to copy its RNA genome, rendering the coronavirus unable to infect other cells.

The global pandemic blew Guillet into the eye of the hurricane. She majored in government and never dreamed she’d end up in the field of science, describing herself as a “typical liberal arts student.” But project-managing oncology trials prepared her to handle the pressure of the pandemic, because patients typically only enroll in clinical trials when very ill and established treatment protocols have failed them.

“I’ve run many clinical trials that don’t work. Sometimes my team gets down if a trial doesn’t hit the primary end point. They take it personally, like they let down the patients. But positive or negative, you are still finding out answers to important scientific questions.

“Is a drug safe or not? Does it work?” Guillet said.

The urgency of this moment is different, as the global death rate from COVID-19 continues to rise.

Guillet has read some of the “heartbreaking” correspondence her company has received, pleading for remdesivir. She has, like all of us, seen the brutal images of field hospitals and refrigeration trucks parked outside hospitals to store the overflow of the dead. She’s proud that her company is in the thick of the fight to defeat this virus.

“You hear a lot of negative stuff about pharmaceutical companies, but I take it with a grain of salt. The primary reason people work at Gilead is to help patients. To see that a drug is benefiting patients makes you want to go to work every day.”

Gilead CEO O’Day has pledged to donate 1.5 million vials of remdesivir—“the entirety of our supply through the early summer”—for use in clinical trials, compassionate use cases and beyond.

Meanwhile, clinical trials for remdesivir continue. Gilead is investigating ways to make the drug more convenient for patients, including forms that are injectable under the skin or inhaled. This development is in its infancy. More trials are needed to test patients with less severe cases of COVID-19. And remdesivir is also being tested in conjunction with other drug combinations, such as anti-inflammatories.

While the drug did decrease, as Dr. Fauci noted, recovery time by 31 percent, the drug did not significantly reduce fatality rates.

It’s no silver bullet.

However, the Food and Drug Administration, under its emergency use provision, recently authorized the use of remdesivir to treat seriously ill COVID-19 patients. The F.D.A. approval is only temporary.

The medical community, though, is cautiously optimistic.



The background of the entire image is an aerial, high-resolution photograph of a deep blue ocean. The water's surface is covered in a dense, fine-grained texture of small, choppy waves, creating a complex pattern of light and dark blue tones. The lighting appears to come from the upper left, casting subtle highlights and shadows across the water's surface. In the center of the image, there is a small, solid teal-colored rectangle. Inside this rectangle, the word "WATER" is written in a white, elegant, all-caps serif typeface. The letters are closely spaced and have a classic, slightly formal appearance.

*WATER*





Forbes 30 Under 30 recipient Emily Hazelwood '11 talks to fellow ocean explorer Fabien Cousteau—the eldest grandson of Jacques Cousteau—about collaborating with those who seek to preserve the world for the sustenance it brings to humankind, and those who draw from it the resources we inevitably demand.

I come from a family of scuba divers who from a young age supported my passion and curiosity for the sea, encouraging me to get scuba certified by the age of 12. As I grew older, that passion evolved into academic curiosity, through my studies at Connecticut College, and eventually led to my first job, working as an environmental field technician in the Gulf of Mexico following the events of the 2010 British Petroleum oil spill. The spill covered over 1,300 miles of the Gulf Coast in oil and threatened not only the physical, economic and food security of the Gulf's communities, but also resources for businesses worldwide. Never had I so acutely bore witness to the devastating impacts of humankind on our oceans, and this experience would go on to shape my career path.

However, my time spent in the Gulf of Mexico also enlightened me to humankind's capacity for creativity and hope. It's where I first learned about the Rigs to Reefs (RtR) program, where retired oil platforms are repurposed and given new life as artificial reefs, and where I began to think differently about ocean conservation. The RtR concept fascinated me; how could a structure capable of such intense environmental degradation also be capable of supporting marine life in a positive way?

To dive into this question, both literally and figuratively, I completed a master's degree at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California, investigating the social, economic,

and ecological implications of repurposing offshore oil and gas platforms into artificial reefs. There are thousands of offshore platforms found in almost every ocean around the world, and it is estimated that many will be decommissioned, or completely removed, in the next 10 years. Completely removing an offshore oil and gas platform is both costly and environmentally taxing, especially when you consider the marine ecosystems colonizing these structures, some of which, such as those found in California, are noted to be among the most productive marine habitats on the planet. This experience opened my eyes to the global potential for this concept and helped me realize that while not every offshore platform is a good candidate for a reef, many are, and there is a need for alternative decommissioning options in the offshore oil and gas industry. To address this need, in 2015 I co-founded Blue Latitudes LLC, a certified women-owned marine environmental consulting firm.

Our vision at Blue Latitudes is to unite science, policy, and communications to develop sustainable, creative and cost-effective solutions to manage the environmental issues that surround the offshore energy industry. Today, we work with government and industry around the world to develop RtR strategies and, using remotely operated vehicles, we dive into the deepest depths of the ocean to evaluate the marine ecosystems found on deep offshore energy structures.



Over the last century, cumulative anthropogenic action has triggered a cascade of environmental problems, threatening the ability of our natural systems, and particularly our oceans, to flourish. During this time, our oceans have served as a crucial buffer against global warming, soaking up about one-quarter of the carbon dioxide emitted from our factories, power plants, and cars, and absorbing more than 90% of the excess heat trapped on Earth by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. However, the ocean's ability to absorb is also its greatest downfall, causing changes in water temperature, which leads to changes in oceanic circulation and chemistry, rising sea levels, increased storm intensity, as well as changes in the diversity and abundance of marine species.

Our oceans are in danger. Climate change weakens the ability of the ocean to provide critical ecosystem services such as food, carbon storage, oxygen generation, as well as to support nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation. The sustainable management, conservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems will be critical to ensure the continued provision of the ecosystem services on which we depend. Solving the environmental problems associated with climate change, I believe, will be one of society's greatest challenges.

Recognizing the human demand for ocean resources, in 2018 we launched the Blue Latitudes Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, to broaden the dialogue on traditional

ocean conservation practices to find ways to use our oceans without using them up. In broadening that dialogue, I've been afforded the opportunity to meet other ocean scientists and enthusiasts who have left me feeling truly inspired—one such individual is Fabien Cousteau.

## PERSPECTIVES FROM A COUSTEAU

Fabien knows a thing or two about the current state of our oceans. He's an aquanaut, third-generation ocean explorer, filmmaker and ocean conservationist, and once spent 31 days living underwater at the Aquarius Undersea Laboratory during Mission 31, in 2014. He also happens to be the eldest grandson of Jacques Cousteau, famed ocean explorer and co-inventor of the Aqua-Lung (the predecessor to modern scuba equipment) and the first underwater camera housing.

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Fabien and discuss some of the greatest challenges facing our oceans today.

**Emily Hazelwood:** One of your greatest accomplishments was the work you did in the Florida Keys at the Aquarius Undersea Laboratory during Mission 31, spending 31 days living underwater. This mission followed in the footsteps of your grandfather who, 50 years earlier, spent 30 days living at the bottom of the Red Sea. What did you find of greatest value from this experience, both personally and for the world?





*OVER THE LAST CENTURY,  
CUMULATIVE ANTHROPOGENIC  
ACTION HAS TRIGGERED A CASCADE  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS,  
THREATENING THE ABILITY OF  
OUR NATURAL SYSTEMS, AND  
PARTICULARLY OUR OCEANS,  
TO FLOURISH.*

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**Fabien Cousteau:** The objective of Mission 31 was to bring attention to underwater research stations, akin to the International Space Station and Mars colonization. We have one of the most amazing alien worlds right here at our feet and yet we have barely scratched the surface of its exploration. During Mission 31, we highlighted the fact that we were able to do over three years' worth of scientific research in 31 days.

But what I thought was really exciting was that for the first time in my career I was able to have Wi-Fi underwater 24/7, enabling my team and me to connect with over a hundred thousand students in classrooms from all seven continents, including Antarctica.

**Emily:** Was your career in the ocean sciences inspired by your grandfather Jacques Cousteau?

**Fabien:** As the eldest grandchild I had the chance to spend several decades going on expeditions with my grandfather, grandmother and the team of Calypso [a British minesweeper that was converted into an oceanographic research ship by Jacques Cousteau and his team]. We were able to travel to parts of the world that, back then, very few people had ever been to. It was a huge blessing and has served as the foundation for the person I am today. Like most kids growing up, I looked at other

careers, but nothing satisfied me, made me sleep better at night and wake up ready to do it all over again, like ocean exploration and filmmaking. I am forever grateful to my family for opening my eyes to this amazing, alien world.

**Emily:** If your grandfather were alive today, what would he think about the state of our oceans?

**Fabien:** He wouldn't be surprised. In addition to spawning the public's awareness of what lay beneath the ocean's blue veneer, my grandfather was also talking about climate change, pollution and the overconsumption of natural resources as early as the 1950s and '60s. I think that he would be sad and depressed, but he also believed deeply in the human spirit. He would say, "If we were only logical creatures, the future would look bleak and deep, but we are more than logical; we have feeling; we have hope."

**Emily:** What do you believe is the greatest threat facing our oceans today?

**Fabien:** The single biggest threat facing our oceans is human beings. But at the same time, some of those human beings are rolling up their sleeves and finding innovative ways to address some of the problems they are faced with, whether that be plastic



*THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION  
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SERVICES ON WHICH WE DEPEND.*

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pollution, climate change, or the depletion of natural resources, such as fisheries. They're finding ways to counterbalance their impact and not only make a living but have a more harmonious relationship with the life-support system that our planet provides.

**Emily:** If people could do just one thing to help secure the future of our oceans, what would it be?

**Fabien:** Look back to make decisions forward. As soon as we started saying, "You can throw that away," that was our downfall. There is no such thing as "away;" this is a closed-loop system, and there is no such thing as waste in nature. We must look at what we do in our daily lives and curtail that consumption rate, even if it's just as simple as adopting the four R's: refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle.


**Emily:** You have had a career in the marine sciences for decades; what continues to drive you?

**Fabien:** It's very easy to lose hope, given the changing oceans and the changing environment. It's very easy to get depressed, to get overwhelmed, and want to throw up your arms and quit. It's difficult because much of our species is still so disconnected from nature. But what drives me is very simple, it's being able

to share my experiences with people who are inquisitive and curious and have that drive to learn more and want to be a part of the solution.

My nonprofit, the Ocean Learning Center, is an excellent engagement platform and educational tool for this type of experiential learning. We have programs such as women empowerment through sea turtle restoration in Nicaragua, beach cleanups throughout the United States, eelgrass and mangrove plantings, and coral restoration using 3D printing. By giving local communities opportunities to be actionable and involved, all of a sudden you have advocates, you have people thinking about the natural world and people understanding the connection between human beings and something as alien as a coral reef.

**Emily:** Is there hope for the future of our oceans?

**Fabien:** One of our greatest assets and motivators is hope; if you lose hope you lose everything. When people are pressed to a task and they are motivated to do something, they can create miracles in a short amount of time, and that is the sense of hope that I think we all need to have. You are a veteran yourself, and I thank you for all that you are doing, because you are a changemaker and you're motivating people to look up to you and hopefully find innovative solutions within their own circles. 

A surreal landscape painting featuring a vast, vibrant green field under a hazy, overcast sky. A bright, fiery orange and yellow streak, resembling a meteor or a fire trail, descends from the upper right corner, curving across the field. In the lower left foreground, a single, dark, leafy tree stands isolated. To the right, a small cluster of similar trees is visible. In the far distance, a faint rainbow arches across the horizon. The overall mood is dreamlike and ethereal.

*FIRE*







The fires raging through the Amazon rainforest in 2019 were visible from satellites traveling through outer space. The slashing and burning of the planet's largest terrestrial carbon sink clears land for growing soy, grazing livestock, logging and mining. Varun Swamy '01 writes that the Brazil nut tree offers an economic alternative to the devastation caused by deforestation.

Even in a forest full of behemoths, the Brazil nut tree (*Bertholletia excelsa*) stands out. A statuesque beauty with an almost perfectly cylindrical trunk that can exceed 10 feet in girth, its massive crown towers over the Amazon rainforest canopy, rising 200 feet above the forest floor.

Within that crown, which can surpass 80 feet in breadth, the Brazil nut tree patiently nurtures a truly exceptional fruit—a wooden cannonball that weighs up to five pounds and takes more than a calendar year to mature.

In a good year, the largest nut trees can produce over a thousand cannonballs, or “cocos,” as they are referred to locally. When they are ripe, their sheer weight brings them crashing to the forest floor. Only two species of extant animals can break open the nearly half-inch-thick woody armor to access the nutritious treasures inside. One is the agouti, a tailless native Amazonian rodent with a penchant for gnawing through the hardest of nutshells to make its living. The other is a bipedal mammal who has played a major role in shaping the abundance and distribution of the Brazil nut tree across a vast lowland Amazon rainforest landscape, stretching from southeastern Peru across a wide swatch of the Bolivian lowlands, all the way to the eastern frontiers of the Amazon basin in the Brazilian state of Pará. Those bipedal mammals: Human beings.

An increasing volume of evidence from ecological and anthropological research over the past decade suggests that

Bertholletia seeds were sown and their seedlings tended to by native Amazonians from centuries past, which would make it humankind's most gigantic crop plant. Therein lies my fascination with this extraordinary tree, as well as my efforts over the past few years to better understand its reproductive ecology. It is a compelling notion that one of the keys to the survival and perpetuation of the Amazon rainforest beyond the 21st century is rooted in the efforts invested by preindustrial native humans five centuries ago.

## PREHISTORIC GARDEN

The concept of the Amazon rainforest as a “prehistoric garden,” whose floral composition and diversity has been extensively influenced by pre-Hispanic humans, remains highly controversial. However, this much is indisputable: In the present day, a 300,000-square-kilometer area (close to twice the size of New England) of the Amazon basin is densely populated with Brazil nut trees, forming the backbone of a sustainable, extraction-based economy that supports the livelihood of more than 250,000 inhabitants of the region. Regardless of the “naturalness” of their present-day density, the Brazil nut tree (“castaña” in Spanish), has supported a regional economy spanning across three countries for over a century.

In Peru's Madre de Dios region alone, which generates about 10 percent of the overall Brazil nut harvest (Brazil contributes



20 percent and Bolivia about 70 percent), the total annual value of the resulting economic activity is estimated at \$8 million; more than 30,000 people are involved in the collection, transport and shelling of the nut, which comprises more than two-thirds of their annual income.

Year after year, decade after decade, thousands of centuries-old trees across a vast landscape form the cornerstone of a genuinely sustainable economy. The castaña harvest creates as close to zero ecological impact as it can get—trees within an extractive reserve are accessed by narrow foot trails, *cocas* are split open on site with a skillfully wielded machete, and the shell-on nuts (seeds, to be botanically precise) are stuffed in o large sacks, or “*barricas*,” weighing up to 150 pounds. These sacks are manually hauled to the nearest riverbank, where they are loaded into boats that transport them to processing plants in the region’s urban hub. At these plants, an army of castaña “*peladores*,” or nut peelers (mostly women), skillfully crack open nut after nut all day long using a simple mechanical press.

When viewed against the alternative land uses in the Peruvian Amazon, the contrast is stark. The entire castaña harvest does not require a single tree to be cut down, and it keeps intact the forest ecosystem’s intricate ecological functions and incredibly high biodiversity. Conventional agriculture, on the other hand, destroys all of that, replacing thousands of tree species with a single crop plant that rapidly depletes the soil.

Cattle ranching is even worse, converting a highly efficient carbon sink into a landscape littered with hoofed, methane-belching machines. But the starkest contrast, and by far the most destructive alternate land use in the region, is gold mining. Over the past 30 years, the Madre de Dios region has lost more than a quarter of a million acres (a third of Rhode Island) to mostly illegal, unmonitored and unregulated gold-mining operations.

