Features

22  The ‘Cornivore’ on TV
With a new show on the Magnolia Network, culinary anthropologist Casey Corn ’10 helps families recreate lost heirloom recipes.

28  Guardian of the Frogs
A deadly fungus is killing the world’s amphibians. Professor Taegan McMahon is determined to save them.

34  Race Across Generations
A faculty-led initiative pairs young and old residents of New London to document their stories of struggle and triumph.

40  Mission: Possible
Under Secretary of the Navy Erik Raven ’96 is addressing some of the most pressing issues facing today’s military.
The 'Cornivore' on TV
With a new show on the Magnolia Network, culinary anthropologist Casey Corn '10 helps families recreate lost heirloom recipes.

Guardian of the Frogs
A deadly fungus is killing the world's amphibians. Professor Taegan McMahon is determined to save them.

Race Across Generations
A faculty-led initiative pairs young and old residents of New London to document their stories of struggle and triumph.

Mission: Possible
Under Secretary of the Navy Erik Raven '96 is addressing some of the most pressing issues facing today's military.

Departments

Notebook Hendricks at The Frick, Class of 2026 breaks records, Summer of Science, Being Heumann, Conn opens first downtown residence for students, Alexander Vindman speaks on campus

Defy Boundaries Donors make a collective impact through the annual fund and endow greatness with gifts that keep on giving

Class Notes

Full Stop A great sign

On the cover: A red-eyed tree frog. Throughout the world, amphibian populations have been decimated by a pathogenic fungus. Story page 28. Photo by Lauren Suryanata/Shutterstock

On this page: An architect’s rendering of the renovated Manwaring Building, which opened in August as Conn’s first downtown New London residence for students. Story page 10. Image courtesy of High Tide Capital
From the President

A

s a Conn alum, whether you graduated last spring or many years ago, you no doubt hold among your fondest memories those faculty members who cared for you, sparked your imagination, and inspired you to achieve more than you ever thought possible. It may have been an “aha” moment in the classroom or lab, a mentoring relationship, or a combination of both. Time passes and Conn changes, but faculty excellence has been one of the pillars of the College for more than a century. We are known for the quality of our teachers, scholars, and mentors whose research benefits the public and the planet, whose teaching enlightens, and whose service makes our communities stronger. This edition of the magazine celebrates our world-class faculty, who are part of the reason we see a rising demand for a Conn education, as evidenced by our record applications last fall and our record incoming class this fall, by far the largest in College history.

In the stories that follow, you will see some examples of that excellence. You’ll read about how Taegan McMahon, one of our newest faculty members and an associate professor of biology, developed a vaccine to save frogs from a deadly fungus affecting amphibian species across the globe. You’ll read about how Nakia Hamlett, an assistant professor of psychology, and Jeffer Singer, a senior professor in the same department, are working with members of the New London community—from teens to senior citizens—to reclaim their shared heritage and work toward a more just future. You’ll read about how two anthropology professors inspired Casey Corn ’10 to turn her love of food into an academic pursuit and a career as a culinary anthropologist. And you’ll read about how the research interests and mentorship of Professor Emeritus of Government and International Relations William Rose put Erik Raven ’96 on a path to become the Under Secretary of the Navy.

These faculty are but a few of the many who inspire our student body every day and whose work touches the lives of so many within and beyond the Conn community. You will find no faculty anywhere—anywhere—more committed to our students’ intellectual, social, ethical, and professional development. Their passion enables our students to fulfill the greater promise of the liberal arts.

Whether in humanities, arts, social sciences, or life and physical sciences, our faculty are explorers of the human condition. They are exemplary teachers who have created new pedagogical strategies to meet the challenges of a pandemic. They are active scholars and artists who are successful in securing competitive grants, publishing award-winning articles and books, mounting solo exhibitions and performances, and garnering acclaim for their exciting work. They are active public intellectuals who have been featured in The New York Times, Chronicle of Higher Education and Associated Press. They are unparalleled in involving students in collaborative research and other scholarly endeavors. And they are committed to the highest ideals of shared governance.

There are many ways to measure the excellence of a faculty: by the quality of research, by innovations in teaching, by the public-facing commitments that inform teaching and scholarship, and by the outcomes and the professional development of students. Taken together, these four areas—research, teaching, global engagement, and professional development—define the core of our mission, what we call “the liberal arts in action.” They also define Connections, our distinct approach to the liberal arts that our faculty created several years ago and whose stunning outcomes are on display again this November at our fourth annual All-College Symposium.

Faculty excellence at Connecticut College is no coincidence. It is an intentional, integral part of our mission. And it is a direct result of you, our most loyal alumni, who can still remember the vital role played by individual faculty in making you the person you are today. Your gifts have supported faculty research, academic departments and programs, professorships, and so much more through our Defy Boundaries campaign, the most ambitious in our history. Because of your generosity, our campaign has now reached $240 million, or 80% of its $300 million goal. As we build on this momentum, I am optimistic that the future of our College, and our remarkable faculty, will be stronger than ever, thanks to your passion and support.

Yours,

Katherine Bergeron
The late Professor Emeritus of Studio Art Barkley L. Hendricks considered New York’s The Frick Collection—with its iconic portraits by Rembrandt, Bronzino, Van Dyck, and others—to be one of his favorite museums.

Next fall, Hendricks’s own paintings, which revolutionized contemporary portraiture with their vivid depictions of everyday Black Americans, will hang alongside the work of the European greats in the first solo show dedicated to an artist of color in the Frick’s 87-year history.

“Hendricks’s astonishing portraits of predominantly Black figures, not represented in the Frick’s historic paintings yet who, with their self-assured style, appear right at home among them, grants unprecedented opportunities to celebrate and explore the Frick’s collection, Hendricks’s groundbreaking innovations, and the bridges between them,” said Frick curator Aimee Ng, who is organizing the show along with consulting curator Antwaun Sargent.

The exhibition will open in September 2023 in the museum’s temporary space, Frick Madison, and will feature about a dozen of Hendricks’s large-scale paintings drawn from private and public collections. Along with the exhibition, Hendricks’s art and its impact will be further explored through a richly illustrated exhibition catalogue with contributions by artists and creative figures, including Derrick Adams, Nick Cave, Awol Erizku, Jeremy O. Harris, Rashid Johnson, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Fahamu Pecou, and Kehinde Wiley. The Frick will also offer a robust roster of educational public programs to complement the show, which will consider the complex place of European painting in Hendricks’s art and how his work, in turn, continues to inspire major artists and designers today.

“Presenting Hendricks’s art at a storied institution like the Frick pays due tribute to the historic significance of Barkley L. Hendricks, and it also honors the evolving role of the Frick in modern American culture,” said Sargent.
Conn to Launch Summer Programs for High School Students

Connecticut College is launching a series of summer programs for high school students interested in exploring their passions, gaining new skills and getting an early feel for the college experience.

In the summer of 2023, two-week intensive, residential institutes will be offered in dance, climate action, social justice, global engagement and entrepreneurship. Each program will be taught by experienced Conn faculty and staff, and students will live together on campus. These residential institutes are designed to not only give students the opportunity to learn from experts, but also to build the skills necessary to turn that knowledge into action in their communities. Students will also sample a variety of skill-building electives such as college essay writing, interview preparation and journaling workshops, as well as recreational activities, including tennis, swimming and bowling.

“These pre-collegiate Summer@Conn programs allow high school students to experience some of the best Connecticut College has to offer. On our beautiful arboretum campus, they will hone their skills in an area they’re passionate about, meet new friends from across the country and gain a better understanding of what they hope to accomplish during their own four-year collegiate career,” said Dean of Strategic and Global Initiatives Amy Dooling.

The programs are open to rising 9th-12th graders. Each program will be offered once, either in Session I, which runs July 5-14, 2023, or Session II, which runs July 17-28, 2023.

Interested families are invited to fill out an inquiry form for more information at conncoll.edu/summer-info.

Chroma Camels

When CC Magazine wrote about Cambridge-based biotech startup Chroma Medicine in the fall of 2021, the company’s first two employees, Morgan Maeder ’06 and Sam Linder ’11, were busy building a team of scientists to revolutionize the treatment of genetically driven diseases.

One year later, Chroma now boasts 70 employees—and five of them are Camels. Computational biology scientist Erica Hildebrand ’10 and research associates Liam Lofgren ’20 and Adam Zhai ’22 have joined Maeder, who serves as senior director of payload sciences, and Linder, a cellular and molecular biology scientist, at the fast-growing company.

“We are very proud to be by far the best-represented undergraduate institution at Chroma,” Maeder said.

Lofgren first learned about Chroma after reading the CC Magazine feature article, “Gene Expression.” The piece detailed how Maeder and Linder were working to pioneer a new class of genomic medicines using a new epigenetic editing tool that mimics how cells naturally regulate gene expression.

“The science behind the company fascinated me—being able to turn on and off genes without cutting the DNA sounded like science fiction and I had to know more,” he recalled. “As a recent graduate, I really wanted to gain as much hands-on experience as possible, and I knew a start-up was a great place for that.”

He reached out to both Maeder and Linder, which led to an initial Zoom call that left Lofgren hooked. “Next thing I knew I was moving from New York to Boston,” he said.

Lofgren’s favorite part of the job is working with technology that could someday be used to treat everything from inherited conditions like sickle cell disease and cystic fibrosis to cancers, neurological disorders, metabolic diseases and even viral and bacterial infections.

“Having the ability to turn off cancer genes, upregulate insulin production, and [use epigenetic editing for] a thousand other applications would completely change the face of healthcare and could save millions of lives worldwide,” he said, adding that he is grateful for the Conn connection that led him to Chroma.

“Without the network of Camels, I would not be where I am.”

When CC Magazine wrote about Cambridge-based biotech startup Chroma Medicine in the fall of 2021, the company’s first two employees, Morgan Maeder ’06 and Sam Linder ’11, were busy building a team of scientists to revolutionize the treatment of genetically driven diseases.

One year later, Chroma now boasts 70 employees—and five of them are Camels. Computational biology scientist Erica Hildebrand ’10 and research associates Liam Lofgren ’20 and Adam Zhai ’22 have joined Maeder, who serves as senior director of payload sciences, and Linder, a cellular and molecular biology scientist, at the fast-growing company.

“We are very proud to be by far the best-represented undergraduate institution at Chroma,” Maeder said.

Lofgren first learned about Chroma after reading the CC Magazine feature article, “Gene Expression.” The piece detailed how Maeder and Linder were working to pioneer a new class of genomic medicines using a new epigenetic editing tool that mimics how cells naturally regulate gene expression.

“The science behind the company fascinated me—being able to turn on and off genes without cutting the DNA sounded like science fiction and I had to know more,” he recalled. “As a recent graduate, I really wanted to gain as much hands-on experience as possible, and I knew a start-up was a great place for that.”

He reached out to both Maeder and Linder, which led to an initial Zoom call that left Lofgren hooked. “Next thing I knew I was moving from New York to Boston,” he said.

Lofgren’s favorite part of the job is working with technology that could someday be used to treat everything from inherited conditions like sickle cell disease and cystic fibrosis to cancers, neurological disorders, metabolic diseases and even viral and bacterial infections.

“Having the ability to turn off cancer genes, upregulate insulin production, and [use epigenetic editing for] a thousand other applications would completely change the face of healthcare and could save millions of lives worldwide,” he said, adding that he is grateful for the Conn connection that led him to Chroma.

“Without the network of Camels, I would not be where I am.”
As they arrived on the first day of orientation in August, the 655 newest Connecticut College students were greeted by cheering student leaders, colorful signs, helpful staff and a campus ready to welcome the largest herd of new Camels in Conn history.

“What a momentous day,” President Katherine Bergeron told the new students and their families at a welcome assembly on Conn’s expansive Tempel Green. “In choosing Connecticut College, I truly believe you have made one of the best decisions you could have made for your future.

Admitted from the largest ever applicant pool of nearly 9,000, the 655 members of the Class of 2026 and 20 transfer students were drawn to Conn’s innovative curriculum, extensive career preparation, global focus, commitment to full participation, tradition of environmental stewardship and ample opportunities for collaboration with faculty. Members of this impressive group come from 36 states and 23 countries, including Bangladesh, China, Colombia, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay and Vietnam. Eighty-two are the first in their families to go to college, while 57 are at least the second members of their families to attend Conn.

The Class of 2026 is also among the most diverse in the College’s history; 24% are domestic students of color and 5% are international students.

SGA President Hannah Gonzalez ’23 encouraged the new students to embrace not only the many opportunities they will have to learn and grow, but also the people they will meet along the way.

“My favorite aspect of Connecticut College is its community—in our home of many Camels, we are truly one herd,” she said during the welcome event.

Dean of the College Erika Smith told the students that like many of them, she was drawn to Conn by Connections, which she called “an exemplar of integrative education.” She invited the students to experience the culmination of seniors’ four-years of integrative learning at the All-College Symposium in November.

“I expect you will leave that experience intrigued, inspired and determined to find your own path, beginning on the journey to find the question that lights up your intellect,” she said.

“We are so excited to have you here and can’t wait to see all the amazing things you’ll do.”
Putting Language Learning to Work

Professor Hisae Kobayashi was inspired to develop a new course, “Japanese for the Professions,” after a student asked for help refining a job application.

“This suggested that there was a need for Japanese speakers to learn how to write appropriately to find future employment,” Kobayashi said.

The course is part of a series of new language classes developed collaboratively by Conn faculty and Hale Center for Career Development staff to help students build stronger connections between language learning and professional success.

Funded in part by a U.S. Department of Education grant, these Languages for the Professions classes “fit perfectly with Conn’s curriculum,” said Kobayashi, a senior lecturer in Japanese at Conn since 1999.

Kobayashi’s course teaches students the ins and outs of approaching potential employers in Japan in their native language. A final project asks each student to write an essay that introduces themselves and outlines a valuable experience from their collegiate career.

“They become better skilled at articulating what they want to say,” Kobayashi said.

This semester, Visiting Assistant Professor of Italian Studies Matteo Pace is teaching “Italian in the Workplace,” a course originally designed by Chair of Italian Studies Frida Morelli. Other courses in the series include “German for Business Culture,” “Spanish for the Professions” and “Chinese for the Professions.”

Associate Professor of Classics Darryl Phillips conceived of his class, “Medical Terminology from Latin,” as a means of supporting students considering careers in healthcare. Developed in collaboration with Conn’s pre-health advisers, the course follows a structured approach: students learn how Latin terms are constructed syntactically, giving them the skills to better interpret Latinate terms in medical and scientific settings.

“Teaching these courses provides a new way to think about Latin and Greek language,” Phillips said. “It also offers me a chance to connect with a new group of students who wouldn’t otherwise be exposed to ancient Greek, Latin and classics faculty.”

Hannah Megathlin ’20, who double majored in biology and classics at Conn, took Phillips’s class when she was a student because it offered a unique way to combine her two fields.

“I knew about these two subjects separately but hadn’t extensively studied the place where they overlap,” said Megathlin, who is now pursuing a doctorate in biomedical sciences.

For Phillips, the takeaway is that his course has been truly collaborative—both in its creation and its execution in the classroom.

“I’m an expert in the ancient languages, I’m not a scientist or a medical professional,” he said. “Students contribute by bringing in their own experiences as science students aiming at a career in health fields.”

The give and take during in-class exercises is, he added, “a real interdisciplinary undertaking and a great example of the liberal arts in action.”
Jane Rusher ’24 wants to know what’s in your soil.

For eight weeks this summer, Rusher, a biology major, biked around New London in search of plant and soil samples from urban and suburban areas. Working alongside Eric Vukicevich, the Sue and Eugene Mercy, Jr. Assistant Professor of Botany at Conn, Rusher analyzed 98 plant and soil samples to test for various elements, including nutrients and harmful heavy metals.

The goal of the research was twofold: first, to determine the element concentrations that people may be ingesting when they forage for food in the area, and second, to determine how soil’s unique characteristics can impact different plant species.

“My favorite part of the research was developing a more holistic geographical knowledge of the town as I spent time biking from place to place to take my samples, and experiencing a sense of community in New London through some of the residents I talked to about my work,” she said.

Rusher is one of more than 50 students who worked alongside 20 faculty members this summer as part of Conn’s Summer Science Research Institute, an intensive eight-week residential program that includes a $4,000 stipend and the opportunity for students to work directly with faculty on scientific research. Participants provide regular updates to their fellow researchers through weekly colloquia, and the experience culminates in the fall with a poster symposium open to the entire College community.

Rusher said her experience has led her to consider working in a lab or conducting field research after graduation. “It’s satisfying to work toward figuring something out, getting to see the results and then seeing what they tell you about the next steps to solving a problem.”

