LFG
The fight for equal pay
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On the cover: Soccer star Megan Rapinoe is interviewed for LFG, a documentary about the U.S. Women’s National Team’s fight for equal pay. Photo by Sean Fine ’96

On this page: Dance students participate in a master class led by choreographer Ronald K. Brown in Martha Myers Dance Studio. Photo by Sean Elliot
Since its launch five years ago, the Defy Boundaries campaign, the most ambitious in our history, has had a profound impact on our campus. I see it every day. From the arts to the sciences, research to athletics, global education to career preparation, Defy Boundaries is providing vital resources, lifting up Conn’s excellence, and creating new academic and co-curricular opportunities that are redefining the future. All of this is burnishing Conn’s reputation as an innovative college whose life-changing education propels students toward 21st-century success.

This fall, we took Defy Boundaries on the road, with a series of exciting events in cities across the country. Our first stop was New York City in September, followed by Minneapolis and Chicago in November. Additional visits are planned this year and next for San Francisco; Los Angeles; Boston; Washington, D.C.; and other locations.

It has been wonderful to connect with so many generations of alumni and parents. Attracting people across eight decades—from the 1950s right up to the Class of 2022—the events have included on-stage conversations with some of our brilliant Camels. In New York City, Susana Hancock ’07, a transdisciplinary Arctic researcher, talked about her work on the science and politics of the climate crisis. In Chicago, Chakena D. Perry ’16, a community organizer and voting rights champion, discussed her work on environmental justice as the youngest countywide elected official serving on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

Our goal in taking the Defy Boundaries campaign to you is to give everyone the opportunity to reconnect with Conn and to re-experience its excellence, while hearing about the latest developments on campus and in the campaign. Thus far, Conn alumni and friends have contributed more than $247 million, and by that support, we are pushing forward to reach our $300 million goal in the next 18 months. Your contributions are transforming everything we do in and out of the classroom, including major investments in student-faculty research, the arts, global study, and athletics, as well as financial aid to support outstanding students from every background.

In this edition of the magazine, you’ll read about the impact Defy Boundaries has already had on our revitalized campus waterfront, with its beautiful new facilities for sailing, rowing, marine science and recreation. And you’ll read about the power and potential of new gifts to transform the College Center at Crozier-Williams into a more vibrant and welcoming home for student life. You’ll also read about how our alumni and faculty are pushing the boundaries in their own work: how Dana Hartman Freyer ’65 is aiding Afghan refugees to build new lives; how Oscar-winning filmmaker Sean Fine ’96 is inspiring audiences to become agents of change by taking viewers inside the U.S. Women’s Soccer Team’s fight for equal pay; and how artists and scholars from around the world recently came together on Conn’s campus to challenge the limits of art, technology, performance, and participation.

As I begin my 10th year at Conn, it is these kinds of successes—on our campus and in the lives of our graduates—that make me so optimistic about the future of our College. And as we build on the campaign’s considerable momentum, I invite you to join me at a future Defy Boundaries event, so you can be as inspired as I am every day by the endless creativity, generosity, and wisdom of the Conn community.

Yours,

Katherine Bergeron
Unmoored by Love

Sophia Bianchi ’26, left, and Brielle Blood ’24 starred in the Theater Department’s production of *The Moors* in Conn’s black box Tansill Theater in November. Written by Jen Silverman and directed by Associate Professor of Theater Kenneth Prestinanzi, the play is a funny and dark comedy about living in a big, isolated, Gothic house filled with hidden lusts and rage in England’s unnerving Yorkshire moors.

Upon the arrival of an unsuspecting young woman answering a job advertisement, the household’s two sisters, along with a maid, dog and forlorn moorhen, begin to unravel in this strange mash-up world of desire, identity and rivalry. Edgy and contemporary, *The Moors* pushes Victorian tropes to such extreme limits that even the Brontë sisters would be shocked at its moxie and daring.

Blood played Agatha, the head of the household and one of the sisters, while Bianchi played the new governess, Emilie. “*The Moors* tells the complicated story of how each character’s ambitions in life and love ultimately lead to their downfalls or triumphs,” Bianchi said. “Playing Emilie allowed me to discover the secrets of the show with the audience. It’s a role I will cherish.”

Prestinanzi called the production “beautiful, smart and dangerous.” “The characters become unmoored by love. No one could be trusted in this wickedly comic play about the conflict between desire and control,” he said.

*The Moors* was presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
Addressing Housing Equity

In response to a growing need for affordable housing in the New London region, Connecticut College is partnering with the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut and several other colleges and nonprofit organizations to launch the Center for Housing Equity and Opportunities in Eastern CT (CHEO).

The center will officially begin its work this spring to facilitate a coordinated, regional response to improve housing affordability in Eastern Connecticut. Based on similar efforts in other parts of the state, CHEO will work with housing practitioners, municipalities and policymakers to develop a regional strategy to increase, preserve and protect a full spectrum of housing that fosters equity and opportunity for all.

“One of CHEO’s core goals is to harness the collective power of stakeholders in the region—policy makers, residents, practitioners and community organizers—to implement innovative, regional solutions. As a leading academic institution in eastern Connecticut, the College has a critical role to play and we are honored to have been brought into this initiative on the ground floor,” said Amy Dooling, Conn’s dean of strategic and global initiatives.

“Even at this nascent stage, it’s clear there will be myriad opportunities for students, faculty and staff who understand housing as a basic human right to get involved and contribute their knowledge and expertise to advance CHEO’s mission.”

Established as a strategic partnership between Connecticut College, the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, the Housing Collective, Partnership for Strong Communities, Regional Plan Association, United Way of Southeastern CT, and Eastern Connecticut State University, CHEO will align regional resources and deliver equitable housing solutions throughout the region.

Through the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy, Conn regularly collaborates with local organizations to address important community issues, including housing access and homelessness.

“Being part of a regional alliance committed to addressing equitable access to safe and affordable housing aligns well with Conn’s educational and community goals, especially the ongoing work of the Holleran Center on this very issue here in New London,” Dooling said.

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Catja Christensen ’23 grew up immersed in the performing arts: Her father is a musician, she and her brother are dancers, her sisters make music and her mother sings. But it was an image she saw in a dance history class, of a bird with its feet facing forward and head looking backward, that inspired her to spend four years studying communication across disciplines—from dance performance to nonfiction writing. She analyzed the preservation of multicultural societies and explored her animating question: How does reporting on arts and cultural events reflect and influence societal values?

“The image of the bird is called the Sankofa, a Swahili word that means ‘learning from the past to ensure a stronger future,’” Christensen told faculty, staff and students gathered to hear her presentation at Conn’s fourth annual All-College Symposium in November. “It struck me as a perfect example of how careful preservation of artistic and cultural artifacts is important in order to progress more equitably in modern society.”

A dance and English double major and scholar in the Media, Rhetoric and Communication Pathway, Christensen was one of 240 seniors who presented at the day-long Symposium, the culminating Connections conference highlighting students’ integrative learning through four years. In talks, panels and poster sessions, the student presenters showcased the connections they have made among their courses and research, their jobs and internships, and their work in local communities and around the globe—along with the questions that animated their choices.

In their presentations, Christensen’s fellow seniors covered a range of topics, including racial and gender disparities in health care, cultural xenophilia in the context of war, the anthropological evolution of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, bias in machine learning algorithms, the economics of food access, inequities in the American foster care system, the role of women in the IRA, the future of addiction recovery and COVID’s impact on plastic waste in the world’s oceans.

President Katherine Bergeron, who attended more than 30 of the presentations, said she was moved by “all the smart ideas, the thoughtful presentations, the beautiful visuals and the kindness and generosity of this amazing community.”

Bergeron praised the seniors for persevering in the midst of a global pandemic to make important connections among all of their coursework, research, internships and experiences on campus and in communities around the world.

“The idea that everything is connected is something that I felt all through the day. It is the reason why this College and this curriculum are so special,” she said.
It was a nail-biter that ended in a checkmate. Conn competed in the prestigious Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship in Seattle, Washington, in January and took first place in the Top Four-Year Small College category.

Miles Griffin ’23, Jaron Bernard ’23, Adithya Saranathan ’26 and Will Mears ’24 formed the competitive team that represented Conn’s chess club, which has more than 30 members. The competition format was six rounds over four days. Heading into the final round, Conn was tied with the United States Air Force Academy on every metric, but won by half a point to take the match and the overall prize for the category.

“This is the only time we will ever want the U.S. Air Force to lose,” Mears joked. 

Griffin added, “We’ve actually been trying to win this award in this competition for the past three years. In the past, we’ve had a strong team, but lost on tiebreaks with Caltech, so as a senior there was a sense of relief to finally get the job done before my graduation.”

The club’s vice president, Griffin hails from Califon, New Jersey, and is double majoring in physics and music technology. He learned chess when he was 7, but didn’t start playing competitively until high school.

Bernard, the club president, learned the game from his father when he was 5. The quantitative economics major from Montclair, New Jersey, credits Mears for his own win in Seattle, which was key to Conn’s team winning their category.

“‘In the first round we played the University of Vermont,’” he recalled. “‘I found myself constantly checking on Will to see how he was handling the pressure of his first-ever chess tournament. He played a brilliant game and crushed his highly rated opponent in a very mature manner, which gave me motivation in my own game. I ended up winning due to a tactical blow that won my opponent’s queen.’”

Bernard was the highest scoring individual on board two in the entire event with a 5.5/6, or five wins, one draw, no losses.

Mears, a double major in math and computer science from Andover, Massachusetts, said, “Jaron reminded me how much I love the game. I played a tiny amount as a kid in fourth grade. For the past 10 months I’ve been playing pretty consistently every day.”

Saranathan, a first-year student from Los Angeles who plans to double major in government and statistics/data science, competed in his first tournament when he was 6 and played through middle school. When he started at Conn and heard about the chess club, he picked the game up again.

“I was glad that our team pulled off the win,” he said. “It was a mentally taxing tournament, so it felt great to finally pull it off.”
Two Conn students took separate trips abroad over winter break to help Ukrainian residents and refugees.

Olha Vasyliv ’23 went home to Kyiv for the first time since before war broke out to visit her family. With advice from child psychologists and a grant from Conn’s Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity, she also supplied her alma mater, European Collegium, with art therapy tools to help students cope with the stress of war.

Meanwhile, Ethan Bankowski ’24 assisted the International Medical Relief organization as part of a crew of 14 doctors, nurses, physician assistants and one other non-medical volunteer to care for Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

Vasyliv, a sociology and French double major, was studying abroad in Paris last year and had a flight booked to Ukraine on Feb. 25, 2022. But then Russia invaded on Feb. 24. So, finally going home last month and seeing her family and her country has been healing for her, even if daily life looks different.

“I lived through a missile attack, and I was not panicking at the moment because everybody knew what to do. There is a procedure for where to go,” she said.

Vasyliv’s 9-year-old brother attends European Collegium and her mother is a principal there. When air raid sirens blare, sometimes for several hours a day, hundreds of students seek shelter in the school’s basement.

“They have to keep themselves occupied, so psychological support is very, very needed and I’m happy that I was able to give back,” she said.

Bankowski, a biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology major who intends to become a doctor, had been seeking an opportunity to gain more experience in the public health field.

“I’ve always been interested in international humanitarian health. The need in this crisis in particular with the Russian-Ukrainian war was most compelling.”

Nearly 10 million Ukrainian refugees have crossed the border to Poland since the invasion last year, and most of them lack access to medical care. Many left their medications behind or have long since run out.

“We would go to a new refugee shelter every day, set up a temporary clinic there, and just treat as many people as we could,” he said. “Some people had longstanding health problems and hadn’t had a chance to see a doctor. Some people just needed to talk to someone. There is a lot of anxiety and a lot of depression in these communities.”

Bankowski added, “I can’t imagine living the life of a doctor and not being involved with trips like this.”
Eric Lotring loved Disney, collected pins and was a proud member of the Mickey Mouse Club. He was 31. Christopher Gillis was a member of the Paul Taylor Dance Company, an artist, a choreographer, a brother, a son, a lover, a friend. He was 42. Larry Michael Nelson, from New London, was 39. Linda Marie Moran was just 25. George Kish, who worked at IBM and raised three loving sons, had already lost more than 60 friends to AIDS by the time of his own death in 1992. He was 58.

In Connecticut College’s black box Tansill Theater in late November, dozens of students silently stood before the quilted panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt that bear their names, images, mementos and stories, each stitched—and many signed—by those who loved them.

In their “Theater of the AIDS Epidemic” course with Associate Professor of Theater Virginia Anderson, the students had learned about the quilt, the premier symbol of the AIDS epidemic, and some had even helped unpack the more than 70 panels for their exhibition at Conn, which ran Nov. 29 through Dec. 4. But being in the presence of the expansive panels, spotlight and hanging floor-to-ceiling on three sides of the room, was a completely different experience.

“When I saw photos of the quilt before it came to Conn, I had no emotional attachment to it,” said Julio Ortiz ’25. “Seeing it in person was very emotional. I spent a half hour alone with the quilt, in complete silence, just taking in every word, every image, every detail, every life.”

This is the third time Anderson, who joined Conn’s faculty in 2013, has brought sections of the quilt to campus. Originally conceived in 1985 by human rights activist, author and lecturer Cleve Jones, the full quilt now weighs more than 54 tons and is composed of more than 48,000 panels dedicated to more than 94,000 individuals. It is also the largest ongoing piece of community folk art in the world.

“It’s been a goal of mine to host the quilt every four years so every Connecticut College student has an opportunity to experience and learn from it,” Anderson said. “There is so much we can learn about compassion from the quilt. The love and care that went into making each panel really makes you think not only about the lives lost, but also the people who were left behind.”

Anderson said she was heartened by the response from the community. Specific panels can be requested; this year she received more requests than ever before. The exhibition also coincided with World AIDS Day, observed on Dec. 1, and hundreds of Conn and greater New London community members visited.

But it was the response from the students—all of whom were born after the height of the epidemic—that has been the most encouraging.

“They are so engaged. And many of them are angry—angry about what happened, but also about the fact that they weren’t taught about what happened,” she said.

Elora Maxwell ’26 is one of those students. “So few of us knew a lot about the epidemic, and some, like me, were taught nothing about it at all,” she said. “We need to remember those who were lost and those who fought for their lives, because it is important for us to see what happens when we let hate and bigotry triumph over compassion and love.”

Maxwell’s classmate Skylar Gould ’26 said the quilt shows “the legacy of AIDS and the lives it took in a form that cannot be denied or minimized.” It is not only a memorial, she said, “but a physical and massive counterargument to the ways AIDS has been ignored in the news and the history books.”

Maddy Fisher ’26 added that seeing the quilt and learning about the AIDS epidemic is motivating for her and her classmates.

“The younger generations are the ones who need to make the change. We are capable of making progress,” she said. “This kind of education, exposure and awareness is just the beginning. It’s simply the launching point.”
What Haunts Our Young People

Faulk Foundation Professor of Psychology Jefferson A. Singer explains why today’s college students need—and deserve—more support than ever before

After six years as Dean of the College and a year of sabbatical, I returned to teaching this fall at Connecticut College. Over winter holiday gatherings, I received the well-intended question, “What’s it like teaching again?” My answer was always, “I’ve really enjoyed it.” In fact, my first-year students are unusually grateful. It’s not uncommon to hear at the end of classes, “Thank you, professor.” This might be due to them spending the two previous years learning under remote and/or masked conditions.

But there is something else I have never seen in of 35 years in academia—a hint of fear in their eyes, a kind of nervousness that never leaves. It’s not uncommon to hear at the end of classes, “Thank you, professor.” This might be due to them spending the two previous years learning under remote and/or masked conditions.

It seems to be a fear of the world and to some extent a fear of each other. When I enter the room at the start of class, the students are assembled in silence, their heads inclined toward their phones. No banter, no laughing, no sharing of last night’s events.

It is not hard to understand what haunts our young people. More than one million people have died from the COVID-19 pandemic. Born in the aftermath of 9/11, these students grew up with the United States engaged in simultaneous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the decade of my childhood/adolescence (1966-1975), there were 12 mass shootings; in their coming-of-age decade (2011-2020), there were 160. Globally, climate change and deforestation have driven a 68% decline in the population size of animal species between 1970 and 2016. On Jan. 6, 2021, a mob stormed the Capitol, attacked police officers and threatened to hang the vice president. This summer, the Supreme Court put into jeopardy a woman’s right to choose, a right their mothers had for nearly 50 years. And their still developing brains must process all of these painful challenges through the internet’s reverberating echo chamber.

The question is not really what these students fear but how to help them make it through each day. Nearly 75% of college students suffer from moderate to severe psychological stress. Matt Richtel of The New York Times has dubbed the overloaded suffering of our children and adolescents “the inner pandemic.” And yet, my students came to class, did the readings, wrote thoughtful final papers, made remarkable short videos and gave eloquent presentations. They are persevering, but it is not easy.

What might help them? Aside from ensuring they have access to counseling and campus support, we need to make slowing down a priority in their lives. Our U.S. poet laureate, Ada Limón, has a podcast, “The Slowdown,” that recommends gaining back some reflective time in our lives. I purposely started each class with a short musical piece they selected. We went for a hike in our Arboretum. We did a yoga class. We learned about mindfulness and stepping back from emotions that spin out of control.