The word “lost” takes on a profound connotation here. When viewed from high-resolution overflight or satellite images (or from an airplane window on a commercial flight), vast swaths of recently mined rainforest look like they have been subjected to an intense cluster-bombing campaign. It is a hellish, apocalyptic landscape—Sahara-esque sand dunes pockmarked with pits of green-tinged stagnant water, the result of razing the rainforest and literally washing the underlying soil to extract flecks of gold dust. From a macro perspective, it is a lucrative activity, with hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of Peruvian alluvial gold produced annually. However, the ecological and socioeconomic costs are steep; mercury poisoning, violent crime, extortion, prostitution and human trafficking are byproducts of this flagrant ecological genocide, or ecocide.

I believe that a regional economy centered on the harvest of castaña trees is an integral element of a long-term sustainable

future of the corner of the Amazon rainforest where I have worked and lived over the past 15 years. The challenges are formidable, but the potential is enormous.

At present, almost 100 percent of castañas depart the Madre de Dios region of Peru as shelled nuts, without any further value addition. By the time they arrive at a shelf in a Whole Foods or Trader Joe's store, they have passed through multiple intermediaries and have been marked up to as much as 10 times their wholesale price in Madre de Dios. Instituting a fair-trade type of certification similar to successful ongoing schemes for coffee and cacao would ensure that Amazon-based castaña collectors and processors receive a much larger portion of the overall profits. There is also great potential for derived products such as castaña oil, butter and milk, which could be directly positioned against similar products from another nut, the almond.

The contrast between the sustainability of the castaña and the almond could not be greater: Almond trees grow in a vast monoculture that requires shockingly large inputs of scarce irrigation water in California's parched Central Valley. It works out to as much as nine gallons of water per almond. Furthermore, almond trees require a veritable army of migratory beekeepers tending to billions of bees to pollinate their flowers each year. Millions of the same bees are killed each year by the widespread spraying of toxic pesticides

required to impede a plague of agricultural pests that thrive in a monoculture.

Castaña nuts, on the other hand, require just solar energy. Castaña trees "create" rain by returning groundwater "back" to the atmosphere (a process known as evapotranspiration), while capturing large volumes of carbon dioxide and sequestering it in their living biomass. And they do all of this surrounded by a dazzling diversity of tree species that together harbor an even more staggering variety of life-forms: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, arthropods, fungi and epiphytic plants. Castaña nuts are loaded with health benefits, containing an optimal combination of healthful fats, protein and fiber. They are also an excellent source of selenium, whose antioxidant properties have been linked with thyroid health, lowering blood sugar and LDL cholesterol, and improving cognitive function.

## **THE FUTURE—IN A NUTSHELL**

Over the past five years, I have been part of a collaborative effort that combines the innovative use of minidrones and online citizen science to remotely monitor and collect data that will improve our understanding of the biological rhythms and life cycles of Amazon rainforest trees, and will help manage and protect these invaluable rainforest ecosystems in the long term. We called this effort Community Aerobotany, which is supported by a visionary Peruvian ecotourism company,

*WE MUST USE THE PERENNIAL GIFTS OF THE  
RAINFOREST TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE  
GENERATIONS CONTINUE TO REAP THE BENEFITS  
OF THIS MAGNIFICENT ECOSYSTEM.*

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Rainforest Expeditions, and the pioneering online citizen-science platform Zooniverse.

The concept is simple: A minidrone is sent out on programmed flight paths over the rainforest canopy, stopping over focal castaña trees to capture high-resolution images of their crowns. These images are uploaded to the project's site on Zooniverse, where a simple interface allows citizen scientists from anywhere in the world equipped with a smartphone, tablet or computer and an internet connection to view and interact with these images. Following simple instructions, they explore the images and register data that tells us how and what each focal tree is doing—does it look healthy, has it suffered damage, is it shedding old leaves, growing new leaves, flowering, fruiting, etc.

The images are of such high resolution that users can even count the number of *cocos* visible on tree crowns and record them with mouse clicks (or finger stabs on a touch screen). On the back end of these efforts, we receive rows of data that summarize the observations of each citizen-scientist volunteer, which are aggregated into a rapidly growing database. Over a sufficient period without actually setting foot in the forest, we will develop a much better understanding of the life cycles and ecological rhythms of castaña trees.

We will use this data to predict the production of castaña trees across a region a few months ahead of the annual harvest, which will greatly benefit *castañeros* in planning the logistics

and economics of the harvest. We are also interested in exploring the potential impacts of global warming and climate change on the health and reproductive ecology of these trees in the near and longer-term future. None of this was even conceivable 10 years ago, and here we are now, conducting ecological research in collaboration with thousands of citizens across the world, using a device that costs less than a laptop computer and can be purchased at your neighborhood Best Buy.

The future of the Amazon, I believe, is literally in a nutshell—part of it, at least. The sustainable extraction of castaña nuts is a textbook example of one of the basic tenets of financial asset management: Keep the principal intact, and live off the interest. We must use the perennial gifts of the rainforest, and learn from the labor of Amazonian natives past, to ensure that future generations continue to reap the benefits of this magnificent ecosystem. 

*Varun Swamy '01 has spent the past 17 years conducting and collaborating on research that examines the ecology of Amazon rainforests, the role of plant-animal interactions in maintaining biodiversity, and the cascading impacts of human disturbances on the present and future of these ecosystems. He holds a research fellow position at the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research and resides in the urban Amazonian jungle of Puerto Maldonado, Peru, with his wife and dog. [varunswamy@gmail.com](mailto:varunswamy@gmail.com)*







*AIR*



## Renewable energy drives economic prosperity and reduces our environmental footprint, says Michael Conti '06, vice president of Goldman Sachs' Renewable Power Group.

BY DOUG DANIELS

As the altimeter approaches 13,500 feet, the skydivers are deep in concentration.

Then it's time. The group jumps, hurtling back to Earth, fortified by a unique blend of skill, experience, science and some level of faith as they grab hold and ride gravity's unforgiving wave until, with a perfectly timed tug of the rip cord, their parachutes open wide.

Michael Conti '06 has jumped out of more than 1,200 planes over the past decade. The clear blue skies are his favorite playground.

As an equally passionate environmentalist and leader in the clean energy industry, Conti has applied his vast knowledge of renewable power to not only pursue a career path aimed at disrupting the energy space, but to also help make skydiving as green as possible.

In 2018 Conti was hired as a vice president in Goldman Sachs' Renewable Power Group, an independent entity within the firm that invests primarily in distributed generation solar power projects—a piece of Goldman's ambitious \$750 billion commitment to sustainable finance and technologies that don't produce the carbon emissions and pollution directly tied to warming temperatures and extreme weather events. Prior to joining Goldman, Conti created an offset program for Transformation Carbon to help the skydiving community offset its carbon footprint while also assisting underserved populations around the world.

The initiative gives skydivers the opportunity to simultaneously make their activities carbon neutral and support

projects in developing countries like Zambia, where residents are provided with efficient, environmentally friendly cookstoves. Programs like this produce a positive ripple effect with a social impact that extends beyond eco-responsibility in ways that seem unrelated. For example, these stoves dramatically reduce the time people need to spend gathering wood for cooking fuel, which leads to more time for kids to go to school.

**CONTI FIRST LEARNED** about carbon offset initiatives while he was at Conn. The College was an early adopter of such policies at a time when most institutions weren't even really aware of them.

A few short years ago, the notion that a prominent financial services organization would demonstrate such an aggressive commitment to renewable energy development might have struck some people unfamiliar with the favorable economics of the sector as surprising, but Goldman actually began exploring sustainable finance relatively early. And in recent years, the financial viability of solar, in particular, has continued to demonstrate an undeniable momentum.

"There have certainly been some major advancements over the past 10 to 15 years in terms of renewable energy technology and public policy," Conti says. "What's important to recognize is that the unsubsidized economics of both solar and wind power generation have been gradually, but predictably improving to the point where they have either achieved or are very quickly approaching grid parity in major power markets all over the globe, meaning that the technology and the business around it



stands on its own two feet without government subsidies, which is impressive, considering every other energy sector in the U.S. receives various forms of permanent subsidization.”

That transformation accelerated dramatically over the past decade, and the data explains why smart investors are banking on the future of clean energy with confidence.

In the past 10 years, three major sources of alternative energy have become far more affordable as a result of technological advances, improved manufacturing and installation efficiencies, public policies that incentivize development, and greater access to new renewable resource environments like offshore wind farms.

Since 2010, the costs of solar power and large batteries have dropped by 85%, while wind power has become 50% cheaper. Conti says he believes the trend will only continue.

“Once you see the data, it becomes pretty obvious why large institutional and infrastructure investors, as well as entrenched oil companies and other industries and organizations, would want to invest in this space, and why so many major corporations and universities are buying clean power,” Conti says, pointing out that nearly 20 GW of clean energy contracts were negotiated last year by more than 100 corporations in 23 countries across the globe.

**AT CONN,** Conti majored in economics and minored in government, but his specific career ambitions in clean energy were born out of an environmental science course he took his second year that sparked a new passion for an industry he believed would affect positive change and showed clear potential

for profit and economic growth—characteristics that can sometimes seem mutually exclusive in some industries.

“I was attracted to the prospect of making a good living while also doing good for the world,” Conti says. “While I was at Conn it became apparent to me that these technologies and the industry that would form around them would be one of the larger drivers of job growth, one of the larger drivers of investment and infrastructure development for the foreseeable future, and I wanted to be a part of that. I even spent my final two years at the College writing a thesis about the clean energy market that I saw developing.”

After graduation, Conti pursued jobs in the renewables field, despite the industry being still in its formative stages, and landed a position as a researcher in New York with New Energy Finance (NEF), which offers news, market forecasts and investment analysis involving green energy. Conti and his colleagues grew the tiny operation into the premier source for industry information, and NEF was purchased by Bloomberg in 2010. It is now referred to as BNEF.

“What was unusual about that job, and why I feel so lucky, is that it was a company that gave young, motivated people an incredible platform to become experts on emerging technologies, investment trends and policy, which has served me well,” he says.

After four years with New Energy Finance, Conti began to feel a growing sense that he wanted to be on the business side of the industry, right in the middle of the dealmaking, not simply writing and talking about it. But, recognizing that he needed to expand his skill set and experience before embarking on











that new path, he decided to attend the International Energy Financing Policy Program at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs to prepare him for the project development and investment side of the renewables landscape.

"I needed to become more well-rounded as an energy professional by expanding my personal knowledge base beyond renewable energy to include everything about energy markets, including oil and gas markets, electricity, and transportation," says Conti. "I knew that if I was ever going to be successful in helping to advance the commercialization of clean energy technology, I first needed to be an expert on much more than just the segment of the industry that I cared about the most," he adds.

Reluctant to pause the professional momentum he'd built up over the previous four years while he returned to school, he was able to venture into the policy realm, co-authoring Congressional testimonies on domestic energy policy, and he regularly drafted industry white papers and created presentations with the American Council on Renewable Energy and the Partnership for Renewable Energy Finance.

And while this experience exposed Conti to a wide variety of sectors within the clean energy business, from solar, wind and batteries to more niche areas like waste energy and bioenergy, by 2013, he was increasingly focused on solar.

**ATTRACTED ONCE AGAIN** to the lure of a startup, Conti, along with a friend and former co-worker, co-founded SolarList, which aimed to address one of the biggest challenges in the residential solar market: reaching new potential customers.

To generate rooftop solar customer leads for regional solar installers, Conti and his partner developed proprietary mobile software that high school and college students could use on their cell phones to locate and educate prospective solar customers all over the country in their individual communities. The model was the type of approach more typically found in political campaigns and grassroots advocacy groups, but unusual, if not unheard of in the business world at the time.

"The idea behind it was that any student who wanted to affect local change by educating homeowners about the economic benefits of going solar could do so with the aid of our app, which was essentially a scaled-down financial model that produced educational material for the homeowner in an easy, opt-in way to contact a local solar installer through our vetted network across the country," Conti explains.

In 2014, SolarList was named Best Clean Web App at the NYC Big Apps competition, which included a \$20,000 prize, presented to them by none other than former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Ultimately, Conti says that despite some recognition as an innovative concept, SolarList was a bit ahead of its time, predating the community solar programs that are now one of the primary drivers of solar development across the country. This would have propelled the business to success.

Aside from having a talent for finance, emerging energy technologies and environmental policy, Conti's ability to build relationships within the industry has been critical at every stage of his career, as he's relied on a network of former

*INDUSTRY LEADERS BELIEVE SEVERAL U.S. STATES COULD BE POWERED BY 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2040 OR 2050, AND MANY STATES HAVE ALREADY SET 100% TARGETS.*

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co-workers, bosses and friends who have proven to be valuable collaborators time and again.

While Conti is incredibly optimistic about the future of solar and other renewables, he believes that the structure of government policy at the federal level and other factors can hold the potential to create some instability in the market. One aspect of the industry he identified as critical is for energy storage technology to advance as renewable power growth continues, particularly with solar and wind, which generate power intermittently.

“You are starting to see in certain markets that the intermittency, and the non-dispatch-ability of wind and solar are causing some interesting challenges for grid operators, and it’s causing some power markets to act in an interesting way,” Conti says. “In California, for example, a tremendous amount of solar energy comes online fairly predictably and then goes away. But it’s not necessarily timed with consumption, which can result in some funky pricing signals.”

**THE POLITICAL** vicissitudes of a nation that swings from one end of the ideological pendulum to the other every few years can make it tricky and frustrating for companies that are either investing in or developing projects like solar farms.

Unlike many other industrialized countries, some of which serve as our economic competitors, the United States doesn’t have a centralized energy policy. And in an increasingly polarized political climate, the very discussion of the types of


data and science firms like Goldman are using to guide their investments can trigger heated partisan debate.

“I believe it’s unfortunate for several reasons that the federal government hasn’t been as supportive of renewable energy during the past few years,” Conti laments. “Because when you look at where a lot of the renewable energy potential is across the country, there are a tremendous number of existing well-paying jobs, as well as new jobs, that can be created in both red and blue states, and the political polarization is just making the United States a less competitive player in the global market.”

The consensus among the experts is that Conti is right about that potential. Industry leaders believe several U.S. states could be powered by 100 percent renewable energy by 2040 or 2050, and many states have already set 100 percent targets.

Environmentalists and climate change activists believe we are rapidly approaching a critical point of no return that will require drastic policies if we hope to reduce carbon emissions and begin reversing the warming of the planet.

Conti believes that the continued investment and deployment of clean energy is inevitable because of simple market forces that will flip the script and make energy sources such as coal obsolete and no longer cost-effective.

“The technology is here to stay, and the demand is there, so while the policy landscape may be rocky for renewable energy at the moment, there’s still a tremendous amount of momentum behind the industry, and large swaths of capital will continue to move into these assets,” Conti predicts, adding, “We at Goldman are an unmistakable example of that.” 









*EARTH*



## Ethan Brown '94 disrupts the agricultural and food industry selling plant-based alternatives that taste—and look—like meat.

BY DOUG DANIELS

When the hamburger was invented by the owners of a tiny lunch wagon in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1900, it's fair to assume that spectrometers and electron microscopes weren't part of the culinary creative process.

But if you visit the southern California research facility of Beyond Meat, the plant-based meat company founded in 2009 by Ethan Brown '94, you'll find those modern scientific instruments being employed in an attempt to perfect the taste and texture of a hamburger made from pea and other plant protein that is indistinguishable from a regular beef patty.

Beyond Meat's products, particularly its signature Beyond Burger, are sweeping the alternative-meat market and helping to disrupt a traditional, animal-based meat industry worth \$1.4 trillion globally.

Last year, Beyond Meat became the toast of Wall Street when it blasted onto the scene with the best first-day initial public offering a major American company had seen in nearly 20 years. The stock started trading at \$46 a share on the Nasdaq and soared 163% by the end of the day to \$65.75 a share, jumping another 4% a few hours. This blockbuster opening turned Brown, Beyond Meat's founder and CEO, into an overnight business celebrity and arguably one of his generation's most iconic environmental and animal rights advocates.