For Madelyn Rose ’25, the institute provided an opportunity to work alongside fellow student researchers and Assistant Professor of Biology Mays Imad on a pilot study examining biofeedback training, a noninvasive therapy that teaches people to change the way their bodies function. Their research examined the impact of biofeedback on stress and emotional regulation.

“As a biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology major, many of my classes surround chemical lab work,” Rose said. “However, my research over the summer allowed me to assume a more interpersonal approach to research.”

Many students continue their summer work well into the fall and spring semesters. For some, the experience inspires new career paths, like it did for Mitchell Lockwood ’23, a biology major who worked alongside George & Carol Milne Assistant Professor of Biology Maria Rosa to construct 3-D printed biodegradable artificial aquatic habitats that could be instrumental in saving the ocean’s coral reefs.

“It’s so amazing and fulfilling to know that your work will one day help so many different areas of the world,” Lockwood said. “For a young researcher, it helps light that fire under you to keep working harder so that you can one day be the person teaching students to feel the same way.”
Paralyzed by polio when she was 18 months old, disability rights activist Judith Heumann never wished she didn’t have a disability.

“My life has been as a disabled person. I’ve never really wanted to think about my life as being anything but who I am,” Heumann told more than 800 students, faculty, staff and greater New London residents at this year’s One Book One Region signature event at Connecticut College on Sept. 22.

Instead, she focused on what she could change.

“For me, it’s about ‘What do we need to be changing in society? Why has society been constructed in such a way as to negate the contributions of people who have various forms of disabilities?’” she said.

“It’s about asking what we need to do to ensure that people are included and not setting something up where our big wish and hope is ‘cure me.’”

Heumann’s memoir, Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist, was the 2022 selection for One Book One Region, in which first-year Conn students do a shared summer reading with faculty, staff, advisers and hundreds of community members from southeastern Connecticut.

The book offers a firsthand account of the disability rights movement of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. As a child, Heumann fought to attend grade school after being described as a “fire hazard,” and later won a lawsuit against the New York City school system for denying her a teacher’s license because of her paralysis, which set a precedent that fundamentally improved rights for disabled people. A lifelong activist, Heumann has been instrumental in the development and implementation of key legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The event, which marked the 20th anniversary of One Book One Region of Eastern Connecticut, featured a wide-ranging discussion between Heumann and Associate Professor of Sociology Jennifer Rudolph, a specialist in Latin American studies and disability studies. Earlier in the day, Heumann met with students in Rudolph’s “Disability and Society” class and in Professor Alison Wetmur’s “Disability Justice” first-year seminar.

Maeve Bettencourt ’26 said meeting Heumann gave her further insight into the issues she and her classmates have been studying.

“Her answers were really thoughtful, and it just drilled home the point that while we have come a long way, there is still so much work to do,” Bettencourt said.

Heumann said the key to progress is collaboration.

“It’s not one person that makes change,” she said. “We need to all be thinking about what we need to do within our communities.”
Riding for Home

This summer, Josh Nagy ’26 spent two months on a cross-country cycling expedition with his father, Carl Nagy. Their goal: to raise money for organizations tackling homelessness and housing insecurity.

“There are tons of studies that show that if you don’t have a stable place to live, it’s really hard to get the rest of your life in order, no matter what you do,” said Nagy.

“I wanted to do something about this incredible loss of human potential, and I thought there would be no better way than by exploring the beautiful country that is allowing me to maximize my own.”

Given his longtime advocacy work and penchant for cycling, Carl agreed. So the Boston-based duo started their journey in Anacortes, Washington, and cycled around 80 miles per day.

Nagy recalled some beautiful moments. Descending Washington Pass in the Cascades was “like the Alps—snowcapped mountains all around,” he said. “My favorite part was being in central Montana and having the Rockies [receding] in the distance.”

An occasional family disagreement was inevitable.

“If one of us was annoyed, I would usually ride ahead for a little while,” Nagy said, laughing. But these disputes were few and far between, he added. “I remember laughing a lot, just having fun.”

The hardest part of the trip was not the physical strain.

“Anyone in decent shape could do what we did,” Nagy said. “But mentally, the idea that I’m going to do this all day, and I’m going to do it for the rest of the week and then the rest of the two months’—that’s a big thing.”

They also spent many hours thinking about the notion of being “away from home”—and the privilege of not having to worry about staying safe. During one remarkably windy night in Montana, Nagy recalls thinking, “Wow, many people have to deal with something worse than this every single day.”

To date, Josh and Carl have raised approximately $12,000 through JustGiving, a web service that collects the donations and distributes them directly to the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Pine Street Inn, a Cambridge organization focused on offering shelter and affordable housing.

As for the trip, Nagy has two takeaways.

“Every part of our country is really so beautiful,” he said. And it is during your hardest moments that “you really learn a lot about yourself and what you’re capable of.”
With a snip of a ceremonial ribbon before more than 100 onlookers in downtown New London on Aug. 19, President Katherine Bergeron officially opened the newly restored historic Manwaring Building—Connecticut College’s first downtown residence for students in its 111-year history.

“The magnificent transformation of this building is so important,” Bergeron told state and local leaders, city business owners and residents, and Conn faculty, staff, trustees and students who came to tour the building and celebrate the historic occasion.

“For years, we have dreamed about what it would mean for our students to be living downtown. At long last, that dream is a reality.”

The Manwaring Building project has helped the College to meet immediate student housing needs prompted by the largest first-year class in Conn’s history and offers a new dimension to student life with expanded opportunities for community engagement and academic programming downtown. The downtown residence also strengthens Conn’s relationship with its host city and contributes to the economic revitalization of New London’s historic center.

Just days after the ceremonial opening, 62 upperclass students moved into 16 unique apartments and five multi-level townhouse units featuring high ceilings; large, historic windows restored on-site and by hand; original wood flooring; and sleek, modern kitchens. (A journalist for The Day newspaper noted that a running joke among public officials and community leaders “was how they would be enrolling at Conn to get a chance to live there.”

Built in 1913, the Manwaring Building, located on State Street in the heart of the city, was designed by notable New London architect Dudley St. Clair Donnelly and is listed as a National Park Service landmark. The former commercial space, which had not been occupied for several years, was rehabilitated in accordance with a program approved by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office and National Park Service.

San Francisco-based High Tide Capital, which owns the building and oversaw its restoration, boasts that the 21 units the College is renting “combine the vitality and grandeur of old New London with modern luxury, flair and convenience.”

New London Mayor and Conn graduate Michael Passero ’79 M’89 said the project resulted from a “great partnership” between the College, High Tide Capital and the city.

“What a great moment for the city of New London,” he said. “Our partnership with Conn College goes back to 1911 when the residents of this city raised the money to purchase the property for the College to be established ... and now we are bringing the students downtown. It’s a great moment for us.”

Bergeron said that “a spirit of creativity and innovation” has long served as a foundation for the partnership between the College and its host city.

“More students are being drawn to New London than ever before,” she said. “So many of those students are excited about the opportunity to learn more about what this city has to offer. Others have already developed their own connections to the city through their work with our wonderful Holleran Center for Community Action.

“I know that student life in Manwaring will strengthen our connections in untold ways, and I personally cannot wait to see this new chapter in our history.”
No Secrets in Washington

At Conn, Alexander Vindman ties Trump’s 2019 impeachment to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine

After a standing ovation welcomed him to the stage in Connecticut College’s Athey Center for Performance and Research at Palmer Auditorium on Sept. 15, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman (ret.) wasted no time addressing the pivotal role he played in former president Donald Trump’s first impeachment.

“Besides [my appearance on] ‘Curb Your Enthusiasm,’” he quipped to laughter from the crowd of more than 600 students, faculty, staff and community members, “most of you probably became aware of me during the impeachment hearings.

“I was the public servant in the National Security Council responsible for Russia policy and for Ukraine policy, shepherding what should have been a national security strategy to advance U.S. national security interests, while the president and some of his compatriots were looking to advance personal interests, to advance the prospects of a second Trump administration. And I reported it.”

Vindman, who spoke as part of an annual lecture series sponsored by the Sound Lab Foundation, along with the Friends of the Connecticut College Library, said he was deeply concerned about the national security implications of Trump’s “corrupt scheme” to extort Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky into conducting an investigation “to get dirt” on his then-political rival Joe Biden.

“There’s a direct tie between that impeachment in 2019 and what’s unfolding in Ukraine now,” he said.

In her introductory remarks, President Katherine Bergeron said Conn—one of the only liberal arts colleges in the country to offer a holistic Slavic studies curriculum—was thrilled to host Vindman. “Not only because of his unique blend of personal, academic, military and government experience, but also, more importantly, because of the deep insights he brings to bear on the vital and timely issue of the world-altering Russia-Ukraine conflict,” she said.

Vindman spoke candidly and off the cuff for more than an hour and answered questions from the audience, including from one member who called him a “brave man who perhaps saved democracy in two countries.”

Vindman said his interest in the Russia-Ukraine region stemmed from his family history—he moved to the United States from Ukraine with his father and brothers when he was 3. He detailed his extensive background, including a 21-year military career in which he was awarded a Purple Heart after being wounded in Iraq, served as foreign officer in U.S. embassies in Ukraine and Russia, and then advised the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff as a political and military affairs officer before accepting a position in the White House in 2018 as the National Security Council’s Director for European Affairs.

“I understood the administration I was coming into. I also thought, maybe with a little bit of hubris, that I was in the best position to counsel the Trump administration on what would be good policy,” he said. “I knew I would probably have to do things that I wouldn’t agree with but I would do because the president is the commander in chief, and as long as they were lawful, that’s what I was signing up for. But I also knew how perilous that environment was, and I was not going to do anything unlawful or illegal or something that went against my ethical compass.”

Vindman said he knew Trump’s attempt to extort Zelensky was inevitably going to be made public—“There are no secrets in Washington,”
he said—and that he was shocked by how close Trump was to actually forcing Zelensky to announce an investigation into the Biden family.

“I recognized the danger to the United States and that’s what I was acting on,” he said. “This corrupt scheme would inevitably entice Putin ... to ‘deal with’ a Ukraine that was instrumental in the collapse of the Soviet Union” and one that Putin believes has no right to exist.

Vindman, who retired from military service in 2020, said Putin was emboldened by a failure of the West to deter him in his smaller campaigns, including Russia’s 2014 invasion of Ukraine and the country’s interference in the 2016 U.S. elections, and that he saw “clear signals” that suggested opportunity. But launching a full-scale invasion of Ukraine was “probably the most critical mistake Putin has made during his tenure,” Vindman said.

Ukraine was always going to be a formidable opponent, he said, citing the size of the country and the “indomitable spirit” of a people looking for their place in a democratic society. But the West also recognized that a Russian victory in Ukraine would embolden other authoritarian regimes, including in China and Iran.

“The West, led by the U.S., was able to rally the democratic world around the principles of democracy and around the notion that sovereign, independent states have the right to determine their own futures and establish their own foreign policy. It’s a rebuke to the authoritarian aspirations for an authoritarian 21st century.”

Vindman, now a senior adviser for VoteVets and a doctoral student and Foreign Policy Institute fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, said the United States has played a critical role in the conflict. But he was careful to emphasize that the effort hasn’t been without mistakes and that he advocated for weaponry and sanctions much earlier in the conflict, which may have helped avoid a prolonged war.

He said his recent trip to Ukraine left him more convinced than ever that Ukrainians will liberate more of their territory from a Russian military that has suffered major losses of troops and equipment. But he cautioned that the war is likely to go on for many more months, and that Putin may become more erratic as he struggles to preserve his regime.

“Putin’s aspirations are for a reconquered Ukraine. It’s just that simple. So, the only way this really ends is through decisive defeats of Russia by the Ukrainians,” he said.
MIA SANTANA ’20, who grew up in New London and played on Conn’s women’s soccer team, has returned to her hometown—and her home field—to coach the Camels alongside head women’s soccer coach Norm Riker. “She has a great energy, a great field presence and a great coaching voice, too,” Riker said.
The year Josephine Shepard gave her first gift to the Connecticut College Fund, color television had just been introduced to the U.S., J. D. Salinger published *The Catcher in the Rye*, super glue was invented, and Connecticut College was only 40 years old. The year was 1951, that new donor had just earned her Conn degree, and she was starting 71 straight years—and counting—of continuous giving to the College’s annual fund. It is a record of annual generosity that makes potently clear why gifts to this critical resource for the College mean so much.

Because across all those decades, even across two centuries, Shepard’s contributions were combined with the gifts of every other donor in every one of those years to support every aspect of the College’s mission, from faculty teaching to student financial aid to classroom, laboratory and art equipment. Put differently, without Shepard and those generous annual fund contributors like her, a Conn education would not be nearly as powerful as it is.

For there is truly strength in their numbers: When Shepard gave her most recent annual gift—year 71!—she was joining with some 6,000 other donors who now annually support the College. Together, with gifts of $25, $50, $100 and more, in fiscal year 2022 they broke a Conn record, contributing $6.85 million to support the College’s role in student lives. Meanwhile, parent and family giving to the annual fund also became the most generous in College history, surpassing $1.1 million.

How valuable is this generosity? That $6.85 million goes immediately into the work of the College, making it equivalent to Conn having an additional $150 million in endowment. And through the *Defy Boundaries* campaign, more donors than ever are now part of this vital yearly effort. Since the start of the campaign, 13,000 individual donors have given to the College, from classes spanning 10 decades.

To know Conn, in fact, is to know the impact of its annual fund. These gifts are invested across the entire educational experience, from botany to philosophy, computer science to history, athletics to LGBTQIA, and the Holleran Center to the Hillel House, including supporting special programs in the arts, race and ethnicity, the arboretum, faculty training, student recruitment, and more. One gift after another, the annual fund makes Conn better, more competitive and more visionary.

Donors themselves share the great meaning they find in contributing to such a collective impact. Carol Reeves Parke ’58, for example, has been supporting the Connecticut College Fund for more than 25 years. “I’m grateful for all that I received at CC—the friendships, of course, but also the hard-won lessons in life, in addition to some truly extraordinary teaching. Looking ahead, it’s easy to see that CC is only getting better, and I want, always, to be a part of its future success.”

A young alumnus new to the effort shares the sentiment, “I contribute to the CC Fund annually because gifts support the scholarships that allowed me to be the first in my family...
to enroll in and graduate from a four-year institution. I give back so students who grew up in similar conditions as mine can access a high-quality education from a premier liberal arts institution without worrying about how they will pay tuition,” says Deion Jordan ’17.

Like its own donors, Conn never rests on its successes. That is why as part of the Defy Boundaries campaign, Conn has set an ambitious giving goal. So far, 40% of Conn alumni have participated in the campaign. But Conn would be a national leader in alumni participation if that figure rose above 50%—which would take another 2,500 new alumni donors to the campaign.

That would be defying boundaries. Nothing magnifies the impact of every gift like the annual fund, so consider this your open invitation to join the effort—and stand with Josephine Shepard.

$7 million in annual fund is equivalent to $150 million in endowment

MUCH MORE THAN KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON:

Gifts of $25, $50, $100 and more add up to support every aspect of the College’s mission—from faculty teaching to financial aid to classroom, laboratory and art equipment.
Helping students become international negotiators. Boosting faculty teaching excellence. Bringing award-winning guest journalists to classrooms. Bolstering education in Mandarin and the Chinese culture. Securing great coaches for the long-term with endowed funding. And changing forever Conn’s capacity to enroll the best students from every background. These are just a few of the many ways that day after day, gift after gift, donors to the Defy Boundaries campaign are transforming the range and quality of a Conn education. They are investing where their generosity can make the greatest difference, strengthening Conn and changing lives.

Already, with two years left to go in the campaign, Conn’s supporters have contributed more than 44,700 gifts to the College that total more than $240 million. This includes more than $110 million to the endowment, $60 million to capital projects, and $70 million for programming and the annual fund (see pages 16-17). The impact of this giving begins on campus and extends around the world.

Consider these two examples.

In 2019, Richard von Glahn ’75 wanted to honor two revered Conn professors whose teaching and influence changed his life, teaching him Chinese, inspiring him to complete his Ph.D. in Chinese history, and seminally influencing his decision to build what has become a distinguished career as a professor of history at UCLA. The two he had in mind were the late and beloved Charles Chu and Henry T.K. Kuo. Professor Chu first introduced the study of Mandarin Chinese at Conn in 1965, leading it to become one of the first undergraduate liberal arts colleges to offer a Chinese language and literature major. Together, he and Professor Kuo built an exceptional department and earned the lasting affection and respect of their students for their attentive and skilled teaching.

