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On the cover: Aishatu Ado, African Steampunk #3, digital giclee print, part of the 6th Dimension exhibition that debuted at Conn. For more, see page 42.

On this page: Patricia Berrouet ’24 models a grunge-and-schoolwear-inspired ensemble designed by Linet Mercedes ’24 at the second annual POCA Fashion Show. For more, see page 7. Photo by Sean D. Elliot
Looking Ahead

This is the last letter I will write to all the wonderful alumni, parents, and friends who make up our great Connecticut College community. By the time you read it, I will have concluded nine and a half years as president; a search for my successor will be underway; the Class of 2023 will be putting their liberal arts education into action; and a new chapter in Conn’s 112-year history will have begun. So, in the spirit of this valedictory moment and in the great tradition of the liberal arts, my final reflections begin by invoking Janus, the ancient Roman god of gates, transitions, and new beginnings, who teaches us to look ahead by looking back.

That twin perspective certainly informed one of my earliest addresses to the Connecticut College community, in April 2014, on the occasion of my inauguration as president. It was Founders Day, and I wanted to look ahead to the future by retelling the story of our past, a story of courageous women and men on a mission to correct a historic injustice. On that day, I focused on four essential aspects of the educational experience—academic excellence, access, outcomes, and impact—where I believed building on historic strengths would allow Conn to rise to the challenges of the 21st century. During the past nine-plus years, motivated by an ambitious strategic plan and fundraising campaign, that is exactly what this College has done.

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE has long been known for excellence in its academic programs, and that reputation has only grown stronger. Five million dollars in new funds have enabled our faculty to advance their teaching and scholarship and create new knowledge with our students. The College has introduced new majors and minors in Africana Studies, Jewish Studies, Global Islam Studies, Global Studies, Environmental Engineering Studies, Geology, Statistics and Data Science, Finance, and Quantitative Economics and Econometrics. The renovations of Shain Library and the Atheny Center for Performance and Research at Palmer Auditorium, along with the creation of the Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement and the Stark Center for the Moving Image, are inspiring all kinds of research and creative work. Most importantly, our signature core curriculum, Connections, is answering the call to meet the needs of today’s interconnected, socially engaged students. This unique approach to the liberal arts has in fact placed Conn among the most innovative colleges in the nation, drawing larger and larger pools of applicants—nearly 10,000 this year—not to mention the largest incoming class in our history.

There is no excellence without access, of course, which is why our strategic plan embraces full participation as a central value and priority. This year, we will celebrate the largest cohort of Posse scholars on our campus, almost 90 strong. The Defy Boundaries campaign has raised $40 million in new financial aid resources, helping us fulfill our commitment to meet the full demonstrated need of every student. With the creation of the College’s first Division of Institutional Equity and Inclusion and the launch of the Gund Dialogue Project, Conn is now offering students new possibilities for building understanding across difference. And a $10 million gift for the Academic Resource Center is expanding this vision, enabling all students to make the most of their education, reach their full potential, and contribute to the flourishing of others.

Making the most of life in college has always meant, at Conn, ensuring successful outcomes for one’s life after college, and here again we have seen tremendous progress. The new Hale Center for Career Development, unveiled in 2019, is realizing the potential of our Connections curriculum by providing additional avenues for students to connect their passions to academic, co-curricular, and future career opportunities. Local and global engagements continue to be a critical part of these connections, and the growing programs in both the Walter Commons and the Holleran Center for Community Action have been setting our students up for real-world success and advancing our reputation as a leader in career-oriented and engaged learning.

All of these efforts are having an impact beyond the campus. In the city of New London, we have worked with the mayor on a plan for improved public...
safety and community policing; we have partnered with developers to transform a historic building on State Street into housing for 60 juniors and seniors, part of the revitalization of downtown; we have strengthened our long-standing partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard Academy; and we have joined with several community partners to help launch the region’s first Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity. The new Kohn Waterfront and Archibald Way have opened our riverfront to the larger community with docks, breakwaters, walkways, and lighting. Further afield, we have supported multinational student research on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic across the globe, and our own students and faculty are being honored with ever more prestigious fellowships for international study: 50 Fulbright Fellows in the past decade, four Watson Fellows in the last three years, two Beinecke scholars in the last two years, and the first Marshall Scholar in College history. And while we are speaking of firsts, I cannot fail to mention the significant impact of our men’s soccer team winning the College’s first Division III national championship, another mark of excellence and an indelible moment of joy in my presidency.

None of this would be possible, of course, without your ongoing and generous support. Our Defy Boundaries campaign has defied all expectations, inspiring record generosity with the largest individual gifts in our history. We are well on our way to reaching our $300 million goal in just six years—a reflection of the great spirit of the Conn community and the love and loyalty you hold for this special place. I cannot thank you enough for making all this possible.