In the final class, I gave each student a blank composition book to build on the personal journals I had asked them to keep. As we passed around the books, we listened to the Bob Dylan song, “Forever Young.” Its last verse before the final chorus is, “But whatever road you choose/ I’m right behind you, win or lose.”

So, this is what I saw from being back in the classroom again: Our young people need our caring attention more than ever. We need to be their allies in slowing the brutal machinery of a culture that often seems out of control. Balance and well-being are no longer luxuries but necessities in the world we have created for them.

This piece was originally published as an op-ed in the Hartford Courant.
Under a brilliant blue sky on a perfect October day, Connecticut College officially opened its revitalized waterfront, with its sweeping views, increased access to the mighty Thames River, and new spaces and facilities for sailing, rowing, marine science and recreation.

Speaking to a large crowd at the Oct. 21 ribbon-cutting and dedication, President Katherine Bergeron said that Conn’s waterfront location—unique among NESCAC schools—now projects a sense of openness, invitation and possibility.

“Rivers always mark boundaries. They also defy them,” she told the more than 150 current and former trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, students, community members and local dignitaries gathered for the occasion. “What I love about this new project is how it reconnects the College to our history and our prehistory, to our neighbors, and quite dramatically to our Athletic Center and our main campus. In doing so it has made the river a destination, changing the orientation of the College landscape and making us experience Conn as a true waterfront campus, maybe for the first time.”

Made possible by leadership gifts from champion rower and Athletic Hall of Fame member Jessica Archibald ’95 and Emeritus Trustee Barbara Zaccheo Kohn ’72, the revitalized waterfront provides a first-rate athletic facility for the sailing and rowing programs, an outdoor classroom and living laboratory for marine science, environmental research and conservation, an expedition training area for Conn’s Outdoor Adventures program, and a vibrant recreational space for students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. A goal of the College’s strategic plan, the Defy Boundaries campaign and the Action Plan for Competitive Success, the enhanced waterfront features new floating dock systems and a new roadway with sidewalks and solar- and wind-powered lighting.

“Our waterfront is a tremendous asset, but we hadn’t been taking full advantage of it,” said Dean of Students Victor Arcelus. “This project has changed the relationship between the campus and the waterfront in a way that will benefit the entire community.

“There was a beautiful moment when I was at the Athletic Center and I could see the rowers and the sailors on the water, the track and field athletes throwing on the middle terrace, the runners running on the track, and the lacrosse players playing on the turf field—all at the same time. There was this great sense of energy and connection.”

Conn’s prime location along the Thames River has long been a distinguishing feature of the 750-acre arboretum campus, and is even reflected in the motto that appears on the College’s seal: *Tanquam lignum quod plantatum est secus decursus aquarum*, a Latin phrase that translates to: “Like a tree planted by rivers of water (that bringeth forth its fruit in its season).” But more than 100 years of tree growth, including numerous invasive species, had blocked vistas on the terraced property, and a multilane road had further reduced access.

When COVID-19 hit in 2020 and Conn transitioned to fully remote learning, the College’s grounds crew, who Bergeron called the “heroes in this story,” took on the considerable task of clearing the hillside to make the river visible again.

That work inspired Archibald’s gift, which supported the creation of Archibald Way, the new road leading all the way down to the water. Completion of the roadway then paved the way—literally—for a second leadership gift
from Kohn, whose support made possible the redevelopment of an accessible multidimensional marine access point for the College, now called the Kohn Waterfront.

“I cannot express how grateful we are to you both for bringing this beautiful place to life,” Bergeron said to Archibald and Kohn during the ceremony.

Additional support for the project was provided by the McKinney family P’24, the Whittemore family P’23, Marian and Hans Baldauf P’24, Garrett and Sarah McAvoy P’25, Hélène and Matthew Lorentzen P’24, Erin F. Largay ’99, and the Hewson Family (Edward ’89, Lisa ’88, Heather ’84, Melissa ’86, Alexa ’21, Sarah ’63), as well as an anonymous donor.

The Camels are the only NESCAC program with on-campus access to the water, and the new facility will aid in both hosting larger collegiate events and attracting potential recruits.

“This project puts us at the front of the pack,” said Head Sailing Coach Jeff Bresnahan. “We’ve always run great events here at Conn, but now we have the next piece—a great facility with 36 boats on the dock. This is one of the top facilities in the country.”
Last Hurrah

JULIEN LEGROS ’23 gets cheered on by teammates during Senior Day at the men’s and women’s swim meet versus Amherst in January.
A transformed Cro will become a dynamic new space to ignite student life.
The College Center at Crozier-Williams was built the same year as the first Frisbee was tossed on Tempel Green, in 1957. Since then, “Cro” has been a daily part of the Conn student experience. But not since its beginnings as a gymnasium, alumni center, recreation center and home to our famous Dance Department has Cro been any kind of center for campus life as once envisioned.

Today, Cro mostly functions as a place for students to advertise events, pick up packages, grab a late-night snack or buy essentials at the bookstore. For decades, the hope has been that it could once again become a vibrant place for students to linger, build friendships, enjoy time together and call home.

Thanks to generous donors to the Defy Boundaries campaign, that seems finally about to happen. Donors have contributed $12.7 million toward the fundraising goal of $15 million, which means that the support of just a few more donors can make the project a reality. As the renderings on these pages show, Cro will become the heart of campus life, a place where students, and faculty and staff, can gather, create and test new ideas together—and have a lot of fun, too.

Dean of Students Victor Arcelus explains the aim this way: “In a new Cro, we want to hold up the most precious element of the Connecticut College experience—our community—in order to create and nurture even stronger connections.”

The Cro renovation represents a key part of the College’s campus master plan, launched in 2018, which includes the goal of elevating the student experience and campus social life. If work begins this fall as planned, the grand reopening would happen in late spring 2024.

Consistent with the College’s commitment to sustainability, the project is not a new building, but a renovation, preserving the iconic mid-century building even as it reimagines it from the inside out. The potential to make the most of that transformation is considerable. With the Thames River to the east and the
Arboretum to the west, Cro sits at a natural campus crossroads, just waiting to be the locus of the casual interactions that make Conn such a special community. Take a small tour with us and see what’s ahead for a space with great promise.

**WELCOME, COME ON IN**
The transformation of Cro starts with the entrance and its welcoming pathways, landscaping, floor-to-ceiling glass, and spacious upper and lower decks. The entrance connects to the north with a curving walkway that follows the natural flow of students to and from Harris Refectory. The grass and plantings, low sitting wall, casual chairs and tables, wide open spaces and upper patio invite the community to meet, hang out, talk and stay a while. Just inside is a redesigned Oasis eatery offering faculty, staff and students an inviting
option for breakfast and lunch along with a warm space to enjoy the comfort food offered in the evenings.

WE ARE CONN
Just inside the entrance on the ground floor, students will no longer be met by a high stone wall that stops them in their tracks. Instead, they will be welcomed by a living wall that connects exterior to interior, and reinforces Conn’s heritage as an arboretum campus. The skylight and glass entrance fill the space with light and energy, while an upstairs balcony encourages community with its transparent railing and casual seating. (And just around the corner from the downstairs seating area, additional changes await. The current 1962 Room will be transformed into a versatile multipurpose space featuring new lighting, a new sound system, new soundproofing, new flooring and a new movable wall, providing a first-class space for meetings and events of all sizes.)

LETS HANG OUT
The transformed Cro’s Nest may well become the new campus place to be. Cro’s Nest will be transformed into a place for students to gather with friends, watch the big game or listen to music. On evenings and weekends, it will become a lively setting for socializing and enjoying performances by special guests and by our own rich community of student bands, a cappella groups and more.

This flexible space can be a smoothie bar by day and a campus pub by night, inviting students both indoors and out with a second-floor exterior patio featuring plenty of friendly seating and warm overhead lighting. Students will be able to take in the activities below—or enjoy views out to Larrabee Green and the Thames River in the distance.

The second floor will also feature a living room brightened by floor-to-ceiling glass, a fireplace and ample seating for students to study and socialize.

“In a new Cro, we want to hold up the most precious element of the Connecticut College experience—our community—in order to create and nurture even stronger connections.”

— DEAN OF STUDENTS VICTOR ARCELS

WINTER 2023 | Defy Boundaries
ON THE ROAD: DEFY BOUNDARIES

Every time I come to one of these events, I get more excited about being an alum of the College. It’s a great time, and I think you go away feeling like there’s hope in the world.

— BARBARA SAGAN ’70

This event is joy and it’s pride, and it’s an honor to be part of it. Someone invested in me, and I’m grateful for all the doors that Connecticut College opened in my life. It’s inspiring to know you can give back so another student can have that experience and transform their life as Conn did mine.

— MAURICE TINER ’17, FORMER YOUNG ALUMNI TRUSTEE

Being back in a Conn space like this is like being home again. Sharing all the fun and excitement and memories makes me think about everything that Conn has given me. It’s true and you see it in the people here: We can defy boundaries.

— DERRICK NEWTON ’17, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Join the fun! Exciting celebrations are ahead in spectacular locations across the country. Upcoming events include San Francisco, Boston, Washington D.C., Los Angeles and Denver.

For more information, visit defyboundaries.conncoll.edu
Oscar-winning filmmakers Sean Fine ’96 and Andrea Nix Fine take viewers inside the United States Women’s National Soccer Team’s fight for equal pay.

BY AMY MARTIN
**LFG**, now streaming on HBO Max, tells the riveting story of the people at the center of one of the biggest battles for women’s rights in a generation. Connecticut College Magazine sat down with Sean Fine ’96 and his wife, Andrea Nix Fine, the Academy Award-winning directors and producers behind the powerful documentary.

**CC Magazine:** Just prior to the start of the 2019 FIFA Women’s World Cup, 28 members of the U.S. Women’s National Team held a secret meeting and decided to collectively sue their own employer—the U.S. Soccer Federation—for “institutionalized gender discrimination.” Their demands? Equal pay for equal play. How did you decide this was a story you wanted to tell?

**Sean Fine ’96:** *LFG* was the first film from our new company, Change Content. Our mission is to make change with film; we want our films to be tools, and we want those tools to be used to make as much change as possible. And in 2019, a friend of ours came to us and said, “No one seems to be telling this story.” We looked into it, and it’s such an important story. So we made the choice to meet the players and start filming when they got back from the 2019 World Cup, and sort of crossed our fingers that they would win. Which, of course, they did.

**CC:** You follow six players during the course of the lawsuit—Megan Rapinoe, Jessica McDonald, Becky Sauerbrunn, Kelley O’Hara, Christen Press and Sam Mewis—and you open the film with each of them describing what LFG, the acronym for “Let’s F—ing Go,” means to them. How does that set the tone for the story, and why did you decide to use LFG as the film’s title?

**Andrea Nix Fine:** It’s such a great way to meet the team and get a sense of their personalities. And I think the title feels instinctively right. As soon as you hear them say it out loud, say it to each other—it’s their battle cry before they step on the field, and it’s such an easy metaphor for how they approach the challenge of the lawsuit. It’s who they are—unapologetic and powerful together.

**CC:** The players argue that on “every single point,” U.S. Soccer treats men differently than women—the men make more money per game; they get a higher bonus for each win; they make more for qualifying for, advancing in and then winning the World Cup. And then there’s other discrimination, like the men get more training and marketing resources and better fields and accommodations. And that’s despite the fact that the women’s team actually brought in more revenue than the men in the five years before the lawsuit was filed, which you point out in the film.

**AF:** We wanted to be dead clear on why these women had the right to do this. They’ve earned it, they’ve sacrificed, they’ve done all the work and they are bringing in the proceeds. A common argument is, “Well of course the men are paid more money because they are bringing in more money for U.S. Soccer”—but that is just not true. So part of the film is a celebration of who these women are, but a big part is also using data to show why the lawsuit is justified.

**CC:** And while this is a story about professional soccer players, there’s a particularly poignant moment in which Megan says, “I think the story is the same everywhere. Whether you’re an executive, whether you are a domestic worker, whether you are a soccer player—women get paid less to do the same job.”
**AF:** The players knew this fight was about more than just themselves. And I wanted other women to see themselves in the film. So even if you don’t care about the sport, it resonates, like, “Yeah, I’ve felt that, I’ve been there. I’ve felt that dismissiveness, that need to be perfect.” And it’s not just women, but anyone who has been disenfranchised, they can relate to having to do double the work just to be considered worthy. So how does this change? You fight back.

**CC:** Jessica’s story is particularly powerful, as she’s raising her young son on the sidelines and working multiple jobs, and yet still struggling to make ends meet.

**SF:** It’s important to show that Jessica’s trying to do this as a mom, and it’s important economically because I think people see these athletes on Nike billboards—and Jessica’s in ads, too—and they think they probably get all this money from endorsements. But then you see Jessica, and it’s two days before the National Women’s Soccer League’s championship game—their Super Bowl!—and she’s doing four jobs. She’s practicing, then doing a bunch of speaking engagements, then doing some other stuff for the team, then teaching kids soccer at night, all while trying to raise her son. And she’s living at someone else’s house for a bit! I just couldn’t believe that an athlete who has just won the World Cup is having to do all that. It just puts everything into perspective.

**CC:** The film includes some incredible as-it-happens footage and we as viewers really get a sense of who these women are and what roles they play both on the field and off. Megan, in particular, comes across as a leader.

**AF:** Megan is immediately an amazing character. She’s the face of the fight. She’s quick and articulate and she walks the walk and she understands the bigger picture. And she’s a lot of fun. She understands that everybody’s looking at her; it’s the power that she wields. But each person has a little bit of a superhero-like tool. Like Becky Sauerbrunn, she is also a captain and she leads from the back—literally, as a defender on the field. And in terms of the team leadership, it took us a few months to actually understand, “Oh, she’s calling the shots so much on the scene.” Because she’s also an older player and she doesn’t like the limelight, but she’s incredibly smart and you begin to see she is like the moral compass of the whole team.

**CC:** We see the players scoring goals and winning big games. But then we also see the toll the equal pay fight is having on them as the legal process plays out, particularly when it becomes clear that they aren’t getting anywhere in arbitration, and then again when it becomes public that one of U.S. Soccer’s arguments is essentially that the women don’t deserve equal pay because they are “biologically inferior.”

**SF:** It really showed U.S. Soccer’s dogged pursuit to fight them, which you see throughout the film. It’s just shameful.

**AF:** It’s also really painful for them. These are the same people who believed in them to be the professional athletes they are. And it’s not like they can just go play for someone else.

**CC:** While they clearly faced a lot of resistance, we also see a lot of support from fans, particularly women and girls of all ages.
CNN FILMS PRESENTS

LFG

EQUAL PLAY.

EQUAL PAY.

NEW DOCUMENTARY STREAMING JUNE 24

HBOmax
I think the story is the same everywhere. Whether you're an executive, whether you are a domestic worker, whether you are a soccer player—women get paid less to do the same job.

— Megan Rapinoe

SF: It’s crazy, there are all these little kids and teenagers, and from a business standpoint, it’s like, how does U.S. Soccer not see that this sport is growing and that the stadiums are filled? We’d be filming and we’d look back and think, “These kids will be fans their whole lives if you do this right.”

AF: There’s a moment when Megan is doing an autograph signing and one of the little fans tells her she hopes she gets equal pay. And Megan responds beautifully, she says, “I probably won’t get it, but you might.”

CC: It seems just about everyone expected to go to trial, but then, in May of 2020, a federal judge dismissed most of the lawsuit, ruling the women didn’t have a legal standing for equal pay.

SF: I was actually at a soccer field with my son, and I got a text from one of the players, “Does this mean we fucking lost?” I called Andrea, and we were scrambling trying to figure out what it meant. It came out of left field—we just didn’t see it coming.

And then with the timing—it was still deep COVID, so we had given everyone these cameras and taught them how to use them so we could keep talking with them safely. So we just split up our whole team to text everyone, from the lawyers to the players, to ask them, “Please just film yourself. We need to historically document all of this.” And they said they’d try, but it wasn’t until we saw the footage that we were just blown away.

AF: We had to be careful legally, so that is why there is no sound. But I actually think it is more emotional without sound. You are just watching their faces, and that’s the moment where you see the crack in the veneer, the vulnerabilities.

SF: In every film we make, we are looking for that one emotional moment that will take the film to another level. Those moments happen when we’re close to people when things happen, and they’ve let us into a part of their lives most people would never be able to see. In this film, this is that moment. And the silver lining of the COVID situation is that there was no way, in that split second, our cameras could have been with every player. But they had all these little cameras and they turned them on, and it just shows they really trusted us to tell their stories.

CC: The women vow to appeal the decision, and that’s where you end the film.

SF: We decided this was a good time to end it, because that’s real life. And it does kind of end on a hopeful note, because it’s the rawest, most emotional part of the film, and they are still like, “We are not giving up.”

AF: If the film had ended with them actually getting equal pay, you could have just focused on the happy ending. But they had no guarantee, and I think this way you get a better feel for the burden that they carried.

CC: LFG premieres in the summer of 2021, and then in February of 2022, there’s a landmark agreement between the team and U.S. Soccer to settle the lawsuit and provide the men’s and women’s teams with equal pay structures and revenue sharing going forward. How did it feel to know they had done it? That they had finally won?