Von Glahn decided to advance their legacy and inspire other students by creating the Chu-Kuo Fellowship for Language Study. His gift has already supported three years’ worth of student fellowships in China—but that is only the beginning. Because von Glahn made his Defy Boundaries gift to an endowed fund, the Chu-Kuo Fellowship will carry forward the influence of two of Conn’s finest teacher-scholars for generations of students to come.

The Bessell Scholars Fund is another example of how campaign gifts take Conn’s influence around the world. Created by Diane Bessell ’59 through a series of planned gifts prior to her passing in 2020, this new, comprehensive, endowed fund spins off enough interest every year to fund junior-year internships, senior-year research projects, and campus events focused on international understanding, diplomacy and sustainable development.

As such gifts to Defy Boundaries open the world in new ways to our students, back on campus other gifts are deepening the Conn experience in myriad ways. Perhaps nothing sums up this impact better than the Hale Scholarship Initiative, established...
THE CHU-KUO ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP:

Richard von Glahn ’75 wanted to honor two revered Conn professors whose teaching and influence changed his life and inspired him to complete his Ph.D. in Chinese history.
by Karen and Rob ’88 Hale P’20 to turn $10 million of financial aid endowment into $20 million. This magic act is becoming reality today: Rob and Karen’s gift of $10 million is being used to double every new endowed scholarship that a Conn donor creates with a gift of $250,000 or more. Only one year in, this fund has already turned $6 million in new scholarship gifts into $12 million.

As Patricia Salz Koskinen ’64 said, “I think it’s incredibly selfless and so generous not only to give yourself but also to try to include others.” When the $20 million match is achieved—and contributors like Koskinen are already showing they will make it happen—more than $1 million in new dollars will, every year, support Conn’s commitment to access for America’s best students from all socioeconomic backgrounds. Rob Hale said, “This College changed my life.” He, Karen, and their fellow donors are paying that forward with creative generosity.

As such scholarships bring outstanding students to campus, other Defy Boundaries gifts ensure that when they get here, they’ll be able to make the most of every opportunity. Including, for example, in the arts, thanks to a new campaign gift that establishes an endowment to support the spectacular new Athey Center for Performance and Research at Palmer.
Auditorium. This latest gift continues a transformation of the Athey that builds on two other Defy Boundaries contributions that paved the way.

With a series of gifts totaling more than $20 million, donors transformed the physical space of the Athey, creating an exceptional home for performance, teaching and research worthy of Conn’s excellence in the arts. And then Julie Ann Hovey Slimmon ’52 GP’10 stepped forward to support, she said, “the place on campus that meant so much to me.” It meant so much, in fact, that when she was an undergraduate, she deliberately chose to live in Freeman, always ready to run quickly across the green to Palmer, whatever the weather. Now, through an endowed Defy Boundaries gift, she has funded an enduring financial resource for Athey maintenance and arts programming. Together, she and all donors to Athey have made sure that generations of future students may follow in her footsteps and race across the green to perform in or enjoy new and exciting productions.

One donor issued the challenge, the next met that challenge, and the third saw the imperative of sustaining what had been built. Conn donors rallied, again, to make a Conn education more meaningful, for students today, tomorrow, and decades to come, defying the boundaries of what any individual gift could do. That’s the power of a campaign where ambition meets visionary generosity.

But the campaign isn’t over yet. With two years to go, Defy Boundaries aspires to reach its goal of $300 million. Numerous areas still require the kinds of investments that will set Conn apart and enable students to achieve everything they can. As the campaign’s momentum has made clear, Conn donors will meet the challenge. Because there are boundaries yet to defy.
With a new show on the Magnolia Network, culinary anthropologist Casey Corn ’10 helps families recreate lost heirloom recipes.
There is seemingly no end to variations on the timeless riddle concerning provenance and whether it belongs to the chicken or the egg.

In that spirit of philosophical exploration, then: which or who came first, Casey Corn ’10 or culinary anthropology?

“Oh, there was food anthropology long before me,” Corn says, laughing. She’s on the phone from the home she shares with her husband in Atlanta, where they relocated from Brooklyn about a year ago. “But it’s something I feel I’ve taken out of academia and into popular food media.”

Indeed, Corn is the host of a popular new show on the Magnolia Network called Recipe Lost and Found. On each episode, she meets a new family, helping them recreate the secrets behind forgotten ancestral recipes—and then uses that focus to explore the clan’s history and culture.

Corn is perfectly qualified for the role. But it’s true she had to follow her own curiosity in a meandering path of discovery before landing on her own food-based TV show, and she credits her experiences at Conn with exposing her to fields of study she’d never considered.

Originally from Santa Monica, California, Corn enrolled at Conn after “my parents told me I had to go to college,” she says. “I wanted out of L.A. because I went to a really big high school. So I went on an extensive tour of small New England liberal arts colleges. When we drove onto [the Conn] campus, I told my mom, ‘This is the place.’ I just knew.”

Interestingly, though Corn enrolled wanting to study theater and become an actor, there was an early indication she might end up with a different focus.

“We went through the curriculum and they have you check all the courses you find interesting—and without realizing it, I’d checked all anthropology classes,” Corn says. “My mom said, ‘What, are you going to be Indiana Jones?’”

Little did Mom know. Indiana Jones? Sure, if he could rock a dashi poached mackerel with soy-infused shitake.

As it happened, Corn was ambivalent about her early theater experiences at Conn and, along the way she enrolled in an anthropology course with John Burton, who at the time was head of the department (he died in 2014). She remembers, “One of John’s focuses was food anthropology and I thought, ‘This. Is. It. I don’t know how I’ll get a job out of this, but this is how I feel about the world.’ I was sitting in that class, and it just clicked. And it snowballed from there in ways I never imagined.”

Burton and another anthropology professor, Jeffrey Cole, were hugely influential on her development, Corn says. Cole supervised her thesis—on olive oil!—and still fondly recalls a video of a TEDx talk that Corn sent him a few years after she graduated.

“I made that video required viewing in my food classes,” Cole says. “I’m not surprised she’s been able to make a name for herself in television. Even when I met Casey, she was already a standout student. She had poise beyond her years and was very refined in the way she was able to present material. She’d hand
A producer found me on Instagram and reached out. ‘I know this sounds like a scam,’ he told me, ‘but I have an idea for a show.’”

— CASEY CORN ’10
in drafts that were incredibly polished. I asked her, ‘How do you do this? How do you go about your work?’ And she just said she wanted her work to be the best it could be.”

Corn returned to Los Angeles after graduation. She absorbed a variety of work experiences, including as a barista at Caffe Luxxe in Santa Monica and Brentwood. It was her efforts in that capacity that earned her the opportunity to talk about her olive oil thesis for the TEDx Santa Monica food series.

She also impulsively traveled across the United States by bus, which spurred her to visit London, where she attended Le Cordon Bleu and earned a degree in cuisine. As she studied, she worked at the renowned Basement Galley supper club. Culinary school degree in hand, she returned to Los Angeles and was soon hired as executive assistant to Susan Feniger, the hyper-accomplished chef, restaurateur, radio personality, cookbook author and star of the Food Network show Too Hot Tamales.

There was more travel and much eating. One of her favorite culinary adventures is particularly reflective of her adventurous spirit and willingness to rely on herself and her instincts.

“I’d been traveling with friends through India and needed to do something else, so I found this article about how to eat in this one town, George Town, in Malaysia,” Corn says. “It was the best eating week of my life—I’m talking six, seven meals a day,” she says, laughing. “I had a dim sum meal where it was just older Chinese-Malaysian men and I was the only one who spoke English. I ate so much I fell asleep in a bowl of soup. I was out like oxen on the side of a road.”

Back in Southern California, Corn served as a line cook at Knead + Co Pasta Bar in LA’s Grand Central Market and also at LEONA in Venice. In 2017, she began her own culinary company, The Cornivore, and found herself starring in recipe and experiential videos as a “tastemaker” for Tastemade, a network focusing on food and travel.

Then, Recipe Lost and Found happened.

“Let me be clear. I did NOT come up with this idea,” Corn says. “A producer found me on Instagram and, through the magic of social media, reached out. ‘I know this sounds like a scam,’ he told me, ‘but I have an idea for a show.”

“I thought, ‘Why not?’ I was already working in food, and I’ve always been ready to take a meeting—and I was completely enamored of the idea of helping families explore their histories through recipes.”

The show was pitched to several different companies, but Magnolia—the network created by Chip and Joanna Gaines, the stars of HGTV’s Fixer Upper—landed Recipe Lost and Found. “They really care about their talent, and it’s exciting to be part of a new, small network,” Corn says. “It’s a great scene of creative people who really want to be part of it.”

Corn says she’s enjoyed meeting and working with the families on the program, and that each episode is a learning experience for her as well. She raves, for example, about learning how to prepare a Caribbean dish called brown sugar chicken. “It’s not something I ever would have learned in culinary school, and I’ve been making it at home,” she says. “Every week is new and exciting.”

Reflecting on her journey, Corn says, “All along, I was gaining all these experiences at a time when food, in a context of discovery and history and culture, was exploding. It’s been a long road. There had always been work for food anthropologists, but it was in academia. And I think Anthony Bourdain really was a pioneer in moving this in a new direction. Anthony showed us not just that the world is an amazing place, but also that you should go and see it.

“My generation travels like no other before—and not just to go on a trip. I want to eat and experience culture and history. We’re all connected through food, and through that we’re learning how many more similarities we have than differences.”

Oh, there was food anthropology long before me. But it’s something I feel I’ve taken out of academia and into popular food media.”

— CASEY CORN ’10
A deadly fungus is killing the world's amphibians. Professor Taegan McMahon is determined to save them.

BY AMY MARTIN
Growing up in southeastern Connecticut, young Taegan McMahon loved to play with frogs. She and her brother—and sometimes her neighbor, then-Professor of Botany Scott Warren, and his family—would explore the outdoors for hours, marveling at the plants and the creatures that inhabit the lush woodlands in and around Connecticut College’s campus.

“When I was younger, you could go to any pond in the spring and find frog eggs, tadpoles, things like that. I fell in love with nature, and that’s how I fell in love with science,” says McMahon, now an associate professor of biology at Conn, having joined the faculty in 2020.

But as the budding scientist became more interested in conservation, she began noticing declines in the populations of her amphibian friends.


The phenomenon wasn’t limited to Connecticut, either. Across the world, amphibian populations have been decimated by a pathogenic fungus, Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis, or Bd. One of the deadliest organisms in the world, Bd has been linked to the decline of more than 500 species of frogs, toads and salamanders, including 90 that are now presumed extinct or functionally extinct in the wild.

Primarily found in freshwater systems, the fungus effects the skin of frogs, stealing nutrients and breaking down cells. Since amphibians do some of their breathing and regulate water and salt concentrations through their skin, the diseased animals can end up with an imbalance that leads to heart attack and death.

Since 1993, when Bd was identified as the cause of a mass die-off among frogs in Queensland, Australia, scientists have been racing to better understand the unusual parasite within the amphibian system and save infected populations. So far, they’ve had little success.

But McMahon is taking a different approach. And she just might be the one to finally save the frogs.

AS A CONSERVATION DISEASE ECOLOGIST, McMahon likes looking at issues across the biological scale—from individuals to populations to ecosystems. Her approach is multifaceted, combining molecular lab work, fieldwork and data-driven modeling to better understand the true complexities within a given system.

She also thinks differently.

“I have some pretty severe learning disabilities and pretty strong neurodiversity. Which can be frustrating, and I did not always feel welcome in science. But over time I have learned to be flexible and kind with myself and to create a space where I absolutely thrive,” she says.

“Because my brain works differently, I tend to ask the questions no one else is asking.”

One thing that puzzled McMahon: Even in remote areas where entire amphibian populations were completely eliminated,
the fungus, which can only survive a few days to a few weeks without food, still persisted.

“In the Caribbean, they have these huge, awesome-looking frogs called mountain chickens, and they were wiped out from these isolated ponds. A year or two later they were reintroduced, and Bd wiped them out again,” McMahon explains.

“Typically, if there is no host, there is no parasite. So the question is: How is Bd surviving with no amphibians?” McMahon began to wonder if Bd could survive on non-amphibious animals, and if they could be spreading it to others.

At first, the scientific community was skeptical. For more than two decades, the focus had been solely on the amphibians. But it didn’t take long for McMahon to confirm her hunch.

In crayfish, for example, McMahon and her team found Bd persisted at low levels, with about 10-20% of the population infected in the wild. They handle the fungus fairly well, so it lives in the crayfish and they release the infectious spores, called zoospores, into the water. Those spores can then infect other organisms, including frogs.

The discovery meant conservationists would have to completely change course. Moreover, McMahon has found the fungus interacts with each organism differently, further complicating efforts to minimize its impact on amphibians.

“Each time I look at another group, I have to figure out a new story. It takes longer to develop in some than others. Sometimes a group is wiped out completely, and other times they have these weird mutualistic, predator-prey type relationships, where they eat each other, but they’re also supporting each other, which is unusual to say the least,” she says.

“I love that it’s making me think about these systems and challenging our traditional views and biases. It’s easy to say, ‘Well, no, that’s not how it works.’ But it is working. As scientists, we build our expectations off observations, and these new observations are showing us that we need to expand how we think about things.”

McMahon’s work on non-amphibian hosts is now supported by a large, multi-institutional National Institutes of Health grant she received after her initial discovery. Her team, which includes a research assistant and Conn student researchers and collaborators from the University of California and University of Colorado, are now identifying more non-amphibian hosts and working to better understand their role in the spread of the deadly fungus.

WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS for Bd to survive, eradicating it isn’t going to be possible. So, McMahon wondered, could frogs be protected before they are infected? Could they be vaccinated?

It may sound like science fiction and conjure up images of khaki-clad wildlife biologists traipsing through the jungle and chasing tiny, elusive frogs around with syringes. And maybe that’s exactly why no one had ever tried it before.

But McMahon gave it a shot. Which would have made for a good pun except in this case, the vaccine didn’t need to be a
I specifically picked a small liberal arts school because what drives my passion is that interaction with the students, and I want them to be able to take leadership roles in these projects.”

— TAEGAN McMATHON
One of the deadliest organisms in the world, Bd has been linked to the decline of more than 500 species of frogs, toads and salamanders.

shot at all. Because Bd enters through frogs’ skin, McMahon and her team decided to see if they could induce an immune response that could provide protection from future infection by dousing frogs’ backs with low levels of live fungus and then clearing them. (The fungus cannot survive a heat chamber, but most frogs can, making it relatively easy to clear them.)

It worked. The next step in the research, funded by a second large grant from the National Science Foundation, was to see if the same results could be achieved using dead fungus instead of live infection.

“We found that was equally as effective. That was really exciting, because try convincing folks that they should infect endangered, wild-extinct animals with the same fungus that made them go extinct. That’s not going to be very popular,” McMahon says with a laugh.

The Bd zoospores use a chemical combination to break down a frog’s skin enough for the fungus to enter, so McMahon and her team then focused on whether they could activate the immune system and create an immune response using only those chemicals. That, too, worked, meaning the vaccine could be made using just the chemicals and no live or dead fungus at all.

“If we can go out and give these organisms that initial protection up front, then when they get exposed, they’re not as likely to die. They get less fungus, they release less fungus, there’s less fungus in the wild. The ones that are more tolerant are likely to have more babies, because they didn’t get as sick, and then hopefully eventually you’ll see populations that are more tolerant,” McMahon explains.

She and her team are now the only group in the world producing this Bd vaccine for amphibians. They continue to test it in the lab and have begun to test it in the field, too, in a series of isolated ponds in California for which they have Bd data for the last 20 years.

But even if the vaccine doesn’t work in the field, it could still save whole species.

“We know it works really well in the lab, and there are groups around the world maintaining thousands of animals for release back into the wild. We can take the vaccine, boost protection for these animals and then release them, giving them a fighting chance,” McMahon says.

“I got emotional this summer because we’ve now shown that we can vaccinate tadpoles and frogs the size of a black bean—the group that has the highest mortality. The idea that we can protect them is huge.”

STILL EARLY IN HER CAREER, McMahon has many more questions she wants to answer. But she’s just as excited about inspiring a new generation of conservation-minded scientists.

“I specifically picked a small liberal arts school because what drives my passion is that interaction with the students, and I want them to be able to take leadership roles in these projects,” she says.

“We have to create space for questions, you have to create space for failures and you have to create space and time for folks to learn the system, so they can find their place in it.”

Increasingly, McMahon hopes to create and expand opportunities for students who, like herself, are neurodiverse and have learning disabilities, and may become frustrated trying to fit into a mold created for a different demographic of human.

“I’ve done a lot of reflecting over the last few years and I’ve realized not only is it okay for me to let my brain be different and to think about things differently, but now I’m in a position where I can raise awareness and advocate for others,” she says.