Excellence, inclusion, and an enduring commitment to making an impact on the lives and communities that sustain us. These are the hallmarks of a strong, vital institution with a storied past and an even more promising future. It has been the honor of my life to lead Connecticut College for these many years. And it is at this juncture, after nearly a decade of service, that I now take my leave: looking back with deep gratitude for the opportunity—the privilege, really—to contribute to Conn’s progress, and looking forward to a confident new chapter for all of us.

I wish you good luck and Godspeed.

Yours,
Swimmer of the Year

After winning three individual races at the 2023 New England Small College Athletic Conference Men’s Swimming & Diving Championships in February, Justin Finkel ’25 became just the second Camel to be named NESCAC Swimmer of the Year.

Finkel led the men’s team to a fifth-place finish with wins in the 200 free, where he set a school record with a time of 1:37.26; the 500 free, where he set school and meet records with a time of 4:25.90; and the 200 fly, where he set school, meet and pool records with a time of 1:45.31. He also earned All-NESCAC honors as a member of the 800 free relay team, which finished third.

Continuing that impressive momentum, Finkel earned All-America honors and finished as the national runner-up in both the 500 free and the 200 fly at the 2023 NCAA Division III Swimming & Diving Championships at the Greensboro Aquatic Center in March.

In the 500 free, he broke his own school record with a time of 4:21.47—shaving more than three seconds off his preliminary time. The second-place finish was the highest by a Conn men’s swimmer since Sam Gill in 2014. Finkel’s time also broke the oldest NESCAC record on the books, eclipsing the mark set by Alex Fraser from Amherst in 2009. In the 200 fly, he broke school and NESCAC records with his time of 1:44.32.

Finkel also earned All-America Honorable Mention with a ninth-place finish in the 200 free and for finishing 13th in the 800 free relay with teammates Tadeusz Trzewik-Quinn ’23, Mitchell Lockwood ’23 and Marc Stern ’23.

Coach of the Champs

As he stood on the ice moments after the Quinnipiac University men’s hockey team won its first national championship, head coach Rand Pecknold ’90 was so overwhelmed with emotion he asked an ESPN reporter for a hug.

“I’m just trying not to cry,” Pecknold told analyst Colby Cohen. “I don’t think I can do this. I’m just proud. It’s just awesome, awesome. Sorry. I can’t, I can’t. I need a hug, give me a hug.”

That moment—which came after the Bobcats scored 10 seconds into overtime to knock off No. 1 Minnesota and win the 2023 NCAA DI Men’s Ice Hockey National Championship by a score of 3-2—was decades in the making.

In the late 1980s and into the spring of 1990, Pecknold was breaking Conn’s ice hockey records and leading the Camels to the ECAC South Championship. After graduation, he remained an integral part of the Camels hockey program, serving for three seasons as an assistant coach. But in 1994, he took over the struggling Division III Quinnipiac men’s hockey program, transforming it into a Division I powerhouse and gaining national prominence as one of the most successful coaches in the NCAA.

Over 29 years, Pecknold’s Bobcats have won more than 600 games, reached multiple Frozen Fours and made it to the championship game twice before—first in 2013 and again in 2016, when he was named NCAA Coach of the Year.

Now, he adds the last accolade still missing from his impressive resume: A national title.

“It’s incredible to do what we’ve done and to be where we are,” he said. “Just awesome.”
Notable Retirements

ATHLETICS DIRECTOR EMERITUS FRAN SHIELDS
Fran Shields P’14, who guided the men’s lacrosse program into national prominence and enriched the lives of countless student-athletes, is retiring after 43 years on campus.

In 1980, Shields was hired to coach a fledgling men’s lacrosse program. He would lead the team to a 170-138 record over 23 seasons, earning four Top 20 national rankings and an ECAC New England Division III championship. He was named USILA Division III Coach of the Year in 1993.

Shields assumed the role of Athletics director in 2003, overseeing Conn’s 28 intercollegiate varsity programs and $16 million in facilities improvements. During his tenure, Conn won its first NESCAC team championship and seven individual NCAA championships. Shields also worked to fight homophobia in athletics, educate athletes in violence prevention and support local youth sports initiatives.

Shields is retiring as athletic director emeritus and the inaugural director of the Camel Athletics Network in the Office of Advancement, a position he assumed in 2019.

VICE PRESIDENT LEE HISLE
Lee Hisle, vice president for Information Services and librarian of the College, is retiring after more than 23 years at Conn. As chief information officer, Hisle has significantly advanced the College’s information resources and technology infrastructure during a period of great technological change.

Hisle’s leadership and vision helped transform the Charles E. Shain Library into a 21st-century facility. During his tenure, the College moved to a digital-first environment and implemented countless new systems and he was instrumental in the establishment of the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives, the Charles Chu Asian Arts Reading Room and the Blue Camel Cafe.

More recently, Hisle and his team worked to keep the College operating through the COVID-19 pandemic, offering infrastructure and training to support hybrid and remote teaching and new information delivery strategies.