But founding the company, which enjoys the backing of prominent investors that range from Bill Gates to Leonardo DiCaprio, involved a grueling path of risk, doubt, trials and tribulations.

Humans and their more primitive ancestors have been eating animal protein for a couple of million years, and it has played a huge role not just in our evolutionary biology and brain development, but also in cultural and social constructs. From a marketing perspective, challenging such a deeply ingrained history required much more of consumers than asking them to switch to a new brand of coffee or adopt a new form of technology. The only way to get meat eaters to give vegan meat a try, Brown believes, is to replicate meat on a molecular level, not to offer a vegetarian substitute like a tofu burger.

"We're hardwired to enjoy meat," Brown explained to *The Los Angeles Times* in January. "So creating a veggie hot dog that nobody likes doesn't do any good if they won't eat it. We have to create actual meat from plants so there's no sacrifice and no tradeoff for people who love meat."

Brown himself wasn't always a vegan. He grew up loving meat and fast-food burger chains. But he also had a deep love for animals, bolstered by the dairy farm his father maintained as a hobby when Brown was a kid. By the time Brown was in his late 20s and working in the hydrogen fuel cell industry to help address climate change, he was no longer eating animals, and he had a seed of an idea that would lead to Beyond Meat years later: he wanted to create a plant-based McDonald's.

Brown continued to successfully climb the corporate ladder within the green power sector for another seven or eight years, starting a small side business that involved importing textured

soybeans from Taiwan and partnering with Whole Foods to offer a very early-phase, meat-alternative product.

Despite having no background in science or any food training—he was a history and government double major at Conn, and went on to receive an MBA from Columbia University—Brown was convinced that the fundamental elements of animal muscle could be built from plant matter by extracting and combining amino acids, lipids, carbohydrates, trace minerals and water, all of which are found in plants. As Brown saw it, even though this would be done in a lab, it was a perfectly natural process.

“I figured, animals take plant matter, run it through their system and produce muscle,” Brown said, explaining his thinking in a 2017 NPR interview. “So why can’t we take plant matter and run it through a system in a lab to produce muscle? I wanted to know who in the scientific community was taking protein from plants and reorganizing it into the structure of muscle.”

One night, after his two young kids had gone to bed, Brown stumbled upon an academic paper on the internet written by two scientists at the University of Missouri who were experimenting with textured soybeans to create chicken-like meat by running it through a machine called an extruder, essentially a large, hybrid piece of equipment that functions as part food processor and part pressure cooker. The machine is also effective in restructuring the molecules in soybeans in a way that changes their texture.

This method isn’t new, but the researchers believed if they changed up some of the variables, like tinkering with temperature and pressure, adjusting moisture levels, and introducing different ingredients, they could achieve a texture and consistency that mimicked chicken meat. After a lot of trial and error, they had gotten pretty close, and they wrote about it for the scientific community.

Brown flew to Missouri, sampled the wares, and although he felt the synthesized meat wasn’t ready for market, he saw tremendous potential. He obtained the licensing for the technology in 2010 and then collaborated with the University of Maryland to do further grant-funded research to improve the product.

Initially, he funded the company’s research with his own money, some grants, and some help from family and friends, but it wasn’t enough, and soon he was out of cash. Determined to keep the momentum going, he sold his house, burned through his 401K and even depleted the savings accounts he and his wife had established for his young kids. Then his fortunes took a welcomed turn. Bill Gates, among others, decided to invest in Beyond Meat, and in 2011, the prominent venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins, which had backed companies such as Google, Amazon and Uber in their formative stages, invested \$2 million in initial funding. By 2012, Beyond Meat was selling its first product, plant-based chicken strips, in grocery stores.

It was a remarkable turnaround for a startup that had nearly ruined Brown’s finances







*WE'RE HARDWIRED TO ENJOY MEAT.  
SO CREATING A VEGGIE HOT DOG THAT  
NOBODY LIKES DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD  
IF THEY WON'T EAT IT.*

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“This was an example of not knowing what you’re truly capable of until your back is up against the wall, so you have to get rid of the safety net and put yourself in that position and then you’ll figure a way out,” Brown said, adding, “I believe passion takes you a long way. I just wanted this more than anybody else.”

Today, Beyond Meat is achieving the accessible, mainstream market availability Brown dreamed about in his 20s. The company’s products are sold in supermarkets everywhere and are proving extremely popular at major fast-food chains, including Carl’s Jr., Dunkin’ and even McDonald’s itself.

At the same time that the company is seeing explosive growth, the positive impact it’s having on climate change and animal welfare is also very real.

In 2018, the University of Michigan’s Center for Sustainable Systems released an assessment of Beyond’s burger patty, and concluded it generates 90 percent less greenhouse gas emissions than a comparable beef product, requires 46 percent less energy, and achieves more than 99 percent lower impact on water use and 93 percent less impact on land use.

And as the market share of plant-based meats continues to grow, it will cut down on the number of animals slaughtered for meat (about 66 billion per year globally), animals that also contribute to severe carbon emission imbalance simply through their exhalation of carbon dioxide.

In one of the surest indications that Beyond Meat represents far more than a dietary trend, the company is being aggressively

challenged by the influential meat lobby, which is pressing for strict regulations prohibiting plant-based products from being labeled as meat.


In response to the meat lobby’s derisive characterization of his products as “fake meat” and ultraprocessed abominations concocted by mad scientists in a lab, Brown argues that Beyond Meat’s detractors are simply resisting progress and will be proven wrong once they’re viewed through the crisp lens of history.

“The automobile is not a fake horse-drawn carriage,” analogized Brown.

And while Brown has a grand vision for the future and wants to change the way the world eats, he also hasn’t lost sight of the local communities and people who are struggling right now because of COVID-19.

In April, Beyond Meat announced it would donate more than a million Beyond Burgers to health care workers and others on the front lines battling the virus, also turning restaurants in New York and Los Angeles into food distribution centers that can employ restaurant workers who are out of work because of the quarantine.

Brown’s admittedly ambitious goal is to grow his company, which made nearly \$300 million in 2019, into a protein behemoth that sees revenues similar to the \$45 billion dollars a year generated by the world’s largest meat company, JBS.

There is skepticism on Wall Street that Beyond can ever get that big. But for the past decade, Brown has proven his skeptics wrong. 



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

**44** We are sad to report the death of **Mary-Jean Moran Johnson Hart**. She was born May 30, 1922, and died Dec. 1, 2019. She graduated from Friends Select School, Philadelphia, Pa., and was an English major at CC. Mary-Jean was married July 8, 1944, to Lt. Wilfred U. Johnson, USCGA '44 (accelerated war-time graduation '43); he died July 9, 1946. Mary-Jean was then married June 19, 1948, to Alfred John Hart (Gettysburg College '43), who died June 20, 2007. Mary-Jean is survived by her three children: Timothy F. Johnson, Robert S. Hart and E. Kevin Hart. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She lived variously in New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Ohio. Mary-Jean enjoyed singing with her church choirs in New Jersey and Ohio, and she was an active golfer and tennis player. She volunteered with numerous organizations, including Head Start, the education department of the Cleveland Orchestra, the Health Museum of Cleveland, the Women's Council for Hiram College, the Women's Auxiliary of the Cincinnati Opera's Summer Festival, the Taft Museum of Art (Cincinnati) and Akron Children's Hospital. At Connecticut College she was class agent, a tour guide, 1944 yearbook photography editor and president of the choir during her senior year. The class offers condolences to Mary-Jean's family.

**45** Correspondent: **Ann LeLievre Hermann**, (239) 410-0668, [annlhermann26@gmail.com](mailto:annlhermann26@gmail.com) Greetings classmates and friends! By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed our 75th reunion. What an interesting world we live in, and so much has changed since our college days! Here I am in sunny Florida, while others of you are doing wintry things or sticking close to your home and hearth. Valentine's Day has passed and Mardi Gras is approaching while I sit here compiling a column that will be read next summer, following Reunion and preceding the summer political conventions and Olympics XXXII. **Mary Watkins Wolpert** wrote that her news "is not the best, since Henry passed away in June. Lots of good years together though." Her first great-grandchild has been born, "so life goes on." Mary still enjoys the cold weather in Colorado Springs. **Patricia Feldman Whitestone** sent a brief message with "nothing new to report" but an interesting request: "Could you include a list of surviving classmates and their emails?" Pat, we can't include such a list here, but I do have a list of our 49 living classmates. If you write and ask me about specific classmates, I will

try to give you information. **Florence Murphy Gorman** writes that she has been "doing nothing noteworthy." She still gets around with a cane, though with some pain in her hip. She sends best wishes to all. **Shirley Armstrong Meneice** spends the cold winter months at home reading, and she recommends *The Smart Words and Wicked Wit of Winston Churchill*, by Max Morris, which "presents a sparkling collection of Churchill's most entertaining, incisive and verbally dexterous statements." She also enjoyed *Superlative: The Biology of Extremes*, by Matthew LaPlante, "which takes the reader on a fascinating exploration of earth's living outliers. The section on 'Why Dolphins Don't Kill Us (When Clearly They Should)' was particularly remarkable." **Lois (Toni) Fenton Tuttle** phoned me from her rehab facility to report that she had fallen and broken her hip, had surgery, and was facing several weeks of rehab before returning home. She didn't say what happened, but let's send best wishes to her that she heals and returns to normal soon! It is my hope that those of you who have not responded are just too involved to find time to respond; perhaps you are busy playing bridge and other games, taking exercise classes, using your pools, reading good books, handcrafting, volunteering, dining and partying with family and friends, and feeling very involved trying to understand the politics of our present era. If some of you do get to Reunion, please send me a full report, so I can include it in the next column. Happy news from CC: Our scholarship student, **Mathieu Vigneault '20**, graduates this year. We all wish him continued success in the years to come!

**50** **Rev. Jean M. Blanning**, a former associate pastor of parish life at First Church of Christ, U.C.C., Simsbury, died on November 22 at her home at The McAuley retirement village in West Hartford, Conn. She was 91. Rev. Blanning was a 1950 graduate of Connecticut College, a graduate of State University of New York-Albany with a master's degree in history, and a 1954 graduate of Yale Divinity School. She was pre-deceased by her husband, Rev. James R. Blanning, and her daughter, Wendy. She is survived by her son, William, of Corona del Mar, Calif., daughter-in-law Kathleen, and grandchildren, Alex and his wife, Nita, of Washington, D.C., and Allison, of Kent, Conn.

**51** Correspondent: **Mary Beck Barrett**, 23 Gables Dr., Yarmouth, ME 044096, (207) 846-9142, [betbebar@yahoo.com](mailto:betbebar@yahoo.com) **Carol Wedum Conklin** reports that she enjoys receiving the CC magazine with news of our classmates. She lives in an assisted-living home in Edgewater, N.J. Carol's husband, Foster, passed away in December 2018. **Nancy Bohman Rance** attended a CC luncheon at the Norton Museum of Art, in West Palm Beach, Fla., which featured President Bergeron sharing her vision for the college. An art lecture followed, along with a tour of the museum. "It was a most charming day." **Ronica (Ronnie) Williams Watlington** phoned from Bermuda with exciting news of the arrival of twin great-grandsons, Adam and Wesley, born to her granddaughter, Cristiana, who lives in Colo-

rado. Not such great news: There was considerable damage to Ronnie's Bermuda home from the hurricanes in September and October. **Mona Gustafson Affin o** is happy with her decision to move to a senior-living complex in Excelsior, Minn. She has continued editing her biography of her father's life; with the help of granddaughter K.J. she reduced it from 700 pages to 496 and hopes to hire an agent/publisher soon. Travel, of course, continues: Last August found Mona with son Doug and daughter Lisa at the John C. Campbell Folk School, in Brasstown, N.C. Mona and Doug took "Writing for the Silver Screen," while Lisa took "Hat Making." I am sad to report that **Constance (Connie) Kelley Mellen** passed away in November. After graduation, she earned a master's degree from Trinity College and became a teacher of classics until retiring in 1989. Connie was predeceased by her husband, Oliver, and she is survived by two daughters and their husbands, three grandchildren, and one great-grandson. We extend sincere condolences to her family.

**54** Correspondent: **Joanne Williams Hartley**, 69 Chesterton Road, Wellesley MA 02481, (781) 235-4038, cell: (617) 620-9385, [jodihartley69@icloud.com](mailto:jodihartley69@icloud.com) **Irene Ball Barrack** lost her son, Bill Barrack '81 P'18, to cancer at Christmas. Bill lived in Wellesley, and our families are friends. Bill had a very successful career in commercial real estate. Small world: The broker who sold him and Kate their Wellesley home many years ago was Betty Smiley, **Jane Smiley Adams's** mother! Bill was a member of CC's Board of Trustees and was very supportive of the school. He inherited Irene's very lively spirit, and Irene tells of hosting a large party, "Bill's Bash," at her home after school let out each of his four years. I've often enjoyed catching up with Irene in Wellesley when she came to town. The class sends condolences to Irene and her family. Last June Dick and I attended a very lovely 65th wedding anniversary party in Virginia Beach given by their children for **Kathryn Hull Easton** and Peter. I'm sure several classmates were married that summer of '54, after graduation just 65 short years ago. In Naples, Fla., we regularly see Kathy and Peter, along with **Janice Smith Post**. Jan and husband John took their two children to Basin Harbor Resort in N.Y. the same week every summer, and she still hosts her family there. She is delighted that two of her grandchildren have chosen this special site for their weddings. **Nancy Blau Lasser** and husband John are doing well. They lived for some time in South Orange, N.J., and then moved further west for several years. They now live in a lovely high-rise condominium in Maplewood, N.J., an hour outside NYC and with a view of the NYC skyline. They love their current lifestyle, conveniently living "between" their two daughters, and are enjoying four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They used to frequently weekend in the city but now are busy and happy where they are at this point in their lives. I talked to **Leila Anderson Freund**, who still lives in her big home in Cincinnati. After college she went to NYC and worked for Doubleday Publishing. She met and married John and after a few moves

finally settled in Cincinnati. She lost John a few years ago but fills her house during holidays and sees her four children, their spouses and her eight grandchildren often, although they do not live close by. She worked for a few years and is now active in several charities, including a CC group with which she was very involved for some time. She says that the winter of 2020 has been very cold in the Midwest, though with little snow, and she is looking forward to a trip to Naples, Fla., for some warm sunshine. I had a wonderful phone visit with **Evelyn Connolly Meyers**, my freshman roommate. She sounds energetic and happy. After college she moved to NYC, where she worked at Bloomingdale's for five years. She met and married Gil, who had two children, and then proceeded to have seven more to happily fill her life! They eventually moved to Ponte Vedra, Fla., where she still lives; her three boys live in Florida as well. She and Gil also built a home in the Highlands region of N.C. to get out of the heat, and she still goes there in the summer months; three of her daughters are closer to her there. Ev had to give up driving last year, and the kids promptly gave her a golf cart, which she takes to a nearby strip mall for shopping and restaurants. You keep it up, girl! **Ann Heagney Weimer** called from Cape Cod. She had received a lovely letter from Brooke Larsen, the daughter of **Mary Lee Matheson Shanahan**. Brooke wrote that Mary Lee passed away in April 2019 in Pinehurst, N.C., after a long illness, and she thanked Mary Lee's friends who had stayed in touch over the years. She said that Mary Lee always loved sending Christmas cards; the opportunity to connect with her friends was a great blessing to her, especially in later years. The class sends deepest condolences to Mary Lee's family. We also send sympathy to the family of **Cynthia Fenning Rehm**, who died in November in Worcester, Mass.