“We worry folks who are different will have a hard time fitting the mold, and so we try to protect them. But I think we should be helping them find and create their own space instead. There are enough barriers for us; I’d like to open some doors.”

There’s no shortage of work left to be done on Bd either. McMahon jokes there’s an entire career in just understanding the dynamics of Bd in non-amphibian creatures like dragonflies.

“Dragonflies don’t do well with it. And we know dragonfly populations have declined in many areas, but nobody was looking for Bd,” she says.

“It’s a weird, weird fungus. It certainly keeps my brain agile.”
RACE ACROSS GENERATIONS

L-R: Ian Hopkins ’25, New London High School (NLHS) student Saniyah Lawson, longtime resident Jessie M. Hyslop, Quincy Robinson ’23 and recent NLHS graduate Roodley Merilo.
Participating in “Voices Across Generations: Race and New London,” a multimedia storytelling show about race, inspired 17-year-old Saniyyah Lawson to make New London a better place before she departs for college. “I’m always thinking about how I can help before I leave,” Lawson said two days after the July 16 performance on Conn’s campus. “I know I’m going to leave New London to attend college, so how can I leave my mark and help younger generations that are coming up after me handle discrimination or handle injustice or corruption everywhere, starting in the town they live in?”

Lawson appeared onstage several times during the show, which is part of a larger antiracism effort called Crafting Democratic Futures, a three-year collaborative project supported by a $5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to the University of Michigan and shared with Conn. Part of Conn’s initiative, led by William Meredith Assistant Professor of Psychology Nakia Hamlett and Faulk Foundation Professor of Psychology Jefferson A. Singer, was to develop a performance piece that “captures the role race has played from varying perspectives in the history, present and future of New London,” with the goal of advancing racial justice.

The 80-minute show featured 17 BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) New London residents and Conn students ranging in age from 15 to 89. They performed nearly a dozen storytelling vignettes created by the participants during a two-week workshop over the summer. The project was organized in partnership with community members Nicole Broadus, well-being manager for New London Schools; Jerry Fischer, retired executive director of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut; and Antonio Vargas, pastor of the Church of the City, New London.

Pairing younger and older New Londoners, who shared personal stories about discrimination, was a key part of the effort. Lawson performed with 80-year-old Jessie M. Hyslop, a 59-year resident of New London and “a pillar of the community,” according to Hamlett.

“It was very interesting to listen to the young students and how respectful they are of the elderly, how they wanted to always be there to help you do something or to share with you,” Hyslop said, adding it is essential for the students to learn about their hometown of New London.

“People need to know the history of where they live, and if they know the history, they can appreciate it more,” she said. One of the project’s goals was to empower both young and older New London residents not only to tell their personal stories, but to become skilled documenters of these stories, which depict struggle and triumph in the face of discrimination, prejudice and segregation.

Singer, whose clinical interests include memory and cultural identity, said the intergenerational aspect of the project is a key learning tool. “For these young people to find out that someone who is still present, that they’re talking to firsthand, lived in a world in their own town when Black persons had to struggle even to become bank tellers in the city—that’s history coming alive for the younger generation,” Singer said. “It’s also generative for the older people to be able to feel valued by the younger people and to see that they can still contribute.”

Hamlett, whose clinical and research interests include race-based traumatic stress, hopes the performance will inspire more curricular collaborations with New London community partners. “This project has put us in contact with many amazing individuals who are invested in the future of New London. We hope that, through social justice-oriented projects of this kind and related activism, we can help New London residents create connections that sustain,” she said.

“Because New London is a small, close-knit community, there are real opportunities to engage in dialogue with community leaders, to influence policies and to create structural changes that provide greater opportunities and resources for New London residents.”
“People need to know the history of where they live, and if they know the history, they can appreciate it more.”

— LONGTIME NEW LONDON RESIDENT JESSIE M. HYSLOP

L-R: NLHS student Raelyn Lopez, New London attorney and historian Lonnie Braxton II ’86 and Hyslop.
We hope that, through social justice-oriented projects of this kind, we can help New London residents create connections that sustain.”

— WILLIAM MEREDITH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY
NAKIA HAMLETT
MISSION: POSSIBLE

Erik Raven ’96 helps the U.S. Navy address some of the most pressing issues facing today’s military.

BY AMY MARTIN
Erik Raven '96 helps the U.S. Navy address some of the most pressing issues facing today's military.

BY AMY MARTIN
The most famous Navy fighter pilot doesn’t really exist. But that’s just fine with Under Secretary of the Navy Erik Raven ’96.

In fact, he was thrilled when, after a 36-year hiatus, Captain Pete “Maverick” Mitchell came flying back into the hearts of millions this spring.

“We are very excited about it. The movie is a blockbuster, and people are talking about it,” Raven says of Top Gun: Maverick. “It’s a great way to start a conversation about what it means to serve one’s country.”

The film, which has grossed more than $1.4 billion worldwide, was released in theaters in May, just weeks after Raven was confirmed as under secretary by the U.S. Senate.

Raven had been serving as the majority clerk of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, where he oversaw more than $700 billion of annual spending by the Department of Defense and the intelligence community, when President Joe Biden asked late last year if he would be interested in being nominated to serve as the second-highest ranking official in the Department of the Navy.

“I jumped at it,” Raven remembers. “One of my great interests was engaging with the Navy and Marine Corps, analyzing their budget, and interacting with senior leaders, both civilian and military. It fit so well with my prior experience and my understanding of the issues. It was really an offer I could not refuse.”

Consistent with the principles of the U.S. Constitution, the Department of the Navy is a primarily civilian organization that provides oversight of the military affairs of the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps. As under secretary, Raven serves as the Department of Navy’s chief operating officer and chief management officer, as well as the principal adviser to Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro.

Looking after the secretary’s priorities, Raven spends his days at the Pentagon working with both civilians in the department and uniformed Navy and Marine Corps leaders to address a wide range of issues, from recruitment to budgeting for weapons systems and facilities to supporting the needs of the men and women in uniform.

“I was very lucky to have had experience working with quite a few of the senior leaders, and the team really welcomed me with open arms. I’ve been very fortunate to feel like I’m just picking up those conversations and making progress on a lot of key issues,” Raven says.

“The ethos of having civilian and military teams working together to solve hard problems has been fantastic. That way of working together is exactly what I think the American people would hope to see of how their government works.”

RAVEN KNEW HE WAS INTERESTED in government and international relations, but he didn’t know exactly where that would lead him when he arrived at Connecticut College as a sophomore in the mid-1990s. After graduating from high school early, Raven had attended community college near his hometown just outside of San Francisco, and he was looking to get out of California and see more of the world. He remembers visiting Conn’s campus and being blown away by its beauty and impressed with the government and international relations programs.

In addition to his main courses of study, Raven studied Chinese (“I came into Conn looking for a challenge, and Chinese was definitely it,” he says), and worked as a stagehand and electrician for theater productions in Palmer Auditorium, an experience he describes as “really special.” But it was in the government department where he found a mentor in William “Bill” Rose, now professor emeritus of government and international relations.

Raven took several of Rose’s classes focused on national security affairs, including “Peace and War in the Post-Cold War Era” and “American Foreign Policy,” and Rose advised Raven on his senior honors thesis, “Unkind Policies: An Investigation of Government Support of the International Drug Trade.”

“He really helped me on my way and opened up my eyes to a lot of areas of his expertise, everything from international peacekeeping to nontraditional security issues,” Raven says of Rose.

Rose remembers his former pupil well. “I’ve always been proud of him, and now even more so,” he says. He even has a
It was really an offer I could not refuse.”

— ERIK RAVEN ’96, ON BEING NOMINATED TO SERVE AS THE SECOND-HIGHEST RANKING OFFICIAL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

letter of recommendation he wrote for Raven in 1998.

In the letter, Rose calls Raven an “outstanding, intelligent, hard-working student” before detailing three different research papers Raven wrote during his time at Conn.

The papers, Rose wrote, reflect “the breadth of his knowledge, the depth of his analytical capabilities, his perseverance and hard work and, last but not least, his truly great interest in international relations and foreign policy.”

Rose concluded, “Erik has good instincts for important issues and sound analytical methods to explore them. ... He knows what he wants and is willing to work hard to achieve his goals.”

After graduation, Raven took the Foreign Service Exam for the State Department, but an internship with then-U.S. Rep. Sam Gejdenson during his time at Conn had piqued his interest in Congress.

“Having representatives from all around the nation come with their own points of view, experience and policy recommendations, it was a really interesting place to be, and, as a staffer, broadened my eyes to a lot of other issues that were outside of the national security issues that I tended to gravitate towards,” Raven says.

Raven worked for Sen. Dianne Feinstein before taking a year to teach English in China. He earned a master’s degree in the history of international relations from the London School of Economics and returned to Capitol Hill, where he says he was very lucky to “move from one distinguished senator to another” before becoming the majority clerk for the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. That impressive group has included Feinstein and Senators Ted Kennedy, Robert Byrd, Barbara Mikulski, Dick Durbin, Patrick Leahy and, most recently, Jon Tester.

“They’re each distinguished in their own way, and I’ve been truly honored to contribute to the work they’ve done and are doing in Washington, D.C.,” Raven says.

WHILE THE MOVE FROM CAPITOL HILL to the Pentagon has been fairly smooth, Raven has had to make one big adjustment—to his daily schedule.

“I’ll tell you, working on Capitol Hill, that is not an institution that starts early in the morning,” he laughs.

Now, he starts his days around 7:45 a.m. instead of 9 or 9:30, but the tradeoff is he more regularly makes it home for dinner with his wife, Ann, and their 7-year-old son, Edward.

And the work, while challenging, is incredibly rewarding for Raven.

“The Navy has a very unique position within our national security apparatus. When we think of the other military services, the Army and the Air Force, they typically live on military bases, either in this country or throughout the world, and their job is to project power from those bases,” Raven explains.

“Both the Navy and Marine Corps are fundamentally different because a lot of the work that our service members do is based on ships deployed around the world, close to those hotspots that we know about today or that may become hotspots tomorrow.”

With sailors and Marines deployed for long periods of time around the world, addressing mental health concerns is a top priority. The Navy and the Marine Corps are investing heavily in both resilience programs, to help service members better understand the stressors in their lives and how to react to them, and in counselors and mental health professionals, many of whom are embedded in the force.

Another huge challenge is the changing international environment.

“In the 21st century, technology is moving so fast, and our adversaries are moving fast as well. Both the Navy and Marine Corps have to be flexible and adapt to changing world situations, whether that be new challenges in the Asia Pacific with China’s growing power, or unexpected crises, like Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Both the Navy and Marine Corps are central to forming our government’s response to both,” Raven says.

“That is actually one of the most rewarding parts of the job—being able to support the President in responding to the challenges that the U.S. faces today and into the future.”
YOUR SEAT AWAITS.

A one-of-a-kind performance: Name your seat and become a permanent part of Conn’s enduring leadership in the arts and creative innovation.

“"At the 1972 class 50th reunion, my husband, Stu, found a way to reaffirm his proclamation of S. loves B. by donating a seat in the beautifully renovated Palmer Auditorium where our dating life began in November 1969 at a Barbara Acklin R&B concert. How wonderful if others might want to leave a similar commemorative notice of a special time at Conn.""

— BARBARA HAMILTON ’72

SEAT NAMING OPPORTUNITIES  Contact Mariko Moher at 860-439-2308
denotes a Reunion class year. The next Reunion is June 2-4, 2023.

Marie Woodbridge Thompson would love to hear from classmates. If you want to share any class news or keep in touch, call her at 508-651-3355.

Correspondent: Mona Gustafson Affinio, mgustafson@earthlink.net, 723 Water Street, Apt. 1001, Excelsior, MN, 55331, 612-760-5007

Naomi Salit Birnbach wrote in April that a senior-living community is now her home—“its mayor, my doctor. (Neighbors would be friendly if they could remember my name.) I’m as gorgeous as ever, watch a lot of TV, and can’t believe we graduated less than 100 years ago. I’ve never been very active, but now I’ve really slowed down. Still laugh with my living friends and miss my dead ones, especially my dearest Beverley Benenson Gasner. (We were pals through high school and college.) She died on Oct. 1, 2018. Happily our daughters carry our friendship forward.” Helen “Johnnie” Johnson Leonard Haberstroh enjoyed reading about some of our few remaining classmates in the spring CC Magazine and reported: “Art continues to enliven my days, keeping me off the streets and hosting a weekly get-together with other artists in my Cincinnati retirement community.” Last fall, they exhibited work in the resident art show and were elated to sell some.

Johnnie abandoned the “frenetic but appealing lures of sidewalk art shows” years ago but has discovered Etsy, where she sells her Prints with Tints. “These are local eateries, churches and park scenes, along with some from travels abroad.” Johnnie, 62, still sings in her church choir, going on 41 years. “When all else fails I lip-synch on the high notes.” The learning curve for chairing the church finance committee is steep, she says; “the team boasts other money-matter wizards who tutor me. She enjoys being clerk (secretary) of the church board and learning about the inner workings of our renewal with interesting people. Living alone is not my favorite, but I am fortunate to have many ways to spend my time.” Johnnie gave an update on Marge Erickson Albertson, who has been living in Vero Beach, Fla., for some years. “We former roommates connect occasionally, thanks to her newsy updates by telephone. She sounds as chipper as ever, still playing bridge every week with friends in her retirement home, despite vision problems.” Barbara Wieggand Pillote and Bob celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary this summer surrounded by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and she reports frequent family celebrations at Bethany Beach. Home is an independent-living cottage at The Village at Rockville, a Lutheran full-care facility. There are many planned community activities, but they are limited by COVID. Due to advancing macular degeneration, Barb no longer drives—or reads for that matter—so her women’s club activities have been severely curtailed. “But I enjoy sharing books with a neighbor who reads them aloud, a practice that began with Mona’s My Father’s House.” As for me, Mona Gustafson Affinio, I’m having fun hearing from you. Please note my addresses above and share your news. I expect never to retire, though my activities these days have mostly to do with the third phase of my career—writing. I’m trying to market My Father’s House (by Mona Gustafson—Swedish, you know) and This Sucks, authored by Nick Spooner and compiled by me. I was named a finalist in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards for My Father’s House. My writer’s group is encouraging me to follow through on a mystery inspired by my recent corneal transplant (from a cadaver). Travel is still on the docket, which I can do only because my son Doug is my traveling companion, planner, agent, luggage lugger, and guide. By the time you read this, I expect to have visited Harriet Bassett MacGregor and Bob in Maine at the beginning of a New England cruise in August. Coming up in October is a Viking cruise down the Mississippi and, in January, travel to Antarctica.

Joan Heller Winokur’s poem, “Superwomen of ’57,” was read at Reunion and then on a subsequent Zoom call. Sue Krim Green, our class president, plans to incorporate the poem in her next class letter. Joan told me her book of poetry, The Sand Recognises My Footprints, is available to order on Amazon. Joan, who has taken many poetry workshops, is in a poetry group that meets twice monthly on Amazon. Sue Krim Green and other class officers arranged for Sarah Green Burger to present a Zoom program about her career in nursing and her knowledge of geriatric care for seniors. Sarah stressed that we should educate ourselves by checking out Medicare.gov.
and by seeking information about home care. Fourteen classmates attended the Zoom meeting. There are plans for future programs; Sue will let us know about them. We hope you will attend; the programs usually have a speaker and an informal discussion. We promise fun and delight at reconnecting with so many gals we knew well. 

Louie Hyde Sutro has lived in Kentfield, CA, which is a half-hour north of San Francisco, for 56 years. She and her husband have two daughters, both Conn graduates, and their son is managing partner of a law firm. Louie’s husband was CFO of Schwab. The Sutros are grandparents of eight. Louie founded Marin Villages many years ago when she realized there were few services for seniors in the area. The organization has 550 members and 500 volunteers who walk dogs, shop, give rides to seniors who no longer drive and provide many services to allow seniors to remain in their homes as they age. They have knitting groups, hiking groups, writing groups and many other activities. 

Dotty Egan, who was Chief of the Honor Court while we were students, passed away March 9 in New London, N.H. Dotty was a close friend of Judy Hartt Acker, who said, “She was a teacher/administrator at Colby-Sawyer College from 1962 to 1996 and was in the 1991-1992 edition of Who’s Who in American Women. To show how modest she was, I did not know this year, she was diagnosed with squamous-cell carcinoma in her right parotid gland. “I confess, I never knew I had one! It produces saliva.” She said, “I am happy that my prognosis is good.” Earlier this year, she was diagnosed with squamous-cell carcinoma in her right parotid gland. “I confess, I never knew I had one! It produces saliva.” She said, “I am happy that my prognosis is good.” Earlier this year, she was diagnosed with squamous-cell carcinoma in her right parotid gland. “I confess, I never knew I had one! It produces saliva.”