AF: It just felt so great. We were texting with the players and just congratulating them and they were thanking us and saying, “Hey, you guys were a part of this.” It was their fight, and we just made sure the flames kept burning beneath it. That’s what we felt the film was about.

SF: It’s been incredible to see the ripple effect it’s had through other sports, too, and beyond. In line with Change Content’s mission, and along with our partners Everywoman Studios, we embarked on an impact campaign. We partnered with Proctor & Gamble, and we’ve been able to have screenings in schools and workplaces and places where people might not have otherwise seen the film. We’ve made it possible for people to access it and use it, and it’s been amazing to see so many learn about equal pay and have these discussions. We want to continue to use the film as a tool and a weapon for change.
THE WAR ON SCHOOLS

State takeovers. Mass layoffs. Teacher shortages. School closures. As America debates the future of public K-12 education, Professor Daniel Moak provides the historical context to answer the question: How did we get here?

BY AMY MARTIN
When Daniel Moak was a teenager, the teachers at his public high school in Billings, Montana, went on strike.

“At first, I was sort of elated—no school!” he remembers.

“But then it lasted several weeks. So I started talking to the teachers on the picket line. They were upset with declining wages and cuts to pensions, but also this sense of loss of autonomy they associated with some of the federal policies that were coming from Washington. It was the first time I realized how political the issue of education actually was.”

It was 2002—one year after Congress had passed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), a bipartisan bill based on the premise that setting high standards and establishing measurable goals could improve outcomes in K-12 public education. The bill required all schools receiving federal funding to administer standardized tests to students in certain grades, and provided punitive measures states could enact if schools failed to meet certain targets.

It was 2002—one year after Congress had passed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), a bipartisan bill based on the premise that setting high standards and establishing measurable goals could improve outcomes in K-12 public education. The bill required all schools receiving federal funding to administer standardized tests to students in certain grades, and provided punitive measures states could enact if schools failed to meet certain targets.

NCLB received widespread support from both Republicans and Democrats, and the measure passed 381-41 in the House of Representatives and 87-10 in the Senate. The legislators’ intentions were good: improve education to close achievement gaps and ensure all students would have the skills they needed to contribute to the workforce.

But as Moak, an assistant professor of government at Connecticut College, explains in his new book, From the New Deal to the War on Schools: Race, Inequality, and the Rise of the Punitive Education State, there was already ample evidence NCLB was destined to fail.

More than two decades later, the future of public education, once a crown jewel of American society, is in peril. Faced with massive teacher shortages, some states are cutting school weeks to four days, eliminating professional requirements and increasing class sizes. Districts failing to meet progress goals are being taken over by state governments, often with detrimental effects. Public funding is being diverted to private entities through charter schools and universal vouchers.

And still, the achievement gap widens.

THE GREAT EQUALIZER

Moak’s research traces the origins of what he calls today’s “punitive education state” back much further than the passing of NCLB, to a significant shift in political ideology in the post-New Deal era.
“In the 1930s, poverty, racial inequality and unemployment were interpreted as problems with the structure of the economy. So if people were poor, it was because the economy was not providing high enough wages or enough well-paying jobs, and the policies of the time reflected that thinking,” Moak explains.

“But by the time we get to the 1960s, the effects of automation and de-industrialization begin hitting communities and we see some real economic turmoil. And the orthodoxy begins to shift to, ‘It’s not really about the labor market, it’s about the skills that individuals bring to the labor market.’ Now, if you’re impoverished, it’s your fault because you don’t have the right skills. And this is the moment education becomes really important because the interpretation is that K-12 education can provide the skills that are going to improve people’s economic standing and reduce racial inequality.”

It was with that backdrop that Congress passed the first major federal legislation directed toward public education—the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)—in 1965. Part of President Lyndon Johnson’s “War on Poverty,” the act was seen as a progressive measure, providing significant federal funding for professional development, educational resources and instruction materials to public schools, and in particular supporting schools attended by children from lower-income families.

“This is the first time the government is able to give a lot of money—billions of dollars—to K-12 schools, and that’s a really good thing,” Moak says.

“On the flip side, it brought the expectation that schools would be able to solve issues of poverty and racial inequality. And fundamentally, I argue this is not something schools can solve by themselves,” he adds.

“But you have the federal government pouring all this money into education, and very soon after the passing of this legislation, lawmakers begin to demand evidence that it’s going to work.”

ENTER: THE STANDARDIZED TEST
As lawmakers sharpened their focus on the impact of the ESEA, a consensus began to emerge that the best way to measure educational success was to look at student performance on standardized tests.

“This frustration with a perceived lack of progress was the big impetus for expanding standardized tests,” Moak says. “And then when there wasn’t this dramatic closing of racial gaps or huge improvements on test scores, you begin to see policymakers from both parties calling for accountability from schools and then also from teachers.”

Yet Moak found that even the evidence at the time suggested there was only a limited effect teachers could have on standardized test scores.

“If a student is living in poverty and doesn’t have help at home because his parents are working multiple jobs to make ends meet, and then he comes to school hungry because his family can’t afford to feed him, it’s unlikely a teacher is going to be able to substantially increase his test score by teaching alone,” Moak says.

“We knew even then that these tests largely reflected the structural inequalities not necessarily in schools but outside of them. And to ignore that and pretend we can solve all of society’s issues just by changing school policy—it was never going to work.”

Moak’s research also delves into the origins of the standardized tests, which were developed in part to force schools to run more like private businesses. They were purposely designed to reduce teacher discretion to measurable outcomes, so there wouldn’t be wide discrepancies in what students were learning, which in practice stripped teachers of their autonomy in the classroom and even fundamentally shifted the purpose of education.

“Historically, classroom education was about teaching...
children to learn to live together, learn to communicate with fellow citizens, and learn how to pursue their interests. These tests helped shift the focus of education to things that are of interest to future employers."

The tests are also designed to measure year-over-year progress in a single grade rather than to track the progress of individual students, Moak says. So a school might perform well with a particular class of third graders one year, for example, only to have a different group of third graders score lower the next.

“These are different children with different abilities and different life stories taking the test each year. So you end up with these absurd situations where someone wins ‘teacher of the year’ one year because of students’ test scores, and then the very next year is judged ‘inadequate’ because the next group doesn’t perform as well.”

Despite existing evidence that the tests were an imperfect measurement, political pressure on schools and teachers only intensified.

“We see the emergence of demands for things like merit-based teacher pay, alternatives to public schools, even the breakup of the ‘public school monopoly,’ because the interpretation is we still have the problem of unemployment, poverty and racial inequality—we’ve given all this money to the schools to do something about it, and they haven’t solved it,” Moak explains.

“And this really gets set in motion by the late 1960s and ’70s, much earlier than most people realize.”

THE SNOWBALL EFFECT

By the 1980s, a continued “shredding of the social safety net” further exacerbates the problem, Moak says.

“You see attacks on welfare and the scaling back of social benefits that people experience, which leads to greater inequality, which then makes it even more difficult for teachers to do their jobs. And it’s in this broader context that we see the passing of No Child Left Behind.”

A reauthorization of the earlier ESEA, NCLB codified standardized testing requirements and expanded states’ legal authority to punish underperforming schools and teachers, essentially doubling down on the initial bet on schools and upping the stakes.

Yet many of those punitive measures have only further hindered the academic success of students.

Studies show that when standardized tests are the main metric by which schools and teachers are judged, educators will focus heavily on “bubble students”—those who have the capacity to improve their test scores—at the expense of all of the other students, including the lowest and highest achievers.

When schools fail to meet testing goals, they risk losing funding, state government takeovers, mass layoffs, and even closure. Decreased funding leads to larger class sizes, less individualized instruction and less paraprofessional support, and underperforming schools then find it harder to recruit experienced teachers, who are concerned about job security.

Stagnant pay for teachers, along with the erosion of benefits and a loss of professional respect and autonomy, has led to a nationwide teacher shortage as qualified individuals seek employment elsewhere. To address staffing shortages, some states, like Oklahoma, are cutting back instruction time and limiting the number of days children attend school each week. Other states, like Florida, are eliminating professional requirements and staffing classrooms with military veterans with no teaching experience or training.

“There have been repeated attacks on teachers’ unions as placing their own interests above students’ interests, but one
thing I remember very distinctly from the strike at my high school was a sign that read, ‘Teacher working conditions are student learning conditions,’ and I think that remains very true today,” Moak says.

More than 100 public school districts deemed “failing” have been taken over by state governments or entities since the late 1980s, yet multiple studies show that these takeovers tend to further destabilize districts with greater teacher and staff turnover and less parent and community engagement, and rarely lead to increased academic achievement. Other states have broadened charter school programs or instituted school voucher systems, diverting public funds into private, for-profit entities that can pick and choose who they serve.

“You now have people going after public education as a concept in general. And there are real reasons to be concerned about privatizing the public education system,” Moak says.

And while the issue is highly political, Moak points out that the pressure on schools to solve broader social issues has continually come from both sides of the aisle.

“For almost 60 years, this has been the dominant ideological orientation. The rhetoric from both Republicans and Democrats has been, ‘Nothing is more important than schools—this is the path to prosperity both individually and as a nation,’ to the detriment of other social programs,” he says. “It’s going to be difficult to break out of that overnight.”

There are reasons to remain hopeful. Americans still largely support the concept of a free, public education for all students, and teachers have had some recent successes pushing back against punitive measures.

But more comprehensive solutions are needed, Moak says. “Just as the problem is not educational alone, the solution can’t only be education. It’s got to be part of a broader political movement to tackle some of those structural issues that are really at the root cause of poverty, unemployment and racial inequality,” he says.

“Education is extremely important, but we need to be realistic about what we can expect education to accomplish.”

WINTER 2023 | The War on Schools
Humanitarian Dana Hartman Freyer ’65 reflects on the plight and resilience of the Afghan people.

BY MELISSA BABCOCK JOHNSON
AFTER AFGHANISTAN

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he first time Dana Hartman Freyer ’65 passed through Afghanistan, in 1972, it was a different place.

The now-retired attorney and international arbitrator became enamored with the country while working in her first job after graduating from Connecticut College. She served for three and a half years as the assistant to the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations, Abdul Rahman Pazhwak, who was also voted in as president of the U.N.’s General Assembly.

“I fell in love with the country through that experience and that exposure,” Freyer said. “I loved the beauty that I saw from afar, and there was a spirituality about the Afghan people—who are poets and writers and storytellers—that intrigued me. And there was a mystery about the country.”

At the time, Freyer remembers, many Americans had not even heard of Afghanistan. But she couldn’t wait to go.

After graduating from Columbia Law School and working as a legal services lawyer for a year, Freyer suggested to her husband, Bruce, a rabbi, that they take time off and drive to Afghanistan from Europe in 1972. At first, he thought she was crazy, she said, but he came around. They bought a Volkswagen Beetle in Germany and hit the road.

The goal was to spend as much time as possible in Afghanistan and then head to Nepal to meet with friends Freyer had made while studying in Geneva her junior year at Conn. The couple crossed Europe, Turkey and Iran.

“In Iran, we had a little bit of a detour because I found out that I was pregnant, which wasn’t part of the planned itinerary,” Freyer said with a chuckle.

In the early 1970s, Afghanistan was still a constitutional monarchy. Radical Islamic fundamentalism wouldn’t take hold in the region until after the Iranian revolution of 1979. Women were doctors, lawyers and nurses and rode bikes to school, Freyer recalled.

“In the countryside, culturally it was very traditional,” she said, “but one of the hallmarks of the Afghan culture is hospitality, and so everybody’s doors were open.”

The Freyers’ Volkswagen Beetle traversed “every Jeepable road” and the couple saw large swathes of the country over a month.

“That trip seared Afghanistan into our souls,” she added. “It was such a beautiful country. Poor, but people were fed, families supported each other.”

And then war came.
DECADES OF TURMOIL
In 1979, the Soviets invaded, and many of Freyer’s Afghan friends were forced to flee.

“They came to the U.S. as refugees with just the clothes on their backs,” Freyer said. “We helped them settle in. And we watched as their country fell apart into civil war over the next 20 years.”

Since then, Freyer has dedicated much of her life to helping the Afghan people both on the ground and from afar, especially after 2012 when security became a major challenge. That work continues today through her involvement with numerous organizations, including Welcome.US, a resettlement program sponsored by the government in partnership with businesses, organizations and communities.

“Individuals and communities all over the country are participating in Welcome.US, and it’s a wonderful way to support Afghans,” Freyer said. The program is now being extended to refugees from Ukraine and elsewhere.

Recently, Freyer’s extended family helped a young Afghan man who came to the United States to find a job, apply for Social Security, get his driver’s license and acclimate to his new home. He was eligible for a special immigration visa because he is one of thousands of Afghan Allies, the term for people who worked for or on behalf of the U.S. government and are therefore targeted by the Taliban for retribution. Freyer is currently working to help other Afghans and their families obtain this special visa and find other pathways to a better, safer life.

Additionally, Freyer is a member of the U.S. Afghan Women’s Council, a nonpartisan group that convenes governments, civil society and the private sector to support education, healthcare, economic empowerment and leadership for Afghan women and girls. She also serves on the board of Relief International, which works in 16 of the world’s most conflict-ridden, economically impoverished countries to provide education, healthcare, nutrition, sanitation and economic opportunities for families.

In Afghanistan, a tumultuous decade and a half of civil war eventually led to the rise and rule of the Taliban, which established a totalitarian government based on strict Sharia law in 1996 and severely limited freedoms, particularly for women and girls. The economic situation was dire for many, and in 2000, the U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution recognizing the humanitarian crisis in the country.

Then the Twin Towers fell.

BACK TO AFGHANISTAN
In 2001, Freyer was a partner at the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in Manhattan, specializing in international arbitration and corporate compliance. Her office overlooked the World Trade Center, and for weeks after 9/11, she watched the rubble smoke. Afghanistan was at war again, but a silver lining was that the Taliban had fallen and many Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran could return home.

Freyer, Bruce and two Afghan American friends discussed how they could help returning refugees rebuild their agriculture-driven economy. The biggest need, Freyer said, was to restore fruit and nut orchards, wood lots and other small farm businesses on which millions of Afghans had depended for their livelihoods.

In 2002, the group formed the nonprofit Global Partnership for Afghanistan (GPFA) to enable this rebuilding. The launch sent Freyer to Afghanistan for a second time, in 2003.

“That was a very traumatic trip because the country was totally destroyed,” Freyer said. “I literally cried when I arrived at Kabul airport and witnessed the widespread devastation.”

The animal herds that dotted the countryside in 1972 were gone, as were the trees and greenery of the once-bountiful agricultural country.

“There was nothing for the herds to forage on to sustain them,” Freyer said. “Everything was destroyed—schools, homes, hospitals, the financial and legal systems. The country had to be rebuilt brick by brick.”

In 2004, Freyer and Bruce visited a village north of Kabul
that had been the front line of the battle between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance.

“De-miners were still camped out at the base of the village and there were red crosses marking where you couldn’t go because they hadn’t de-mined there yet,” Freyer remembers.

The village’s school was a UNICEF tent with no chairs or books. Students sat on the ground. But in one room of the tattered tent was a table with a vase of plastic flowers. That symbol of hope stuck with Freyer, she said.

One day, a young boy carrying two buckets of water from the well on his shoulder approached Bruce and said, “Hello, what’s your name?” in English. Bruce returned the greeting and learned the boy’s name was Wali and he was almost 8 years old. Wali had spent the first seven years of his life in a refugee camp in Pakistan and had learned English from the aid workers, and it was his dream to attend college in the U.S.

“We wanted to help him realize his dream,” Freyer said.

Over the following years, the Freyers sent Wali books and arranged for him to take English classes in Kabul. When he was 16, Wali graduated from his high school in rural Afghanistan and, with the Freyers’ help, went on to attend King’s Academy in Madaba, Jordan. While he was there—unbeknownst to the Freys—he met a Conn admission representative, applied and was accepted. He majored in computer science and graduated from Conn in 2019. He now works as a software engineer for eBay and lives in New York City.

“He’s a full-fledged member of our family and spends all his holidays and vacations with us,” Freyer said.

Freyer attributes much of her success to her own mentor from Conn, the late Marjorie Dilley, who was head of the Government and International Relations Department during Freyer’s years on campus.

“She taught me how to write, she taught me how to debate, she taught me how to advocate. She taught me almost all of the tools that have helped me in life,” Freyer said. “She was one of several professors who were really transformative in terms of helping shape the person I am today.”

‘MOST PAINFUL GUT PUNCH’

After 20 years of being repressed, the Taliban reclaimed control of Kabul in August 2021, after the U.S. withdrew the last of its troops.

“It was like the most painful gut punch you could ever imagine for me and so many. Everything the Afghan people had worked for, for years, was taken out from under them,” Freyer said.

Daily life quickly became a nightmare for Afghans, especially women, girls and the country’s youth, who had spent their entire lives at war but had never lived under (or were too young to remember) the previous Taliban rule. According to the U.N., about 63% of Afghanistan’s population is younger than 25. Most had been able to attend school and university, including many of the girls. They saw women holding leadership positions in the government, as judges, ministers and parliamentarians, Freyer pointed out.