PROFESSOR BRUCE BRANCHINI
Bruce Branchini, the Hans and Ella McCollum ’21 Vahlteich Professor of Chemistry, is retiring after 37 years at Conn.

A prolific researcher, Branchini is a preeminent expert on the biochemistry of bioluminescence, or the emission of light by living organisms. His research teams have developed novel methods for purifying the protein that catalyzes the light-emitting reaction and have used molecular biology methods to produce mutant luciferase proteins with properties desirable for drug screening, mechanistic studies and in vivo imaging, among other applications.

In 2015, Branchini definitively proved exactly how fireflies glow, solving a mystery that had puzzled scientists for decades. In 2011, he was awarded the College’s first patent for an engineered enhanced version of an Italian firefly’s light-emitting protein.

Branchini’s research has been supported by more than $5.7 million in grants, including from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

PROFESSOR KATHLEEN MCKEON
Professor of Mathematics Kathleen McKeon is retiring after 36 years as a member of Conn’s faculty.

McKeon specializes in graphical enumeration, combinatorial generation, graph coloring and labeling. She has taught numerous courses in the Mathematics Department, including a ConnCourse, “Abstract Algebra,” and a First-year Seminar, “Cryptography,” and she has led individual studies with student researchers in graph theory.

McKeon’s recent research has included working with graph theorists on a graph rainbow coloring project which involved coloring the edges of a graph so that each pair of vertices is joined by a path in which all edges are assigned different colors.

Throughout her career, McKeon has worked closely with area middle school and high school mathematics teachers to strengthen and broaden the math curriculum. To support that work, she received several grants, including from the State of Connecticut Department Education.
Watson Winner

Isabella Amaro Varas ’23 has been awarded a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to embark on a year of international discovery to explore the role of language as a form of self-empowerment and cultural pride for refugees building a home in a new country.

With the $40,000 Watson fellowship, Amaro Varas will travel to Spain, Morocco, Germany, Turkey and Australia to work with different organizations that support refugees through language learning and study the best practices to teach foreign languages in a way that celebrates cultural-linguistic diversity.

“My project, ‘Sound of Home,’ stems from the idea that language has the power to make people feel at home in a foreign environment, from learning the language of the local community to using your own language to build community,” said Amaro Varas, an international relations and French double major, economics minor and scholar in the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts.

“My experiences working with refugees, teaching ESL and finding community at Conn as an international student from Mexico have helped me see language as not only a tool for communication, but as an expression of cultural pride that forms bonds between people and helps them build a home away from home. All this inspired me to develop a project that would allow me to explore new forms in which language learning and cultural pride can coexist in refugee communities.”

Growing up in Guadalajara, Amaro Varas says she was exposed to the impact of gang violence and poverty on furthering inequality and forced displacement.

“Throughout my childhood, I witnessed migrants’ perilous journeys on top of cargo trains to get to the Mexican-U.S. border and the formation of makeshift campsites blocks away from my house,” she said.

Moved by the hardships she witnessed, Amaro Varas volunteered at a center assisting migrants fleeing to the U.S. and refugees restarting their lives in Guadalajara. The experience led her to found Amigos Sin Fronteras, an organization offering free English lessons to migrants and refugees. Since then, she has been devoted to learning about ethical practices in community engagement, educating herself as an ESL instructor and learning what it means to manage a small organization.

After her Watson experience, Amaro Varas hopes to embark on a career in nonprofit management for organizations that support displaced populations and promote access to education. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in international development and is interested in using social entrepreneurship to transform the impact the private sector has on people’s lives.

Amaro Varas is Conn’s fourth Watson winner since the Watson Foundation reestablished its partnership with Connecticut College in 2019 in recognition of Conn’s excellence in global education and the power of its personalized, inquiry-based Connections program. Conn offers a wide range of fellowship opportunities for students and recent graduates through the Otto and Fran Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement. In addition to the Watson, students and recent grads in 2023 have been awarded four Fulbright fellowships, a Beinecke Scholarship for graduate study, a Newman Civic Fellowship, a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and two Critical Language Scholarships from the U.S. Department of State. To read about those awards, please visit conncoll.edu/news.
People have always told Patricia Berrouet ’24 that she should model, and she finally got her chance at the second annual POCA Fashion Show, hosted by Conn’s People of Color Alliance student group in the College Center at Crozier-Williams in April.

“I wanted to try something new and get out of my comfort zone,” said Berrouet, a psychology major from Cambridge, Massachusetts, who took to the runway in a grunge-and-schoolwear-inspired ensemble designed by Linet Mercedes ’24.

Themed “The Blueprint,” this year’s show featured more than three dozen models wearing outfits of their own choice or designed by student stylists.

Leron Dugan ’24, a film studies and self-designed media, culture and social difference double major from Dobbs Ferry, New York, said he enjoyed the opportunity to create styles for fellow students at the intersection of formalwear and streetwear.