Correspondent: Millie Price Nygren, 1048 Bedford St., Fremont, CA 94539, 408-464-2907, m.nygren@aol.net Harriet Kaufman Breslow enjoyed our last reunion. “What fun getting to know classmates I didn’t know well and reconnecting with others that I did. Not too much new in my life. I still work 16 to 20 hours a week and play tennis five days a week. This past year I skied in Colorado and plan to return to ski twice more. My husband, Jerry, and I are visiting Hilton Head, S.C., for two weeks and then Williamsburg in September and St. John, USVI, in November. Then skiing in January and February.” Harriet has an electric bike and loves it. It was nice to hear from Judith Ammerman Brielmaier. She is up-set that many classmates still hold a grudge about us losing the Songfest over 60 years ago! “Isn’t it time to drop this? Our class members collectively have much to be proud of and celebrate.” After 34 years of teaching math, mainly to eighth-graders, Judith retired from the Garden City, N.Y., school system. Then she spent 10 years traveling to all continents but two, Australia and Antarctica. In 2004 she moved to Venice, FL, to enjoy the re-laxing atmosphere year-round. “Long story short, I met a neighbor who soon became my husband.” In 2014 they moved to a continuing-care retirement community in Sarasota, where they enjoyed all the activities on offer. “Sadly we had only 10 years together before he passed away in 2018, leaving me many good memories of a fine man.” Judith keeps in touch with his four children, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild! “From being an ‘only child’ I now have a very large step-family, though most live far away. I enjoy my independent living and am involved in (probably too) many activities.”

Next, the Wertheim twins: Patricia Wertheim Abrams and I enjoyed lunch together in San Francisco, where she was visiting her son. Then she went to Santa Cruz to visit her other son. She updated me on her sister, Joan Wertheim Carr, who still lives in New York (as does Patricia) and enjoys granddaughter Alicia (21) and grandson Jason (6). Anne Sweazey checked in: “I was only at CC for two years, but the memories of friendships, fun and academic challenges are still fresh, and I always enjoy our Class Notes.”

Correspondent: Bonnie Campbell Billings-Wauters, 1348 Winding Oaks Circle W, Vero Beach, FL 32963, 802-734-1876, bgw22@aol.com While my triannual pleas for news, with an extra plea to classmates who’ve never written, go unremarked by most, it is always good to hear from those who do share. You may think your activities are too mundane to submit—they’re not. Since you’re reading this, you must want to stay connected; let us hear about you, too! I’d love to hear from all about our upcoming 60th reunion: Who is planning, or hoping, to attend? Would you respond to a class questionnaire? Would you like to submit a brief “life overview”? Any ideas are appreciated; please respond directly to me (email above).

Gail Martin Reed wrote: “Here we are, nearly to our 60th reunion, and this is my first time sending anything to Class Notes. Since I recently turned 80 and many of us already 81, it’s now or never. I have no spectacular accomplishments or exploits to report, not even a particular career. Finally, she completed them, five a week for six weeks, the last on July 6. “The nurses at Memorial Sloan Kettering joined my friends and family for a bell-ringing celebration. During all this, I experienced and appreciated the support of my family and friends in a way that felt new. I’m grateful to Patricia Abrams and Cynnne Enloe for cheering me on. My health care team at MSK cared for my spirit as well as my body. All told, I feel lucky and grateful for the people in my life.” Linda Stallman Gibson’s story “Life Lesson” won first prize in a flash memoir contest by Grande Dame Literary, and Literary Mama published “A Grandmother’s Tale” in their July/August issue. Find both online or check out @EdwardorGran on Facebook or Instagram. “Working to complete a full memoir of adventures with my Gen Z grandson within the year. Send luck, I’ll need it.” 1, Millie Price Nygren, finished reading The Book of Hope. Most of you are familiar with Jane Goodall, the world’s most famous living naturalist. In the book, Jane has conversations with Douglas Abrams, Patricia Abrams’ son. The book focuses on “four reasons for hope”: the amazing human intellect, the resilience of nature, the power of young people, and the indomitable human spirit. She is a messenger of hope. She honestly believes there is hope for our world and for the future of our children and grandchildren. Douglas says, “To give love to one who needs it is a far greater pleasure than to receive it.”

From left: Jo Saillia Morse, Judy Hartt Acker and Helene Zimmer-Loeve, all Class of 1957, at Reunion’s Saturday Fall Notes.

Fall 2022 | Class Notes

47
But I’m alive and well, living alone, and have one son. He and his fiancée are both 41 so I have little chance of a grandchild, but hope springs eternal! I have traveled a lot, mostly in Western Europe, but also to upstate New York and Vermont to visit friends and to visit the African-American Museum in Washington, DC. In May, she visited relatives in Massachusetts and went to the JFK library. “While walking in the Boston Commons, my friend and I were photographed and the photo appeared on the front page of the Boston Globe! A brief moment of fame! Stay healthy!” Quinta Dunn Scott says COVID has turned her agoraphobic. “I realized it when I couldn’t sleep the night before I was going for a haircut. However, the isolation gave me the time to write a new book, Missouri Ozark Forests. It will be published by the library at Missouri State University at Springfield. I also gave the Missouri State Library all the tapes I recorded for the first Route 66 book, and that I used to write the second book, Along Route 66. I will also give them the negatives for the books.” I was saddened to learn of Francette Girard Roeder’s passing in February. The class sends condolences to her sister-in-law (and Conn roommate) Cynthia Nichols Travers and the rest of her family. I, Bonnie Campbell Billings, am proud that my grandson, Ryder McMurtry, is a freshman at Conn, Class of 2026! My hip replacement in January went exceedingly well, and I continue to play lots of golf and tennis. Husband Joe Wauters and I enjoy our seven-plus months at Sea Oaks in Vero Beach, Fla., with extended summers in Stowe, Vt. I plan to attend our 60th reunion and hope you do too!

CONTACT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY RATES*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Immediate Payment</th>
<th>Deferred 3 Years</th>
<th>Deferred 5 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rates based on one-life. Two-life rates are also available.

Contact us for your own personalized illustration.
Laura Becker, Director of Gift Planning
860.439.2416
giftplanning@conncoll.edu
www.conncoll.giftplans.org

Diverse your portfolio
Substantial portion of the payments are tax-free
Receive a substantial charitable deduction for your gift
Enjoy a steady, fixed income for life
An easy and trusted way to support Connecticut College
Take advantage of the new rates introduced July 1, 2022
Name the area at Conn where your gift will be directed
Receive a personalized illustration.
Contact us for your own personalized illustration.
Laura Becker, Director of Gift Planning
860.439.2416
giftplanning@conncoll.edu
www.conncoll.giftplans.org
ry, particularly the role of women. Martha Alter Chen continues as a lecturer at both the School of Public Health and the Graduate School of Design at Harvard and serves as a policy adviser with two groups she helped found: BRAC, a large not-for-profit international development agency, and the WIEGO network, which works to raise the voice and visibility of the working poor, especially those in the informal economy. Zannie Leach Charity joined Marty Chen and Lincoln for an international trip. Rodna Pass Hurewitz was a docent at the UNC/Greensboro Art Museum for 25 years and now volunteers at the Greensboro History Museum, focusing on the racial history of the South. She and husband David have traveled to all seven continents. Peggy Dudley is working on her PhD in mind-body therapy. Her dissertation concentrates on techniques for dealing with cancer, and she noted wryly that the pharmaceutical companies do not appreciate her approach. Marian Cleveland Harman added that she has derivied great benefit from Peggy’s relaxation CD (available from Amazon) and has recommended it to others. Barbara Barker-Papernik began her career in social work, then moved into education and finally into medicine. Now retired, she is enjoying her first grandchild. Jill Andrist Miller’s careers evolved over the years from IT to garden design, with a month’s break on a tall ship in between. Now she works with a local garden group, beautifying public places in Natick, Mass., where she promoted a rails-to-trails conversion. Carol Johnson Prue reminded us that she wrote the music to our class play, A History of Herstory. After many years as an animal welfare volunteer, she became a veterinarian and still works as a relief vet in the Boston area. Stephanie Reckler has been married 56 years to the brother of a CC dorm-mate. The call ended on a triumphant note, with Ed and Kathy—and they continue to meet online. “Our restored bond has become an essential support for each of us as we work our way through the challenges of our 70s. We are located all over the country and have led very different lives, but our common background at Conn has provided a surprisingly strong foundation, and our friendship has grown. We are tightly CON-nected.” Betsy Litchfield Cetron has retired from real estate in Vermont. She and husband Ted, who retired six years ago, are now in New London, N.H. Betsy is active in the Lake Sunapee community, where she sailed her Sonar in the challenging 2022 World Championships. Betsy and Ted host visits from kids and grandchildren both summer and winter. Terry McNab Rixe hosted a gathering in Florida in March with Jane Brown LaPrino, Kate Davis Murray, Jan Davison Peake, Lee Johnson Stockwell and Debby Nichols Losse. The only traveling Pam Mendelsohn has done lately is to NYC to spend time with daughter Bekah, son-in-law Mark and baby Judita … and their 90-pound dog and two cats. Bekah is the NYC parks photo archivist who curated “Streets In Play: Katrina Thomas, NYC Summer 1968,” which was shown at the Arsenal Gallery in Central Park from June to September. We extend heartfelt sympathies to friends and family of Susan Martin Medley, who died Feb. 24, and Caroline Davis Murray, who died July 1. Please continue sending your news and photos; we love to share them.

66 Correspondents: Carol Chaykin and Pat Dale, cnotes66@gmail.com Bridget Donahue Healy sends greetings from her new home, a newly constructed condo in downtown Brunswick, Maine, within walking distance of necessities and Bowdoin College. During a trip to Sequoia National Park, Charlotte Epstein Biegelden made the mistake of staying at Three Rivers, Calif., when it was 106° in town. Fortunately, it was “not as bad up in the park, which is quite gorgeous.” Lenore Farmer had a quiet summer working in her vegetable garden, feeding the birds and trying to decide which personal pronouns to use. Ellen Kagan booked Massachusetts State Senator Susan Moran for the July 29 episode of her podcast, Movin’ and Groovin’ ‘with Ellen, after meeting the senator at a pro-choice rally in Falmouth, Mass., on June 25. Ellen is dedicated to getting out the Democratic vote for the midterm elections. Ann Langdon reports that the memorial service for her husband, Drew Days, took place at Yale Law School in April. It included video contributions from President Clinton and Connecticut Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, along with in-person remembrances from Drew’s colleagues from Yale Law School. Ann has found comfort visiting friends and family in New England, Washington, DC, and Texas, and plans additional travel. Kathy Legg writes that Zoom brought together seven classmates from Plant House—Bernice Abramowitz Shor, Lisa Altman Pintzuk, Ann Kiley, Carol Lewis Mellenbeck, Iva Obst Turner, Susan Rothschild, Mardon Walker and Kathy—and they continue to meet online. “Our restored bond has become an essential support for each of us as we work our way through the challenges of our 70s. We are located all over the country and have led very different lives, but our common background at Conn has provided a surprisingly strong foundation, and our friendship has grown. We are tightly CON-nected.” Betsy Litchfield Cetron has retired from real estate in Vermont. She and husband Ted, who retired six years ago, are now in New London, N.H. Betsy is active in the Lake Sunapee community, where she sailed her Sonar in the challenging 2022 World Championships. Betsy and Ted host visits from kids and grandchildren both summer and winter. Terry McNab Rixe hosted a gathering in Florida in March with Jane Brown LaPrino, Kate Curtis Donahue, Caroline Davis Murray, Jan Davison Peake, Lee Johnson Stockwell and Debby Nichols Losse. The only traveling Pam Mendelsohn has done lately is to NYC to spend time with daughter Bekah, son-in-law Mark and baby Judita … and their 90-pound dog and two cats. Bekah is the NYC parks photo archivist who curated “Streets In Play: Katrina Thomas, NYC Summer 1968,” which was shown at the Arsenal Gallery in Central Park from June to September. We extend heartfelt sympathies to friends and family of Susan Martin Medley, who died Feb. 24, and Caroline Davis Murray, who died July 1. Please continue sending your news and photos; we love to share them.

67 Correspondents: Deborah Greenstein, debby837@verizon.net and Marcia Hunter Matthews, marciamatthews3@gmail.com Our class sends condolences to the family of Lilian Balboni Nolan, who died of dementia in June in Hartford, Conn. Those of us at our 50th reunion, five years ago, were so grateful to Susie Terrell Saunders for bringing Lil to join us then. In March, Bill and Marcia Hunter Matthews had lunch with Jim and Judy Macurda Oates at their condo in Sarasota, Fla. Bill and Jim compared notes on their Parkinson’s disease. In July, Ethel Bottcher Cullinan was in Virginia visiting her son and family. There she spent a day with Debby Greenstein visiting the National Building Museum’s exhibit about Notre Dame. We had a small but enthusiastic group of 24 to celebrate our 55th reunion in June. As Sue Cohn Doran said, “As the years pass, getting together with old friends and acquaintances feels more and more like a joyful family reunion.” Margie Lipshutz Simon added, “I suspect I’m not alone in appreciating being with people with whom I was not especially close and haven’t seen.” Many thanks to our reunion committee, led very ably by Rita York Fogal. On Friday, Suzy Endel Kerner showed us a sneak
68 Correspondent: Mary Clarkeeson Phillips, 36 The Croxwells, Delmar, NY 12054, mphil2@nycap.rr.com Kathryn Bard’s 10th book, Harbor of the Pharaohs to the Land of Punt II: Excavations at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, Egypt, 2006-2011, has been published. At 752 pages in two volumes, it’s the report of the excavations at a 4,000-year-old pharaonic harbor on the Red Sea. She retired from Boston University in June after 34 years there but will be working on two new projects: 1) Seshat (named after an ancient Egyptian goddess), a global history databank of societies worldwide going back 10,000 years, with research assistants in Oxford; and 2) an analysis of peoples and movements in Northeast Africa, using archaeological, linguistic and genetic data (a research project of Dr. Kendra Sirak in the Genetics Department at Harvard Medical School). Terry Reimers Byrnes and Jim continue to enjoy living full-time in Vero Beach, Fla. (despite COVID). They’ve been lucky to continue golfing, walking, riding bikes and eating outside. Last fall they traveled to British Columbia, where their son and his family live. It had been almost two years since they’d seen them. Their granddaughters (Hailey, S., and Nola, 2) knew who they were, thanks to FaceTime! They hope to visit again in April. In January, Joan Pekoc Pagano participated in an online summit, “The Natural Approaches to Osteoporosis and Bone Health.” Of 46 expert talks, her session, “The Best Exercises for Osteoporosis and Bone Health,” was in the top five as voted on by the attendees. After 31 years educating young women at The Brearley School, in NYC, Tamah Nachtman Wiegand is excited to have been chosen as the first-ever woman chair in the 46-year history of the Foundation Board at SUNY New Paltz. Judy Irving’s film about swimming in open water, Cold Refuge, had its work-in-progress screening in late February and is on track to be finished this year! Pamela Berky Webb’s family has escaped COVID infections so far. Their three children and five grandchildren are nearby, so they have shared the same bubble for over two years. Allison’s three children (10, 7, 5) enjoy skiing and art. Hilary’s two children (4, 18 months) are in preschool and day care. Pam and Peter help out as needed. Their son is happy to be back teaching middle school English in person. Peter practices dermatology 2-1/2 days a week and enjoys tennis and running. Pam spends time oil painting, walking and visiting with friends. They have enjoyed trips to Hawaii, upstate New York, Southern California, Carmel and along the California coast. Ruth Kirschner’s play Whippoorwill opened at Centenary Stage Company; a wonderful production, it was livestreamed on April 9. Her newest play, The Field, was nominated for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize in drama. Ruth is fine, and daughter Lucia is thriving; they are “thinking about this world and doing what we can.” Helen Epps reports that the pandemic caused some tour companies to offer alluring deals to entice travelers. Finding a too-good-to-be-true deal to her bucket-list destination of Antarctica, she signed up with a heady combination of excitement and anxiety for a mid-January departure. Pandemic protocols were significant and COVID tests frequent, but Helen had an amazing trip to a place whose uniqueness is almost ineffable. “And yes, the penguins are really endearing.” 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, 133 Palmetto La., Largo, FL 33770, jgmarriggi@gmail.com John and Babette Gabriel Thompson took what should have been a wonderful wine- and food-tasting cruise this spring but were seriously disappointed. “The only part of our trip we genuinely enjoyed was when we ditched Uniworld and spent time in Paris on our own, as we both had spent time there before. As much as I detested that advanced French lit course I took freshman year at Conn, even after 50+ years, it helped me feel at home in Paris; I knew what I was looking at and could still speak marginally respectable French!” They spent the summer at home on Whidbey Island gardening and reading, are deeply involved in political affairs, and are “still trying to get used to living in a house less than half the size of the one from which we downsized. I really miss our old home, but it was way too big, too much work for us and had too many stairs.” Harry and Dagny Hultgreen Griswold now have 12 grandchildren! They visited a son and his family in San Francisco over Fourth of July, then were in Maine with another branch of the family. They frequently see two sons and families who live in Darien, Conn. They have grandchildren at both the Naval Academy and West Point. “I retired last fall, after Harry (86) stopped driving, and we are now into gardening. I am in a large choral group that resumed post-COVID rehearsals in January. We wore preview of her documentary Eva’s Promise. The audience loved it! On Saturday, Nancy Blumberg Austin and Marcia Hunter Matthews, all Class of 1967, at Conn for their 55th reunion

53rd reunion of Class of 1967
singer’s masks for a concert at the Bushnell in Hartford in June.” Tom and Rene Kolanko Shedlosky enjoyed watching the Tour de France, as the cyclists’ routes provided a beautiful tour of the country. A close friend was influential in creating a Tour de France Femmes for women. Cee Carol Bunevich was also hooked on the Tour; she rides every morning. Larry and Jan Macdonald Smith enjoy their year-round presence on Lake Winnipesaukee, N.H. “Although I retired from teaching in 2015, Larry retired just a year ago. Throughout the pandemic, we stayed connected to distant family and friends through Zoom and enjoyed outside visits with those nearby, in all kinds of weather! Pat Goff Devaney ’67 and husband Michael (Coast Guard ’67) live an hour away; we are enjoying in-person time again. I participate in a monthly Zoom meeting with CC friends throughout the country: Suzanne Gehrig Kranz ’68 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Ellen Leader Pike ’68 in Lancaster, Pa.; Jill Oli-phant Rose in Houston; and Anita Poluga Hodges ’70 in Hawaii. We still miss Ginny Bergquist Landry ’70, who passed away in 2000. I’m grateful we can be a closer part of one another’s lives despite our distant locations. Suzanne spent a few wonderful days with us while she was in New England. We are thrilled that our granddaughter, Emily Brankman, was accepted early-action to the Class of 2026!”