“They faced many of the same challenges that women face in this country and other countries,” Freyer said, “but progress was incredible, and that’s what that generation knew.”

The Taliban forbids education for women and girls after primary school, giving Freyer another reason to despair. In 2008, she and Bruce had begun supporting what became, in 2016, the first boarding school for girls in Afghanistan, the School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA). It was co-founded by Shabana Basij-Rasikh, who had suffered under the earlier Taliban occupation, and the late Ted Achilles, an American businessman who moved to Afghanistan in 2001.

Basij-Rasikh’s family had dressed her as a boy so she could attend school and escort her older sister. She had also attended secret schools that arose in defiance of the Taliban’s rule. She made her way to a public high school in the U.S. as an exchange student, graduated summa cum laude from Middlebury College and vowed that her life’s mission would be to educate Afghan girls.

In August 2021, approximately 100 girls from 28 of the 32 provinces in Afghanistan were attending SOLA in Kabul, a
learning environment Freyer describes as “phenomenal” and theretofore nonexistent in Afghanistan.

SOLA was planning a permanent campus in Kabul with the hope that the Class of 2022 would be the campus’s first graduating class. Instead, students and staff were forced to flee the Taliban takeover. Paul Kagame, the president of Rwanda, agreed to provide a safe haven for the school.

“So nearly 250 members of SOLA’s school community were evacuated amid the widely televised chaos and horrors at the Kabul airport in mid-August 2021,” Freyer said. “They managed to get to Rwanda and within a few days they were attending classes on their new campus.”

SOLA is the only physically functioning school where Afghan girls can receive a secondary education. Freyer, who visited the students at their new campus last fall and serves on SOLA’s advisory board, said she was so impressed by their drive for education and their resiliency.

“Most of them continue to suffer from post-traumatic stress, especially because their families are still in Afghanistan,” she said. “Yet they are so committed not only to their studies and to going to university but also to helping their families, including sisters who are still in Afghanistan and currently don’t have a pathway to educational opportunity and to safety.

“As Shabana often says, ‘Educated girls become educated women who change the world.’”

Freyer hopes the school and the students will one day be able to return to Afghanistan. But even if they can’t, she’s committed to helping them and their fellow refugees to flourish.

“Afghans are among the world’s most hospitable and resilient people,” Freyer said. “They want for their families what we want for our families: a good education, health, a safe home and enough food to eat. Afghan families arriving in the U.S under the refugee resettlement programs work hard to quickly become wholly self-sufficient; it is miraculous how quickly they succeed. They, like other refugees, just need a helping hand, and there are many opportunities for Americans to provide that.”

WINTER 2023 | After Afghanistan
making

BY AMY MARTIN
PHOTOS BY BOB MACDONNELL
After a pandemic-induced hiatus, the Ammerman Center for Art and Technology’s biennial symposium returned to Connecticut College in full color this November.

Pianist Caroline Owen performs Badie Khaleghian’s “Electric Sky Blue for piano, movement and interactive intermedia.”
Going on three years since “social distancing” entered the lexicon and live performance took a reluctant intermission, artists, technologists and scholars from around the world gathered on the Connecticut College campus to challenge perspectives on what it means to engage, assemble and participate.

The visually stunning and thought-provoking results were on full display at “CONTACT: The 17th Biennial Symposium on Arts and Technology,” held Nov. 10-12.

“In the contemporary vocabulary, ‘contact’ is something to be avoided in physical interactions or something perhaps just out of reach in our remote relationships with others. Contact also contains the promise of new and continued engagement within communities and among disparate institutions and so-called disciplines,” said Nadav Assor, the Judith Ammerman ’60 Director of the Ammerman Center and an associate professor of art at Conn.

The symposium featured dozens of performances, installations, workshops and fully immersive exhibitions addressing topics ranging from climate change to space exploration, social protest to communal healing rituals, and sustainable food systems to material culture.

In the spirit of contact, collaboration and inclusivity—and in lieu of a traditional keynote—the symposium featured four commissioned artists: Centre for Emotional Materiality, Anonymous Ensemble, Ensemble Pamplemousse and Joel Ong. The artists spent the week leading up to the event building and finalizing their pieces, meeting with students and members of the local communities, hosting workshops and guest-teaching classes.

“The students jumped in and helped with everything from ushering to setting up in the gallery to working alongside our commissioned artists,” said Steve Luber, associate director of the Ammerman Center. “The understanding of arts and tech not only as the presentation, but the process, is so vital, and the students really saw what it means to put in the work and commitment required in such a field.”

Giorgi Chikvaidze ’24, a psychology major and Ammerman Center scholar, had the opportunity to work all week with Anonymous Ensemble in the Athey Center for Performance and Research at Palmer Auditorium.

“It surprised me how easy it was to bond and communicate with commissioned artists. Not only were they great artists, they were humble, sweet, simply wonderful people. They were excited to hear our thoughts, and all of them were more than glad to chat with us about our own projects and give advice,” Chikvaidze said.

“It meant the world to me to be able to do all these things. Working in a professional environment with commissioned artists, I was troubleshooting their problems, exchanging information and simply growing day by day. Events like the Ammerman symposium are crucial for networking and have a profound impact on the college experience.”

WINTER 2023 | Making Contact
1: Ammerman Center scholar Leron Dugan ’24 (left) and Ammerman Community Research-Creation Fellow Josh Brown participate in The Art of Live Streaming Hybrid Events, a workshop facilitated by Cultured AF cofounder Juanita Austin.  

2: Juan Manuel Escalante performs his software-art piece, “Neutral Friend, Unknown Enemy.”  

3: Poet Irma Alvarez-Ccoscco performs Anonymous Ensemble’s “Llontop,” an installation and poetic theatrical performance that celebrates indigenous Quechua culture and language.  

4: The Centre for Emotional Materiality leads a performance entitled “Listening” as a part of their keynote series of events, “Towards the Love of Missing Out (LOMO).”
Events like the Ammerman symposium are crucial for networking and have a profound impact on the college experience.

— GIORGI CHIKVAIDZE ’24, PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR AND AMMERMAN CENTER SCHOLAR
HALE, YES!

Through the extraordinary generosity of Karen and Rob ‘88 Hale P’20, a group of exceptional donors has joined the Hales to significantly advance the College’s commitment to access and to attracting the nation’s top students. Everyone who establishes an endowed scholarship has had their gift doubled.

The Hale Scholarship Initiative:
*Only $2.5M matching dollars remain!*

There is $2.5 million remaining out of $10 million in matching funds as we close in on our goal of $20 million in additional, endowed scholarship and financial aid support that will transform the lives of Conn students, now and for years to come.

**AND THERE IS STILL TIME TO BE PART OF THIS EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY!**

Find out how! Contact Susan Daniells ’01, Director of Development, at (860) 439-5395 or sdaniells@conncoll.edu, or scan this QR code.

Annellen M. Finch, of East Greenwich, R.I., reports that 16 adults and seven children ages three to 10 enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner at the Scarborough, Maine, home of her grandson Mac. Barbara Wiegand Pillote is alive and well: "Hi to everyone!", Mona Gustafson Affinito, enjoyed staying with son Doug at an Airbnb in Bayfield, Wis., including a day across the channel on Madeline Island. I'm writing this column during Thanksgiving week at Cove Point, on Lake Superior. Plans include Christmas in Williamsburg, Va., and, in January, a Viking Cruise to Antarctica. I’ve also enjoyed some CC experiences. In July I had a delightful meeting with Jillian Pearson ’25, whose grandfather is a resident at my senior living facility. Her enthusiasm and clarity of goals were exciting. CC is still right there at the top. Except for housing. This year more accepted students than planned decided to come, so they’ve had to hustle for rooms. Unfortunately, Jillie drew a high number, so her room is in the basement along with others thrown together at the last minute. Were we ‘51ers ever spoiled! But Jillie was pretty cool about it. Her mom took me to the November CC gathering in Minneapolis. Interesting to be there with Conn men, and fun chatting with Lesley Gerberding ’03 and Elizabeth Johnson Bower ’95. One woman wasn’t wearing a name tag: “I’m the President,” she smiled.

Beatrice Anne Clark Chadwick lives in Midlothian, Va., near her son, Arthur. She and husband Arthur recently celebrated their 60th anniversary. For decades, Anne participated in family activities including ice-skating, tennis, golf and swimming, and she was also an accomplished pianist and watercolor artist. In later years, Anne and her husband were competitive ballroom dancers and regularly gave exhibitions in the Wilmington, Del., area. She is very close to her two grandchildren, Arthur, of Washington, DC, and Olivia, of Raleigh, N.C.

Correspondent: Mona Gustafson Affinito, forgivenc Noah@earthlink.net, 723 Water Street, Apt. 1001, Excelsior, MN, 55331, 612-760-5007 In 2014, Marge Erickson Albertson and Murray moved to an independent living facility in Vero Beach, Fla. Alone there since Murray’s death in 2015, Marge enjoys playing bridge and swimming in the pool. “Marge treasures frequent FaceTime with her family—three kids, seven grands and five great-grands—scattered through Maine, Texas, Iowa and California. Vision problems prevent driving or reading, but she enjoys audiobooks from the National Braille Association. Marge hears from Helen Johnson Haberstroh and talks to Justine Shepherd Freud’s daughter. A travel agent for 20 years, she cherishes the memory of working and traveling with Jus. Phyllis Hoffmann Driscoll spent her “usual summer Hurricane Vacation” in New Hampshire with her daughter and husband. An October visit to family in Michigan included the Vincent Van Gogh exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts, celebrating the first American museum to purchase a painting by Van Gogh, 100 years ago. Twenty-five of his 1880–1890 works were displayed. In Grand Rapids, they visited the only one of her four granddaughters who has children, two boys and a six-month-old daughter. “What fun seeing my first great-granddaughter!” Now back in Hilton Head, Phyll continues 20 years of weekly volunteering at the Island Food Bank, walks five holes on the golf course each morning and gardens (mostly pulling weeds!). Jane Swett Lonsdale said she’d be surprised if you remember her. She lived in a junior dorm during freshman year so missed out on making close friends. Jane left after junior year to “marry my wonderful Coastie, Adrian.” After raising three children, Jane finished her bachelor’s degree at George Mason University, in Fairfax, Va., when Adrian was stationed in Washington, DC, and they lived in Arlington. After they were transferred to Maine, she earned her master’s degree at the University of Maine. “I lost my dear husband about five years ago. Our three children are doing well. Janet Young Witter is one of my favorites from CC and Coast Guard days.” Jane says she did work, “but that’s for another day—or never! Love to you all.” Amity Pierce Buxton is delighted to know she’s not the only member of Class of ’51 still trucking! “I’m enjoying life in Oakland, Calif., taking walks in our beautiful streets and hills near the Bay and pulling together mementos and memories of my life for my two children, a bio, and diverse repositories!” Harriet Bassett MacGregor reports that 16 adults and seven children ages three to 10 enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner at the Scarborough, Maine, home of her grandson Mac. Barbara Wiegand Pillote is alive and well: “Hi to everyone!” Mona Gustafson Affinito, enjoyed staying with son Doug at an Airbnb in Bayfield, Wis., including a day across the channel on Madeline Island. I’m writing this column during Thanksgiving week at Cove Point, on Lake Superior. Plans include Christmas in Williamsburg, Va., and, in January, a Viking Cruise to Antarctica. I’ve also enjoyed some CC experiences. In July I had a delightful meeting with Jillian Pearson ’25, whose grandfather is a resident at my senior living facility. Her enthusiasm and clarity of goals were exciting. CC is still right there at the top. Except for housing. This year more accepted students than planned decided to come, so they’ve had to hustle for rooms. Unfortunately, Jillie drew a high number, so her room is in the basement along with others thrown together at the last minute. Were we ’51ers ever spoiled! But Jillie was pretty cool about it. Her mom took me to the November CC gathering in Minneapolis. Interesting to be there with Conn men, and fun chatting with Lesley Gerberding ’03 and Elizabeth Johnson Bower ’95. One woman wasn’t wearing a name tag: “I’m the President,” she smiled.

Correspondent: Marion Skerker Sadler, P.O. Box 1700, Briarcliff Manor, NY, 914-941-3735, marsader24@gmail.com We’ve had no Class Notes for some time, so let’s catch up and refresh our column. I hope you received the call for submissions; please send your news! Our 70th reunion is in June—hard to believe. I hope some of you will make the trip to New London so that we can reconnect and reminiscence, recollect, and remember our early years as well as talk about our lives since 1953. Annelen Fine Guth and husband Murray are fine and enjoy living in an adult community in Tinton Falls, N.J. Sadly, their son Michael, 65, passed away in September. “He was handicapped and lived in Princeton and had a very full life,” writes Annelen. Our sincere condolences to the Guth family for their loss. Let Weiss Marks lives at home in West Hartford, Conn., with her three-year-old rescue pup, who helps propel her out for early morning and late evening walks. Since none of her four children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren live nearby, her dog is her “cuddly joy.” Leta celebrated her 90th birthday at a joyous family reunion in a fabulous resort. In between those dog walks, Leta gives tours as a docent at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, learning when new exhibits arrive. She hopes many saw the fantastic glass exhibition on display until February. The museum would be a great side trip for those coming to New London in June. It

Denotes a Reunion class year. The next Reunion is June 2-4, 2023.

Pen pals-turned-friends Asa Waterworth ’18 and Joan Roberts Robertson ’38, with Joan’s daughter, Annette, in Wisconsin

Academy Award–winning actress Estelle Parsons ’49 (left) with Ashlyn Healey ’20, director of summer programs at CC, in July 2022. Ashlyn says, “Estelle is my non-biological grandfather’s first wife’s sister (a little long-winded, but family nonetheless). My dad took the photo and said “Oh, the alumni magazine will LOVE this!” and insisted that I share it.”

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was sad to learn that Jean Leister Crouthwell, former science teacher in Wethersfield, Conn., and an early environmentalist, passed away in November 2022. Following graduation from CC, Jean received her master’s degree in zoology from Wellesley in 1955. I, Marion Skerek Sader, along with my husband, Ray, celebrated our big 90th birthdays together a year ago, in the middle of the pandemic, at a lovely house party given by friends. In August we commemorated our 65th anniversary, a major event. I keep busy with book clubs, a writing group and volunteering, I am on a resettlement committee; we’ve brought over a young African family and I’m tutoring the father in ESL. A Ukrainian family should arrive before the New Year. Lots of work but very rewarding. Hope to hear from you. Let’s get together in June; please plan to return to CC for our 70th!