**56** *Correspondent: Janet Ahlborn Roberts, P.O. Box 221, East Orleans, MA 02643, (508) 255-6281, Jar.jrr@comcast.net*  
**Janet Frost Bank** says that all's well with life on Martha's Vineyard, just as it is here on Cape Cod. But for those of us who are coastal, weather awareness prevails—the storms, the well-being of the sea creatures. **Suzie Gerber O** shared news of the passing of her “next-door roommate” and lifelong friend, **Alison Friend Gansler**, who was married in her junior year. Determined to graduate, she did so—with the class of '57. Building a family and traveling with her husband's job eventually led to a life near Washington, DC, where she worked as tour guide at the Kennedy Center, as a travel agent and as a teacher substitute. Alison became involved in politics when and wherever possible: poll volunteer, membership in a local women's Democratic club and as a longtime member of the Washington Ethical Society, singing in its chorus for years. “The unexpected and unpredicted are what stimulates me,” she wrote in the *Golden Koiné*. That tells it all. I tried to contact **Margery Blech Passett**, but learned from her daughter that Margery died in early February. I had hoped to learn more about her visits to a nursing home with her wonderful Westie, Nessie,

born near Loch Ness and welcomed wherever she visited with Margery. Are there other '56ers who have service dogs? Please let me hear from you. Dogs have surged so in national importance and, in particular, dogs that serve. Please send news about you, your families, volunteering, trips, groups, service—whatever—that you can share with the class!

**57** *Correspondent: Elaine Diamond Berman, 100 Riverside Blvd., Apt. 20C, New York, NY, 10069, elainedberman@comcast.net*  
**Judy Allen Summersby** writes, “Yes, I still do politics, national and local, and it has its great rewards ... a never-ending activity. I also decided to spend more time reading and writing poetry, which is also very rewarding.” Three years ago, Judy stopped tutoring second-graders and began organizing class study groups on Native America. She was not surprised that 7-year-old boys would enjoy weaving. Judy and Ed have three grandchildren: Emily, 24; Jack, 19; and Murray, 4—“all very inspired and beautiful human beings.” Judy and Ed enjoy seeing son David and his wife, Sue, who live near their home in Cambridge, Mass., and spend time in Minnesota visiting son Andrew. “Yes, it is true what they say of ‘Minnesota nice.’” **Jeri Fluegelman Josephson** and Buddy moved from Florida to Charlotte, N.C., a few years back to be near son Steven and his family. Jeri and Buddy's daughter has lived in London for many years. Their London granddaughter, Kate Sullivan, graduated from Northwestern and currently works in Washington. Grandson Jack, also from London, is a graduate of the U. of Edinburgh. **Nancy Keith LeFevre** lives at the Country House in Wilmington, Del. Her father died there when he was 100, having practiced law in Wilmington well into his 90s. **Nancy Pollak Beres** teaches English con-

versation to immigrants, volunteering with two different organizations in NYC: New York Cares, at the 67th Street Public Library, and English in Action, at Temple Emanu-El. Both groups have clients from all over the world. **Gail Rubinstein Wahl** was married while a student at CC, and she completed her undergraduate degree at Finch College in NYC. She passed away in February. Gail and husband Milton, a physician, raised three children in Wilmington, Del. They owned many standardbred racehorses and spent a lot of time at Brandywine Raceway. She and Milton were married for 63 years, until he passed away in 2018. We offer our deepest condolences to Gail's family. Class President **Jo Saidla Morse** has sold her Water Valley, N.H., home after 21 years of ownership. She plans to live in her Squam Lake home, which she and her late husband built 50 years ago. Jo recently visited a friend from first grade who now lives in Charleston, S.C. Do you have any ideas about programs or events for our 65th reunion, which is just two years away? Please contact Jo at jo.sturtevant@gmail.com.

**58** *Correspondent: Judy Ankarstran Carlson, PO Box 5028, Edwards, CO 81632, jdcarsen@centurytel.net*  
**Phyllis Malone** we have some news! Now domiciled in Groton, Conn., Phyllis is taking full advantage of her proximity to campus by auditing classes, including one on Bob Dylan and another on postcolonial literature today—love the range of learning! She traveled to California (during spring break, of course) and onward to Seattle and to Victoria, B.C., by ferry. Phyllis is busy at home with gardening, music and, with Yale Educational Travel, NYC theater. She and **Jean Cattanch Sziklas** hope to have lunch soon, having been bad-weathered out in December. Enclosed in Phyllis's note was the New London obituary



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of **Elizabeth Bove**, who died in December. The class extends sympathy to Liz's extended family. Notably, Liz worked for Electric Boat for 58 years, becoming the first woman to pass the company's 50-year mark. Since I've had occasion to write this short (ahem) column, I'll note that I keep in touch with roomies **Kathy Gregory Hearn**, in Cincinnati, and **Jane Maurey Sargent**, in Maine, both carrying on well. David and I continue enjoying life at altitude in Colorado, near our two children and families. We skied several lovely days last winter and had a sybaritic small-ship cruise in Italy in spring of 2019. A second trip to England in the fall was less successful: David in NHS hospital with pneumonia. When will we learn our limits?

**59** Correspondents: 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

**Ronnie Illiaschenko Antoniadis** caught us up on her life: She followed her daughter's family to Springfield, Ohio, where she was the "oldest playmate" of granddaughters Isabelle and Sofia. The not-surprising result was their success both academically and in sports. Isabelle studies economics and art at Union College; Sofia is in the college application process. Ronnie taught French literature for 10 years at Miami U. (Ohio); then was in NYC, involved in the world of art; and finally moved to Niantic again to be with family who had moved there. That made it easy for her to attend our class dinner at Reunion. Your correspondents apologize for not including her as an attendee in our Reunion report for the last column. **Mims Matthews Munro** is busy in her new surroundings with lectures, outings, and classes. She still plays golf and is trying pickleball. **Joy Johnson Nevin** and her husband are at a retirement center outside Richmond, Va. One granddaughter is a ballerina with the Washington Ballet. Joy has written 36 articles for "Women Around Town" and plans to compile them into a book. **Judy Petrequin Rice** lives near her daughter and family in Arizona, where she enjoys the warm outdoors. **Jean Alexander Gilcrest** attended her granddaughter's high school graduation in Vegas. The new U. of Nevada freshman dorm was unavailable, so she lives at Circus Circus Hotel, with her own bath and maid service! (Our freshman living arrangements were obviously lacking.) Jean also traveled to Chicago and Kentucky. **Anne Earnshaw Roche** and John have lived in the same house in Australia for 57 years and love it. **Connie Snelling McCreery**'s family went to daughter Gigi's Venice Beach home, newly renovated from a cottage to a multistory house by her husband. Gigi continues writing, having earned Emmys for her work with her writing partner on *Wizards of Waverly Place*. Grand-

daughter Jocie aspires to join sister Evelyn on the championship soccer team at Venice High. The McCreerys are pleased to have Meg and Rob closer, in Greenwich (post Japan assignment). One son is setting up a music program at a Harlem charter school, while his younger brother is interested in composing musical theater. **Gail Glidden Goodell** saw **Ginger Reed Levick** in California. While at her daughter's house in Texas, Gail and her grandson visited a ghost town and a facility for training companion dogs. Then there was a Rio Grande trip, time in Maine and New Hampshire, and a river cruise through Germany. At home, Gail does water aerobics, book group and church activities. Your correspondents would be thrilled if you'd surprise us with an email, letter or phone call to tell us what you are up to!

**60** Correspondent: Millie Price Nygren, 1048 Bedford St., Fremont CA, 94539, (408) 464-2907, m.nygren@att.net **Kathy Young Ellis** transferred to George Washington U. a year her sophomore year. Her husband is retired from the Air Force, and they live in Dayton, Ohio. She asks, "Does anyone know where **Maggie Hammalian** is now?" **Renee Cappellini Slater** has become a climate activist. "I've started a climate emergency group in my local community and been on various local and national actions. Watching the fires in California and Australia this winter has been heartbreaking. I know my own home will be at risk of flooding as sea levels rise. There is a lot of denial about climate change in the U.S., but I'm encouraged by the realism of local state and city governments in taking action to lower carbon emissions. The Class of '60 lived in what now seems a golden age. I feel I owe so much to those coming after and that grief for what is being lost is not enough. We all have a part to play in mitigating the effects of climate change, facing reality and not losing hope." **Carolyn McGonigle Holleran**, **Judy Van Law Blakey** and **Missy Missimer McQuiston**, along with Jerry Holleran and Bob McQuiston, had lunch together in Reading, Pa., in January. "We had a wonderful time catching up, comparing kid and grandkid stories, sharing aching-bone stories, and best of all, reminiscing about our days at Conn and what it is like today. Carolyn's the most up-to-date about the status of the college. She thinks the new curriculum, which emphasizes job-preparedness along with liberal arts, is outstanding. She is also a big fan of President Katherine Bergeron. We decided we should get together more often and solve all the problems of the world."

**63** Correspondent: Bonnie Campbell Billings-Wauters, P.O. Box 58, Stowe VT 05672; winter address: 1315 Winding Oaks Circle, East Unit #903, Vero Beach, FL 32963, (802) 734-1876, bsq22@aol.com Three of our classmates were



Class of '63 at the Baker Museum event in Naples, Fla. (left to right): Joan Snyder Abelson, Eleni Tsandoulas Gillis, Jane Engel Francoeur and Nancy Schoepfer Sanders

recently at CC for coincident board meetings. **Sally Hamilton Fenton** and **Martha Joynt Kumar** are on the Board of Trustees; **Carolyn Boyan Raymond** is on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Carolyn especially enjoyed catching up with and sharing memories with Sally. **Barbara Drexler Lockhart** spent a few days with George and **Helen Frisk Buzyna** in Alpharetta, Ga., following a week in Montgomery, Selma and Birmingham with a project called Compassionate Listening. "I'm in Easthampton, Mass., living in an intergenerational community called Treehouse. I have my own cottage. There are about 48 seniors and about 12 or so families with children who live in this community. The children are all ages, and most of them are either foster children or have been adopted. I keep very busy playing the flute in several bands and also singing with the Young@Heart Chorus. I try to visit **Connie Cross** every year in Maine and keep in touch with **Wally Coates Paprocki**, **Susan Young** and **Chantal Le Houerou**, who I visited last year in Paris. I missed the last reunion as I was with Young@Heart doing a two-week tour of the Netherlands. Not letting any grass grow under my feet!" **Connie Cross** writes that she is "back to being a teacher ... well, co-teacher, of a group of newly arrived African women who want to learn English. They are all French-speaking and my French is rusty at best, so it's fortunate that the other teacher is fluent. I love these women! They are so warm, affectionate and eager to learn. And also incredibly grateful to be in Portland (Maine). We don't know what horrors they witnessed or endured in their home countries. I'm looking forward to our next full class reunion in 2023!" **Connie** also continues to pursue her passion for photography, taking remarkable photos of nature and the world around her. **Diana Altman** is proud to have "an award-winning novel." Her 2019 novel *We Never Told* won first prize in the category of Women's Fiction in the 2020 Feathered Quill annual contest. *We Never Told* also made NBC News' list of "20 best end-of-summer beach reads for 2019." This is Diana's third book. Her short stories and articles have appeared in numerous publications over the years. Her short story "Unwanted Babies" appears in the Q1 2020 issue of the *Cumberland River Review*. Diana and husband, Richard Siegel, still love living in Manhattan, though they make frequent forays out of town to visit their two daughters, who both live in San Francisco,

and two grandchildren. In December, Diana and Richard attended Art Basel in Miami, where their daughter Claudia's gallery, Altman Siegel, was a participant. **Cynthianna Hahn** continues to be a snowbird. "I spend the warmer months in Chicago, where I have a condo with a lovely view of Lake Michigan. In the cooler months, I live in a continuing-care community in Dallas, which I chose because my sister and her family live nearby. In March, two friends and I went to Catalonia, Spain, and in September, two friends and I went to England, Scotland and Wales. I tutored a child through Reading Partners in Dallas, and I am involved with the League of Women Voters in both cities." As I, **Bonnie Campbell Billings**, noted previously, we have also become "snowbirds," having moved to Vero Beach, Fla., in 2019. We spend summers back in Stowe, Vt. We love being outdoors, enjoying the warmth and playing golf and tennis year-round. It's amazing how many people we've met with "small world" connections to the rest of our life. I have already found and gotten together with, four of our own classmates here—**Aggie Cochran Underwood**, **Marcia Mueller Foresman**, **Nancy Feuerstein Milsten** and **Sue Kellogg Grigg**—and suspect that there are more here and nearby. I'd love to hear from alums from our class and others, in hopes of starting a CC Club in the "Treasure Coast" area. **Lonnie Jones Schorer** notes: "We must have missed the memo about moving south! Last year Dave and I tore down our 1940's cabin on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire and have just moved north from Virginia into our new house on the same property. We are now New Hampshire residents!" **Lonnie** mentioned being aboard *The Nautilus* in the Pacific last summer on the Samoan Clipper expedition team (you can read more in the Fall 2019 issue). We are saddened to report the passing of **Lee Chapman Biederman** of Washington, D.C., in November 2019.

**65** Correspondents: Susan Peck Hinkel, 1064 N. Main St., Danby, VT 05739, [rerob@mac.com](mailto:rerob@mac.com); Pat Antell Andrews, 937 Henry Clay Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118, [pandre0615@gmail.com](mailto:pandre0615@gmail.com) Karen Metzger Ganz and Joe Morein were married at the Harvard Club on Oct. 22, 2016. Included in the guest list were Karen's original bridesmaids from 50 years ago, with a special shout-out to her CC roommates, **Dana Hartman Freyer** and **Marge Raisler Fisher**. She and Joe live in Irvington, N.Y., spend summers in Vermont, and enjoy travel and skiing in the West. They have children in many states to visit! **Monica Blum** still directs the Lincoln Square Business Improvement District, which, among other activities, organizes New York's largest holiday festival each December. In addition, she swims every morning; recently welcomed a new granddaughter, who lives near **Pam Gwynn Herrup**; and keeps up with her 99-year-old mother in New York. She visits or corresponds occasionally with **Barbara Barker Papernik**, **Sally Higgins Pim** (in Wales), **Janni Sutherland Guldbeck** and **Ann Brauer Gigounas**. Monica's husband also still works, but "we are both thinking about transitioning into the next phase of our

lives and working less." **Sally Ryan Black** and her screenwriter husband continue to live in Los Angeles, "trying to make a couple of our projects into movies. Harder and harder but keeps us from being completely retired. I'm busy with grandchildren and work weekly to feed the homeless [with] the Hollywood Food Coalition." **Lois Larkey** reports that she was a bar (not *bat*) mitzvah with 16 other women and attended a reunion of Camp Navarac, where she was in a bunk years ago with **Dana Hartman Freyer**. Lois is proud to announce that her memoir, *Looking Back, Moving Forward: The View from Beyond Seventy*, is now available on Amazon and includes favorite Conn professors. **Marge Tupling Knyper** wrote in December from London, where she was getting a new view on retirement for her and husband Len; they're considering spending more time there. **Elaine DeSantis Benvenuto** reports that her granddaughters recently moved from Boulder, where they spent much time with Elaine, to Holland. She looks forward to her second trip to visit; she remains active in a book club, weight training, biking and playing mah-jongg. **Joan Lebow Wheeler** writes that a *er* 42 years in Great Neck, N.Y., she and her husband are packing up "too many possessions" and relocating to Chevy Chase, Md. They look forward to enjoying activities in DC, including kayaking on the Potomac, and living closer to their son and his family. **Jenny Bartlett Fricks** and **Carole McNamara Malcolmson** went to Mexico last August and visited ancient sites from Oaxaca to Mexico City, mostly by bus. Carole discovered the ruins of Monte Albán. Jenny discovered mole. They attended a concert in Mexico City, in which Carole's daughter, Hazy, played the bassoon, and Jenny revisited the stunning archaeological museum that she and her husband visited on their honeymoon in 1972. In December **Sue Harris Gri** and her son stopped by St. Simons Island for dinner with Jenny: "Great fun with good friends." Jenny continues, "The bad news is that I have lung cancer. I've just had the third of seven chemo infusions. Remission is expected. I'm bald and happy to consider wigs on loan. I'll see you, fully coiffed, at our 60th." **Marion Nierintz** has been busy selling her condo in downtown Boston and moving into an apartment nearby. She is delighted with her new digs and looks forward to returning to her volunteer work when the dust settles. **Whitney Andrews Gettinger** lives in Manhattan, where she has been selling real estate since 1996. Her husband of 38 years, Peter, passed away a few years ago. They had two sons. Whitney enjoys traveling to France and Italy to visit friends. She also sees **Susan Thomases** in New York. Your junior correspondent, **Pat (Patty) Antell Andrews**, and husband Will are selling their home of 45 years and moving to Denver, near two of their children and the mountains they love. Patty is also trying to revise the descriptions of almost 145 churches where she helped lead stained-glass tours over the past 30 years.