“I got to experiment in a way I hadn’t before as a creative student,” he said.

During the event, Thoa Nguyen ’25 modeled a floor-length traditional Vietnamese dress that belonged to her mother and was altered for her by her father. Claudia Marmelo ’23 found pieces on Amazon to recreate a white-and-red Cuban outfit based on a photo from a family member who used to lead tours to Cuba, and Iman Shaikh ’26 wore a shalwar kameez, a combination dress worn in regions of south and central Asia.

POCA Founder, Vice President and fashion show co-director Lyndon Inglis ’24 said the event is designed to give students the opportunity to show the Conn community where they are from and who they are.

“It was such a beautiful sight to see the models walk out to a crowd of cheering people. It gave me a lot of hope for the future of our community,” he said. “I feel so ecstatic that everything fell into place and so many people were able to see the hard work that myself and the entire fashion show team put into creating the show.”

Inglis, a government major and African studies minor from Brooklyn, New York, said he hopes the audience was awed by the beauty and culture of BIPOC communities.

“We hold so much power, influence, richness and beauty in all that we are, and I hope that everyone was left with an understanding of just how beautiful that influence is.”
In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Pulitzer Prize finalist and acclaimed environmental writer Elizabeth Rush spent entire days on the eastern shore of Staten Island, New York, interviewing residents from the largely conservative neighborhoods of Oakwood Beach, Midlands and Ocean Breeze about their experiences and “the long, frustrating path toward recovery.”

She was shocked by what she learned: The residents had organized buyout committees to publicly ask that their homes be purchased and demolished and that the state help them relocate away from the high flood risk area.

“It was the clamor rising from the sodden side of the city’s only Republican borough,” Rush told the students, faculty, staff and community members in attendance as she delivered the sixth annual President’s Distinguished Lecture at Conn in April.

“I wanted to know what residents of these right-leaning, often climate change-denying or climate change-sidestepping, working-class neighborhoods knew that I didn’t.”

Rush explained how she encouraged vulnerable community members to open up to her. “I left all my climate change discourse at the door and decided instead to engage in a conversation, and more than anything else, to listen.”

The experience led Rush to write her 2018 book, Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore, which was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. Rush describes Rising as an on-the-ground investigation of the impact rising seas are having on different U.S. coastal communities where climate change has been most dramatic. Each of the book’s nine chapters opens with a monologue delivered in the voice of a resident about an event that woke them up to their vulnerability and what they decided to do with that information, she said.

“I think of this as a book about climate change, and in particular sea level rise, but it doesn’t focus on the science behind the phenomenon,” Rush said. “Instead, it looks toward people living on climate change’s front lines and asks, ‘What can we learn from them about the future that we share?’

She added that writers need “to invite new voices into a conversation, to produce literature that denies the idea that there’s ever an official story or a clear linear narrative of a particular event.”

As she considered how to format Rising, Rush said she took inspiration from Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster by Svetlana Alexievich, which features first-person accounts of the 1986 tragedy.

An interview with Nicole Montalto, a Staten Islander who lost her father when their house flooded during Sandy, solidified Rush’s decision to open each chapter with a monologue.

“When someone speaks in the first person about the event that would change their lives, it’s a really powerful thing to be on the receiving end of that story,” Rush said, adding, “It was Nicole’s voice and her story that taught me how to write this book. I felt like there was nothing I could do as a writer to make her story more powerful than it already was.”

Rush embarked on a collaborative editing process with everyone who had a monologue, sending the copy back to them and encouraging edits.

She said, “If I didn’t have that collective editing process, I felt like I was just extracting the story from the community and using it to whatever ends I wanted. And, quite frankly, that felt too close to the kind of extractive practices that lie at the heart of the climate crisis. I instead wanted the story to travel back into the community and hopefully be an opportunity for agency building for the speaker as opposed to a denial of agency.”

The Staten Islanders ultimately succeeded in their push for New York state to buy them out of their homes and help them relocate, Rush pointed out. Less than three months after Sandy, then-Governor Andrew Cuomo
announced a voluntary program to purchase area homes at pre-storm prices, pledging millions of dollars in funding and financial incentives.

“I wanted to continue that momentum,” Rush said, “because I think that’s something that really scares us about climate change—we fear losing control. So, I think of these testimonies not as me giving voice to the residents. Residents have a voice; I just hand over my microphone.”

It was this sense of agency, not the flooding itself, that shifted the mindset of the residents of this conservative community from climate change denial to climate change acceptance, Rush believes.

“Once they got to choose how they wanted to adapt, and once they saw that climate change wouldn’t necessarily mean the end of the things that they loved most about their community, I think that’s when they started to be able to call out climate change as playing a role in instigating their move,” she said.

She added, “My work on Rising regularly reminded me that the right to speak about one’s shifting relationship with the environment and to have those stories heard and acted upon is something that ought to be extended equally to all, but often isn’t.”