Larry retired just a year ago. Throughout the pandemic, we stayed connected to distant family and friends through Zoom and enjoyed outside visits with those nearby, in all kinds of weather! Pat Goff Devaney ’67 and husband Michael (Coast Guard ’67) live an hour away; we are enjoying in-person time again. I participate in a monthly Zoom meeting with CC friends throughout the country: Suzanne Gehrig Kranz ’68 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Ellen Leader Pike ’68 in Lancaster, Pa.; Jill Oliphant Rose in Houston; and Anita Poluga Hodges ’70 in Hawaii. We still miss Ginny Bergquist Landry ’70, who passed away in 2000. I’m grateful we can be a closer part of one another’s lives despite our distant locations. Suzanne spent a few wonderful days with us while she was in New England. We are thrilled that our granddaughter, Emily Brankman, was accepted early-action to the Class of 2026!”

Heather Morri-son and Greg went to Scotland in late August. “Our first trip overseas since COVID included the Shetland and Orkney Islands and the Outer Hebrides, the original seat of Clan Morrison.” In late July, Michael and Diana Robinson Nelson “headed north to the North Channel of Lake Huron in Ontario for the first time since 2019 for a couple weeks of sailing with our trailer-sailor buddies. SV Ecentide looked a bit scruffy, but it was fun.” Harvey and Ellen Steinberg Karch enjoyed their annual week at Rehoboth Beach, Del., in August. Maria Varela Berchesi’s winter in Montevideo was grayish and quiet, although a long weekend in Buenos Aires with family was a lot of fun. She enjoyed planning her September visit to southern Italy with a friend.

70

Correspondent: Myrna Chandler Goldstein, myrnagoldstein@gmail.com Last June, Mary-Jane Atwater, husband Walt Diercks and older daughter Emily spent two weeks in Svalbard, Norway. They bundled up to hike, kayak and view amazing wildlife, including polar bears, whales, walrus, foxes and Arctic birds. “Back home in Locust Grove, Va., I’m on the board of the national Village to Village Network and the alumni council of the Northfield Mount Hermon School. I’m also trying to improve my golf game. Our daughters and two granddaughters, ages 6 and 3, visited from the Boston area.” According to Mary-Jane, the Village to Village Network (vtnetwork.org) consists of 300+ nonprofits throughout the U.S. Volunteers provide supportive services enabling seniors to remain in their own homes. Mary Keil has lived in Humboldt County, Calif., for four years. The isolation imposed by the pandemic enabled Mary to focus on two “unexpectedly absorbing” undertakings, both due this fall. Together with her economist husband and a small team of video game developers, Mary worked remotely to create “Beat the Fed,” a simulation of the U.S. economy. The video game, which attempts to improve financial and economic literacy, “is an important addition to the growing edtech sector” and was due to be marketed online in the fall to individuals and classrooms. Mary has also been co-authoring a book that offers “convincing evidence of the cause and duration of the Great Depression, supported by data from a credible source, heretofore not plumbed by scholars.” Five years ago, Mary never expected to be so professionally challenged again. “Among the pleasures of the projects have been working with my older sister, a New York state–based writer and editor, and with Matt Sambor ’22, whom I found via the Office of Career and Professional Development, who has been invaluable in converting well over 100 data tables to Excel. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know a current Conn student. Especially a guy! After such a long stretch, however, I anticipate a much lighter workload so I can see more of my son and his family in the Bay Area and pursue other creative endeavors.”

Russ Josephson, a Wesleyan student who attended Conn our junior year, and his wife, Vera, still live on Kauai, Hawaii, and are finishing their home in the Kalihawai Valley. Russ teaches middle school, and Vera is the grant

A Message from the Alumni Association Board of Directors

THE MISSION of the Connecticut College Alumni Association is to lead alumni in fostering strong connections with each other and Connecticut College as the College assumes its place at the forefront of liberal arts education.

To carry out the mission, the Association’s Board of Directors guides the efforts of alumni volunteers nationally, working with all members of the College community to support and enhance activities for alumni on and off campus.

Please join us in welcoming the newest alumni volunteers to the Board of Directors, whose terms began July 2022 and will continue through June 2025:

To learn more about the College’s Alumni Association Board of Directors, please visit www.conncoll.edu/alumni/alumni-association/board-of-directors
Congratulations
to the following faculty, who retired this spring after a combined 409 years of service to Conn!

Blanche McCrary Boyd
Roman S. and Tatiana Weller Professor of English and Writer-in-Residence

Leslie Brown
Associate Professor of Physics

Ann Sloan Devlin
May Buckley Sadowski ’19 Professor of Psychology

Michelle R. Dunlap
Professor of Human Development

Vicki Fontneau
Senior Lecturer in Chemistry

William Frasure
Lucretia L. Allyn Professor of Government and International Relations

Charles O. Hartman
Lucy Marsh Haskell ‘19 Endowed Professor of English; Poet-in-Residence; Creative Writing Program Co-Director

Pamela Hine
Senior Lecturer in Botany

Pamela Marks
Associate Professor of Studio Art

Frederick S. Paxton
Brigida Pacchiani Ardenghi Professor of History

William Wuyke
Adjunct Professor of Physical Education; Strength and Conditioning Coach; Fitness Center Director

writer for the National Tropical Botanical Gardens. He attended the 50th-51st-52nd Wesleyan reunion in April. As for the Goldsteins, our book, *Pain Management: Fact versus Fiction*, was published in June, later than originally expected. It discusses in great detail the effectiveness, limitations and problems associated with various conventional and complementary treatments for pain. I thought that was our last book, but I am co-writing another book with Mark. This one addresses some challenges of contemporary adolescents, such as problematic internet use, racial discrimination, poverty, social media use, depression, anxiety, LGBTQ and transgender issues, and COVID-19.

Correspondents: Lisa McDonnell, 79 Audubon Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903, mcdonnell@dendenon.edu; Lois Olcott Price, 933A Alto Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501, loprice@yahoo.com For An-Ming Sze Truxes, it was the honor of a lifetime to have served as 1971 class president and 50th reunion co-chair. “It allowed me to reach out to classmates I did not know as an undergraduate — especially during COVID as we planned for our virtual 50th reunion in June 2021. And over the past year, we stayed connected via monthly Zoom happy hours and book clubs. How wonderful that we got to see each other in June at our in-person 50th/51st reunion on campus! Thanks to all who have stayed engaged, we have bonded as a class. May new friendships continue to thrive, and may we become a meaningful part of each other’s lives.” Susan Schmidt reminisced that after Conn, Harvard offered her a scholarship for graduate school, but it would have left her deep in debt, so she went to Virginia. When her PhD committee said she had to choose between critical and creative voices, she started teaching. Eighteen years later she returned to her doctorate studies and used a novel as a creative dissertation. Since retiring, she has published four books; her third poetry book, *Drought Drought Torrential*, is due out at Christmas. She leads a critique group, takes Orion magazine poetry workshops and works as developmental editor. Betsy Breg Masson shared the obituary of Professor Philip Jordan, from whom many took American history courses. She discovered he had passed after trying to send him an article from the Canadian Historical Magazine about Hannah Peters Jarvis, who was born in Hebron, Conn., to an Anglican minister, likely the first person in the colonies to be tarred and feathered and run out of town. Hannah married William Jarvis, a Loyalist from Stamford, Conn., who moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1792. The article talks of their runaway slaves and a son who became an honorary adoptee of the Mississauga Indians. Betsy wants to donate family items to archives and museums, including things relating to her great-aunt, who was a chemistry professor at Conn from 1920 to 1954. Betsy told the CC archives that she would have joined that profession had it been available in her days at CC. She visited Pittsburgh to donate artifacts relating to her grandmother’s family, who had lived in the area since 1760, to the Senator John Heinz History Center. Next destination: Palo Alto, Calif., to donate photos to Stanford, from where her grandmother graduated in 1910. She looked forward to a visit from her son and two grandchildren from Seattle in August. Anne Sigmund Curtis wrote from their old family home in Afton, Minn., where her two daughters and 10 grandkids (ages 2 to 17) were visiting. Lots of activities on the water: swimming, skiing, tubing, kayaking and boating to sandy beaches on the river. “The cousins are having a blast! Husband John is still waterskiing at 75!” Last spring they added a walkway from the front of the house to the back so one can enter the house without climbing stairs.

The Class of 1971 returned for a special reunion day and paraded to the newly renovated Palmer Auditorium with other reuniting classes.
Correspondents: Barbara White Morse, 501 Askin Rd., St Davids, PA 19087, barbarawmorse@gmail.com and Ann Toussignant, 349 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02115, annoutoussignant@gmail.com In June over 60 members of the Class of ’72 gathered under sunny skies to celebrate our 50th reunion, the first in-person reunion since 2019. The theme of our Reunion Weekend was “Reconnect, Reminisce, and Reimagine.” We certainly did all of that, and more! We enjoyed a wine-tasting and fondue party, and the classic New England–style clambake. We led the 2022 Parade of Classes with tie-dyed hats and protest buttons! A walking tour of the campus showcased renovations including the new Athey Center for Performance and Research at Palmer Auditorium. We also learned of the exciting revitalization of the Thames River waterfront. A highlight of Reunion was receiving and reviewing the fabulous Koiné Gold. We are grateful to our amazing editor, Connie Sha er Synakowski, for an impressive job polishing our entries and designing the publication. Professor Emeritus of History Michael Burlingame and Professor Emeritus of Philosophy J. Melvin Woody led us in a reflection on our years at CC, Conn’s road to becoming coeducational, the world events that engaged us 50 years ago and the issues we still face today. Another panel featured four distinguished classmates: Ted Chapin, Samuel Harvey Moseley, Jennifer Sinclair and Danna Mauch. They engaged in a spirited discussion of their careers in theater, astrophysics, urban transit and mental health, inspiring further discussion about our own life adventures, mistakes, successes and transitions as we move to encore careers or retirement. At a beautiful Service of Remembrance we honored our classmates and other members of the CC community no longer with us. Our own Laurie Stewart Otten was the featured vocalist. Thanks to your generosity we broke records! With a 51 percent giving participation rate, we set a new record for the largest Reunion gift ever raised in a single year by any class: over $3.6 million! Our incredible Reunion Weekend would not have happened without the talented team from the Office of Alumni Engagement. We shout out a special thank-you to Tori McKenna and Karen Laskey. In addition, college archivist Deborah Kloiber was an invaluable resource. Merci! We came away from this fabulous weekend with a greater appreciation of how Connecticut College shaped our lives and with great admiration for what Conn has become. Inspired by reconnecting and reminiscing, we hope we will all stay better connected during the next five years. We want to hear from you!

72

73

Correspondent: Hester Kinnicutt Jacobs, djacobs@midrivers.com Planning for the CC ’73 50th Reunion, June 1-4, 2023, is underway! If you’d like to help and haven’t already contacted Reunion Co-Chairs Dave Clark, Jean Kelleher and Brian Robie, please email Brian at ostivity@hotmail.com. For this issue, I asked: 1) Do you plan to attend Reunion? 2) What is the most significant event in your life since graduating from Conn? And 3) In our “new normal,” do you have plans to travel or have you recently traveled? Lucy Weiger responded, “Yes, I plan to come to Reunion and have talked Ellen Ficklen into coming. My most significant event since graduating from Conn was being a Peace Corps volunteer in Ghana, West Africa, for two years, where I taught biology and agricultural science. I live in Sonoma, Calif. It’s very beautiful although now we worry about wildfires; otherwise it is a lovely, supportive, caring community. I have been on some trips rescheduled from COVID, including a wine tour through the Piedmont area of Italy with a local winery, Michael Muscardini. And in March we went with local friends to the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador rainforest and Machu Picchu.” Susan Weiss Moritz might attend Reunion: “Too soon to say. There is no single most significant event in my life. It’s a continuum of events unfolding in a way that is, although not unscathing, overall, quite fortunate. After living in rural Oklahoma for 27 years, we moved to Cornelius, N.C., in December. Restaurants that have food other than BBQ and fried! I have traveled domestically, and frequently, and also to the Bahamas. More travel is in the future. Our lifestyle barely changed. We had three shots and then got COVID, but it was so mild we didn’t know we had it. We had two rescue dogs and three formerly feral cats; I added two doxies because, apparently, I prefer noncompliant dogs who believe pottying outside is optional.” Joe Srednicki plans to attend Reunion. “I cannot point to any single event that strikes me as the most significant since graduation. I have traveled locally to play various organs. I would like to go to Montreal to do the same, depending on the requirements for crossing the border. My consulting assignment at Clear Ballot ended in March after five and a half years. I may do some additional consulting work; however, in the meantime, I am enjoying my time off. I enjoy practicing music.” Nancy Mavec Spain and her husband still work full-time as lawyers, doing planning for families with a child or family member with a disability, handling probate estates and guardianships and residential real estate. “Our firm is merging with a national firm to ensure continuity for our associates, staff and, more important, our clients. We are excited about the transition and new opportunities. Not retiring yet. I’m very proud of my two daughters: Katie Peterson is consulting with HUD and services providers in various cities to reduce the homeless veteran population, and Sarah Spain is an ESPN radio host and podcaster, advocating for women in sports (and the boardroom) on Title IX, equal access and pay, and sexual assault issues (particularly in sports).” Tim Dahlgren and Bobbie Chappell Dahlgren plan to attend Reunion. “Our most significant event was getting married four hours after graduation. Iceland 2021, France 2022, Galápagos 2023. Egypt 2024 (?).” Thank you all for responding. I plan to attend Reunion depending on future back surgery. My most significant event was joining the Navy and getting a commission as an ensign. The military was one of the few places women were paid equally with men back in 1977. This also led to
**Weddings**

Alexandra "Allie" Smith '07 married Jeff Gilbert on July 13, 2019, in Rye, N.H. Three generations of Camels attended! From left: Roger "Whit" Smith '76, P'07, P'11; Terry Sanderson Smith '76, P'07, P'11; Edward Adams; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pisarski '07; Nathan Lemay '07; Marissa Velarde '07; Jon Pisarski '07; Emily Ricketson Pi...
Ben Berge ’04 married Sophie Collett in Exmouth, England. CC friends Ethan Powell ’04 and his wife, Angela Campbell ’02, and Mark Hanson ’04 and his wife, Ashley, attended the celebration.

Alicia Dieni Furgueson ’90 is excited to share that she recently married her best friend and partner in crime.

Alex Felfle 10 and Ryan Bigelson walking down the aisle following the completion of their wedding ceremony at the Cathedral of Saint Catherine of Alexandria.