**66** Correspondents: Carol Chaykin & Pat Dale; [ccnotes66@gmail.com](mailto:ccnotes66@gmail.com) **Patricia Dale** (professionally known as Patt





Pam Mendelsohn '66 with Nancy Pelosi at Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley's Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Tex.



Marian Silber, Susan Kirshnit Woodall and Ruth Zaleske Leibert (all Class of '66) celebrating Susan's 75th birthday in Naples, Fla.



Pat McClure '67 and Marcia Hunter Matthews '67 celebrating Marcia's birthday

Dale) learned that her name was included in a tribute to honor the late Broadway director Harold Prince at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. Patt's name was included in the "honor roll" because she was a press agent on the original Broadway productions of *Sweeney Todd* and *Evita*, both Best Musical Tony Award winners directed by Mr. Prince. **Betsey Staples Harding** reports that she and Sam have moved to a senior complex in Cumberland, Maine, close to the terrific city of Portland, a small, friendly, restaurant-rich town in southern Maine. While they still love to ski and snowshoe, they are glad to now be living in a place where they won't need their snow shovels! **Ann Langdon** and spouse Drew Days are coping with his declining health. After visiting various facilities throughout the country, Drew is now settled in Connecticut, in the memory wing of a Benchmark facility overlooking Long Island Sound. Ann visits Drew almost daily; friends, neighbors and family also visit regularly. Ann and Drew were both able to enjoy attending Angela Davis' presentation at Yale for this year's MLK Jr. celebration. **Mary MacFarlane Slidell** is enjoying retirement after 33 years in the retail business. For the past two years, Mary has been enrolled in American University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in Washington, D.C., where she has loved taking courses in the arts. Last summer, she and John traveled to Slovenia, Croatia and Venice. For Thanksgiving, oldest son Mark Slidell '94 and his wife and four sons, from Chicago, were with him. At Christmas, she and John were in Aspen with daughter Tara, her husband and their 10-month-old baby girl. Son Duncan and family flew in from

DC to join them. Teaching aerobic dancing weekly has kept Mary fit enough to downhill ski. One of the highlights of **Pam Mendelsohn's** year was volunteering for a week at the Humanitarian Respite Center in McAllen, Tex. Pam was there just before the law changed, barring everyone from coming across the border. She felt useful preparing and serving meals, handing out desperately needed supplies, and directing people to the appropriate buses that took them to their new lives. While Pam was there, Nancy Pelosi arrived with a contingent that had visited Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. The *Times-Standard* (Eureka, Calif.) published a two-part article by Pam in September. Read Pam's descriptions of her experiences: "The refugees are disheveled, exhausted, hungry and demoralized" ([bit.ly/pams-article-part1](http://bit.ly/pams-article-part1)) and "What you can do to help the border crisis" ([bit.ly/pams-article-part2](http://bit.ly/pams-article-part2)). Pam hopes to revisit the border in Brownsville, Tex., in June. Please continue sending your news and photos. We love hearing from you!

**67** *Class Correspondents: Deborah Greenstein, [debbyg837@verizon.net](mailto:debbyg837@verizon.net); Marcia Hunter Matthews, [marciamatthews3@gmail.com](mailto:marciamatthews3@gmail.com)* **Ethel Bottcher Cullinan** said we could tell you anything we please about her, so we can let you know that she, husband Neil, daughter Megan, son-in-law Mitch and grandson Patrick were in DC for Thanksgiving, visiting son Michael and daughter-in-law Isabelle. They did lots of sightseeing and made time for brunch with **Debby Greenstein**. A lifetime ago, Ethel and Debby shared an apartment on Capitol Hill, and talking about it still brings on bursts of laughter. Debby is

pleased to report that stepbrother Jay and his wife, Meg Gemson Ashman '72, once again stopped to see her on their way to Key West. **Lynn Hand** and a high school friend spent time in Florida this winter, enjoying the warmth of Key West. **Wendy Willson Allen** reacted with surprise to your correspondents' snowbird status, not knowing that Conn produced such creatures. She is chair of the German department and professor emerita in French at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., but is tentatively planning on retiring in June. **Marcia Hunter Matthews** and husband Bill had their annual Florida dinner with **Judy Macurda Oates** and her husband, Jimmy. Marcia said it was wonderful to catch up with them because she doesn't see Judy as much as she would wish, but Ginny Turner Friberg '62 and Marcia are in touch daily. She is a beloved friend from boarding school and Conn. **Pat McClure** joined Marcia's 75th birthday dinner celebration. **Joan Lacouture Brink** was very excited to read that **Marion Coates** has been working on a novel about Agnes Pelton. When a Pelton show came to Santa Fe, Joan was stunned by the work and went several times to see it as well as attended the two lectures given in conjunction with the exhibit. In the past couple of years Joan has been inspired by two relatively unknown women artists, Agnes Pelton and Hilma af Klint. She would love to know how Mari came across the story of Pelton's life, so Mari, if you are reading this and haven't heard from Joan, let your class correspondents know and we will put you in touch. **Anne (Sandy) Clement Haddad** and husband Charles have just emptied their big old colonial in Old Saybrook and downsized into a studio apartment in Durham, Conn. They have also purchased a property with daughter Jenny Mosher and her family that has a big old farmhouse for the Moshers and an in-law apartment for them. Sandy is very excited about the move and invites you to visit. **Jacqueline King Donnelly** recently wrote a memoir of her year as an exchange teacher in France, the ups and downs of working in a French middle school: *Anywhere but Bordeaux!* **Susan Endel Kerner** and husband Paul Smirnoff (married May 2019!) love living on Riverside Drive with a beautiful view of the Hudson River. Paul works midtown as a TV news executive. "I'm in my 21st year as a professor at Montclair State U. in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Guest-directing *The Wolves* at the U.



Denver's College for a Day, Jan. 13, 2020 (left to right): Kay Landen '66, Susan Hazlehurst Milbrath '76, Rona Shor '66, Elizabeth Buell Labrot '55, Helen Jinks Richards '64 and Donna Altieri '66

of Kansas was a great adventure in Fall 2019. I met a wonderful KU dramaturge who will adapt my 1967-'68 letters home from India into a work for the stage! I'm enjoying developing NYC-centered projects as I contemplate an end to the commute across the George Washington Bridge in 2022. Paul and I look forward to more travel together and visits with our five children and six grandchildren in Boston, Denver, Ann Arbor and Princeton. I so appreciate my ongoing connections with wonderful CC '67 friends!" The class sends its condolences to the family of **Nancy Eliason Drazga**. Nancy died on Dec. 29 and is survived by her husband, Bill Drazga, and her daughter and son-in-law, Faith and Isaac Acker. A full obituary appeared in the *Kent County* (Md.) *News* on Jan. 2. The class also sends its condolences to **Betsy Wilson Zanna** on the loss of her husband, Mark Zanna. In addition to Betsy, Mark is survived by sons Adam and Jamie and their families. On a personal note, your correspondent **Debby Greenstein** met Betsy on the first day of college in the living room of Plant House, and we remain friends to this day. Betsy met Mark soon after, and he became her good friend as well. Mark was a social psychologist with a distinguished career, teaching first at Princeton and later at the U. of Waterloo, in Canada.

**68** Correspondent: *Mary Clarkeson Phillips, 36 The Crossway, Delmar, NY 12054 mphill2@nycap.rr.com* **Joan Ames** writes that her husband of 50 years, Asa Jonathan Berkowitz, died suddenly on July 30, 2019. Many of our classmates knew him well from our time at CC. **Brooke Johnson Suiter** writes of the joy of her new knee, after a full-knee replacement and quick rehab. She volunteers at a shelter for homeless women, reads voraciously, and travels to see her three kids and four grandkids. She looks forward to working for progressive political candidates at all levels in this election year. **Ally Cook Gall** and Marty continue to love their condo overlooking a river and marsh with a view of the ocean. She takes the train into Boston often for ballet, the Museum of Science, etc. Winter projects include piano, learning how to edit her videos, lots of volunteer work and caring for grandkids. In February, they left for Australia for a month. **Roberta Ward Holleman** is still working in her small home-based accounting business, Symba Services. QuickBooks Online keeps her very busy, and she doesn't foresee retiring completely anytime soon. She does have time to enjoy

her new grandson, Thomas Reis, born on Jan. 5. His mom and dad (Roberta's son Wesley, and his wife, Debora) are house-sharing with them, so they get the joy of seeing him grow. After tax season Roberta and her husband of 50 years will plan some travels to Montana to see their other grandchildren, ages 16 and 19, and their son Tobias and his wife, Leigh. They enjoy country-and-western dancing and attend shows at venues around Sonoma County. Terry is an artist and is planning a show of his large works depicting musicians and dancers. They were fortunate not to be directly affected by the recent fires. It is taking a long time, but things are coming back and they hope anyone coming to California will visit their beautiful wine country. **Sue Sharkey Hoffma** writes that 2019 was a busy year for them. They spent 10 days in March visiting their son and his family, who were there for the year. They loved Singapore and took a side trip to Siem Reap, Cambodia, to see Angkor Wat and other ruins. In May 2019 their youngest grandchild arrived! Beau Daniel Wise is a happy, giggly baby. Sue and Tom are healthy and enjoying their lives and time with family. **Nancy Finn Kukura** and Phil have been focused on travel, cruising last summer from Rotterdam to Boston via the Shetland Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Canadian maritimes; a land tour to China and Tibet in September; and a cruise to South America and Antarctica in January. **Ann Engstrom Reydel** and **Midge Auwerter Shepard** wrote that some of our classmates gathered in Naples at Midge's condo in January. Present were **Ann Engstrom Reydel, Judith Jones McGregor, Betty Sidor Hanley, Heather Marcy Cooper, Midge Auwerter Shepard, Ann Werner Johnson, Deb Benjamin '67, Shelley Smith '69** and **Mary Whitney Hoch '69. Terry Reimers Byrnes** and Jim enjoy full-time residency in Vero Beach, Fla. They have been there now a full year and a half, having sold their home in Ithaca, N.Y. With great Florida weather, they can bike, walk, golf, etc. all year. They have two granddaughters who live in Victoria, B.C., so they travel west as much as possible. They enjoyed a Conn College reception at the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach with Katherine Bergeron, her students and other alums. The tour and presentation of their Asian art collection reminded Terry fondly of her years at Conn under the tutelage of Charles Chu. President Bergeron provided news of new campus initiatives and the progress there. Sounds great! **Joan Pekoc Pagano's** live course, "Stay Strong, Stretched and Stable," debuted on the

Vitality Society, an online community of peers, offering the opportunity to connect with each other with support of coaches. As a certified Brain Health Trainer, Joan designed the four modules of her Vitality Society course around the latest longevity research examining the transformative effect of physical activity on the brain. Exercise doesn't only make you healthier, it also makes you smarter! **Andrea Hintlian Mendell** and her husband finally fulfilled a longtime dream of visiting the Taj Mahal, in India. I wanted to share the news of the passing of **Dorcas Hardy** in November in Virginia. Also, **Wendy Spear Mayrose** died in December in South Carolina. The class sends deepest condolences to their families. Please keep your news coming; we all love to know what is happening in the lives of our friends from CC.

**69** Correspondent: *Judi Bamberg Mariggiò, 1070 Sugar Sands Blvd. #384, Riviera Beach, FL 33404 jgmariggiò@bellsouth.net* In October, John and **Linda Abel Fosseen** attended a friend's daughter's wedding in Australia. "A wonderful trip but we traveled in the area hit hard by the fires, and it is heart-wrenching to see what has happened to the animals. In January, fulfilling my decades-long wish, we took a 22-day trip by ship to Tierra del Fuego, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island and the Antarctic Peninsula. As a zoology major at Conn, it truly was a dream of 50 years come true. The highlight was our four-day visit to the biologically almost-pristine South Georgia, with hundreds of thousands of penguins on many beaches, plus the Southern ocean teeming with wildlife. We had a firsthand view of earth ecology we had just been starting to learn about in the '60s and now are in a battle to save." With childcare limited and a big expense in Vermont, **Darryl Ferguson Bloom** is happily busy being "Grandmother Nannie." She is also devoted to climate action and immigration action. "Writing letters is one way to participate when time is limited. It is pretty energizing being active and sometimes on the front lines of demonstrations again." If you worry about the effects of climate change and enjoy podcasts, Darryl recommends *Outrage and Optimism*, which has good doses of both. The highlight of **Evelyn Marienberg** and **Sunny (Rita) Miller's** September cruise from Fiji to Tonga, Cook Islands, Bora Bora and Tahiti was swimming with the humpback whales. Evy followed that up with a trip to Vietnam in February. "I have been working per diem since my retirement in July 2018,



Andrea Hintlian Mendell '68 with her husband, Tom, fulfilling lifelong dream to visit the Taj Mahal



Left to right: Heather Marcy Cooper '68, Mary Whitney Hoch '69, Betty Sidor Hanley '68, Shelley Smith '69, Midge Auwerter Shepard '68, Ann Werner Johnson '68, Ann Engstrom Reydel '68, Debbie Benjamin '67 and Judy Jones McGregor '68





Ann Tousley Anderson '69 and Nancy Payne Alexander '69 visited the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens during Nancy's visit with family in South Florida.



Kris Stahlschmidt Lambert '69 and Beth Brereton Smith '69 continued Reunion conversations over lunch months later at Beth's house in Newtonville, Mass.



Semiretired radiation oncologist Evelyn Marienberg '69 has a new venture, a mobile fitness training franchise.

covering for vacationing radiation oncologists, but I just bought a franchise business. I am the very first franchisee of On The Marc Training, a mobile gym offering 'fitness made convenient.' Am I brilliant or crazy to be buying this business, or maybe both?" **Heather Morrison** was elected to a second term on the CC alumni board. "The board is composed of a diverse group of grads ranging from the Class of '58 to the Class of '19. I've thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such a dynamic group. If anyone in our class has ideas on how we can better engage Conn alums, please let me know." Jack and **Sally Rowe Heckscher** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last June, and Jack had his right hip replaced in August after their annual trip to Rhode Island. "We all survived!" Jack and Sally had plans to visit friends in Florida after the American Daffodil Society convention in Dallas in March. After a relaxing weekend in Portsmouth, N.H., Brian and **Kris Stahlschmidt Lambert** caught up with Bob and **Beth Brereton Smith** over lunch at Beth's home in Newtonville, Mass. "It was reunion time all over again, with the conversation ranging from family to travel and even politics!" In January, Harvey and **Ellen Steinberg Karch** had "a wonderful travel adventure, a cruise from San Diego through the Panama Canal all the way back to Fort Lauderdale—truly fascinating. Back home in Rockville, Md., we enjoy various volunteer activities. We each came to our marriage 13 years ago with our own synagogues and remain involved, volunteering with both. Between us we have five children and 10 grandchildren, who bring us busy times and much joy. Best wishes to all my classmates; I recently bought a new Connecticut College sweatshirt, which I wear with great pride." **Ann Barber Smith** and **Alice Wellington** caught up over lunch in late February. "We enjoy our new roles as class president and vice president; it's one more aspect of our friendship that began over 50 years ago. With Ann and husband Bill now in Exeter, N.H., and Rob and me in Concord, Mass. (since the late '80s), we're about a 75-minute drive apart. After lunch at a restaurant in Concord Center, where Rob and I go with our musical friends to enjoy rock/roots/blues music, Ann and I toured local historic sites, including Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House, Walden Pond and scenic conservation land, and made plans for more next time!"