Rush’s next book, The Quickening: Creation and Community at the Ends of the Earth, releases Aug. 15. In it, she documents the voyage of 57 scientists and crew in 2019 to Thwaites Glacier in Antarctica, where the goal was to learn as much as possible about a place where humans had never before set foot, and that was believed to be both rapidly deteriorating and capable of making a catastrophic impact on global sea level rise.

Comparing the austere cover of Rising to the colorful cover of The Quickening on Rush’s final slide during her presentation, Olha Vasyliv ’23 asked during the Q&A portion of the event if Rush’s outlook on the climate crisis grew more optimistic between writing the two books, and if Rush could offer any comfort to those concerned about climate change.

Rush replied that as her understanding of the science grew, so did her fear and anxiety. But contributing to fieldwork in Antarctica allowed her to take action and helped alleviate some of those feelings.

“Get together with people you like spending time with to make an impact at a level that feels tangible, that gets you doing actual things and not just spinning out horrible scenarios in your brain,” she said. “Then you get to be a little bit of the change as opposed to worrying about it not happening.”
When Oprah Calls

‘Hello Beautiful,’ the fourth novel by Ann Napolitano ’94, is the 100th selection for Oprah’s Book Club

BY TIM STEVENS ’03
The pinnacle of Ann Napolitano’s writing career will likely always be the moment she received a personal phone call from Oprah Winfrey, who promptly informed her that her fourth novel, *Hello Beautiful*, was the 100th selection for the wildly influential Oprah’s Book Club.

But it all began thanks to another larger-than-life personality: Conn’s Professor Emeritus of English Blanche Boyd.

“I don’t know whether I’d be a writer if it weren’t for those years with Blanche,” Napolitano acknowledges.

“She was the first published writer I ever met. We were all intimidated by her and obsessed with her at the same time,” she continues. “She had a huge impact. I’m eternally grateful.”

That same energy animates how she discusses *Hello Beautiful* joining Oprah’s Book Club. While its selection was officially announced in March, Napolitano had been keeping the secret since she got the call from Winfrey nearly five months earlier. As she told The New York Times in March, “I felt like I went into full menopause because my whole body system was just adrenalized.” When CC Mag spoke to her recently, that feeling had not faded.

“It’s exciting. It feels sort of surreal just because it’s been a noisier book release than I’ve ever had, which I’m very lucky for, obviously. But it feels like it’s happening to someone else because this couldn’t be happening to me. Surreal really is the most apt thing.”

It may feel surreal for Napolitano, but her career had been steadily building toward this moment. After years of fighting rejection, depression, time and life’s crushing responsibilities, her third novel, *Dear Edward*, broke through in a big way. Bought at auction by Dial Press, it was her biggest publishing deal to date. Dial proved right to gamble on her, and the book became an immediate New York Times Bestseller after its release in 2020. It wasn’t long after AppleTV+ struck a deal to adapt the novel into a limited series, which hit the streamer in February of this year.

Napolitano considers the adaptation as a wholly separate entity. “I think it is just fun,” she says.

“I respect [show creator Jason Katims] so much as an artist that I was just like, ‘Great. I had no anxiety, no worries or anything. My book remains my book. What he did was a delightful adventure from my point of view.’

The one aspect that did sneak up on her was Colin O’Brien’s performance as Edward. “I find that emotional because that was like seeing my heart in a 3D human being,” she recalls.

Despite the first taste of success, the author felt free when sitting down to write again. “I started writing *Hello Beautiful* right at the start of the pandemic, like April of 2020, so I think the world was so weird that I didn’t have the normal—the world was making no sense,” Napolitano says. “That took away a lot of the structural worries I may have had.”

The resulting novel, a period piece focused on four sisters’ journeys from late adolescence into adulthood, captured Oprah’s attention and has led many to compare it to *Little Women*.

“Not since Jo and Meg and Amy and Beth have we seen sisters like this, with this kind of connection, and written so vividly that you feel like you’re in that home,” Winfrey told the Times. “You’re experiencing life with them. I am telling you, the ending? I mourned. What an extraordinary writer Ann is.”

While the attention has been at bit overwhelming, Napolitano is thankful it happened at this point in her career.

“I’m glad I’m this age as opposed to in my 20s. I see how fun and exciting it is, and I’m not trying to deflect it or make it overly important as a statement on my own writing quality or anything like that. I just feel incredibly grateful to have this happen.”

She’s also not afraid of what’s next. Sure, being an Oprah Book Club selection is a tough act to follow, but it’s one that Napolitano is already working on.

“For the first nine months to a year, I don’t let myself write what I call pretty sentences, which is what I really love to do,” she explains about her process. “I can’t think analytically or with any sense of perspective when I’m in the work like that. So I have found that reserving the first nine months or so where I’m not allowed to write—I can only research and take notes and try to figure out as much as I can in my brain about this idea—helpful.