Ellen Ramsbottom Jarrett ’78 sent this photo of son Tim Jarrett ’13 and granddaughter Ayla Jane Jarrett, born July 2, 2022.

Missy Leutz ’03 and Terry Banaszak welcomed daughter Samantha Grace Banaszak on May 9.

Oliver Schlette Stilwell was born on Feb. 25, 2022, to Audrey Schlette Stilwell ’14 and Tyler Stilwell ‘11. Oliver is the grandson of Ted Schlette ’75.

Lauren Brug Hall ’08 and Adam Hall welcomed their third child, Ida Lucille Hall, 8 lbs., 5 oz., and 21 inches, on June 15, 2022. Ida joins siblings Charlie (7) and Josephine (3), below.

Elizabeth Cooper-Mullin ’10 and husband Kurt welcomed their first baby, John Wallace Kostyu, on July 6, 2022.

Missy Leutz ’03 and Terry Banaszak welcomed daughter Samantha Grace Banaszak on May 9.


Missy Leutz ’03 and Terry Banaszak welcomed daughter Samantha Grace Banaszak on May 9.

Ellen Ramsbottom Jarrett ’78 sent this photo of son Tim Jarrett ’13 and granddaughter Ayla Jane Jarrett, born July 2, 2022.

Missy Leutz ’03 and Terry Banaszak welcomed daughter Samantha Grace Banaszak on May 9.

Elizabeth Cooper-Mullin ’10 and husband Kurt welcomed their first baby, John Wallace Kostyu, on July 6, 2022.

Lauren Brug Hall ’08 and Adam Hall welcomed their third child, Ida Lucille Hall, 8 lbs., 5 oz., and 21 inches, on June 15, 2022. Ida joins siblings Charlie (7) and Josephine (3), below.

meeting my husband of 43 years. We traveled to Vancouver and boarded the Rocky Mountaineer train over the Canadian Rockies to Calgary; Missouri for a wedding reception and Lake Tahoe for a sibling reunion, in addition to CC Reunion in 2023. After the reunion, I hope to go to Virginia to visit three friends I haven’t seen in years, in Alexandria, Manakin Sabot and White Stone. New Zealand 2024 to see our son and family.

74 Correspondent: Barbara Herbst Tatum, Barbara.tatum52@gmail.com Nelson “Neal” Stone retired from clinical practice in 2012, although he still teaches and does research at Mount Sinai, where he is a professor of urology and radiation oncology. Since “retiring” he started two medical device companies, most recently Viomerse, where he is chief science officer. The company creates surgical training models and augmented-reality remote-training systems. Neal and Gloria split their time between Vail, Colo., and New York, where they enjoy skiing, biking, and spending time with their three children and five grandchildren. Children’s book author Janet Lawler confesses that the challenges of online and virtual promotion have her pondering a slowdown. But life continues to present new story ideas every day. Janet’s 2021 titles are Oceans of Love (Viking) and Celebrate! A Happy Book of Firsts (Feiwel & Friends). Janet is in touch with Christian Steinway ’77, who is sorting and organizing his many photos from Conn and asked for help identifying CC alums. Pam Strawbridge Mashke spent two whirlwind years relocating from their Victorian in Lincoln Park, Chicago, to full-time residency in Leland, Mich., on the Leelanau Peninsula, known as a wine-growing region. Including multiple rapid changes in residence, Pam’s relocation involved architectural redesign, gutting and construction at their new home, all during the manufacturing/distribution slowdown. During this time Pam and her husband took a wonderful driving trip east to see friends and their daughter in Vermont, and they went on a food/wine/culture small-group trip to the Loire. During her trips, Pam enjoyed visiting Judy Viadella, Warren Erickson, Susie Compton Pollard and Kathy Menges Zagunis. Pam gets together with Sarah Dean Peck, who also lives in the Traverse City area. Pam feels blessed by the surprise discovery of a half-sister, who found her through Ancestry.com. Jim Berrien still has his executive search business, Ahlberrien.com. He has two grandchildren. Sherry Alpert lives in Canton, Mass., and stays in frequent touch by Zoom with Hester Jacobs Kinnicutt ’73 at her Montana farm. Zoom has been a great way for two good friends who met at Wright House to stay connected. Sherry and Jay enjoy trips to Maine and the Berkshires. After a 58-year hiatus, Sherry began taking piano lessons and enjoys playing popular classics. Writing from Croatia, Mark Gero and his wife, Natalia, celebrated youngest daughter Stella’s high school graduation in Zagreb. Stella is studying psychology at the University of Amsterdam. After 26 years of raising daughters, Mark and Natalia are empty nesters. Les Revlock worked most of her career in IT infrastructure and operations. She now lives in Williamsburg, Va., where she is a campus minister at the College of William and Mary. Helping students discover and explore spirituality is the focus of her work. Sports are still of major importance; the theme of her life is “praying and playing.” She says, “My summers are like being at camp, playing tennis, kayaking and playing on a senior softball team twice a week.” She keeps in touch with Cathy Backus. Joya Granbery Hoyt (MFA, Dance) published Expressive Arts Your Way, a full-color workbook filled with lively and inspiring lesson plans, geared toward middle school-aged children through adults. Lessons in visual arts, dance, music, film and sculpture also involve cooking, sewing and creative writing. Projects are designed to require minimal expense for participants and teachers. Greeted every day by “lots of sky, rabbits, deer, sand cranes, antelope and wild turkeys,” Ellen Feldman Thorp and Edd returned to Big Horn for the summer, where they enjoy their bunkhouse while enduring the COVID-ubiquitous construction delays of their main house. They have a little side job setting up the fields for the Big Horn Polo Club across the road, which gives them a chance to become a part of the community “and ride the fields in a Gator when no one else is around!” She does some work for Globetrotters, an Australian company that brokers equestrian trips worldwide. During the summer, Ellen and Edd greet European guests for rides in Wyoming and show them around. They return to St. George, Utah, for the winter, where Ellen continues to develop her pickleball skills.

75 Correspondents: Miriam Josephson Whitehouse, casabanana1@qvi.net and Estella Johnson estella1.johnson@gmail.com Anita Guerrixi retired as the Horning Chair in the Humanities at Oregon State U. in January 2019 and moved back to Southern California (Ventura) in 2021.
She writes about the history of science and medicine and enjoys the sun and the ocean.**Patricia Johnson** retires this fall after 35 years as a professor of animal physiology at Cornell. She keeps in touch with Sarah Dean Peck ’74 and planned to visit her in Chicago in October. **Alison Mishkit** retired from her surgical practice after a 31-year career. She lives in Huntington, N.Y., and Boynton Beach, Fla. She loves to play pickleball and travel. **Paul Fulton** lives in Newton Center, Mass., after living in Chicago from 1975 to 1979. He and wife Cathy Greenwald Fulton ’76 have three children and one grandchild. He is self-employed as a psychologist and online instructor in the application of Buddhist psychology and psychotherapy. After graduating from Conn, Paul got two master’s degrees from the U. of Chicago and a doctorate from Harvard. **Margie Rosenbaum Bassman** keeps in touch with Pam Cutler Baxter and Elaine Lang Cornett. She still plays viola with a local community college orchestra and a professional Pops Orchestra. She enjoys performing in person after giving virtual viola lessons online. **Mark Warren** participated in the 26th Pan-Mass Challenge, a two-day, 190-mile bicycle ride, on Aug. 6-7. The ride benefits the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. He joined 6,500 other cyclists, including Steve Coh‘an ’78, Estella Johnson, Kevon Copeland ’76, Lisa Goldsen Yarboro, Saylon Harris Johnson, Tim Yarboro, Estella Johnson, Cynthia Payne and Sekazi Mtingwa, plus Kevon Copeland ’76.

**Correspondent: Stuart Sadick, stuart.sadick@gmail.com**

As I write this, I am basking in the afterglow of another wonderful Reunion! Our small(ish) but mighty band of classmates enjoyed spectacular weather on our gorgeous campus, and the College did an excellent job adjusting activities to maximize COVID safety and everyone’s comfort level. Reflecting on the weekend, one thing I always marvel at is the wonderful opportunity Reunion presents for getting to know classmates I never had the chance to get to know before. I cherish these “new” friendships and always look forward to making these connections. Many thanks to **Annie Rummage Fritschner** for creating and leading a most moving Service of Remembrance for the classmates we’ve lost over the years and, of course, thanks to the rest of our intrepid...

**Do You Know an AMAZING CAMEL?**

We invite you to nominate a fellow alum for the **CONNECTICUT COLLEGE 2023 REUNION ALUMNI AWARDS.** This year we will recognize alumni with class years ending in 3 or 8. Help us celebrate notable alumni for their service to Connecticut College or distinguished personal and professional accomplishments.

Send your nominations to the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement at alumni@conncoll.edu.
reunion planning committee (Stuart Sadick, Annie Rummage Frischner, Sheila Saunders, George Hulme and Pam Sharp Hulme, David Sargent) for their hard work! And, I feel duty-bound to make my pitch: Next Reunion, 2027 (doesn’t that seem like a year in a sci-fi story?), is the BIG ONE, 50! It’s never too early to share ideas for making it the best reunion ever! Let us know if you’d like to be involved. I hope you and yours are all well! Reach out any time.

For this issue, we asked: 1) What one thing are you grateful for at this point in your life? 2) Where is your “happy place,” and when were you last there? And 3) How did you, or will you, celebrate your “big” birthday? Here’s the scoop! Adele Gravitz moved to her happy place, Vermont, last November for a new job as planning director for the Town of Shelburne. While traveling there, she saw a moose and a rainbow! She bought an old house needing TLC, but she can walk to work. Before COVID, Adele traveled to Florence with her daughter. Carolyn Frzop previously shared her 2020 health battle with stage 4 lymphoma but is delighted to report having completed the half Ironman triathlon in late June; she had delayed participating because of her diagnosis. She is in remission and feels GREAT! Ellen Rambottom Jarrett answered 1 and 2 by reporting on the birth of granddaughter Ayla Jane Jarrett on July 2 to Tim Jarrett ’13 and Hannah. For her big birthday celebration, she enjoyed sailing in Greece with her children and their spouses. Visit her at her Porter Square Books store in Boston. Though still in Marblehead, Mass., she has a new home in New Harbor, Maine, for a future retirement spot. Alan Klugman is grateful to be healthy and celebrating life and lives with his wife in Middleton, Wisc., outside Madison. They are five minutes from their daughter and only 2.5 hours from their son in Chicago. Alan still enjoys full-time work as executive director of the Jewish Federation of Madison and traveling overseas despite the associated challenges. Laura Brown Narvaez also shared gratitude for the excellent health of her family: Husband Rick is happily retired from the law; daughter Maribel is a rising senior at Lynn U.; and son John is a rising senior at U. of Colorado, Boulder. Laura retired from a career in communications and enjoys her happy place: the tennis court! Barry Gross’ happy place is, no surprise, Citizens Bank Park in Philly, home of his Phillies, and being there with his daughter and son-in-law in 2021 was memorable. No retirement plans in his immediate future! Isabel Borras-Marin submitted a photo that says it all: Her happy place is in the Caribbean when she’s home in Puerto Rico or in the Mediterranean when summering with family in Mallorca, Spain! Peter Hallerman and Rindy Regan Hallerman have been retired for three years and bounce between Lincolnshire, Ill., and winters in California, where their kids and their families live: Nicole, Ethan and 3-year-old Mona are in the Bay Area; Sean, Tara, toddler Esme and baby Meyer live in Los Angeles. Peter and Rindy celebrated their 40th anniversary in Charleston, S.C. Karen Haas is grateful for good health and family and a job that keeps her on her toes: She’s senior curator of the Lane Collection, on view at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. She’s fronting “The Stillness of Things,” a fall show focusing on the ideal post-pandemic subject: photographic still life. Margie Libson Ordog celebrated her big birthday with a family trip to Iceland, traveling along the southern coast with her husband, their three kids and one girlfriend. They saw waterfalls, northern lights, calving glaciers, seals, ice caves and more on this amazing adventure! Je Lonstein and Nancy Heaton Lonstein mark their 48th year as a CC couple this fall! Jeff continues to work long hours and talks about semiretiring while Nancy enjoys her post-pandemic career as an end-of-life doula and Reiki master. They see the families of Tom Mortimer, Betty Hamberger Cohen and Judy Nichols Paul ’77 regularly. Nancy and Jeff are forever grateful to CC for bringing them together and for providing such amazing early-adult learning and fun experiences that have stayed with them always. Jim Diskant is grateful to be married to a wonderful man and enjoying life together in Berlin, Germany. In January, he became a naturalized German citizen! Alan Goodwin writes in his inaugural message: “I’m still working as a city planner in Charlotte, N.C., having moved from Rhode Island to North Carolina in 2007. Married to Darlena for 29 years. We traded in our big dream house for a smaller home with a great front porch in a great walkable neighborhood in Cornelius, N.C. My CC yard flag is proudly displayed, along with Darlena’s UNC–Chapel Hill flag. Had both of my knees replaced this year, which has curtailed my cycling for a while. Accomplished my first ‘century’ (100-mile ride) in 2020. We get back to the New London area at least once a year to visit family, and that is still my happy place.” This summer, Laurie Heiss’ son, Connor Grealy, married Jenna Leigh Davis in Jackson Hole, Wyo. The wedding couple met at Brown after growing up on opposite US coasts, and they and their pup call Brooklyn, N.Y., home for now. Said Laurie, “Just try not crying during that mother-son dance with your only child!” And finally, on June 5, Cli Kozemchak attended the Memorial Event honoring and celebrating the life of Charlie Luce, coach and athletic director, which was held at the Charles B. Luce Field House. Cliff knew Billy Luce ’81 would be there but was pleased to also see Ted Carjanine ’79, Pauli Canali ’79, Danny Levy ’79 and Herb Kenny ’80—all six were members of the Conn basketball team and fortunate to call Charlie Luce “Coach.” It was a wonderful event attended by 200+ Camel fans. Cliff spoke with President Katherine Bergeron, who praised Coach Luce for guiding Conn into the NESCAC and emphasized what a huge plus that has been for the College. Cliff also talked with Ric Ricci, crew coach. After Conn, Cliff rowed in grad school on the crew team at U. of Chicago and then competed in a single for Vesper in Philly and later University Barge. Ric remains a huge fan of Coach Luce’s. Said Cliff, “I know many in our class played sports and have very fond memories of Coach Luce. It warmed my heart to know that he was remembered by the College so appropriately, and hopefully it does the same for you.”

Correspondents: Susan Greenberg Gold, rggoldg@gmail.com, and Laurie Heiss, laureytheiss@gmail.com
If you couldn’t make it, know you were missed. While it was a small group, we had big fun cuddling the Class of ’82’s reunion. It was so wonderful to see Nancy Lundeberg, Kevin Sullivan, Marie Richard Abraham, Rick Gersten, Rusty Spears, Sally Langer, Scott Heer, Mindy Kerman, Paul “Mack the Knife” Esscol, Laura Allen, Christy Beckwith Bensley, Shane O’Keefe, Norm Livingston, Kenny Goldstein, Dave Geller and Harry Moore. Christine Burke Cesare was there, too, with her husband, Ed Cesare ’82, so I guess she was not technically crashing. So sorry if I left anyone out. If so, let me know and I’ll make sure it’s in the next column. We did miss being in Harkness, but sharing Smith with folks like Allen Moore ’82, John DiRe ’82, Putnam Goodwin-Boyd ’82 and Max Moore ’82 (just to name a few) really did feel like old times.

Dave “Elmo” Evans ’80 and John “Moyah” Jund ’80 also stopped by! Lots of dancing, drinking, laughing and eating pretty much sums it up. Hopefully in the next set of Class Notes some folks who attended can share more about the weekend, but suffice to say, a great time was had by all. Beth Radcliffe and husband Terry Greene celebrated their 40th anniversary this year in the company of many friends, including Carol Marton ’80. Lastly, PLEASE send me notes. I really (REALLY) hate being a nag. You know you like to read about others, so trust me when I say, THEY like to read about YOU. My email is above. Thanks!

Several alumni reunited at a field hockey game this fall. Back row (from left): athletic director Ms. White, Lisa Troup Fitzgerald ’83, Holly Golden Samocos ’83, former coach Chrisy Chappell, former field hockey coach ’83, former coach ’83 and coach ’83. From front row (from left): Tamara Brown Wolfe ’84 and Kathryn Smith ’84.

Friends from the Class of ’84 celebrated their 30th birthdays with the mother of classmate Elizabeth East Speers, who passed away last fall. Back row, from left: Shelly Warman Santanello, Charlene “Chuckie” Toal Best, Sue Speers, Paula Trearchis ’81. Front row, from left: Caroline “Livy” Shepard Bolick and Jane Mckee Douglas.