**70** *Correspondent: Myrna Chandler Goldstein, mgoldst@massmed.org* As you know, our Class Notes are written several months before they actually appear in the magazine. So, as I write these, months before our 50th class reunion, I am still trying to come to terms with the fact that almost 50 years have passed since our graduation. Over the many years that I have served as class correspondent, I have shared updates on scores of classmates. Now I am reaching out to the many who have rarely or never sent an update and asking you to take the time to share your story with us. We all love to learn more about the varied paths we have taken. **Elaine Frey Hester** and husband John moved from Glen Ellyn, Ill., a suburb of Chicago, to Greenville, S.C., in 2008. "We are enjoying living in this part of the country, close to the mountains and not far from the ocean. Greenville is a vibrant small city." Since John retired at the end of 2017, they have traveled to New Zealand, Australia, China, Tibet, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Greece, including Rhodes and Crete. Future destinations include Amsterdam, Brussels and South Africa. "We're trying to fulfill our 'bucket list' while we are still in good health!" **Mary Keil** and her husband of 11 years lived in Arcata, Calif., which is in the far northern part of the state. They both work on a serious video-development team designing a simulation game dealing with the economy. When they are not working, they hike in the Redwoods, walk the coastal areas, and explore Humboldt County. Mary has a son, daughter-in-law, grandson and granddaughter in the Bay Area, "whom she doesn't get to see enough." **Joyce Smith** is the college counselor for MOSTe (Motivating Our Students Through Experience), a mentoring and college access program for first-generation, low-income girls in Los Angeles and Pasadena. "Currently, we have a MOSTe scholar at Conn, Michelle Chavez '22. Last spring, I offered MOSTe as a Los Angeles site for Camels Care: A Global Day of Service, on March 23. We sent L.A. alums invitations to an information reception about our mentoring program. Shelley Smith '69 was one attendee. I had not seen Shelley since our undergraduate days and was thrilled by her interest in becoming a MOSTe mentor. Shelley was matched with a wonderful MOSTe high school senior, who has applied to CC for Fall 2020. They have gone to concerts, plays, lunches and more. Shelley has

been a great resource for her and has enjoyed getting to know this determined young woman. My story: My first job was as an assistant to the writers of *The Dick Cavett Show*, then I worked on Senator Muskie's 1972 presidential campaign, became a producer at WCVB-TV in Boston and WNET in New York, received my Ed.M. degree from Harvard Graduate School of Education in '76, produced one of RCA's first video discs with Dr. Benjamin Spock, took a break to raise two children, returned to the workforce to implement an arts education grant for the City of Glendale, worked in communications at two independent schools and for the L.A. County Arts Commission, and finally discovered what I was meant to be—a college counselor for first-generation, low-income girls! I received my college counseling certificate from UC San Diego and started working with another college access program called RowLA in 2012 and joined MOSTe in 2014." Finally, our (the Goldsteins) book, *Dietary Supplements: Fact versus Fiction*, is now available. It provides research on the pros and cons of scores of supplements. Check it out on Amazon.

**71** *Class Correspondents: Lisa McDonnell, 134 W Maple Street, Granville, OH 43023, mcdonnell@denison.edu and Lois Olcott Price, 933A Alto Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501, loprice@yahoo.com* Class President **Anning Sze Truxes** reports that Class Gift Officer **Ronna Reynolds** and **Anne Maxwell Livingston** have begun cultivating participation in our 50th Reunion and Class Gift. This winter, they visited with classmates **Fran Howland Gammell-Roach**, **Judy Heldman Oxman**, **Weezie Hammond Garrison** and **Jane Difly**. More trips have been scheduled for the spring. **Susan Bear** is in her last semester as a professor of biology at Pine Manor College in Boston. She also works part-time in a plant/floal store, which she will continue after retiring from teaching and research. Susan plans to travel, visit with friends, do more exercise and yoga, and catch up on all those novels! **Susie Pool Moses** spent last summer on her boat traveling Puget Sound and north to the Canadian Gulf Islands. She's now settled down with lots of knitting and quilting projects. She is still president of her condo association and very involved with AAUW (American Association of University Women). Son Evan and wife Tara moved to San Antonio, Tex., for Tara's new job,



Jane Difily '71 and Anne Maxwell Livingston '71 in Warner, N.H., in February 2020

and daughter Lauren is now in charge of one of the medical clinics at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. Lauren and her family, including sons Bear and Wolf (ages 2 and 4), joined Susie and her husband for Christmas in Port Townsend, Wash. **Deborah Johnson** and husband Russell Harris continue to publish a weekly newspaper in the town where they have lived since 1978. Working on the *Groton Herald*, now in its 41st year, is making their adjustment to retirement much easier. Daughter Midori married Kyle MacLean on Oct. 20, 2018, and daughter Allegra received an MBA from George Washington U. last May and is now working as a consultant for Deloitte in the DC area. Oldest daughter Rachel is an architect with an ever-growing business specializing in house design and additions. She is the mother of Sonja and Tabitha, who live near Deborah and Russell and are a joy to them. **Lucy VanVoorhees** still works four days a week as a cardiologist and loves it. She spends off-time on the farm training ponies for sale as show ponies. She reads, bakes and works in her garden. She spent a week in Oakland, Calif., visiting her best friends from medical school. **Linda Herskowitz Kriger** was a piano performance major at Conn and is taking piano lessons again, with the goal to replicate her senior recital 50 years later, relearning the pieces she learned with Zosia Jacynowicz so many years ago. Linda's interested in seeing how the years and life experiences affect the way she interprets Bach, Beethoven, Debussy, Ravel and Bartok. Linda's also teaching Mussar, an ages-old curriculum of character development that their organization, the Center for Contemporary Mussar, has modernized. Linda and husband Jake, a psychotherapist, have recently downsized and are in the woods a half-mile from their previous home, in a much smaller space that feels just right because it's vertically spacious. Son Ezra, 26, in graduate school for fiction writing, has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize for a poem he wrote about his 10th birthday party. (See his work on EzraSolway.com.) Son Daniel, 28, lives in Brooklyn and is learning about wines, which he plans to make a career. In the meantime, he works in restaurants and a wine shop. Linda and Jake enjoy their large extended family and feel lucky to be active and healthy at their age. **Josie Mooney** is back working for Service Employees International Union full-time and having a great time. It allows her to be at home more and spend time with her kids

and her 15-month-old grandson, Wilder. While she misses her last job as the national organization director for People's Action and VP of strategic partnerships for NextGen America, she is thrilled to be able to go to the gym or on walks with their puppy, Lily, rather than running to the next plane. "We are working to achieve health, housing, and racial, gender and economic justice for all!"

**72** *Correspondent: Dr. Peggy Muschell Jackson, (415) 609-5341, peg@pegjackson.com* **Mary Ingoldsby** recently had a reunion with **Helen Crispe Hesselgrave** and **Barbara Ainslie Settembrini** at Mary's home in West Hartford, Conn. **Barbara Ainslie Settembrini** has lived in Sicily since graduation from Conn. She has worked as an English tutor and has two grown children. **Helen Crispe Hesselgrave** is retired from her work as an instructor at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, then as Director of Education and Historic Sites at the Morris County (N.J.) Park System; she lives in New Jersey. **Mary Ingoldsby** is a retired school social worker. She has four children, is very active in her church teaching and being a Eucharistic minister, and loves gardening, especially growing dahlias. They are hoping for another reunion soon! **Carol Blake Boyd** retired on April 1 from the Naples Trust Company after seven years of being a president and regional corporate director and is now on the board of directors. Her husband, Peter, a pathologist, still works part-time. They have a new granddaughter, Brielle, born in December, joining brother Luke, 2. Peter and Carol look forward to more travel in the future. They spent February 2019 in Australia and New Zealand. Carol also looks forward to our 50th reunion in 2022. **Beth Alpert Nakhai** has lived in Tucson since 1982, where she moved to pursue her Ph.D. in biblical and Near Eastern archaeology. She excavated in Israel for many years and has been teaching at the U. of Arizona since 1994. Her husband, Farzad,

is an architect and painter. Beth and her husband were so happy to have **Linda Johnson Wessling** and her fabulous husband, J.D., join them at the wedding of Beth's daughter, Mandana. Beth says that it's pretty special to have your best friend from Day One in college (different floors in Freeman) still be your best friend! **Margo Reynolds Steiner** continues to teach a memoir class to seniors at Marblehead's Council on Aging. She says that the class has one 'rooster' in the group, a retired fisherman who writes about the sea. Since September Margo has been on the faculty at Endicott College, where she works as a professional writing tutor. This fall, she will be teaching a freshman critical writing course there and an art history course on early Egyptian art and archeology at another area college. Margo continues to be busy as a freelance book editor and saw three novels through to publication this year. Retirement is anything but boring! **Glenn Morazzini** continues to work as a psychotherapist in Falmouth, Maine. He recently enjoyed a visit from his daughter, Tara Morazzini Talvacchia '09, and grandson Giovanni, 2. **Ruth Ritter Ladd**'s most-recent Guiding Eyes puppy, Layla, is now a guide and just moved to Honolulu with her handler, Sajja, a wonderful young woman who is getting her doctorate at the U. of Hawaii. (The local Honolulu TV news aired a story about Sajja and Layla.) Layla was Ruth's 14th Guiding Eyes puppy. Now she is training Nutmeg—the antithesis of Layla, who was very calm and laid back. Ruth loves retirement, which is full of puppy raising, babysitting grandkids as needed, ringing bells in her church's bell choir and serving as a commissioner on her town's conservation commission. **Linda Lee Howe** teaches five senior classes in Union County College's Continuing Education program, in Cranford, N.J. Her theme this year is drawing horses. She continues to write poetry and short stories and hopes to publish again this year. During her work as a medical artist, **Deb-**

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—Patricia Swonger '81

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**orah Hansen Hollenberg** met and eventually married the Director of Research in Radiology, Dr. Norman Hollenberg. Deborah did artwork for all of the physicians in Radiology and learned techniques from the head of medical art at University Hospital. Her husband was an editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, was a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and was Director of Research in Radiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Following a long decline in health, he passed away in January. Subsequently, Deborah's twin brother died from the effects of glioblastoma that he had been fighting since August. The class sends deepest condolences to Deborah for her losses.

**73** *Correspondent: Hester Kinnicutt Jacobs, PO Box 277, Melstone, MT 59054, (406) 358-2279, djacobs@midrivers.com* **Nina Davit** and husband Greg moved to Wilmington, N.C., last May. "We are busy with our 1948 house and garden. I've joined a theater group, Mouths of Babes, and am looking forward to some innovative projects." **Brian Robie** is retired from the CDC, and he and his wife are enjoying their children and grandchildren. "I also have a contract to help hepatitis laboratory managers in Uzbekistan improve their work processes. And I'm working on a novel." Last year when I (Hester) asked you for input for this column, I was in New Zealand. I have signed up again for this duty, and I tried desperately to get some notes in with very short notice. We had a wonderful three months with our son's family living in Dunedin. On the way home, we stopped in Half Moon Bay, Calif., to see Valerie Kinnicutt Powell '70 and my other siblings. We were greeted with winter when we got home to Montana at the end of February. This winter has been mild, and I am looking forward to gardening

soon. The next deadline for class notes is August 1. I will send emails and connect on Facebook Connecticut College Class of 1973 as reminders. Please send your news and pictures (trips, children, grandchildren, retirement, etc.) to me any time, and I will save them for the next edition.

**74** *Class Notes Correspondent: Barbara Herbst Tatum, barbara.tatum52@gmail.com* **John Tarbox** recently completed a year of service with AmeriCorps as a digital literacy instructor, teaching computer courses to the public in rural Maine. He has also been working on a master's degree at Boston U., earning his MS in computer information systems with a concentration in security. John lives in Phillips, Maine, and would love to connect with other CC alums in the state. **Ellen Feldman Thorp** is doing well and looking forward to her 30th wedding anniversary in October. Thankfully her vision issues were resolved, and she is enthusiastically getting ready for pickleball tournament season. She will compete in her St. George community, then proceed to the U.S. Open in Naples, Fla. On behalf of the Class of '74, I wish her every success! I would like to thank classmates who submitted notes directly to CC for publication, and I look forward to hearing from many of you for the fall issue of CC.

**77** *Correspondent: Stuart Sadick, stuart.sadick@gmail.com* **Emily Odza** is starting a new role as permanent librarian in her hometown of Oakland, Calif., where she's lived since 1984 and owned her home since 2000. Although part-time, "it's the holy grail of library jobs (benefits!)", which is notoriously difficult to nail down in this field." She previously had a permanent half-time job in Hayward, where they built "a spectacular new town library." Emily worked for a managed behavioral health care

company for many years prior to graduate school. Emily still puts in hours at Hayward and Laney College—"life is expensive in California. No coasting here and retirement is still years away." But she loves the beautiful surroundings and weather and has developed wonderful friendships in the Bay Area, as well as "strong ties with neighbors in this eclectic, funky area of the Oakland foothills. Retired firefighter (30 years in OFD) is my main squeeze and lives around the corner." She enjoys the thriving international restaurant scene and subscribes to several theaters in Oakland, Berkeley and San Francisco. "I am impressed by the changes in Conn College and wish I was attending there now! I will be buying fiction for my small branch, which is right up my alley (a literature major at Conn, but actually not a genre fiction reader). Any recommendations?"

**78** *Class Notes Correspondents: Susan Greenberg Gold, sgold51@yahoo.com and Laurie Heiss, laurieheiss@gmail.com* **Laura Brown Narvaiz** is enjoying retirement from a long career, mostly as VP of communications at the National Association of Manufacturers. She plays a lot of tennis, nurtures her friendships and argues politics with Fox viewers. Son John is a happy sophomore at Elon U. in North Carolina, and daughter Maribel is a freshman at Lynn U. in Boca Raton, Fla.—a fun place to visit! Their dog, Maggie (a "black Lab mix" who turned out to be an adorable coonhound), enjoys daily playtime in the dog park. Laura and husband Rick look forward to cheering on the World Series champs at spring training in West Palm Beach, Fla., and she adds, "Come visit us if you're in the Washington, D.C., area!" (Ed. note: *Congrats to the Nats!*) **Caroline Boyce** lives in Havertown, Pa. (just outside Philadelphia), with her partner, Gunther Carrle. Five years ago, she started her own firm, Inter-Mission, LLC, to provide change management services to nonprofit organizations: "I am loving it!" Caroline continues to serve on the board of advisors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and just completed serving as board chair of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania. She is traveling a lot and perfecting her cooking skills. "Life is good!" **Karen Haas** shares that her exhibition "Ansel Adams in Our Time," which showed at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, last winter, is now going to travel to three additional venues this spring, fall, and winter—Crystal Bridges (Bentonville, Ark.), Portland Art Museum (Oregon) and the Milwaukee Museum of Art. She hopes some of her CC classmates will be able to see the exhibition in one of those cities. Karen has been a photography curator at the MFA for more than 20 years and still loves organizing shows. The year 2020 marks the centennial of women's suffrage, and as part of the celebration at MFA, she is working on two exhibitions: contemporary women and photo collage and "Personal and Political: Women Photographers, 1965–1985." Karen's husband, chief photographer at the MFA, is about to retire. Karen adds, "I'm really happy for him, but I'm certain it will feel strange because we've worked together at so many museums over all these years!" **Vee-Vee Angle Scott** and husband

## The Connecticut College Alumni Association Board of Directors

**OUR MISSION:** "To promote lifelong relationships among current and future alumni and lead the Alumni Association as it fosters an active, engaged and enduring community of Connecticut College graduates."