“I’m in that phase now for the next one. I have an idea. I have lots of notes. I’m hoping to start writing it in June, but I’m not allowed yet.”

She’s as excited for that ban to lift as her growing collection of new fans.

“Taking the break from writing also makes me so happy to be writing again that I sort of dive back in with gusto.”
Ink & Tracks

Borderless
By Jennifer De Leon ’01

Caught in the crosshairs of gang violence, a teen girl and her mother set off on a perilous journey from Guatemala City to the U.S. border in this heart-wrenching young adult novel from the author of Don’t Ask Me Where I’m From. At 17 years old, Maya’s talent for making clothing out of unusual objects has landed her at Guatemala City’s most prestigious art school. Her Mamá is her biggest supporter, so when she doesn’t come to the school’s fashion show, Maya doesn’t know what to think. But the truth is worse than she could have imagined—the gang threats in their neighborhood have walked in their front door. After barely making their escape, Maya and her mom have no choice but to continue their desperate flight all the way through Guatemala and Mexico in hopes of crossing the U.S. border.

RESPITE
by Wall to Wall, Egil Dennerline ’97 and Palle Hjorth

Dennerline was inspired to create his fifth studio album, appropriately named RESPITE, “or a well-deserved break from difficult times.” Released on Sept. 23, 2022, the new album features the track “Tidens Låse (The Locks We Share),” composed in collaboration with one of Denmark’s most popular singer-songwriters, Peter Sommer.

By Ezra Rashkow ’03, associate professor of history at Montclair State University

Combining years of fieldwork and archival research with intensive theoretical interrogations, this book offers a global intellectual history of efforts to “protect” indigenous peoples and their cultures, usually from above. It also offers a critique of the activist impulse to cry “Save the tiger!” and “Save the tribes!” together in the same breath. It is not a history or an ethnography of the tribes of India but rather a history of discourses about what is perceived to be the fundamental question for nearly all indigenous peoples in the modern world: the question of survival.

Folly Cove Sketches: Remembering Virginia Lee Burton
By June Vail ’65, professor emerita of theater and dance at Bowdoin College

Virginia Lee Burton wrote and illustrated the beloved children’s books Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel and Caldecott-winning Little House, and founded the renowned Folly Cove Designers, a nationally recognized design collective. This generously illustrated memoir offers insights into the wide-ranging artistic projects and everyday life of the woman behind the books and designs. June Vail’s unique narrative recounts how spending weekends and vacations with Burton, her great-aunt, during her four years at Conn deeply influenced her and gave her new perspectives on living and making art.

Silk Road Centurion
By Scott Forbes Crawford ’00

In 53 B.C., Roman soldier Manius Titinius falls captive to a warband of Xiongnu, nomadic horsemen who rule the seas of grass between the Gobi Desert and Mountains of Heaven. His forced march to the East plunges him into a new world of wonder and peril. Manius has only his fighting spirit and faith in Fortuna, goddess of luck, to aid him in a faraway land: China. From windswept valleys to bustling cultural crossroads and daring rescue missions to the daily struggle for survival on the borderlands, Silk Road Centurion is a thrilling historical epic of endurance and faith at the edge of empires.
Who decides what information is available in a library? According to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, not the government—and that includes local school boards. And yet, in many school districts across the United States, books are being pulled off the shelves.

The American Library Association recently reported 1,269 demands to censor 2,571 unique titles in 2022, up from 729 demands to censor 1,858 unique titles in 2021, and a record since it began tracking data more than 20 years ago. Of those titles, the vast majority were written by or about members of the LGBTQIA+ community and people of color, and 58% of the reported challenges targeted books and materials in schools.

In New London, Visiting Assistant Professor of Education Karen Pezzetti and the students in her “EDU 313: Children, Books and Culture” class are bucking that trend. They are working with partners in local elementary and middle schools to add more diverse offerings to classroom libraries.
The teacher had been trying to diversify her library, and we tried to identify some big hitting points she was missing.

— Ben Ramos ’23

Pezzetti’s class received a $2,000 grant from Eversource to support the project in February, and another $1,000 in March from Lydia Morris ’88, who made the donation after reading about the project on Conn’s website. The $3,000 was divided evenly across their 12 partner classrooms, resulting in a $250 budget for each.

Morris, who works on the business side of K-12 public school education, told Pezzetti she was “glad to see action toward supporting kids by expanding—and not restricting—what they read.”

This semester was Pezzetti’s first time attempting the project, which involves her 26 students working in pairs with five local schools: Nathan Hale Arts Magnet Elementary School, Harbor Elementary School, Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, and the Regional Multicultural Magnet School, all in New London, and Charles Barnum Elementary in Groton.

Most of the partner schools have some form of a school library or media center, but they are often understaffed and have limited hours for students, Pezzetti explained. That’s where classroom libraries can fill a need.

“All kids should have access to great books that reflect their own lives, open doors to other worlds and inspire a love for reading,” Pezzetti said.