54 Correspondent: Joanne Williams Har- tley, 69 Chesterton Road, Wellesley MA 02481, johhartley69@icloud.com, 781-235-4038, cell: 617-620-9385 Mildred “M’Lee” Catledge Sampson moved a few years ago to an assisted-living home in Stratford, Conn. It is an ongoing adjustment, though she is comfortable with her decision. She has new friends there and still has friends in town. Her two sons are in Vermont and Florida, and her two daughters are in Oregon and Boston, all thriving. She commented that no matter how long we classmates have been away from each other, we pick right up when together; we had a great chat! She talks often to Kathryn “Kitty” White Skinner. M’Lee saw a picture in the paper of a CC gradation; she found it very different, outdoors and so unlike ours; shortly thereafter she saw a man wearing a CC shirt and she mentioned she’d been a student there. He said his son just graduated, and he couldn’t wait to tell him he’d run into a woman who had attended the school! M’Lee’s great-granddaughter was a flower girl in a wedding at which the bride was a CC graduate (who as a junior had assisted our class during Reunion). The little girl walked down the aisle and at one point turned to the guests and announced, “My great-grandma M’Lee went to Connecticut College!” It was a show-stopper. Ann Rea- gan Weeks moved from the Washington area into a retirement community in Princeton, N.J. It is an independent-living community with a wellness center, closer to some of her children, and she is happy. She has six grandchildren, three still in college. Ann had been an avid traveler until stymied by COVID. She still drives; a favorite destination is her beach home in Delaware, where her family convenes in the summer. I am finding a definite theme here! Catherine Pappas McNamara moved from her Houston condo to a new retirement community near Rice University. As with many of us, she no longer drives but gets rides to appointments. She says the food is good, an important feature. She and Bill are doing well and will celebrate their 63rd anniversary; her son and daughter have each visited. Daughter Liz is an artist; see her work at www.lizdexheimer.com. Continuing our theme, Ann Hughey Weiner had a couple of mishaps this spring resulting in trips to a local hospital and two nearby rehabs. The good news is she is fine, home again, and has been able to test nearby assisted-living facilities and pick one should she ever choose to leave her home. Ann and Jane Daly Crowley stay in touch. With Ann’s help I reached out to Cynthia Linton Fleming. She and Bob have been married 24 years; they moved to a wonderful retirement community in Phoenix in 2010. She turned 90 in August, and her four children came to celebrate from New York, Vermont and Colorado. Bob is 94 and still plays golf; he also has four children and all are doing well. Cinnie loved her CC days and says it was because of the people there. I spoke with our beloved Lois “Loise” Keating Learned, still in her retirement community in Connecticut. She is well; she enjoys neighborhood activities and sends her best to all. Jan Smith Post lives in the same community during summers; before the leaves turn she hastens to Naples, Fla., to her lovely condo on the beach. Jan loves bridge, winter and summer. Her family and friends in Naples keep her social life active. Kathryn Hull Easton and Peter also live in Naples. They summer in Virginia Beach; I happily attended their granddaughter’s beautiful June wedding on the beach. Elizabeth “Betty” Gulesian was at CC for two years. She went through school in Wellesley, Mass., with me, attends the same church and lives in a lovely condo in a neighboring town. She loved ocean sailing for many years—now, like many activities, impractical in our golden years. Shoshana Traub Teicher and I had a lovely conversation; she is celebrating her 90th birthday. She still lives in her apartment in Teaneck, N.J., and her family, including 17 grandchildren, live within a few miles. Every Friday she goes to one of the kids’ homes, returning on Saturday night. She also has a condo in Deerfield Beach, Fla., where she winters. Her 96-year-old sister has a condo there too, so they are together in the winter. Shoshana sounds happy; she lost her husband two years ago but enjoys her family and is doing well. Louise “Klumpie” Klump Tanner is also happy and busy. She still lives in her big beautiful home on Lake Champlain; she lost her husband two years ago, and her four children (two in Vermont, two in New York) help her maintain it. She is fortunate enough to have a trainer visit three days a week, and she plays mah-jongg twice a week. Thanks to COVID, she started a ladies’ lunch group at her home every other week. Klumpie and her kids will vacation in San Antonio, Texas, next winter. She will stay a month and they will each visit her. The kids are planning a big 90th birthday party for her next summer, so she has a lot to look forward to! I had a wonderful talk with Evelyn Connolly Meyers, my freshman roommate. She is as happy, positive and energetic as she was at CC. She married a doctor who was a widower with six children, and they had three more together. Her young-est of 18 grandchildren is now 15, and she has five greats. Ev lives in Ponte Vedra, Fla., and summers in Sapphire, N.C., where her kids each plan a week with her. One son-in-law went to the Naval Academy and is now retired but practices as a lawyer for veterans. He has a son who is at the academy, following in his father’s footsteps in a life of service. Two of her children are doctors (retired), and three grandchildren are as well, all living lives of service to others. One daughter lives and works near her, so nice for both of them! Ev has some of the age-related issues we have come to know in our advanced years, but she is lively and enjoys every day in a beautiful area; all is well. Barbara Guerin Colon and Cecil moved to a retirement community in Asheville, N.C. They had summ-ered in the region for years and were drawn to it for an eventual permanent residence. They have their own cottage; Barb still cooks and lives independently. Asheville has a thriving younger population, so there is a lively mix of shops and restaurants in the village. They get a little snow, but it is not a problem and winters aren’t severe. The Colons are doing well. The college forwarded a letter from the family of Catherine “Kitsy” Winslow Priest, who died in September. Kitsy was born in Washington, DC, the daughter of an ambassa-ador to the U.S. from Norway. She came to CC because of its strength in teaching art, though she left to get married after two years. She had four children and lived in DC and later New York. Her marriage broke up and she then batt-led breast cancer. She studied and practiced art throughout these years. She later married TV and film actor Martin Priest. She resided in Rehoboth Beach, Del., for 30 years before her death. The Class of 1954 sends its heart-felt condolences to the family of our cherished classmate Judith Gordon Saks of Cleveland, Ohio, who passed away in October 2021. If you want to catch up with a CC friend, please feel free to contact me; my info is above. Many have made transitions at this stage in life and perhaps you’ve lost touch; I have information that could be helpful.

58 Correspondent: Judy Ankarstran Car- son, P.O. Box 5028, Edwards, CO 81632, djasenton35@gmail.com We hope many will be at our 65th reunion in June. Let’s set another record! In August we received a note from Don Taub regarding Jean Tierney Taub and reminiscing about their peripatetic life with the U.S. Coast Guard and beyond. Unfortunately, Jean was stricken several years ago most like-ly with a stroke and has been bedridden ever since. Active until then, she played tennis and of course served as our diligent class treasurer/agent for 50 years. Jean and Don lived on both U.S. coasts, in The Hague, and in Toulon, France, visiting more than 50 countries. Jean last traveled with her grandchildren on a
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The Legacy Initiative at Connecticut College

Connecticut College has launched the Legacy Initiative to provide all those who love the College and are committed to its future with the opportunity to make a gift that will last forever. Our goal is to raise $50 million in new bequest commitments by the time the Defy Boundaries campaign, the most ambitious in College history, concludes on June 30, 2024. Whether you are 25 or 85, there is no better time than now to name Connecticut College in your estate plans.

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“I have made a bequest of unrestricted funding to the College. I believe that the College that could see the value of an investment in the young me will see the possibilities in the generations of young people who must now lead their families, professions, communities and country through another era of trying times.”

— CAROL J. RAMSEY ’74
100-mile bicycle trek in Germany and France. Their progeny include a doctor, a lawyer and a teacher in the U.S. Embassy school system; five grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Thank you for the update, Don, along with Jean, a faithful attendee at our reunions. We also received the sad news of the death of Sandy Sturman Harris on Sept. 18, 2022. Her son, Seth Bright, has been in touch, noting his mother’s fondness of and loyalty to CC. Over the years many of us enjoyed her witty observations at Reunion dinners of our class’s experiences at college and in the years after.

Sandy, Judy Epstein Grollman, Sue Birt Wanner (I think) and I were members of a famous senior seminar on Spencer’s “The Fairy Queen,” given by a Mr. Leicester, who arrived by train from Brown once a week. So many memories.

Class president Phyllis Malone moved to a senior residence in Mystic, Conn. She is lucky (I think) and I were members of a famous senior seminar on Spencer’s “The Fairy Queen,” given by a Mr. Leicester, who arrived by train from Brown once a week. So many memories.

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Sandy Sildman Larson won the University of Minnesota’s College of Liberal Arts Alumni Notable Achievement award. Retired, she was previously the development director of the Minnesota Planetarium Society and executive director of the ADC Foundation. In 1972, she established a rape and sexual assault counseling center (the second in the country) and then set up the first rape and sexual victim advocate position in the Hennepin County court system. She also founded a nonprofit management consulting service based on using professional volunteers, which became the largest such nonprofit in the country.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Ann German Dobbs, who died in June 2022. Her husband built an en suite in their home, which they opened to single pregnant women, who became part of her family. She started her own marketing firm. She had cancer twice and made sure her surgery did not conflict with work travel. She moved from Connecticut to Arizona, where she was successful winning canasta tournaments. She retired and became a driver for the Caring Corps. We also extend our sympathy to the family of Virginia “Ginger” Reed Levick, who died in July 2022. She taught high school English in Boston and New York. She became involved in special education for those with Down syndrome to better assist her daughter. She developed a course on “Handicapping Conditions” to educate grade-schoolers on common handicaps, which was used in the Boston schools. She also established a parents’ forum in Greenwich, Conn., to advocate for parents with handicapped children. She got her master’s degree in psychology and earned her master of science in marriage, family and child counseling, and she had a private practice in California. Gail Gildden Goodell gave a remembrance at Ginger’s funeral.

Correspondents: Carolyn Keefe Oakes, 3333 Warrensville Center Road, Apt. 412, Shaker Heights, OH 44122, 216-752-5384, carolynoakes07@gmail.com, and Marcia Fortin Sherman, 205 Bud Nalley Drive, Easley, SC, 29642, 864-654-1957, marciasherman@bellsouth.net

Barbara “Buzz” Wickstrom Chandler retired as an educator and dean of St. Charles Community College. She lives outside St. Louis, Mo., with her husband. Emily Hodge Brasfield’s daughter Julie is raising her two nephews, whose mother, Julie’s sister, died of a brain tumor. Emily plays bridge and is in a book club. Gail Gildden Goodell visited Cecily Hamlin Wells in North Carolina and while there talked to Jan Bremer Sturgis, who was recovering from COVID. They visited Biltmore and attended a recital of classical guitarists. Gail and Carole Broer Bishop went to Paris and on to Lyon, where they took a riverboat down the Rhône, ending in Nice. Carole is on a waiting list for an 100-mile bicycle trek in Germany and France. Their progeny include a doctor, a lawyer and a teacher in the U.S. Embassy school system; five grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

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With cuts to National Health Services, she is campaigning for Children Services. Joella Werlin is in England on a grant to research 17th-century literature and Shakespeare, with the premise that he was an investor in theater and perhaps not the playwright. She had one academic article published.

Sandy Sildman Larson won the University of Minnesota’s College of Liberal Arts Alumni Notable Achievement award. Retired, she was previously the development director of the Minnesota Planetarium Society and executive director of the ADC Foundation. In 1972, she established a rape and sexual assault counseling center (the second in the country) and then set up the first rape and sexual victim advocate position in the Hennepin County court system. She also founded a nonprofit management consulting service based on using professional volunteers, which became the largest such nonprofit in the country.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Ann German Dobbs, who died in June 2022. Her husband built an en suite in their home, which they opened to single pregnant women, who became part of her family. She started her own marketing firm. She had cancer twice and made sure her surgery did not conflict with work travel. She moved from Connecticut to Arizona, where she was successful winning canasta tournaments. She retired and became a driver for the Caring Corps. We also extend our sympathy to the family of Virginia “Ginger” Reed Levick, who died in July 2022. She taught high school English in Boston and New York. She became involved in special education for those with Down syndrome to better assist her daughter. She developed a course on “Handicapping Conditions” to educate grade-schoolers on common handicaps, which was used in the Boston schools. She also established a parents’ forum in Greenwich, Conn., to advocate for parents with handicapped children. She got her master’s degree in psychology and earned her master of science in marriage, family and child counseling, and she had a private practice in California. Gail Gildden Goodell gave a remembrance at Ginger’s funeral.

Caroline Keefe Oakes, 3333 Warrensville Center Road, Apt. 412, Shaker Heights, OH 44122, 216-752-5384, carolynoakes07@gmail.com, and Marcia Fortin Sherman, 205 Bud Nalley Drive, Easley, SC, 29642, 864-654-1957, marciasherman@bellsouth.net
that some of us are still kicking! On Oct. 17, 2022, Susan Eckert Lynch, Joyce Heal Paye-
er and I got together for lunch at the Griswold Inn, in Essex, Conn. It was a very rainy, stormy
day. Susie had a tough trip on I-95 in the pouring
rain all the way from Greenwich. Joyce and I came from Mystic. We were all sad at the loss
of so many of our dear classmates … difficult to believe that so many are gone. Here’s hoping
this finds the remaining safe and well.

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Correspondent: Bonnie Campbell Billings-Waters, 1348 Winding Oaks Circle W, Vero Beach, FL 32963, 802-734-1876, bsq22@aol.com I hope you have made plans to attend our 60th reunion, June 2–4! Your re-
union committee began meeting in November to plan for special Class of ’63 events in addition to the
fun activities planned for the entire alumni
community. We hope for a great turnout; please try to make it! In Burlington, Vt., Jay Cannon Ruffle
enjoys the condo they moved to a year and a half ago. “Same neighborhood but less upkeep and much better space for vis-
itors, both family and friends.” She and Tom
do lots of hiking, walking, skiing both downhill
(Tom) and cross-country (Jay), and biking on the
rail-trails. With the Canadian border now open, they take day trips there, “which always feels like a mini European trip.” They love their book club and have started reading books from high school and college. “So interesting to re-
read a book first introduced to a much younger
self.” A recent read was Of Mice and Men. Two of their seven grandchildren are now 17 and
driving, “which definitely makes me feel the turning of the years,” but their 6-year-old
granddaughter keeps them young at heart. Jay and Bonnie Campbell Billings met for a cof-
fee catch-up in Burlington. “What fun to chat about these past 60 years … why in the world
did we wait so long? Looking forward to many more!” Marcia Rygh Phillips enjoyed having
their two children and families for both Thank-
giving and Christmas. “I do love a good-sized
family around the table for a festive meal; cook-
ing for two is never as much fun.” Things in
Richmond, Va., are returning to normal: new
restaurants and old favorites, symphony con-
certs and ballet performances with full houses and masks optional, and theater offerings. The local repertory group bought a large venue to house all its stages, rehearsal space and offices in the same building. “I have taken that as a caution, “Don’t
make the same mistake!” Margery Tupling
Knyper’s son completed his training as an an-
esthesiologist and is now working in New York. They still live in California and remain active hiking, walking and swim-
m ing, “and both enjoy singing to me playing
guitar and ukulele.” Dana Hartman Freyer,
after retiring as a partner at an NYC law firm,
continues as chair of the board of Global Part-
nership for Afghanistan (GPFA) while serving
as an independent arbitrator in large interna-
tional commercial cases. Dana and husband
Bruce cofounded GPFA after 9/11. GPFA’s all-Afghan staff worked with returning refu-
gee farmers (women and men) from 2003 to
2015, helping them restore their small farm businesses. The Freyers traveled extensively in Afghanistan and, in 2004, met nine-year-old
Wali Hairan, whose family had just returned from
a refugee camp in Pakistan after eight years. Bruce mentored Wali, helping him realize
his dream of attending college in the U.S.—
Connecticut College. Wali graduated in 2019
and lives in NYC, where he works at eBay as a software engineer and is a beloved member
of the Freyer family. Dana worked as interim
general counsel at the International Rescue
Committee (2016–2018) and has continued
her efforts on behalf of refugees, including
the many former GPFA employees who are strug-
gling to enter the U.S. Dana is also a director of
Relief International and on the advisory board of
School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA), the only middle/high school boarding school for
Afghan girls. Its students, faculty, support staff and families fled Kabul in August 2021,
when the Taliban took over, and were wel-
come in Rwanda, where the girls are safe and
thriving, although yearning to be reunited with
their families in Afghanistan (see story, p. 34).
Ann Brauer Gigounas retired in 2020 after 42
years of teaching English in middle and high

for ads and save-the-dates, including a Rock-
port Shoes ad featuring the alpacas. “That was fun, with big-time photographers and 10 or so models, producers, lighting people, etc.” Susan
enjoys her grandchildren and their interesting
doings. One is a museum director at Glen Echo
Park, near Washington, DC. “She is an artist herself, but the starving artist needs a job.”
The artist’s sister got a master’s degree in pub-
lic health from Harvard and works at Boston Children’s Hospital. Susan knits for her shop,
makes jams and jellies for Christmas presents
all summer, and manages a large vegetable gar-
den. “Want any Brussel sprouts? Not planting
them again. None of us like them!” Connie
Cross was expecting their first great-grand-
child in January. “What a world we are passing
on to all the generations that come after ours. I hope we can turn at least some things around
for the better.” Connie is still on the board of
the local land trust and active on its various
committees—“proud of all it has accomplished
in 35 years.” She stays healthy with a fitness
class three days a week, daily walks, swim-
ning and gardening in the summer. “Looking forward to our next reunion!” Lanny Brown
Anderson’s summer trip to Italy, France and
Switzerland was cut short when a traveling
companion had a serious paragliding accident
in Zermatt, Switzerland. They returned early
to Deer Isle, Maine, and then both tested pos-
itive for COVID. “Our trip to Florida in No-
vember included a great visit with Bonnie and
Joe in Vero Beach; no COVID this time!” In
August, the 18th Street Gang (so named be-
cause following graduation they shared a house
together on 18th Street in DC) got together at
Dave and Lonnie Jones Schorer’s home on
Lake Winnipesaukee, N.H., for a few days of
boating, sightseeing (cog railway to the summit
of Mt. Washington), dinner in the barn and
summer theater. It’s always wonderful to remi-
nisce and catch up with special CC friends! See you at Reunion!”

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Susan Peck Hinkel, 1064 N. Main St., Danby, VT 05739, rerob@mac.com, and Pat Antell Andrews, 2800 S. University Blvd., Unit 4, Denver, CO 80210, pandre0615@gmail.
com Judie Abbott Raffety cautions, “Don’t
let anyone you know ride a bike without a hel-
met!” Her husband was seriously injured in a
collision with a pickup, but the helmet saved
him, and they headed for their winter home in
Tucson, Ariz., somewhat behind schedule. The Raffetys enjoyed a visit from Joan Lebow
Wheeler and her husband this summer and met in Chicago with their son Daniel ’01 and
Katie Frankel and husband. Judie enjoys po-
e try, book groups, online bridge, and traveling.
Since retiring 11 years ago, June Adler Vail
has published two books—a biography and a memoir released this fall: Fully Core Sketches:
Remembering Virginia Lee Burton. She and
husband David have seven grandchildren
to their two sons. They still live in
Maine, “where we are grateful every day for
our beautiful environment and relatively sane
politics.” Kenny Harrigan decided she “will
NOT spend another isolated winter at home,
Covid be damned.” She enjoys tai chi class-
es and has resumed teaching ESL. Despite
her own good health, she writes, “I have been
caught unprepared, almost blinded, by the
sorrow—and shock—of losing my friends.
Even though such loss is to be expected at
our age, it has been surprisingly difficult for
me to absorb and accept.”
Caroline Davis Murray was remembered by several speakers at the celebration of the life of Caroline Davis Murray at the First Congregational Church in Ashfield, Mass., in celebration of her substantial contributions to the Ashfield community in her work at the Ashfield Library, her civic engagement and her involvement with the First Congregational Church. The service was attended by Jane Brown LaPrino, Kate Curtis Donahue, Jan Davidson Peake, Bridget Donahue Healy, Lee Johnson Stockwell, Terry McNab Rixse and Debby NicholsLosse. Kate spoke at the service and recalled many fond memories of our college years, including Caroline’s family hosting several classmates in early May 1966 as they waited for the results of comprehensive exams. Prior to the service, everyone met for lunch to recall with affection the more than two decades of the circle of friends, including Caroline, has vacationed together for a week each year. Lenore Farmer has been very busy watching her three cats and toy poodle (who thinks he’s a ‘cat’) watching the bird feeder and chipmunks. David and Claire Gaudiani celebrated their 54th anniversary with their two kids’ families, including five grandkids. They wrote a short book, Love Notes, about their discovery during the COVID pandemic of the best reasons their loving marriage had survived two children, two careers, eight moving trucks, an affair and a stroke. Their son persuaded them to move to Princeton, N.J., where he teaches; moving to the suburbs has been a big change after 20 years in NYC. Claire does weight-training (three times a week since age 40), teaches and serves on boards. She also plays Clue, Life and Scrabble with grandkids and competitive Wordle and NYT Spelling Bee daily. Claire still hears from alums and is impressed that so many are achievers.