Our 28 member Board, spanning the Classes of 1958-2019, will be providing CC Magazine content featuring Alumni Recognition, Camel Events, Engagement Opportunities, and more! Look for us in future editions!



Two Camels facilitating at a Planned Parenthood meeting: Emma Gilmore Kieran '00 and Elizabeth Schroeder '88



Sarah Warner '89 and daughter Avery visited Debbie Marconi '89 at her home during her summer visit to the East Coast.



Former roommates Geoff Schaffer '90 and Bruce Maclaren '90 got together.

Jon moved to Virginia Beach in 2018. Their married children visit and vacation with them. Their greatest joy is being grandparents, and Vee-Vee continues her volunteer passions of tutoring and supporting the food bank. After one knee and one hip replacement, dance has been replaced by Pilates. Marian Ahearn '76 and Lynn (Gigi) Goodman Rouse-Zoll '66 are dear cousins by marriage who visit and live in Virginia Beach, respectively. Vee-Vee added, with certain pride, that daughter Lily Scott is beginning her dissertation at Temple U., having passed her qualifying exams. Lily was an undergrad at Bryn Mawr, majoring in American art (late-19th- and early-20th-century art), and is now working at Barnes and looking for a fellowship. **Steve Certilman** is happy to share that an exhibition titled "Archives of Consciousness: Six Cuban Artists," featuring selected works of Cuban contemporary art from his and wife Terri's collection, was on view at Fairfield University Art Museum. Classmates may recall from this column that Steve has been collecting Cuban art for decades.

**81** Correspondent: Brooke Perry Pardue, [bpardue@gmail.com](mailto:bpardue@gmail.com) Reprint with correction: **Beth Radcliffe** and her wife, **Terry Greene**, celebrated their 40th anniversary this year in the company of many friends, including Carol Marton '82. **Brooke Perry Pardue** made her first trip to Los Angeles to visit her son, who is now living and working there. She connected with **Paul Escoll**, and they met up with **Rick Gersten**'s son, Nate, who is now managing the Prospect, an amazing new boutique hotel in West Hollywood. She was very disappointed that schedules didn't allow for a visit with **Dana Friedman Kiesel** while there, but hopes to be back soon. **Talie Ward Harris**'s grandson, Walter Ward Harris, turned 2 in February. His aunt, Madeline Ward Harris '16, was there to witness her nephew's slam dunks into the three-foot-high basketball hoop and trike races around the Choate School gym with other "fac brats." **Duncan Dayton** celebrated son Nelson's first birthday this spring. Several classmates mourned the passing of our much-beloved friend and former housefellow, **Bill Barrack**, who died on Christmas Eve. His service, in Wellesley, Mass., was attended by more than 400, including **Talie Ward Harris**, **Jamie Kageleiry Stringfellow**, **Linda Wiatrowski Gregory**, **Christy Beckwith Bensley**, **Harry Moore**, **Bryan MacDonald**, **Andy Storero**,

**Scott Williamson**, **Peter Gregory**, and **Victoria McKittrick Oliva** and her husband, Mark Oliva '82. Rest in peace, dear Bilbo. Reunions will never be the same. **Chip Maguire** writes that he was able to visit **Peter "Spice" Simpson** last March in New Hope, Pa., for Peter's 60th birthday. He is currently living vicariously through his son Benjamin, who, after touring Southeast Asia for six months, has taken off to Nepal to eventually climb up to Everest's base camp. Chip is trying to connect Benjamin with Gerry Gaffin '83, who's in Dubai, and **Vanessa Stock Bristow**, in Zimbabwe, as Benjamin continues to travel the globe. Chip still corresponds with **Jack Finneran**'s son, Michael, who's his chess coach. Chip says his game is nothing compared to Michael's but that Michael helps him destroy opponents at his level. Chip also feels there is an irreparable tear in the fabric of the Class of '81 with the loss of **Bill Barrack**, and said, "Here's a toast to you, roommate. Safe travels!"

**83** Correspondent: **Claudia Gould Tielking**, 6533 Mulroy Street, McLean VA 22101, [charlesbudworth@gmail.com](mailto:charlesbudworth@gmail.com) **Alan Cohen** took the TedX Harrisburg stage with his talk, "The Magical Power of Shared Purpose." He continues to tour the country promoting his book, *The Connection Challenge: How Executives Create Power and Possibility in the Age of Distraction*. He and his spouse, Barry, split their time between New York and Miami, where they recently purchased a second home. **Barb Lasley Reid** and husband Skip have both retired (he from 30 years as president of Reid's Yacht Service and Barb from 34 years teaching special education in Boston), and after doing necessary improvements on their home in Massachusetts, sold it and have become full-time residents of North Port, Fla. "We love it so much! We're about halfway between the Fort Myers and Sarasota airports, out in the country (actually the jungle) with some acreage, away from the traffic and snowbirds. Our neighbors are deer, owls, turtles, herons, hawks and the occasional gator." Barb has taken up horseback riding again, and they also cruise around on their Harleys and their tandem bike. "Life is good with no alarm clocks and no snow!" Barb has also been blessed with a beautiful grandson (son Jerry and family are in Dallas); son Brian is still in Massachusetts working for Comcast. **Karen Barsa** moved to Portland, Ore., from Park City, Utah, and would enjoy seeing any classmates in the area. **Pat Dad-**

**dona** has been living in Chester, Vt., with her life partner, Leanne Garofolo, and their cat, Mickey, since early 2018. She was promoted to shift leader, advocating full-time for youth at a shelter for at-risk girls at Windsor County Youth Services (and also subbing in at the boys house as needed). She also works part-time as a regional coordinator, making matches between youth and adult volunteers for Windsor County Mentors. Happily, she recovered quickly from a broken wrist sustained in a mildly competitive game of pickleball, and she is playing open mics and shows again. Recording more original music is a goal, but you can find her album *Love Is Hard* streaming on Spotify, Amazon or CDBaby. **Gayle Brady Finkelstein** has been working for the Northern New England Poison Center for the past 14 years as a public health nurse in poison prevention. She lives and works in Vermont and enjoys sailing, hiking, biking and skiing. Both her sons have graduated from their universities and are enjoying life. Gayle travels as much as possible in her free time. She is also involved with the Vermont Climate and Health Alliance, working with other health care professionals on climate change and increasing awareness of its impact with human and animal health. **Judith Krigman** is a lab manager at Ohio State U. She works with a mitochondrial group and still does a lot of mouse work and echocardiograms on mice. She can't believe she has been in Ohio for seven years! **Marita Kennedy Wein** was named CEO of Alternative Investment Group in July 2019. She was able to spend time with freshman roommate **Jeanine Dadourian Hovsepian** in January. Three grown children led to the sale of the family home with a move to an empty-nest house at the beach.

**87** Correspondent: **Jenifer Kahn Bakka**, 51 Wesson Terrace, Northborough, MA 01532, [JKBBBlue@gmail.com](mailto:JKBBBlue@gmail.com) Congratulations to **Michael Schadick**, who recently received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from his graduate school alma mater, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, for 25 years of service as a rabbi. **David "Woody" Wittenberg** is entering his 26th year as an attorney in the Atlanta area. He is a sole practitioner, concentrating in consumer bankruptcy. His children are now 26 and 21 and starting to find their own ways in life. David remarried three years ago, and he and his wife (an Emory U. professor) enjoy traveling as much as work will allow. They made it to Israel, Slovenia, Colorado and Colombia in 2019. In



# Weddings



Jessica Grossi Grace '07, Sarah Trapido '08, Lauren Trapido '05, Nick DiMatteo '07, Matt Kaplan (new husband; not an alum), Pam Ziering '05 and Kimberly Carron Hayes '03



Joan Edwards '87 officiated at the wedding of the daughter of George Newman '85 and Lynn Heiman Newman '87. Pictured from left to right are the flower girls, bride Claire Conroy, groom Christopher Conroy, Joan, and George and Lynn. Joan and Lynn were freshman roommates in Knowlton, and George lived right across the hall!



Susan Endel Kerner '67 and Paul Smirnoff were married in May 2019. A wedding family photo includes her oldest son, Andrew Kerner '02, and daughter-in-law Alison Roth-Kerner '01.



Johanna Gregory '10 married Murat Civan on Sept. 29, 2019, in Denmark.



Bride Leigh Ahrens Dorf Fitzgerald '08 and groom Paul Fitzgerald at their Naples, Fla., wedding, with Beverly Alfano Ahrens Dorf '72, Lee Ahrens Dorf and Drew Ahrens Dorf, on Nov. 9, 2019



Anna Kaiper '06 married Ian Kaiper-Marquez in September 2019 in Santa Fe, N.M.



# Births



Mickey Lenzi '10 and Julia Harnett Lenzi '10 welcomed son Oliver William on Nov. 20, 2019.



Dan and Sarah Ellison O'Shea '08 welcomed son Ian James into the world on Feb. 2, 2020.



Laura Frawley '10 and Brian Knowles and son Will were thrilled to welcome the newest member of their family, Riley Kimberly Knowles, on Jan. 30, 2020.



Avi Ben-Zvi '10 and Ruthie Thier Ben-Zvi '12 welcomed daughter Ida on Nov. 26, 2019.



Paige Landry '10 and Randy Lovelace '11 welcomed daughter Landry Lynn Lovelace on Feb. 12, 2020.



Annie Gemmer Bowe '10 with family



On Feb. 9, Julian turned 1. Dad David DiGiammarino '06, mom Kelly and sister Eleanor (3) had a blast at his birthday party. Julian was unsure of the whole thing but certainly enjoys being able to pull-to-stand, babbling and waving bye to people.





Class of 1991 alums Nancy Mather Twyman, Karen Christophano DiGravio, Amy Lebowitz Rosman and Stephanie Kim celebrated their 50th birthdays together.

2020, they are planning an Alaska cruise and a week of hiking in Glacier National Park. "Life is good. No complaints." **Virginia Vancil** has been teaching social studies in Shelton, Conn., for 20 years and loves it! Gini lives in Madison and recently joined the board of directors for Raise the Roof, the Shoreline chapter of Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven. **Linda Christensen Wright** and husband Bill are still in West Hartford, Conn., and Linda's catering business keeps her hopping. Two of their three children are "launched," so she has more time for playing tennis, walking her dogs and traveling—including a yoga retreat in Costa Rica planned in 2020.

**89** *Correspondent: Tamsen Bales Sharpless, camel89news@gmail.com* Please continue to share mini-reunions, life events or anything else to strengthen our connection to each other and the College. If you are interested in connecting on Facebook, please send me a note at the address above or request via Facebook to join the private group Connecticut College Class of 1989. In other Camel news: Singer-songwriter **Andrew McKnight** just wrapped up a seven-year odyssey of amazing experiences and connections exploring his family's history in a new album and book, *Treasures in My Chest*. Full of helpful tips for those curious about their own family legacy, the project is also loaded with "can't make this up" stories, including a family fortune lost on the *Titanic*, a doomed Civil War ancestor, and a guitar brought home from cousins in Northern Ireland. Andrew's 2020 tour will cover most of the country, including Connecticut. Details can be found on Andrew's website, <http://andrew-mcknight.net>.

**90** *Correspondent: Toria Brett, Class Correspondent, 30 Washington Ave., Northampton, MA 01060, victoriabrett@comcast.net* **Kahla Thompson Nelson** will miss Reunion but said she enjoyed a visit from **Susie Lee** to her home in Chonburi, Thailand, in November. Kahla is teaching at an international school while her husband commutes back and forth to China. Two of their four kids also attend this school, and the other two are in university. Kahla is looking forward to spending time with **Leslie Pelton** and family this summer and hopefully **Marina McClelland-Neal**, too. Congrats to **Christin Shanahan Brecher**, who has two books out this year. Her second book in the Nantucket



Robert Shea '91, Eva Cahalan Shea '91, Jen Schumacher Harper '91 and Linda Smith Munyan '91 in Chatham, MA

Candle Maker Mysteries, *Murder Makes Scents*, came out Feb. 25. And the third, *15 Minutes of Flame*, will come out Aug. 25. "My favorite early reader review, so far? The book is 'a good reason not to do the dinner dishes!'" While she was writing the book at a café in Nantucket, Christin bumped into **Frank Suher** and **Hillary Schacher Suher**. "A er their help with some brainstorming, I named the book's spy Agent Hill!" Christin attended the NYC holiday party and had "a fun time seeing classmates." **Jen Harvey Olivetti** and Jerry Olivetti '89 still live in Wellesley, Mass. "It was really nice to see so many alumni at the Boston event this past December! My daughter, Posy, will graduate from the College of Charleston in May, and my son, Miles, will graduate from WHS in June. He will start at Ithaca College this fall." **Amy Rogers Nazarov** is living on Capitol Hill in DC and runs her own company doing social media for small businesses. She is also a performing singer-songwriter. "I was too chicken to try out for the a cappella groups at CC but have made up for that since! I was in an award-winning bluegrass band called Dead Men's Hollow for 14 years, and now I am launching two new bands: ARDMORE, a Celtic-flavored Americana thing, and Tiber Creek, a duo which does original songs and the odd Richard Thompson cover. Performing is literally my dream come true, and it is thrill-



Charles Stackhouse '94 with children Gavin and Charlie, and Chris McDaniel '94 and Knute Gregg '94 in the background, at Reunion 2019



Class of 1991 alums Kristen Nani Dohoney, Erin McLaughlin Chase, Mark Waldeck, Paul Simpson, Andrew McCuskey, and Beth Munger Leavitt reunited for a pub crawl.

ing to build these new acts (each has had multiple gigs so far). I saw **Cait Goodwin** in her home state of Oregon last year and keep in close touch with Annik Hirshen '92, since we both dwelled on the top floor of Larrabee (wasn't it called the Nunnery?). I've been married since 2003 to a fellow Connecticut native I met here in DC, and we have a 12-year-old son and a 2-year-old pit bull mix. One thing I've learned since leaving CC is it is never too late to try to be what you might have been." **Brian Field** was the recent recipient of a McKnight Foundation Award through the Minnesota Sinfonia, which performed his "Lullaby" for chamber orchestra in three different venues around Minneapolis this past February. **Kirsten Ward** wrote, "I finally made the big move to the West Coast! It was a whirlwind January: Job offer accepted Jan. 2, on a plane Jan. 14 and started a new position on Jan. 27. My little Yorkshire terrier (Tenzing) moved to Orange County, Calif., with me, and we are loving the weather. My new position is with Tandem Diabetes Care teaching patients and health care providers how to manage blood glucose levels with an insulin pump and continuous glucose monitor." Despite the long trip across the country, Kirsten plans to attend Reunion and looks forward to reconnecting with everyone!

**04** *Correspondent: Nora Mirick Guerrero, noramirick@gmail.com* Following her time at Conn, **Sarah Jacobs Forbes** completed grad school in anthropology in NYC, spent 12 years as the curator of the Museum of Sex and wrote her first book, *Sex in the Museum: My Unlikely Career at New York's Most Provocative Museum*. She moved to London three years ago with her Irish husband, their two chil-



Gloria Coats Handyside '04 with her husband Mark and their daughters





Class of 1991 alums Sarah Casey Forbes, Eva Cahalan Shea, Jen Kimiatek Hunniwell, Marty Davis and Lynn Elliot celebrated birthdays together.



Class of 1991 alums Winnie Loeffler, Alexandra Ladd, Katie Drucker, Laura Williams Freed, Lorraine White, Lenora Gim, Alice Coleman and Kristen O'Sullivan celebrated their 50th birthdays in California.