“We read a chapter of a book called Teaching with Children’s Literature: Theory to Practice in which the authors contend that elementary classroom libraries need at least 1,500 appealing, well-organized books to support the reading of a whole class over the course of a school year. When my students did inventories in their partner classrooms, we learned that more than half of the classrooms we worked with had fewer than 100 books, and one only had eight.”

To prepare for the initiative, Pezzetti’s students interviewed Alison Mitchell ’95, the Youth Services Librarian at Somerville Public Library, West Branch, in Massachusetts. Some students worked to develop their expertise in certain types of children’s literature, while others volunteered once a week in the partner classrooms to get a sense of what books that particular cohort of students would benefit from most.

During class meetings, the students read a wide range of children’s books, including those that are contentious and sparking debates. “Some have even been banned in some schools and libraries,” Pezzetti explained. “For example, we read books with trans and nonbinary protagonists. We also read books that cover hard history, like one about the Tulsa Race Massacre in Oklahoma in 1921. The students were working on developing their judgment about what books are appropriate for which contexts.”

On a sunny morning in late April, Joseph Pimlott ’24, Ben Ramos ’23 and their classmates were sorting books into piles to prepare for their distribution at the beginning of May. Pimlott and Ramos, who were assigned to a fifth-grade classroom at Charles Barnum Elementary, stacked their books into the categories of Black Voices, LGBTQIA+, Latinx Voices, Native American and Indigenous Voices, Asian-American and Pacific Islander Voices, and Characters with Disabilities.

“The teacher had been trying to diversify her library, and we tried to identify some big hitting points she was missing,” Ramos said. “We also did a survey of some of the students and asked them, ‘What do you wish you saw in the library? Do you feel like the library represents you?’ Based on those answers, we tried to fill in some gaps.”

Pimlott added that some of the books they chose are ones they read in class, including When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed.

Ellen Paul ’07, executive director of the Connecticut Library Consortium, points out that there are three important legal differences between school libraries and individual classroom libraries, especially regarding attempts to ban books.

She named two court cases that enforced the precedent, Island Trees School District v. Pico (1982) and Case v. Unified School District No. 233 (1995). In the first case, a group of parents asked a Long Island school district to remove nine books from its school libraries, including Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut and Best Short Stories by Negro Writers edited by Langston Hughes. The group argued that the books were “anti-American, anti-Christian, anti-Semitic and just plain filthy.” The district complied and five students sued, alleging that the removal of those books violated their First Amendment rights.

When the case reached the Supreme Court, the justices sided with the students, arguing “the First Amendment imposes limitations upon a local school board’s exercise of its discretion to remove books from high
school and junior high school libraries,” and that freedom of speech meant that “school officials may not remove books from school libraries for the purpose of restricting access to the political ideas or social perspectives discussed in the books when that action is motivated simply by the officials’ disapproval of the ideas involved.”

Paul says, “What was really interesting about this decision is the differentiation between the classroom and the school library—a Board of Education may rightfully claim absolute discretion over curriculum in the ‘compulsory environment’ of the classroom, but a school library is a place of ‘voluntary inquiry.’”

That difference between voluntary and compulsory is what matters, she says. “Students have the right to receive information, and the school board can’t just remove a book from the school library, a voluntary institution, because they don’t like the ideas contained in that book. Books in classroom libraries, however, are generally considered to be curriculum materials and can be removed far more easily by local school boards.”

About a decade later, the issue reached the national level again when the Olathe, Kansas, school district rejected two books with LGBTQ themes for its school libraries. Several parents and students sued, and a federal district court found that the books were incorrectly removed because the Board of Education disapproved of the books’ ideology. It also found the school board had violated its own material selection and reconsideration policies.

As for those policies, every library has three—a collection development or selection policy that governs what is collected in the library; a maintenance policy that governs what is kept in the library and what is removed to make space; and a materials reconsideration request policy that outlines what to do if a community member requests that material be removed. Those policies do not exist within a classroom library, Paul points out.

Neither does the same level of privacy. “Privacy is a core tenet of the field of librarianship,” Paul says. “Librarians believe that all people possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use, and the American Library Association and its affiliates, including the American Association of School Librarians, recognize that children have the same rights to privacy as adults. So, a student can be confident when going to their school librarian or checking out a book from their school library that that information will not be shared with others.”

She adds, “That right to privacy is really important, as maybe a child is exploring a book with LGBTQ themes and maybe is not ready to talk about that with others.”

One common argument made by book challengers is that parents should have the right to decide what their children read. On that, Paul says, “Parents absolutely should be having conversations with their children about what they are reading, and that is why we encourage parental involvement—but just because something is not right for your family doesn’t mean that it isn’t right for someone else’s family, and that’s the rub.”