Ellen Kagan worked hard to elect Democrats during the midterm elections. Pam Mendelsohn has donated “The Pamela Mendelsohn Collection of Instructive Books for Women 1790–2000” to the college in memory of her life partner, Peter E. Palmquist, and her mother, Stella Levine Mendelsohn ’25. The collection of 317 volumes is at the Charles E. Shain Library in the Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives. Please send your news and photos; we love to share them.

67 Correspondents: Deborah Greenstein, debbyg837@seraion.net, and Marcia Hunter Matthews, marciamatthews3@gmail.com 
Jackie King Donnelly and her husband are downsizing big-time by selling their casa in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and moving to Sarasota, Fla., and renting a 1,200-sq.-ft. apartment near the bay. The theme now is mobility and freedom, travel plans, and frequent visits with grandchildren. Eventually they will get a roof and a rocker. Elyane Zweifler Gardstein and husband Hank were in DC for Hank’s belated 50th reunion from the George Washington School of Medicine. They played it safe in masks at the Kusama Infinity Mirrors exhibit at the Hirshhorn Museum and went to the National Gallery of Art, where Elyane had worked while Hank was in med school—wonderful memories! Ethel Bottcher Cullinan returned to DC for another visit with her son and his family. She included a visit to the National Gallery with Debby Greenstein to see the wonderful exhibit of John Singer Sargent works done while in Spain. After talking to Marjorie Lipshutz Simon at Reunion, Debby Greenstein realized that Margie lives near Debby’s cousin Judy Barr Wertheim (Wellesley ’64) and decided they should meet. Margie and Judy followed through and hit it off. They’ve connected several times, including with Debby when she was in Philadelphia to see her cousins. They spent so much time talking at dinner that Margie’s husband called to see if she’d been kidnapped on the way home. Dana Freedman Liebman visited Christine Miller St. Jean last summer at her house in Plymouth, Mass. Dana and Chris enjoyed catching up, including jaunting across the bridge onto Cape Cod. A group of DC and Baltimore ’67 classmates had their first in-person reunion since COVID-19. Anne Maloney Black, Marilyn Silton Khourey, Wendy Thompson Noyes, Laura Dekoven Wexman, Judy Betar Metro and Debby Greenstein had a wonderful time catching up. Judi Rosman Hahn and husband Philip visited Marcia Hunter Matthews and husband Bill in Kennebunkport, Maine, in September. Judi
and Philip enjoyed long walks, dinners and bridge games with Marcia and Bill. The class sends its condolences to the family and friends of Elizabeth Gaynor, who died this summer in New York. Liz was a very talented writer for design magazines. Terry Taffinder Grose nor and Rae Downes Koshetz were her best friends in college and attended a memorial service for her at Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn. Liz leaves her son Samuli “Sam” Haavisto and her longtime partner, Harry Maurer. The class sends condolences to the family of Susan Melinette Haele. Susan is survived by her husband, Denny Haerle. On a personal note, your class correspondents want to acknowledge Susan’s tireless work on behalf of our class, including serving as co-president. She was a guiding force in creating our spectacular 50th reunion. Working with her on the reunion was a pleasure. Her battle against cancer was long and hard, but her spirit was strong and we will miss her. She really was our devoted sister.

Correspondent: Mary Clarkeson Phillips, 36 The Crossway, Delmar, NY 12054, mphiill2@nycap.rr.com Our 55th reunion is this June. Watch for details. Judy Irving has finished Cold Refuge (Why swim in a cold bay where predators can kill you?) and will show it at Reunion! Jane Ranallo Goodman spent April in Florence, Italy. It was cold but with few tourists, she walked daily all over the city and digested so much art. Returning Florence as an older adult and focusing on the art was an exceptional experience. Summer was hot and sticky in Virginia. In September Jane participated in a much-attended two-week residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, in Amherst, Va., among writers, composers, poets and visual artists. Inspiring. As daunting as it was exciting, with so many young and brilliant creative folks. There were a few others her age … comforting! She painted every day from early morning to sunset in a huge, open, bright studio. She enjoys having her son and daughter-in-law and growing family nearby; they have two boys (6 and 3), all healthy and strong. Susan Feigl O’Donnell is still struggling over the loss of her beloved husband, Larry, even though it’s been two years. She lives in the Pennsylvania house in spring and fall, St. Barth from January to April, and Cape May from May to September. Happy news was the wedding of son Gavin O’Donnell to bride Molly on what would have been Larry’s birthday, Sept. 25, 2021, and their growing family. She saw Lila Gault, Cathy Hull and Gale Rawson ’69 at Gavin’s wedding. Candace Mayeron was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Backgammon Federation and has been selected for the board of directors of the new International Backgammon Museum to be permanently located in Providence, R.I. Allyson Cook Gall is the chair of the Social Justice team at her synagogue and visits two city grandkids (Cambridge, Mass.) and two country ones (73 acres with horse, cows, chickens, etc.) as much as possible. She is finally traveling again, to Santa Fe in September and Spain/Portugal in November. Peggy Magid Elder’s family is healthy, and their two kids are prospering and growing their families. Peggy’s daughter is the director of immunizations with Doctors Without Borders. Peggy and husband David are traveling a lot, including another conference in Sydney, Australia, after spending some relaxing time in Fiji. David continues at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, with no plans to retire for several more years. In January 2020, Heather Marcy Cooper and eight classmates met in Naples, Fla., and renewed friendships formed more than 50 years before in Freeman House. Then, when the pandemic hit, they started biweekly Zoom calls from all four time zones, sharing everything from family happenings, travel opportunities, enjoyable books and movies, ponderable politics, adorable pets, care for each other’s health, other concerns, and milestones! Terry Reimers Byrnes and Jim are fine. Vero Beach, Fla., had no serious Hurricane Ian damage. Lots of wind, rain and brush debris but nothing like unfortunate Floridians on the west coast. They looked forward to cooler weather after the hot, humid summer. Leila Gill (pen name "Lj Gill") says her year’s highlight is the publication on Amazon of her first book: When the Pebbles Sparkle, a collection of her poems, haiku and images. Pamela Berky Webb, with two friends, retired in November from 43 years practicing dermatology. Jean Winsan Fisher and husband Gerry took a terrific summer bike tour of the Netherlands and Belgium. “We found and visited the tiny village where my French/Dutch ancestors lived in the 17th century.” I am sad to report the passing of Cecily Mader in Connecticut in October 2022. Please keep your news coming; we all love to know what is happening in the lives of our friends from CC.

Correspondent: Judi Bamberg Mariggiò, 133 Palmetto La., Largo, FL 33770, jjmariggio@gmail.com During their summer month in Maine, Susan Cannon and Rick enjoyed dinner with Alice Reid Abbott and Ed, visited the Farnsworth Museum with Nancy Payne Alexander, and had a delightful lunch with Mike and Nancy Brush Edwards. They also met Sally Rowe Heckscher for dinner in Cincinnati. Mary Garlick St. George took a road trip with two friends, traveling from Saint-Malo, France, to Portugal, concentrating on Brittany. See a video (tinyurl.com/msjs3t5m) that includes Mary’s sketches, stills and French folk music. Joan Hosmer Smith sent holiday greetings from the Kuranda Scenic Railway station in Cairns, Australia, where she and Doug are enjoying the warmth and the people. “We traveled to Conflict Island in Papua, New Guinea, and are continuing on a circumnavigation of Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand on the MS Noordam.” Ellen Lougee Simmons spent Christmas in Houston
Beautiful pottery by Ellen Grenadier ’70

with her nine grandchildren, and then enjoyed a spa week in Mexico with her five daughters. Stephie Phillips spent a long October weekend in Maine “with my special overnight Fernwood Camp friends from the 1950s and ’60s who get together every year. After two years of scary pandemic silence in the travel world, I am again busy booking travel.” She has also planted lots of bulbs in her garden, looking forward to spring. Making up for time lost to the pandemic, David and Ellen Robinson Epstein have been on the go since April: his 65th college reunion, a family wedding, then four trips with two grandchildren on each trip (cousins only, so no sibling rivalries!). “We treated hometown Washington, DC as a ‘foreign’ country and explored ‘little-known monuments in DC;’ Montreal and Quebec City; Iceland, London and Paris; Niagara Falls and Fort Erie; and then the two of us enjoyed three weeks in Israel.” After Thanksgiving they planned to help their son and family settle into their new home in Brooklyn. “It has been wonderful to feel so normal again.” Pamela Schofield enjoys working part-time as a reference librarian in Melrose, Mass., and wrote letters and postcards for the midterm elections. Husband Walter cooked the Thanksgiving feast, which they enjoyed with daughter Analise and grandchildren Adrian (4) and Nadia (1½), who came from South Carolina to celebrate. After nearly seven months in Italy, your correspondent returned to Florida to celebrate “W e then took a two-week cruise from Stockholm by the Norwegian fjords. “It was a wonderful trip.” After three years of being separated by COVID, Karen Kuskin-Smith, Lee Marks, Debbie Foster Ebeling, Hether Clash Macfarlane and Molly Hal Prokop resumed their yearly travels. Unfortunately, Jane Branigan Occhiogrosso couldn’t join this year. They returned to Chicago, a central location for the group. Writes Karen: “It was wonderful to be together in person after years of monthly Zoom meetings. One of our first stops was Starbucks. As always, any missing member joins via photographs. Jane was with us in a photograph, and Susan Lee is also a treasured member of this group.” Nancy Pierce Morgan has been focusing on politics and advocacy. Her election activity included a weekly voter-registration table at the library, postcards supporting the congresswoman, distributing sample ballots at the polling place, “and now celebrating a pretty solid win nationwide.” She’s concerned about threats to prenatal care, citing stories from family members in the medical field of doctors refusing to offer care and a drop in medical students choosing obstetrics. “Yesterday, my granddaughter was in lockdown all night at the UVA library, with full view of the carnage below. She and all of us are now traumatized and less sure of our safety anywhere. Two days of writing to every legislator, starting with the president. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to pressure our elected leaders to see gun safety and the Second Amendment as one and the same. Did I mention politics? Yeh. Learned it at Conn.” Lucy Thomson has been busy with her law practice and its focus on cybersecurity and global data privacy. She was appointed the consumer privacy ombudsman in a crypto bankruptcy case in NYC: “Potentially serious financial fallout to come from three major crypto bankruptcies.” She is active in the American Bar Association House of Delegates and has been focusing on artificial intelligence. She splits time between DC and Martha’s Vineyard. “The house I renovated in Vineyard Haven was featured in the Cape Cod & The Islands magazine (Winter 2022/23).” Still racing sailboats, Lucy joined the Annapolis Yacht Club Race Committee. Cici Simon Holbrook loved the beautiful pottery Ellen Grenadier displayed during the 2021 (delayed 2020) reunion presentation for our class (www.grenadierpottery.com). Cici purchased a covered jar incorporating pine needles to coordinate with Cici’s home in Castle Pines, Colo. Randy Robinson’s re-location from California to Tennessee gives her “spontaneous involvement” with kids and grandkids, “reminding me of the purpose of my life.” She still meets with clients and has been “jolted by the adverse effects of mandated injections, including deaths, even in my small caseload.” Randy said she “finally comprehends the growing pathology in children which colleagues and I have observed for 35 years. I am encouraged that the truth is pouring forth following decades of propaganda and censorship. What a time to be alive!” In September I learned that Barbara Good Caruso died peacefully at her home on Aug. 20, 2022. Born in October 1931 in New London, Conn., she lived in Mystic. After earning an associates degree from Mitchell College in 1951 and marrying husband Maurice in 1952, Barbara entered the Return to College program in 1966 and earned her bachelor’s degree in English. She was an assistant librarian at Mitchell College for 20 years. Barbara is survived by two daughters and their husbands, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

70 Correspondent: Myrna Chandler Goldstein, myrnagoldstein@gmail.com Karen Blickwede Knowlton and husband Kim took a long-awaited trip to Scandinavia and parts of the Baltic in September 2022. A highlight of their week in Sweden was visiting villages that were once home to Karen’s ancestors, including the church where her great-grandmother was probably christened. “We then took a two-week cruise from Stockholm to Bergen, Norway, visiting almost a port a day and lesser-known ports like the Åland Islands.” They had their own private guides—a cousin who lives in Berlin and an Illinois friend who lives in Copenhagen—and learned a lot about the Vikings and were awed by the Norwegian fjords. “It was a wonderful trip.” After three years of being separated by COVID, Karen Kuskin-Smith, Lee Marks, Debbie Foster Ebeling, Hether Clash Macfarlane and Molly Hal Prokop resumed their yearly travels. Fortunately, Jane Branigan Occhiogrosso couldn’t join this year. They returned to Chicago, a central location for the group. Writes Karen: “It was wonderful to be together in person after years of monthly Zoom meetings. One of our first stops was Starbucks. As always, any missing member joins via photographs. Jane was with us in a photograph, and Susan Lee is also a treasured member of this group.” Nancy Pierce Morgan has been focusing on politics and advocacy. Her election activity included a weekly voter-registration table at the library, postcards supporting the congresswoman, distributing sample ballots at the polling place, “and now celebrating a pretty solid win nationwide.” She’s concerned about threats to prenatal care, citing stories from family members in the medical field of doctors refusing to offer care and a drop in medical students choosing obstetrics. “Yesterday, my granddaughter was in lockdown all night at the UVA library, with full view of the carnage below. She and all of us are now traumatized and less sure of our safety anywhere. Two days of writing to every legislator, starting with the president. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to pressure our elected leaders to see gun safety and the Second Amendment as one and the same. Did I mention politics? Yeh. Learned it at Conn.” Lucy Thomson has been busy with her law practice and its focus on cybersecurity and global data privacy. She was appointed the consumer privacy ombudsman in a crypto bankruptcy case in NYC: “Potentially serious financial fallout to come from three major crypto bankruptcies.” She is active in the American Bar Association House of Delegates and has been focusing on artificial intelligence. She splits time between DC and Martha’s Vineyard. “The house I renovated in Vineyard Haven was featured in the Cape Cod & The Islands magazine (Winter 2022/23).” Still racing sailboats, Lucy joined the Annapolis Yacht Club Race Committee. Cici Simon Holbrook loved the beautiful pottery Ellen Grenadier displayed during the 2021 (delayed 2020) reunion presentation for our class (www.grenadierpottery.com). Cici purchased a covered jar incorporating pine needles to coordinate with Cici’s home in Castle Pines, Colo. Randy Robinson’s re-location from California to Tennessee gives her “spontaneous involvement” with kids and grandkids, “reminding me of the purpose of my life.” She still meets with clients and has been “jolted by the adverse effects of mandated injections, including deaths, even in my small caseload.” Randy said she “finally comprehends the growing pathology in children which colleagues and I have observed for 35 years. I am encouraged that the truth is pouring forth following decades of propaganda and censorship. What a time to be alive!” In September I learned that Barbara Good Caruso died peacefully at her home on Aug. 20, 2022. Born in October 1931 in New London, Conn., she lived in Mystic. After earning an associates degree from Mitchell College in 1951 and marrying husband Maurice in 1952, Barbara entered the Return to College program in 1966 and earned her bachelor’s degree in English. She was an assistant librarian at Mitchell College for 20 years. Barbara is survived by two daughters and their husbands, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

71 Correspondents: Lisa McDonnell, 79 Audubon Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903, mcdonnell@denison.edu; Lois Olcott Price, 933A Alto Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501, loprice@yahoo.com Our classmates have had interesting adventures since our 50th/51st reunion and the waning of the pandemic. Linda Lidstrom Spellacy and husband Bourke went to London, Venice and Egypt: “The trip to Egypt was postponed three times, so it was a dream come true. We toured Cairo and the Great Pyramids of Giza, cruised down the Nile, and saw the great dam at Aswan and the magnificent Valley of the Kings. Venice was especially beautiful, with a waxing full moon and a full moon our final night. The pandemic had

After three years of being separated by COVID, Class of 1970 friends Lee Marks, Debbie Foster Ebeling, Hether Clash Macfarlane, Molly Hal Prokop and Karen Kuskin-Smith resumed their yearly travels.