Class of 1991 alums Kirsten Cather, Mary O'Dea Newton, Deb Garret Lawlor, Carolyn Tan Deane and Kristen Martin May got together in San Francisco.

dren and their aging Shiba Inu. She's currently writing her next book, *Mama Sex*, and working as a "curator/sexual culturalist/personal ethnographer" and traveling throughout Europe. To her CISLA family: "You would be proud!" She continues to be so thankful for all of the sisters she gained through her time at CC. After 14 years living abroad, **Gloria Coats Handyside**, husband Mark and their daughters have relocated to Boulder, Colo., from the United Kingdom. **Ted Ketterer** recently moved to Bogotá, Colombia, to take on an exciting role heading up marketing for the Coca-Cola Company. He was joined by his wife, Inajá, and two dogs, one of which is an Instagram celebrity: @reubenthebatdog. **Kelly Hart** was promoted in the Foreign Service and is currently serving as a political officer at the U.S. embassy in Ankara, Turkey. Enjoying a healthy NESCAC rivalry with Middlebury alumni at the embassy, she and her colleagues work to advance U.S. diplomatic efforts with NATO ally Turkey. Kelly enjoys mentoring Conn students interested in the State Department and continues to serve in the Reserves as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy JAG Corps. **Meredith Marcus** was involved in the case of *Biestek v. Berryhill* before the United States Supreme Court. While the Supreme Court affirmed the decision, it provided excellent language for countless claimants applying for social security. **Hollyann Moriarty** is now chair of the science and math department

at Montville High School. **Chris Percy** is finishing up a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling, which should be complete in May. Following his degree, he looks forward to moving back to Maine with his yellow Lab pup, Redwood, to begin working in the mental health field. His focus is working with adolescents and general trauma victims/survivors through equine-facilitated psychotherapy.

**05** *Class Correspondents: Stephanie Savage Flynn, 21 Whiting Rd., Wellesley, MA 02481, stephaniesavageflynn@gmail.com, and Cecily Mandl Macy, 8114 Flourtown Ave., Glenside, PA 09038, cecily.mandl@gmail.com* **Sara Kelly** combined her love of tableware with her professional experience in product development and marketing to launch her new company, Rigby. Rigby offers unique pieces of dishware, glassware and flatware with visible craftsmanship and subtle imperfections produced in Europe. Check out her line at [www.rigby-home.com](http://www.rigby-home.com).

**06** *Class Correspondent: Julia Jacobson, julia.jacobson@gmail.com* **Anna Kaiper** finished her Ph.D. at U. of Minnesota in 2018 in comparative and international development education and started a faculty job in the College of Education at Penn State the same year. She was married in September 2019 to Ian

Kaiper-Marquez in Santa Fe, N.M., and several Camels (**Randy Jones**, Sharlene Jeanty '04, **Jen Reilly**, **Julia Ochiogrosso**, **Caroline Damon**, **Stephanie Platt**, and Felipe Estrela '07 and **Julia Wisbach Estrela**) were in attendance. **Meg Gibson Wheeler** is running for state senate in Massachusetts. She is excited to be on the ballot in November! You can find more information about her campaign at [www.megwheeler.com](http://www.megwheeler.com). **Felicia Brown** married Matthew Reed in New Bedford, Mass., on Sept. 21, 2019. Camels in attendance included Carly Allard '09, **Erin Gordon**, **Julie Kozaczka**, **Kate Zullo**, Jacqui Crowley '07, **Meredith Miller Thompson** and **Sarah King**. In the summer of 2018, **Kelley Mooney**, as part of an investment group, invested in an old mining ghost town that was for sale in California, with the aim of turning it into "an exclusive experience"—keeping its infrastructure and building on it. "It got picked up in a ton of publications, and it was an exciting change of pace for me." (Search for Cerro Gordo to read an article in the *Los Angeles Times*.) That excitement sparked a realization that it was time for a change, so last April Kelley left her job at Hulu and decided to leave L.A. altogether, selling off most of her possessions and setting off to travel the world. Since last June she's driven across the U.S., and she was writing from her 10th country. "It's been mostly solo, some volunteering, some courses and lots of incredible experiences. It's honestly been life-changing." She appreciates friends (especially from Conn) reaching out with encouragement. "Lots to be said about the lessons, reflections, personal growth, gratitude, etc. ... I'm living out my Conn majors (sociology and gender and women's studies)." Check out Kelley's adventures on her blog at [cluelessandabroad.com](http://cluelessandabroad.com) and on Instagram @cluelessandabroad. "It's been a wild ride so far.



Kelly Hart '04 and her partner, Calen, exploring Cappadocia, Turkey



2006 classmates Greg Kubie, Sarah Ceglarski and Charlie Widdoes reunited for brunch in Los Angeles recently.





Camels from 1973, 2006, and 2007 came out to support Elaine Weisman's '07 husband Bobby Harris as he ran the NYC Marathon. Pictured back row, L-R: Adam Robbins '07, Jennie Bargman '06, Julia Jacobson '06, Ned Weisman '73. Front row L-R: Eric DeBear '07, Megan McCarthy '07, Katey Nelson '06, Elaine Weisman '07, Anne Harding Weisman '73

And the ghost town is still in development, most recently voted *Ghost Adventures*' best episode of the season!" (Look for it on YouTube.) During her travels Kelley has connected with Camels Ashley Kennerson '15 in London and Spain and Andrew Musoke '04 in Nairobi, and Molly Kawachi '06 helped her with a contact for volunteering in Kenya.

**08** *Class Correspondent: Areti Sakellaris, asakellaris@gmail.com* Dan and Sarah Ellison O'Shea welcomed their son, Ian James, into the world on Feb. 2. The parents are totally smitten with him and very excited to introduce him to fellow Camels! Dan, Sarah, and Ian live in Salem, Mass., with their dog, Dougal. Leigh Ahrens Dorf, daughter of Beverly Alfano Ahrens Dorf '72, married Paul Fitzgerald

in Naples, Fla., on Nov. 9. Fellow Camels Amy Crespi, Diana Coyne DiFiore and Arielle Curtis were bridesmaids. Peter Yannielli and Colleen Cowperthwait were also in attendance. Leigh and Paul currently live in Boston. Marissa Lombardi is working on her master of education degree in school counseling through the U. of Southern California's Rossier School and expects to graduate in May 2021.

**10** *Correspondent: Grace Astrove, gca1223@gmail.com* Johanna Gregory married Murat Civan on Sept. 29 in Denmark. The couple lives in Berlin, Germany, and Johanna works at the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany. Annie Gemmer Bowe and husband Josh Bowe, of Sebago, Maine, welcomed their second child, Elizabeth Bradbury Bowe, on Oct. 30. Son Sawyer, 3, loves being a big brother to Lizzie. Avi Ben-Zvi and Ruthie Thier Ben-Zvi '12 welcomed daughter Ida on Nov. 26. Paige Landry and Randy Lovelace '11 welcomed daughter Landry Lynn Lovelace on Feb. 12. Mom and baby are healthy, and they are all happily settling into a routine as a family of three. Mickey Lenzi and Julia Harnett Lenzi welcomed son Oliver William on Nov. 20. They have moved to Norwood, Mass., and Mickey began a new career as an attorney at WilmerHale LLP after graduating from American U. Washington College of Law in May 2019. They were looking forward to introducing Oliver to their fellow classmates at their 10th reunion this summer. Emmet Markin married Sarah Klass last summer in New Jersey. In attendance was Oscar Guerra '11, Kasey Lum Condra '11, Stephanie Banim, Christina Moreno Madrigal, Susana Salazar, Justin O'Shea, Jennifer Tejada-Tatis, Ivan Tatis, Johanna Gregory, Susannah Matthews, Mike Gardner, Kat Arnao, Skye Ross,

Gordie Hall, Nick XueFeng Peng, Jackie Hutchins, Jesse Deutsch, David Arroyo, Jack Lichten and Gili Ben-Yosef '09. Laura Frawley and Brian Knowles, along with son Will, were thrilled to welcome the newest member of their family, Riley Kimberly Knowles, on Jan. 30. Veronica Botsford moved from San Diego to Seattle last July. For the past six years she has been a licensed massage therapist and is now halfway through the couples and family therapy graduate program at Seattle U. After realizing her passion for helping people feel better physically, Veronica decided to expand her scope to help people with their mental and emotional health as well. Matthew Addison has been acting professionally since graduating, in both NYC and Los Angeles. He was recently featured on *The Last O.G.* on TBS and *Blue Bloods* on CBS; both episodes will premiere this fall. Before that he had gigs on NBC and HBO. Matthew is proud to represent Conn College on the screen. Courtney Smith moved back to the Boston area and is currently working as an emergency department physician assistant at Carney Hospital in Dorchester and at Quincy Medical Center's satellite emergency department. She continues to play ice hockey in the South Shore hockey league and this past winter went to Eagle River, Wisc., to play in the largest U.S. pond hockey tournament with Camel teammate Emily Mason Schoessow '09.

**14** Sybil Bullock spoke at the Let's Do It World Conference 2020 in Tallinn, Estonia, in January. You can view her talk on Facebook Live by searching "Let's Do It World Conference 2020." It's under Videos, and Sybil's presentation starts at about 00:57. She was a Greenpeace campus rep while at Conn College.

**19** *Correspondent: Victoria Slater, victoriaslater28@gmail.com* Several members of the Class of 2019 attended Conn's Holiday Party at the University Club in December. Former first year roommates Victoria Slater and Erin Fagan, both in NYC now, met up for dinner in February. Mary Kate Fox and Michael Lynch moved to Seoul, South Korea, in January to teach English at an elementary school for the year. Brie Duseau moved to Brisbane, Australia, where she works at a boarding school as a dorm parent and a senior soccer coach. Jenny Kellogg met up with Dayna McCue '20 for a ski weekend in February. Ashley Myers published her first novella, *Seasons of Rose*, a collection of short stories she has written over the years. You can find it on Amazon. Alex Medzorian has been sharing his fitness routine over social media while getting a master of science degree in management studies at Boston U. Jackie Cooney is similarly pursuing a master of management degree at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at the U. of Michigan. Fellow CC women's lacrosse teammates Holly Bertschmann, Erin Martin and Jamie Navoni visited Jackie in Ann Arbor for game day in the fall.

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PLEASE MAKE YOUR GIFT BY JUNE 30, 2020

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# *In Memoriam*

## *1940s*

**Edna Fuchs Allen '42**, died November 12, 2019  
**Margaret Carpenter Evans '44**, died December 12, 2019  
**Margaret Hamilton Hamachek '44**, died November 15, 2019  
**Mary-Jean Moran Johnson Hart '44**, died December 1, 2019  
**Virginia Bowman Corkran '45**, died January 31, 2020  
**Marcia Faust McNees '45**, died December 16, 2019  
**Louisa Angus Grosjean '46**, died February 5, 2020  
**Ann Shields Koepfli '4**, died November 11, 2019  
**Barbara Marshall McCleary '47**, died December 30, 2019  
**Patricia Robinson '47**, died January 1, 2020  
**Jacquelyn Greenblatt Tchorni '47**, died March 1, 2020  
**Helen Crumrine Ferguson '48**, died March 13, 2019  
**Jane Klauminzer Molen '48**, died February 1, 2020  
**Joan Armstrong '49**, died December 1, 2019  
**Julienne Shinn McNeer '49**, died February 9, 2019  
**Barbara Miller Smachetti '49**, died December 28, 2019  
**Joan Underwood Walls '49**, died February 2, 2020

## *1950s*

**Jean McClure Blanning '50**, died on November 22, 2019  
**Allis Ferguson Edelman '50**, died December 19, 2019  
**Barbara Biddle Gallagher '50**, died February 3, 2020  
**Nancy Carter McKay '51**, died January 31, 2020  
**Constance Kelley Mellen '51**, died November 2019  
**Louise Hallock Anderson '53**, died December 8, 2019  
**Joan Benson Williams '53**, died October 19, 2019  
**Katharine Smith Flower '54**, died October 31, 2018  
**Cynthia Fenning Rehm '54**, died December 12, 2019  
**Martha Flickinger Schroeder '54**, died February 12, 2020  
**Mary Lee Matheson Shanahan '54**, died April 2019  
**Sylvia Lewis Golderberg '55**, died February 20, 2020  
**Joan Robertson Jones '55**, died March 3, 2018  
**Amelia Noyes Baugham '56**, died January 19, 2020  
**Karlene Lapointe Clark '56**, died January 2, 2020  
**Ann Lewis Cooper '56**, died January 22, 2020  
**Alison Friend Gansler '56**, died January 26, 2020

**Margery Blech Passett '56**, died February 2020  
**Gail Rubenstein Wahl '57**, died February 1, 2020  
**Elizabeth Bove '58**, died December 13, 2019  
**Marie Liggera Schacher '58**, died December 13, 2019  
**Edwina Czajkowski '59**, died January 4, 2020  
**Faye Cauley Gage '59**, died December 27, 2019  
**Susan Calhoun Heminway '59**, died February 6, 2020  
**Laurel Seikel McDermott '59**, died February 2, 2020

## *1960s*

**Lee Chapman Biederman '63**, died November 11, 2019  
**Rita Peer '66**, died July 26, 2019  
**Anita Shapiro Wilson '66**, died November 28, 2019  
**Nancy Eliason Drazga '67**, died December 29, 2019  
**Dorcas Hardy '68**, died November 28, 2019  
**Wendy Spear Mayrose '68**, died December 22, 2019

## *1970s*

**Adele Phillips '71**, died January 30, 2020  
**Susan Lawrence Monack '72**, died January 25, 2020  
**Patricia Parsons Christy '75**, died January 17, 2020  
**Beverly Hindinger Krizanovic '75**, died July 23, 2018  
**Christopher Schell '76**, died December 20, 2019  
**Michael Adamowicz '79**, died November 18, 2019

## *1980s*

**William Barrack '81**, died December 24, 2019  
**James Santaniello '83**, died January 15, 2020

## *1990s*

**Sheri Nechamkin Kimmel '94**, died October 12, 2019  
**Nancy Fargo '95**, died December 19, 2019  
**Peter Ryan '95**, died December 1, 2019

## *2000s*

**Jessica DeSanta '04**, died December 6, 2019  
**Christiana Donnel '07**, died November 15, 2019





## From Conn's Archives: the other pandemic

*Illustration by Miles Ladin '90*

On July 8, 1919, the Connecticut College News published a page-one story about Conn's first Commencement. Tucked away on page 4 of Conn's weekly newspaper was a piece written by Juline Warner '19 titled, "History of the Class 1919."

In her story, Warner, who went to Conn during the Spanish Flu pandemic, pulls a model submarine out of a bureau, the Class of 1919 mascot, she calls it. While contemplating the year just passed, she hears a voice and, in a display of magic realism, climbs through the hatch of the tiny sub, and proceeds to have a conversation with an imaginary navy officer

In addition to reminiscing about classes, professors and various dances, there are recollections of "throat swabs," how "the telephones were gargled every time they were used" and descriptions of quarantines in Winthrop for diphtheria and influenza.

Warner wrote the word quarantine 11 times in her story, including this piece of dialogue between her and the imaginary Navy officer.

"Yes, and you squeezed in the Sykes Fund dance, too... a er it had been twice postponed for quarantine."

History repeats.

*Save the Date!*

# FALL WEEKEND

OCT 2-4, 2020

ALL-CAMPUS PICNIC  
FACULTY ACTIVITIES  
HARVESTFEST  
SPORTING EVENTS  
& MUCH MORE!

[www.conncoll.edu/fall-weekend](http://www.conncoll.edu/fall-weekend)

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

*Due to the uncertainty caused by the current global health crisis, dates and events for Fall Weekend 2020 are subject to change.*



Connecticut College  
Office of Communications  
270 Mohegan Avenue  
New London, CT 06320-4196

[ccmagazine.conncoll.edu](http://ccmagazine.conncoll.edu)



Graham Novak '18

While Conn went remote, spring bloomed on campus.