Floralia, being the first one to buy tickets when Bonnie Raitt and Spyra Gyra played at Conn (maybe Pat Metheny too, but I can’t remember). I also recall taking opera class on Sunday nights. After a weekend of partying, I had to sit through an entire opera (sometimes Wagner and Verdi), take notes and not fall asleep.” I, Liza Helman Kra, thoroughly enjoyed our 40th reunion! The college and reunion committee did a stellar job once again. Friday night’s Music on the Meadow, featuring three different musical acts, was in a magical setting and a great addition to Reunion Weekend, especially when President Katherine Bergeron sang “Angels from Montgomery” and her husband accompanied! Saturday’s highlights included the picnic (I loved the sandwich and salad bar), Chapel memorial service, and the tribute to Jerry Schanz mentioned above. Of course, the dinner and dancing after were fun as well! Please send me info for the next column!

Correspondent: Claudia Gould Tielking, 6533 Mulroy Street, McLean VA 22101, charisbudworth@gmail.com Paige Cottingham-Streater was honored to receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon imperial decoration from the Government of Japan. She is “especially grateful to Professor Tom Havens and the Connecticut College faculty who encouraged and supported my interest in Japan and international relations.”
88 What a treat to be back on campus for a baroque concert in the Guest Artist Series to honor Professor of Music John Anthony. It was wonderful to share stories and photos of John’s 50 years of dedication to the students of Connecticut College and the campus community. Jim Beers and Carol Stratton Beers ’89 attended the performance and reception with longtime friends (whom they met after their years at Conn) Pauline Imberman ’87 and Marc Baylin ’85. “We were thrilled to see past students return and have the chance to reconnect with John and each other.”

89 Correspondent: Tamsen Bales Sharpless, camel89news@gmail.com Noelle Ishin and her significant other, Stewart Ross, met up with Stacy Xanthos Pearce and her husband, along with Stacey’s sister, Tara Xanthos Santos, and her husband, Scott, at Abbott’s Lobster in the Rough, in Noank, Conn., as they passed through on their way to Narragansett, R.I., for a weekend in June. On the way home, they stopped in Old Saybrook, Conn., and had lunch with Kristina James White and her husband, Peter. Elizabeth Kraft Jones is enjoying her empty-nest days and a new career as an integrative health coach at Companion Health, in Charlotte, N.C. She loves helping her clients optimize their health so that they can feel better and live longer! Whenever she visits her father in Pittsfield, Mass., she enjoys staying with Marianna Potassse, classmate and friend since 1986, at her home with her family in the Berkshires. Elizabeth notes, “The older I get, the more grateful I am for my close friends from Conn and the memories we continue to make!” Melissa O’Neill Albert is celebrating 30 years in glorious Seattle, where she lives with husband John and sons Malcolm (16) and Seamus (18), who has started at Roosevelt’s Little White House, in Warm Springs, Ga. She was inspired after reading his biography last year who all live in the great Northwest. Stephanie Hamed Borowy finally ventured to Roosevelt’s Santa Clara U., in Silicon Valley. Melissa works with a boutique communications firm for clients in health care, tech and organizations focused on climate. In addition to never missing any of her sons’ games, Melissa stays busy with Democratic politics and advising startups for fun. She spent time with her fabulous freshman roommates, Elizabeth Peterson Cellia and Gabrielle Antoniadis, and friends. If you’d like to connect on Facebook, leave a message. Jennifer Lapan ’94 moved to Fort Myers, Fla., a year ago and works at Shell Point Retirement Community as a dishwasher and utility worker. Brian Field’s solo piano work for climate change awareness, “Three Passions for Our Tortured Planet,” was awarded Platinum Prize at the North American Virtuoso International Music Competition and Gold Medal at the Global International Music Competition. Pam Goldberg ’91 is among the dozens of pianists from around the world joining the project.

Our class was a strong group, enjoying lobster on Tempel Green, dinner under the tent, shopping at the Bookshop, catching up, catching up, catching up ... and just running around campus. Our banner and our slideshow live on! And some of us can still party! Clem Butt was our class celebrity, with delicious Clément Vignot wines featured in our Blackstone living room as if they were running water. Please mark your calendar now for our 40th — in June of 2027! Maggie Simonelli is a painter and shows regularly at galleries. Last fall she had an exhibit called “Scatter Pearls, Heart of Water” at the Sara Nightingale Gallery, in the Hamptons of Long Island, N.Y. Maggie and Sara Nightingale ’84 have been exhibiting together for many years. In February, Maggie completed a beautiful commission called Heart of Water for one of Sara’s collectors. Rena Whitehouse and her husband moved to the Boulder, Colo., area after she left her corporate job with Cox Communications. They enjoy the beauty of the Colorado mountains and stay busy hiking and playing pickleball. Rena is building her practice as an executive coach, working with a range of clients, from MBA students to seasoned leaders to women reentering the workforce. She still officiates NCAA women’s lacrosse and was honored to be selected to work the 2022 World Lacrosse Women’s World Championship in June in Maryland. In response to COVID, Jennifer Stewart Risher and husband David launched the #HalMyDAF challenge with $1 million in matching grants to inspire more giving from donor-advised funds. Now, three years in, #HalMyDAF has moved over $26 million from DAFs to non-profits. Jennifer’s book, We Need to Talk: A Memoir About Wealth, was published in September 2020. The Class of 1987 sends sympathy to the family and friends of Alex Werner, who died April 9, 2020. A resident of Sag Harbor, N.Y., Alex was deeply involved in the fishing community of Sag Harbor and worked for many years at Loaves & Fishes Foodstore, in Sagaponack, and at the Southampton Animal Shelter. He is survived by his wife, Maria, and a stepson.

89 Correspondent: Daniella Garaus, dgaraus@gmail.com Elia, Class of ’94! If you haven’t already, please follow @camels94 on Instagram, especially if you aren’t on Facebook. Jennifer Lapan Mann was approved as a McDonald’s franchisee at the end of last year. “From June 2021 through February 2022, I partnered with the state health department to host over 100 vaccine clinics, and over 4,000 shots were administered. I also took a 10-day family trip to Scotland, where I paid tribute to our dear friend Esther and her homeland.” Lynne Saliba Moronski writes, “Sending our little one to Conn for Class of 2026! She took a tour and fell in love with the school. It had nothing to
do with me! I’m excited for her and secretly glad she chose Conn. Go, Camels!”

Daniella Defilipp Garran happened to be on campus and outside of Cro the day Lynne’s daughter was touring and told the whole group what an incredible experience she had at Conn. Perhaps that was the sales pitch that convinced Lynne’s daughter! Continuing a ritual going back 23 years, Dan Levine, Chris McDaniel, Jon Finnimore, Dana Roussmani, Charles Stackhouse and Todd Maguire gathered at an Airbnb in Connecticut for grilling, golf and laughs. Nearby resident Bill Mulligan joined them Friday night to boost attendance. Repeated doses of tequila and ibuprofen (not at the same time) kept the linksmen medicated over the long weekend as the group caught up. Several glasses were raised in tribute to recently departed classmate Esther Potter Za. Her memory remains strong in our hearts and minds.

Erik Raven was sworn in as the Under Secretary of the Navy on April 13. He now serves as the number two civilian overseeing the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Previously, he worked in the U.S. Senate for 24 years on national security issues, culminating in seven years as the Democratic Clerk of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. In this position, he was responsible for oversight of more than $700 billion in annual defense and intelligence spending. Erik lives in Washington, DC, with his wife, Ann, and their son, Edward.

For their 20th anniversary, Rodney Ortiz and Mitzchka Basman Ortiz renewed their wedding vows on June 26 at Ocean Beach in front of 102 bridesmaids (the most ever seen in Connecticut) and 200 guests. Rodney and Mitzchka met at Conn; both graduated with bachelor’s degrees in Economics and went on to pursue advanced degrees. On their 25th wedding anniversary, in 2027, they hope to beat the world record of 126 bridesmaids! Many of their CC friends were in attendance: best man Gldiy Dupont ’98; bridesmaids Lisa Lazarus ’01, Nicole McClean ’98, Kamilah Sargent Brown and Dana Qadir-Vargas ’98; and Elizabeth Waller Peterson ’84 and Jeannine Ferrer Zapata ’00.

In August 2021, Liesl Bauer Judah and her family visited Camels in Boston and New York: George and Tara Adam Noeth, Lauren Sinclair Scherr and Wyler Scherr, Lesley Gerberding, and Lauren Luciano Tirrell. They also saw Lindsey Kravits, Alissa Goldhaber, Erich Archer and Tara Peek.

Correspondent: Nora Guerrera, noraguererra@gmail.com

Ben Berge married Sophie Collett in Exmouth, England. CC friends Ethan Powell and his wife, Angela Campbell ’02, and Mark Hanson and his wife, Ashley, attended the celebration. Tiana Davis Hercules’ eldest son, Meschac Zion Hercules, graduated from high school. He
Alexandra “Allie” Smith married Jeff Gilbert on July 13, 2019, in Rye, N.H. There were three generations of Camels in attendance! They welcomed Nora Josephine Gilbert on May 15, 2021.

Erin Holstein married Eric Mogel on Sept. 25, 2021, in Beacon, N.Y.

Brigida Palatino Froling and Kevin Froling were married on March 19 at Union Station in Northampton, Mass. Many Camels were in attendance, including Frantzy Noze (who worked at Conn with men’s soccer), Tania Armellino (who worked at Conn with women’s soccer), Leah Johnson Hancock, James Jackson ’11, Isaac Hancock, Je Baird, Jake Landry ’13, Jourdan Perez, Norm Riker (women’s head soccer coach) and Gabrielle Antoniadis ’89.

Oliver Schlette Stilwell was born on Feb. 25 to Audrey Schlette Stilwell and Tyler Stilwell ’11.

In July, Ben Voce-Gardner ’02, Tugba Gurcanlar ’04 and Kelly Hart ’04 caught a show at the 9:30 Club in Washington, DC.

Class of ’08 Alana Waksman’s debut feature film, e Burn Like This, can be streamed online. The award-winning film stars Madeleine Coghlan (The Rookie) and Devery Jacobs (Reservation Dogs) and is executive-produced by Neda Armian (Rachel Getting Married).

Jacqueline Cousineau ’08 met up with Alana Waksman ’08 in Deauville, France, in September 2021. Alana’s debut feature film, e Burn Like This, premiered internationally at Deauville American Film Festival, where it screened as one of 13 films elected for the competition. In its 47th year, Deauville American Film Festival is the second-largest festival in France, second to Cannes Film Festival.

is attending Marymount Manhattan, pursuing media and film production studies. Ted Ketterer is a father of twin girls, Rose and Reese, born in February 2021. This past June, he was promoted to head of marketing for the Coca-Cola Company in Brazil and moved to São Paulo in August with wife Inaja and Instagram star dogs Reuben and Ruby (@reebenthebatdog). Benjamin Klein and wife Lauren Brown, along with sons Max (7) and Nathan (4), welcomed baby Vivian on May 15. They live in Concord, Mass. David Merrill and wife Christine (and their two pups) welcomed daughter Joanna Avalon Merrill on May 27. They moved to San Diego five years ago and love life at the beach. In July, Ben Voce-Gardner ’02, Tugba Gurcanlar and Kelly Hart ’04 caught a show at the 9:30 Club in Washington, DC. Ben is director of the Office of Counter Terrorism for the state of New York. Tugba is a senior economist at the World Bank Group and recently led the design and passage of a $280 million investment program on innovation in Argentina. Kelly spent two years in Turkey and is currently assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua as a diplomat with the State Department. Ben and Kelly frequently serve together in uniform as commanders in the State Department. Ben and Kelly frequently serve together in the U.S. military.

In July, Annie Tselikis ’04; Jeff Mandell ’04; Suzie Connor Woodward ’06; Ryan Woodward; Woodward children Quinn, Willa and Ryder; and Stephanie-Lee Morgan Patton ’04 got together for a mini-reunion in Maine.
1930s
Ruth Hollingshead Clark ’38 died April 20, 2022

1940s
Mary Stevenson Stow ’42 died May 10, 2022
Mary Surgenor Baker ’43 died May 17, 2022
Jacqueline Pinney Dunbar ’44 died July 14, 2022
Mildred Gremlcy Hodgson ’44 died June 9, 2022
Diane Goes Vogel ’44 died June 28, 2022
Harriet Abbott Baker ’46 died May 22, 2022
Elizabeth Healy ’46 died March 17, 2022
Priscilla Wilkins Magee ’46 died March 18, 2022
Marilyn Coughlin Rudolph ’46 died April 13, 2022
Julia Cooper Gould ’47 died February 12, 2022
Patricia Ferguson Hartley ’47 died July 4, 2022
Nancy Powers Thompson ’47 died June 20, 2022
Helen McCrossin Tudisco ’48 died July 14, 2021
Gloria Mariani Richards ’49 died May 24, 2022

1950s
Elizabeth McConoughey Barker ’50 died September 5, 2021
Sylvia Snitkin Frumer ’50 died April 7, 2022
Elizabeth Lowengard ’50 died June 21, 2022
Rhoda Levy Schlein ’51 died March 12, 2021
Nancy Eldredge Chellgren ’52 died June 25, 2022
Nancy Clark Anderson ’53 died March 2, 2022
Rhoda Berman Kaufman ’53 died July 9, 2022
Joan Silverherz Brundage ’54 died June 14, 2022
Marianne Fisher Hess ’54 died March 12, 2022
Jane Plumer Mansfield ’55 died June 2, 2022
Judith Gordon Saks ’56 died October 24, 2021
Lois Crouch DelPapa ’55 died July 8, 2022
Lynn Sickley O’Hearn ’55 died March 22, 2022
Carole Awad Hunt ’56 died July 4, 2022
Mary Ann Hinsch Meanwell ’56 died February 18, 2022
Dorothy Egan ’57 died March 9, 2022
Judith Crouch Johnson ’57 died unknown
Anne German Dobbs ’59 died June 25, 2022
Sarah Klein Kreimer ’59 died January 1, 2022

1960s
Penny Silver Evans ’60 died April 16, 2022
Nancy Switzer Foss ’60 died May 23, 2022
Nancy Sternheimer Friedman ’60 died May 30, 2022
Irene Jackson Wills ’60 died May 14, 2022
Beverley Hill Windatt ’60 died July 2, 2022
Barbara Carson Bach ’61 died unknown

1970s
Hillary Turtletaub Costin ’71 died March 11, 2022
Karen Fenholt Vander Lee ’71 died June 16, 2022
Paula Wolf Carlson ’72 died July 9, 2020
Isabel Kip ’72 died September 5, 2008
Nancy Chambers Lipkin ’72 died November 29, 1993
Marilyn Mode ’72 died February 21, 2019
Michael Ware ’72 died May 25, 2022
Cynthia Heebner Ambukewicz ’76 died March 17, 2021
Gail Severance ’77 died July 16, 2016
Sharon McIntire Wood ’77 died May 17, 2022

1980s
Diane McCue ’80 died April 7, 2022
Judith Vitali ’81 died May 13, 2022
Darlinda Gibbs ’84 died June 11, 2022
Alex Werner ’87 died April 9, 2020

1990s
Kenneth Langevin ’90 died March 12, 2022
Esther Potter Za ’94 died May 14, 2022
Elena Boneski Dolan ’97 died February 19, 2021
Dawn Ouimet ’98 died June 1, 2022

2000s
Todd Anderson ’05 died July 13, 2020
A Great Sign

The main entrance to Connecticut College got quite the upgrade this fall: a double-sided illuminated sign with a masonry stone base was installed in September. The new entrance marker measures more than 32 feet long and stands nearly 6 feet high, making it clearly visible from both directions of Route 32. Made possible by a generous gift from Karen and Rob ’88 Hale P’20, the sign was designed by Lawrin D. Rosen, president of the Bloomfield, Connecticut-based signage, architectural fabrication and corporate art company ARTfx, Inc. “It fits perfectly with the other architectural elements at the entrance to campus, including the iconic curved stone wall featuring the College’s seal,” said Conn’s Director of Creative Services Benjamin Parent. “While visitors to campus will certainly notice the beautiful new sign, it also appears as if it has always been there.”
WE ARE AT OUR BEST...

... WHEN EVERY CAMEL THRIVES.

Support the Connecticut College Fund and ignite possibilities for all our students.

To make your gift today, call 800-888-7549 or visit giving.connecoll.edu.

Assistant Professor Maria Rosa and students deploy artificial eel balls along the Thames waterfront, creating a habitat for marine life and saving aquatic ecosystems.
Conn's newly revitalized waterfront features new spaces and facilities for sailing, rowing, marine science and recreation. Look for more in the Winter 2023 issue of CC Magazine.