Linda Lidstrom Spellacy ’71 and husband Bourke with their “ride” at the Great Pyramids of Giza
**Weddings**


Riordan Frost ’10 married Laura Cappio in 2021 and had a wedding celebration on Aug. 13, 2022. Camels in attendance included (from left): Spencer Sutton ’10, Andrew Oedel ’10, Michael Shikhman ’10, Michael Haviland ’10, Max Currier ’10, Corey Lalime ’09, Maya Close-Barber ’09, Kate Lalime ’09, Deena Kimmel ’10, Philip Close-Barber ’10 and Erik Brownsword ’10.

From left: J.C. Cangelosi ’15, Maureen Sweeney ’13, Britt Badik ’12, Josh Suneby ’15, Michael Fratt ’15, Jen Herbert ’13, Britt Cangemi Dropkin ’13, Gabby Salvatore Schlagel ’13, Jeff Basch ’15, Margaret Herbert ’84.

Camels in attendance at the wedding of Brittany Abrego-Baltay ’16 last summer in Lincoln, Mass.: Rachel Maddox ’16, Eva Murray ’17, Emma Weissberg ’16, Leah Shapira ’16, Magdalena Abrego-Baltay, Brittany Abrego-Baltay ’16, Georgia Baltay, Bonnie MacEachern, Molly Shea ’16, Charlotte Weber ’16.
From left: Meghan O’Hare, Jameson Ellett ’07, Andrew Glenn ’07, Laura Rehn, Adam Romanow ’07, Dr. Jen Ludgin ’05 and Bennett Fisher ’08

Marissa Lombardi ’08 married Ethan Beise on July 17, 2022, in Newport, R.I. The happy couple celebrated with Dan O’Shea ’08 and Sarah Ellison O’Shea ’08, William Pasquin ’10, Rich Spoeh ’11, Stephen Wolff ’10, Christine Monahan Benton ’07, Laura Schmidt Penske ’08 and Jonny Benton ’07.

Sarah Hammond Gamble ’10 married Lindsey Gamble on July 8, 2022.

Jane Silverstein Root ’60 enjoyed seeing CC alums at her grandson’s wedding: Alex Amil ’85, Ted Root ’85, Jane Silverstein Root ’60, Suzy Root ’91, M.H. McQuiston ’88 and Charlie Kiernan ’85. The bride and groom are Amanda Buckshon and T.J. Root.

The wedding day of Caroline Martin ’16 and Dave Parsons ’13

Molly Clifford ’13, Grant Jacoby ’13, Bailey Bennett ’14, Samantha Shay ’13, Quinn Menchetti ’13, Ben Murphy ’13, George King ’13, Bryson Cowan King ’12 and Kyle Riffe ’13

Amanda Lee ’13 and Daniel Sondheim after their wedding in May 2022
Births

Julia Jacobson ’06 and son Ezra Paul Sims Jacobson

Sarah Davis Lieponis ’06 and husband Jonas are delighted to share the birth of their daughter, Viktorija Hathaway Lieponis, who arrived on Oct. 29, 2022.

Priyanka Gupta Zielinski ’06 and husband Richard hung out with Ezra Rashkow ’03, wife Sharon and baby Calli in Abu Dhabi, UAE.


lessened the crowds and we had perfect, sunny, 60s weather.” Linda sends thanks and praise to the reunion committee and the Conn staff: “I want to formally thank all of you who made our 50th reunion so memorable. When I tell you my husband had a good time, you know it was a great success. It was a really fun weekend.” Lois Olocott Price and husband Grover have been traveling, too, with a long-delayed spring trip “to the sand dunes, rhinos, rock art and wonderful people of Namibia.” With the closing of the clay center in Santa Fe, she now does ceramic sculpture at Atelier Arlene, a small group of enthusiasts who gather weekly in their mentor’s studio. “I have a kiln and a small home studio. With volunteer work in an Indian art collection, ongoing odd jobs writing and editing for a Korean artist, teaching an adult education class, and administering grants for the University of Delaware, life is pleasantly full again.” Lucy Van Voorhees’ adventures outside her medical practice have been more domestic, involving grass: “Our farm guy didn’t return from Guatemala this year and my husband had surgery on his big toe, so I’ve been trying to keep order on twelve and a half acres. So much grass, so little time!”

Judith Zellman Sklarz’s adventures have also been domestic: “Some people had COVID children, others got pets. We built a house along the Connecticut River (Milford). After 48 years in the same house and more stuff than I could manage, we moved New Year’s Eve 2021. With the sound in front and the pond in back, there are birds galore! Mark still works full-time just because he wants to.” One granddaughter is a freshman at the University of Chicago; the other is a freshman in high school. Christine Howells Reed’s adventure was social: “In October I met Bev Sager for lunch in Northampton, Mass., while visiting my sister in nearby Greenfield. It was wonderful to reconnect!” Several people embarked on new life phases. Lisa McDonnell was awarded a named chair at Denison University, the Dominick Consolo Endowed Professorship, funded by former Disney CEO and Denison alumnus Michael Eisner, who chatted with her at the Eisner Center for the Arts dedication ceremony. Two years later (last December), Lisa retired from Denison as a professor emerita and lives with her mother while her flooded house (the third flood!) in Granville, Ohio, is extensively repaired. They attended the immersive Van Gogh exhibit and virtual reality tour of the artist’s much-painted Arles, both fascinating experiences. On Oct. 4, 2022, Anne Kennison became a grandmother! Ondine Annie Lemos Parker was born to daughter Abigail Parker and her husband, Christian Lemos. Ondine’s middle name honors both grandmothers, who have similar names; Anne was “very touched” by that. Since Anne lives in New Jersey and they live in Portland, Anne hadn’t met Ondine at writing but planned to spend Christmas with her in Portland. Susan Katz won a national award, the 2022 Edward O’Brien Human Rights Education Award.

Among other contributions, Susan founded the first human rights education graduate program in the U.S., at the University of San Francisco. (Google for more info about this and Susan’s other contributions.) She officially retired in May 2022 and is now a professor emerita—although still doing way too much. Congratulations, Susan!

72 Correspondent: Barbara White Morse, barbareawormorse@gmail.com, and Ann Toussignant, annontoussignant@gmail.com Phil Kercher intended to just “lightly review” the stories in our 50th reunion yearbook, Koiné Gold—but got hooked and read everything to the end. “Each story is captivating, isn’t it? The scale of contribution is impressive, encouraging and admirable. I appreciated the revealing, personal nature of the stories as I related, as much as I could, to life challenges and various forks in the road. It is also clear that life mostly comes down to relationships, family first followed by friends over the years. A good friend once said, ‘You can never make a new old friend.’ These stories are testimonies to that truth.”

Lucy Boswell Siegel says life on Cape Cod is simpler and less stressful than preretirement in NYC. Instead of marketing clients’ businesses, she uses her hands and markets her own crafts. Her Etsy shop, AbsolutelyBrilliant, features rehabbed vintage Coach and Dooney & Bourke handbags as well as shell crafts. She is on two town government committees. Her kids are both in California; she traveled there to her younger son’s engagement party. She’s hoping for grandchildren before she’s too old to play with them! Pat Kreger and Carol Adams attended the 50th reunion. Pat writes, “We had a great time reconnecting with classmates. At Conn, we made lifelong friendships.” In October, Pam Wilsey, Pat Kreger, Betsy Riggs Fermano, Carol Adams, Penny Brown and Ginger Brockwell met in Newport, R.I., for a delayed 70th birthday celebration. “We’re all busy enjoying children and grandchildren and volunteering. Penny is still working.” Karen Steineker Harris and Debbie Elcock enjoyed reconnecting at Reunion with Deb Garber King for the first time since graduation. Since then, they (with husbands) had two mini reunions: in East Greenwich, RI, and for a rousing band concert performed by the President’s Own Marine Band at the Coast Guard Academy. Karen’s third grandchild, Jua- nie Mae, was born to son Andrew and his wife, Ash, mere hours after Karen arrived in Washing- ton state! Martha Vaughn Bath and her husband have lived in Seattle for 25 years. Her son owns a brewery in Portsmouth, N.H., and her daughter is an oncology nurse in Seattle. They have three grandchildren. They caught up on travel this year: Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho; Glacier National Park; London; Paris, with a river cruise up the Seine to Norman- dy; and Albuquerque and Santa Fe. “One last trip was to Los Angeles in early August for an
amazing experience. On Aug. 3 I taped *Jeopardy!* The show aired on Sept. 21. Let’s just say I represented us older folks quite well. It was such fun and the other contestants were wonderful.” Candace Thorson’s first grandchild, Lilian Gail, was born June 15, 2022. “I spend as much time as I can with Lilly and will be doing daycare when my daughter-in-law returns to work.” She and Deborah Garber King are in a book club with two high school friends. One or two trips complete the yearly social calendar, domestically since the pandemic. This year it was Key West and San Antonio, Texas. Ruth Ritter Ladd’s sixth grandchild was born Sept. 25, 2022. “We now have a balanced family: two sons and two daughters, three grandsons and three granddaughters.” They are still puppy raisers for Guiding Eyes for the Blind; their 17th puppy passed the test. “Number 16 puppy, Lyric, had some medical issues so we elected to keep her! Lyric needed a job so I got her certified as a therapy dog and she’ll be ‘working’ as a reading dog (kids read to her) at our library.” Ruth is in several conservation groups and will serve on Conn’s annual fundraiser committee. Norma Walrath Goldstein and Allen moved back to their 1928 Seattle home in December after living in Maryland and working in Washington, DC, the past decade. Norma plans to become a college trustee and will continue to write and publish her poetry as well as launch an international dinner club with friends. This spring, she and Allen will return to Annapolis, Md., to begin their coastal sailing north to visit sons and family in Connecticut and New Jersey. Their sailing itinerary includes Maine to Hampton Roads, Va., and then to the Bahamas in their 39-foot yacht, Afterglow. Peg Muschell Jackson and Paul enjoy life in Honolulu. Peg still consults and is on several boards, including the Honolulu Zoological Society, the Rotary Club of Honolulu and the Junior League of Honolulu. They were looking forward to the Yo-Yo Ma concert at the Waikiki Shell in December. In Brookline, Mass., Deborah Hansen Hollenberg has had some incredibly difficult times the past three years. Husband Norman died Jan. 15, 2020, and her twin brother, Donald, died two weeks later; her mother died three months after that. With the pandemic shutdown, she couldn’t hold her husband’s memorial service or visit her mother in the nursing home. Norman’s service was finally held Oct. 23, 2022. Norman was a physician, top of his field in hypertension research, great mentor (professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School) and loved by many. In recognition of his contributions, Deborah is establishing the Norman K. Hollenberg Lectureship in Radiology at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Grieving for the three most important people in her life has been overwhelming, but she has been greatly helped by Temple Israel. As she moves forward, she hopes to use her creativity to express herself visually.

73 Correspondent: Hester Kinnicutt Jacobsohn, djeacobs@midriviers.com My questions (to get people responding) were: What country would you want to visit and why? (One you have already been to or not.) Would you fly into space if given the chance? What is the historical event you remember best or had the greatest impact on you? Jean Wong retired on July 1, 2022, after teaching at The College of New Jersey (Ewing, N.J.) for 25 years, where she was an associate professor in the Department of Special Education, Language and Literacy. The historical event she most remembers is living in Beijing in 1988–89 with her family and being involved in the Tiananmen democracy protests. James “Tom” Sullivan is an author: *Baseball’s Sherlock Holmes*, published in September, is an extensive biography of a major league ballplayer and coach of over a century ago who was considered the master “detective” of his day regarding solving the mystery of opposing pitchers. Tom has lived in Maryland since leaving Conn. In August, Dave Clark was honored as a Hero of Camp O’At-Ka at an induction ceremony in Sebago, Maine. Dave has worked and volunteered at the camp for 53 consecutive years and calls O’At-Ka “my other favorite charity along with CC; contributing to two wonderful institutions that concentrate on educating and developing young people has been a life-supporting adventure.” Among those in attendance was Annie Gemmer Bowe ‘10, the camp’s assistant director. Michele Kahn Spike will miss reunion since she’ll be in Florence, Italy, where they have lived since 1989. Since 2011, they also live in Williamsburg, Va., where she taught contract drafting and secured transactions at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law as Distinguished Visiting Professor of the Practice. “Italy is my favorite place to visit; I would not travel into space. The historical event(s) that most changed my life are the marches across the bridge at Selma, Ala. The final march, completing the route from Selma to Montgomery, occurred on March 25, 1965, celebrated by the Catholic Church as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Marian devotion. On that day, Rev. Robert W. Spike was among the clergy who marched with Rev. Martin Luther King, and I heard Rev. Spike interviewed on WABC radio that night. His son, John, sat beside me in eighth-grade algebra, and I asked him about his father’s work as the director of the National Council of Churches’ Commission on Religion and Race. John and I will be married 50 years in May.” Pam Kalish Edel has no desire to fly into space, but there is a lot more of the world she would like to see. “The aurora borealis and the Pyramids [at Giza] are high on my list. India and Brazil have been my favorite trips to date. The culture, the people and the art are all fascinating. Historically, 9/11 and the election of Barack Obama are high on my list, but living through a pandemic has had a tremendous impact on my life. Presently I enjoy being a docent at the Metropolitan Museum, giving tours to our youngest visitors (grades K–3), enjoying time with my children and grandchildren, and learning to create my own art.” Karen Hartigan Whiting was with Margaret “Maggie” Elbert Paar at their husbands’ 50th CGA reunion in October. “Lots of fun catching up.” Karen’s 33rd book release (November 2022) is *Growing a Peaceful Heart*. In the next two years she will publish a book on joy and a children’s board book. She teaches writing and marketing at writer’s conferences and speaks at both live and Zoom events for the Christian film industry, parents and women. I, Hester Kinnicutt Jacobs, would love to see more of the world, but my favorite place to visit is New Zealand. Next trip is planned for 2024 to see my son and his family. This time (#5) we will stop in Tahiti or another Pacific Island. If I were younger, I would love to fly into space. Although a lot has happened since then, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy had a major impact on me, eventually leading to a Government major at Conn. I hope to see you all at our 50th reunion, June 1–4.

74 Correspondent: Barbara Herbst Tutum, Barbrtutum52@gmail.com Charlie Morrison and wife Ann bought a condo in Northampton, Mass., where they spend the summer. They also visit the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, where Charlie’s great-grandfather built a rustic hunting cottage on a beautiful lake. Despite the cottage “tilting in many directions,” it is truly beautiful there. Their children (Conny, a resident at a UNC hospital, and Josh, a postdoc in American history at Columbia) join them for fun family times. In September, Charlie and Ann took a three-week trip to Scotland and London. With friends they hiked the Great Glen Way, a nine-day hike from Ft. William to Inverness. They prepared with summertime six- to 12-mile training hikes,
but did it the “easy” way by limiting hikes to 12 miles and having their bags transported between B&Fs. **Amy Cohen** and husband Harvey Shrage moved from Springfield, Mass., to Brewster. They are thrilled to live on beautiful Cape Cod, surrounded by the bay and ocean, ponds, conservation lands, and many wonderful places to hike. She would love to connect with other Conn alums on the Cape. Since 2004, **Mark Samuels Lasner** has been Senior Research Fellow at the University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press. He adds to his collection of Victorian books, manuscripts and artworks. Mark participates in bibliophile and bibliographical organizations. Last fall, he cokedurated with Margaret D. Stetz Mae and Robert Carter, professor of women’s studies at the University of Delaware, the exhibition “Aubrey Beardsley, 150 Years Young” at the Grolier Club, in New York, which received notice in the *New Yorker* and the *Washington Post*. Despite the long winters, **Sibyl Davis Quayle** and husband Randy still love life in the Adirondack Mountains in northern New York. Both fully retired, they enjoy hiking, playing golf, cross-country skiing and “too many volunteer jobs.” Sibyl and Randy stay in touch with **Nan Mezzatessa Bateson** and her husband, who joined them on Lake Placid last summer. **Jim Berrien** is delighted to announce the arrival of his third grandson—a little girl to join her two big brothers. Younger daughter **Lacy** is engaged to be married in June. Jim and family spent Halloween in Mexico. **Ahl, Mark Gero** to report President Bergeron’s team and CC friends. **Ann Whittingham** shared the sad news that his brother Lacy is engaged to be married in June. Jane and **Tim Reinsch** met with friends **Elaine Lang Cornett** and Betty O’Brien (Elaine’s cousin) for their annual summer gathering in August. They toured the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay.

**Archive Revisited:**

As students, Jim McGoldrick and **Tracey Stephan** met at **Conn** in the 1970s. Jim is a former COO of Nautica. His daughter is a second-year med student. Tracey is a professional singer, songwriter and music producer. She is a proud mother of two. They were married in 2022 and live in the east end of Connecticut. Tracey passed away in April 2023. She was a musician, songwriter, composer and producer. She was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in 2019. Tracey has been a vocal advocate for those living with rare diseases and a fighter for a cure. She was a champion for others and an inspiration to all who knew her. She was a role model for living life to the fullest and making a difference in the world. Tracey was a mentor and friend to many. She will be forever missed. **Correspondents:** **Stuart Sadick**, stuart.sadick@gmail.com **Tracey Stephan**, tracey.stephan@gmail.com

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**SECTION: **[Image 443x642 to 618x768]

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**SECTION: **[Image 627x6]
Jack spent in nearby Manchester-by-the-Sea with his grandparents. Dana runs the T.S. Eliot Foundation writer’s program; Jack is easing out of his current handyman trade and former environmental science career. Their grown children are well, living in New York, Oregon and North Carolina. After a fun career living and working around the world while developing new, large public aquarium projects, Jack enjoys being home. He looks forward to RV adventures and kayaking around Cape Ann. Jack frequently sees Campbell Seamans ’80. Peter and Rindy Hallarman shuttle between homes in Chicago’s suburbs and California; California is where the grandkids are—one set each in Northern and Southern California. They spend most of the winter there. Todd Bates lives near Newfound Lake in Alexandria, N.H. He and wife Andrea also have a place in Fairfax, Calif., near one son and a granddaughter, and close to another son in Philipburg, Mont. Their youngest son lives in Cambridge, Mass. Todd is retired from his career as environmental journalist and science communicator. He still blogs as NH EnviroGuy and takes far too many photos, mostly of landscapes. He is in touch with George Hayden, who lives on Chebeague Island, Maine—a great location! Susan Calef Tobiason has moved to a charming senior-living facility in Roanoke, Va. She lives near her sister, and they enjoy singing in a local choir. After 37 years as an English language arts teacher in a variety of schools, Peter Reich retired. He intends to spend his time riding his motorcycle and writing poetry. He and his wife walked 100 kilometers of the Camino, in Spain, with Jenny Sewall and her husband. “It was a lot of fun and there were no blisters.” Our class sends condolences to Walter Sive (Seattle, Wash.), his four siblings and their children upon the death of his mother, Mary Robinson Sive ’46.

Correspondent: Vicki Chesler vachesler@gmail.com Wisner Murray said 2022 was a great year for his family. In May, he and Bettie traveled to Boulder, Colo., for daughter Polly’s PhD hooding ceremony. She then moved to Anchorage, Alaska, for a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Alaska Anchorage. “My, Alaska is a long way away.” Son Francis married Teresa Galli in their backyard in July. “What an event! Then quick before the sun disappeared we took off for Alaska to visit Polly’s new world, followed by an expedition along the southeast Alaska coastline. Seals and otters and bears, oh my … whales, too. Hope all are well.” Chip Clothier is taking the helm of the CC Alumni Association.

Correspondent: Jenifer Kahn Bakkala, 51 Wesson Terrace, Northborough, MA 01532, 508-523-8930, JKBBlue@gmail.com Clement Butt has spent the past eight years traveling the great wine regions of France, tasting wines from boutique wineries. He imports a curated collection of small-production, estate-bottled wines, which he labels with his own brand: Sélection Clément Vignot. Follow him on Instagram @clementvignot, and look for his wines in wine shops and restaurants in Connecticut and New York, or visit clementvignot.com. In April, Clem visited Mark Sutton and Kim Niles Sutton ’86, in Savannah, Ga., along with Brad Mills and David Wittenberg. Andrea Bianchi Wooten met Scott Lowell and Anna Sank Haselmann ’88 at Fraunces Tavern in NYC for a mini-reunion: “Always a great time with best of CC friends.” In January 2022, Helen Murdoch changed careers from education to tech—working remotely means she can visit friends at the same time! During a March East Coast trip she saw

Please join us for a weekend of fun, friendship and celebration on Conn’s spectacular new waterfront as we recognize this significant milestone for Camel Women’s and Men’s Rowing Programs. The weekend’s festivities will be in coordination with Reunion 2023. Committee planning efforts are underway. For more information, please contact alumni@conncoll.edu.

Online registration to open April 1. On-campus accommodations will be available at that time.
Marjorie McEvoyn Egan and Susan Brager Murphy in Boston; Chase Bradley and Leissa Perkinson Jackmauh in Connecticut; and Peg Harlow, Paul Stuek ’85 and Blake Ward ’88 in New York City. “Wonderful time to spend with people who have known me for so long, with whom I share a history—lots of reminiscing, laughing, and catching up,” Linda Christensen Wright wrote. “It was a long autumn for Stephanie Hamed Borowy, watching students adjust to full in-person learning. Seeing her husband and son each get COVID despite being vaccinated did not help!”

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Liana Slasor Slater continues to work as a social entrepreneur in DEI and was thrilled to host fellow alumni as guests in season 2 of The MindShare Podcast, including Andre Pinard and Andre Robert Lee ’93. Both men are significant change makers in business and society. Listen anywhere you get your podcasts! Nicole Drepanos Walters also invited Andre Lee as a keynote speaker at the Duxbury Bay Maritime School, in Duxbury, Mass., where his talk and documentary film engaged a huge turnout of 200 residents, including Chris Bettencourt ’93, Betsy Clark Davenport ’92, and Clay- ton Kunz had a Class of ’94 men’s rowing reunion at the Head of the Charles in October. They enjoyed seeing Conn rowing coaches Ric Ricci and Evi Kovach, who were getting the current crews ready to race. Clayton, who rows with the Marin Rowing Association, came in 10th place in his event, the men’s senior masters fours. Igor and his wife cheered on their daughter, who rows with her high school team, while Scott and his family stopped by after visiting his son at Brown. Daniella was volunteering at the regatta but, truth be told, spent a lot more time with former teammates than manning her post in Reunion Village. Christa Holahan An- ceni participated in the World Climate Summit/COP27, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, representing her company, Everbridge. “This was an exciting opportunity to discuss emergency and crisis response capabilities for climate adaption with organizations from around the world, as well as to learn about new ideas and collaborations on the ‘race to resilience.’ And true to my Camel roots, I also had the opportunity to sit on a camel while there.”

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Out of COVID frustration, theater alumni Jeremy Guskin ’96 and Darren Coyle ’96 filmed various fromage to their favorite films, including Willy Wonka.


Correspondent: Nora Guerrera, noraguerre@gmail.com. After leaving Conn, Dr. Joshua Duclos earned his master’s degree at the University of Chicago, completed a Fulbright in the Czech Republic and then took his PhD in philosophy at Boston University. He is a former recipient of the Mach Aron Alumni Award and has published his first book, Wilderness, Morality, and Value, a study in moral and environmental philosophy. “The early reviews are very good. One of the book’s endorsers is Professor Jefferson McMahan, the top moral philosopher at Oxford University.”

Correspondent: Stephanie Savage Flynn, 21 Whiting Rd., Wellesley, MA 02481, stephaniesavageflynn@gmail.com, and Cecily Mandl Macy, 8114 Flourtown Ave., Glenside, PA 08038, cecily.mandl@gmail.com. Brett Spigelman met up with a few Camels in Brooklyn (Prospect Park). Elizabeth Ken-
first stuffed animal was a camel, her first one-
se was hand-embroidered by Julia Jacobson
with “Future Shwiff” and her eyes light up at the
sweet sweet sound of “Mr. Brownstone.” Sarah
likes living near campus so that Tory can
learn the CC ropes early and hopefully attend
her first Floralia this spring. Julia Jacobson
is delighted to announce the birth of her son,
Ezra Paul Sims Jacobson, born Nov. 21, 2022,
a healthy 9 lbs., 7.6 oz., and 21.25 in. Julia and
Ezra live in Brooklyn, N.Y., where Julia is the
clinical director of a preschool day treatment
center as well as a child therapist in private
practice. Julia hopes to instill in Ezra a love for
camels, tent dances and a cappella.
Andrew Glenn married his partner,
Laura Rehn, in Bodega Bay, Calif., in
October 2022. In attendance was his best man,
Adam Romanow, Dr. Jen Ludgin ‘08 and
Jameson Ellett. On May 15, 2021, Megan McCarthy
and Larry Duren II were married on the beach in Dewey Beach,
Del., one of their favorite places in the world,
second only to the beautiful and illustrious
grounds of CC. While the pandemic kept their
ceremony small, they were joined by many
family and friends—and Camels! — in a cele-
bration on Sept. 24, 2022, in Washington, DC,
where they live. Camels in attendance included
Eric DeBear, Adam Robbins, Katey Nelson
‘06, Julia Jacobson ‘09, Brendan Schwartz,
Elaine Weisman and Megan Glendon.

Correspondent: Arezi Sakellaris, asa-
bellaris@gmail.com  Asa Waterworth
writes, “In 2017, I was asked by the CISLA
office to write a thank-you to a donor named
Joan Roberts Robertson ‘38. At the time, I
didn’t know that she was over 100 years old
and an alumna of the college herself. (Today, at
almost 107, she is likely the oldest living alu-
nal!) We corresponded via snail mail for over
two years, and had the chance to meet in per-
son for the first time at her home in Wisconsin
in October 2019. Yesterday, I found myself in
Wisconsin again, and met up with Joan and her
daughter Annette for lunch at her home over-
looking Lake Michigan. It was a visit I’ll cher-
ish forever.” Marissa Lombari married Ethan
Beise on July 17, 2022, in Newport, R.I. The
happy couple celebrated with Dan O’Shea,
Sarah Ellison O’Shea, William Pasquin ‘10,
Rich Spoe ‘11, Stephen Wolff ‘10, Christine
Monahan Benton ‘07, Laura Schmidt Penske
and Jonny Benton ‘07.
Erin Holstein married Eric Mogel on
Sept. 25, 2021, in Beacon, N.Y. Dr. John Rode
graduated from the Geisel School of
Medicine at Dartmouth College in the spring of
2021. At his commencement ceremony, John
was inducted into the Dartmouth-Mosenthal
Surgical Society. He was also presented with
the Rolf C. Syvertsen Scholar Award. John is in
his second year of surgical residency at North-
western’s Feinberg Memorial Hospital, in Chi-
cago. At CC, John was a member of the swim

Correspondent: Grace Astrova, gra1223@g
Sarah Hammond married Lindsey Gamble on July 8, 2022. A good CC
crew joined them, including Nicole Reiff,
Becca Wohl, Steph Turnbull, Erin Ok-abe-Jawdat, Blake McDonald, Chad Stew-
art ‘11, Sarah Nugent, Liz Young, Meg
Christman, Anna Coiffu ‘11 and Alison
Bryant Henry. Riordan Frost married Lau-
ra Cappio in a small ceremony in 2021,
followed by a wedding celebration one year later
with family and friends on Aug. 13, 2022. In
attendance were 11 other Camels: Spencer
Sutton, Andrew Oedel, Michael Shikhman,
Michael Haviland, Max Currier, Corey
Lalime, Maya Close ’09, Kate Barber Lalime
’09, Deena Kimmel, Philip Barber and Erik
Brownsword. Justin Levy married Adi Ein-
stein on Oct. 15, 2022, in Potomac, Md. The
love was celebrated by their two dachshunds,
Ketchup and Honey Mustard, and their fami-
lies and friends. Justin and Adi live in Portland,
Ore. Alex Marcus started a new job at Expe-
da Group in Seattle. He lives on Bainbridge
Island with his wife, son and two dogs. Mi-
chael Haviland moved from Collingswood,
N.J., to Glen Mills, Pa., with his wife, Kristyn
Haviland, and their son, Elliot.

Catherine Monahon runs Waveform
Ceramics, a clay classroom in Oakland,
Calif., focused on the healing, empowering na-
ture of clay; they also produce Material Feels
in collaboration with Elizabeth de Lise ’13, an art
materials podcast about the intimate relation-
ships between creatives and the materials they
fall in love with. Conversations with the Materi-
al World, a physical installation version of the
show featuring four sculptures by four queer/
nonbinary artists and corresponding narrative
soundscapes by de Lise and Monahon, pre-
miered at the Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn Mu-
seum & Sculpture Garden in June 2022 and
made its West Coast debut last fall at the Yerba
Buena Center for the Arts, in San Francisco.

Amanda Lee married Daniel Sond-
heim on May 28, 2022, at the Neon Mu-
seum in Las Vegas, Nev. They live in Seattle,
Wash., with their dog, Joey. Samantha Shay
and Quinn Mencetti were married on Sept.
17, 2022, in the Cook County Forest Preserves,
Chicago. They were overjoyed to have fellow
Camels in attendance. Samantha is a social
worker in the area of substance use treatment,
and Quinn is a teacher and athletics coach.
They live in Chicago with their dog, Scrapple.

Brittany Abrego-Baltay was married
last summer in Lincoln, Mass. Camels in
attendance included Rachel Maddox, Eva
Murray ’17, Emma Weisberg, Leah Shapiro,
Molly Shea and Charlotte Weber.
1940s
Mary Robinson Sive ’46 died October 24, 2022
Joan Perry Smith ’47 died February 20, 2014
Mary Alice Clark ’48 died June 9, 2022
Barbara Susman Lubow ’48 died August 13, 2022
Roberta Mackey Rigger ’48 died June 20, 2022
Elizabeth Anderson Culbert ’49 died June 24, 2022
Julia Kuhn Johnson ’49 died August 19, 2022
Phyllis Nectow Shycon ’49 died September 27, 2022

1950s
Anita Manasevit Perlman ’50 died November 23, 2022
Adrienne Najarian Rabkin ’50 died November 22, 2022
Edmee Busch Reit ’50 died September 17, 2022
Dorothy Abrutyn Turtz ’50 died September 7, 2022
Dorothy Cramer Maitland ’51 died September 24, 2022
Elizabeth Brainard Glassco ’52 died October 7, 2022
Jean Lattner Palmer ’52 died October 25, 2022
Mary Harbert Railsback ’52 died October 28, 2022
Jean Leister Crouchwell ’53 died November 11, 2022
Harriet Patur Roberts ’53
Catherine Winslow Priest ’54 died September 3, 2022
Susan Lane Scavo ’54 died October 29, 2022
Shirley Brown Driver ’55 died October 18, 2022
Shirley Smith Earle ’55 died August 2, 2022
Carolyn Remmers Havel ’55 died September 17, 2022
Gloria MacArthur Van Duyne ’56 died November 20, 2022
Sarey Frankel Bernstein ’57 died August 30, 2021
Carole Marks Bobruff ’57 died August 7, 2022
Martha Kelly Peterson ’57 died July 17, 2022
Cassandra Sturman Harris ’58 died September 18, 2022
Sara Frey Malin ’58 died September 16, 2022
Ann German Dobbs ’59 died June 25, 2022
Katherine Usher Henderson ’59 died July 26, 2022
Virginia Reed Levick ’59 died July 29, 2022

1960s
Judith Kearns McCabe ’61 died October 23, 2022
Elizabeth Bell Hetherington ’63 died November 15, 2022
Ann Doughty Bunting ’65 died November 13, 2022
Elizabeth Gaynor ’67
Susan Melinette Haerle ’67
Cecily Mader ’68 died October 2, 2022

1970s
Barbara Good Caruso ’70 died August 20, 2022
Robert Williams ’75 died August 13, 2022
Allan MacKinnon ’78 died July 6, 2022
Catherine Sobin Szanto ’78 died August 23, 2022
Lenore Smith Campbell ’79 died November 12, 2022

1980s
James Bolan ’80 died October 16, 2022
Jason Gerolmo ’80 died August 11, 2022
Susan James ’80 died October 5, 2021
Sterling North ’80 died June 14, 2022
Casey Sims ’87 died September 16, 2022
Sandra Goldman Auerbach ’89 died September 8, 2022

1990s
Raymond Flynn ’94 died August 23, 2022

Former faculty
Philip H. Jordan Jr., former dean of the faculty,
died July 22, 2022
Arthur Kreiger, Sylvia Marx Professor Emeritus
of Music, died January 4, 2023
Richard Mooron, professor emeritus of classics,
died November 18, 2022
Taking Her Shot

Phoebe Grace Gonzalez-Cottrell, the 14-month-old daughter of Salvation Army New London Corps Captains Adriana and Brandon Gonzalez-Cottrell, works on her ball-handling skills in Conn’s Luce Field House during a Jan. 19 basketball clinic hosted by the WNBA’s Connecticut Sun, the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy and the Department of Athletics for the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Greater New London.

Sun guard Courtney Williams, former Sun forward and current Sun Assistant General Manager Morgan Tuck, and Conn’s own Jenna Whelan ’22, who played many games in the gym and is now the Sun’s communications intern, coached the 25 participants from the Boys & Girls Club, who ranged in age from 6 to 12.

“The clinic was a collaboration with people from the community and a lot of different departments on campus. It’s cool to see all these different synergies happening,” said Associate Director of Community Engagement Patrick Lynch, who oversees Conn’s Pre-K-12 community partnerships.

The Gonzalez-Cottrells have run the Boys & Girls Club since August 2020. They brought the children to Conn in two waves on a Salvation Army bus from their center on Governor Winthrop Boulevard in downtown New London. The children also attended clinics run by Conn’s men’s basketball team during the fall semester.

“Our facility has no gym, so we’re very grateful to Conn College for opening up theirs for the kids to use,” said Brandon Gonzalez-Cottrell. The Sun event, he added, was especially exciting. “The kids were buzzing for days after.”
COME HOME... TO CONN.

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REGISTRATION TO OPEN APRIL 2023

MORE INFO: CONNCOLL.EDU/REUNION
Beth Marsh '24 walks past Shain Library through the snow in January.