Though she acknowledges that classroom libraries lack the same legal protections as school libraries, Paul says they play an important role and she applauds the work by Pezzetti and her students. “The proximity classroom libraries provide to books is definitely advantageous for children,” she said. “More books are always better.”
RAIN, RAIN WON’T STOP GAME PLAY
Connecticut College midfielder Colter Lingelbach-Pierce ’25 drives downfield in NESCAC men’s lacrosse action versus Williams College on March 25 at Silfen Field.
I N 1911, IN GRATITUDE and encouragement, bells across New London were rung day after day, marking gifts being given across the city to create a new institution, the Connecticut College for Women. When the bells finally went quiet weeks later, there was only one thing left to do: Have a party. On March 1 of that momentous year, a citywide Jubilee Celebration hailed the campaign’s results—every local citizen and business had contributed to the effort, shattering the $100,000 goal and raising $134,824 to create the founding Endowment Fund that brought a new institution to life.

It may be time for those bells to start ringing again. Two of Conn’s most generous donors, Karen and Rob '88 Hale P’20, have just offered a legacy challenge of historic proportions that invites today’s Conn community to rally anew and bring the Defy Boundaries campaign home. See the sidebar on page 21 for the exciting details.

The Hales’ challenge continues a Conn tradition of giving that makes an enduring impact. Three months after the founding jubilee, Morton F. Plant made a $1 million gift that increased the College’s endowment nearly tenfold. Then bequests—like the Hales are inspiring now—started to come: 1,300 books and extensive scientific equipment from renowned scientist William P. Bolles; additional support from Plant to build Branford House; one-quarter of the estate of David Hall Fanning; and legacy gifts from sisters Virginia and Theodora Palmer that funded the construction of the auditorium that still honors them. Gift by gift, year after year, these and other visionary early donors converted money, personal possessions, buildings, land and more into bequests that lifted the new college, ensured its future and created a national leader in liberal arts education.

With challenges like the Hales’ helping to push Defy Boundaries toward its $300 million goal and all it will mean for Conn’s second century, the power of bequests has only grown. Bequests have built residence halls and classrooms, launched innovative educational and research programs, secured exceptional faculty through endowed professorships, opened doors to outstanding students through scholarships and funded new ideas that have become established parts of College practice. In making such a difference, bequests continue to do something few decisions in life can—carry the wishes of donors forward not only long beyond their own lives but, more significantly, also making that difference for as long as the institution itself will stand. This perpetual impact is among the reasons that today’s legacy donors see so much opportunity in this special and increasingly popular form of generosity. Generation after
Donors making bequest gifts through *Defy Boundaries* are signaling their confidence in Conn and the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who will create the College of the future.

generation, bequests have continued connecting the donor, the College and the students of countless tomorrows who will experience the benefits of donors’ confidence.

Karen Quint ’87, for example, used her bequest to pay forward the gift of education that she enjoyed at Conn and in her family—both her parents were teachers. She wanted to share that gift with many others, including students far into the future whom she would never meet. “The college experience is one of the most impactful experiences in a person’s life,” she says, “and it is a privilege to have the ability and opportunity to give back in such a meaningful way.” She adds, “While going through the estate-planning process, it is natural to think of those you want to remember who have helped to shape your life. It was only natural to be sure Conn was a part of my plans.”

Carol Ramsey ’74 found the same type of fulfillment in her bequest. “Having worked for nonprofits most of my career,” she says, “I was never going to be among the largest donors to the school, but I understood that I could still be among the more consequential. Making a bequest to the College in addition to my usual annual fund gifts—as modest as I may think they are—amounts to something substantial. I leave a window open to the next generation of students, even if I cannot build the building whose doors they will walk through.”

**VISION AND CREATIVITY**

Donors have capitalized on the freedom that bequests provide to shape their impact on students in every way imaginable. Some bequest donors have focused their gifts on aspects of Conn’s educational experience that mean the most to them—across the arts, sciences, humanities, social sciences, library, study abroad and much more. And others have given unrestricted bequests to let the College apply the resources to areas of greatest need or promise. Some bequests have come through cash left in wills; others through collectibles or real estate sold before the capital transfers to the College; and others through gifts of publicly traded stocks, bonds or mutual funds. Other donors have left Conn bequests through life insurance policies or qualified retirement plans that name the College as a beneficiary.

Whatever the method chosen, the end results share a deep significance. When far-seeing individuals invest in the College’s mission and thereby in its work to educate leaders, thinkers, entrepreneurs, creators and teachers who will influence businesses, communities and organizations of every kind, they turn bequests into lasting contributions to society.

Laura Becker, who leads Conn’s Office of Gift Planning and the staff who work most closely with legacy donors, says the best part of her work is seeing the combination of vision and creativity that bequests make possible for donors. “Deciding to name Connecticut College as a beneficiary of an estate is a big decision, and often the largest gift an individual will make. It is incredibly rewarding to help our alumni, friends and family identify the bequest approach that is best for them to meet their own needs and goals. With retirement plans and other account beneficiary designations becoming increasingly popular, the mechanics of implementing the decision can be very easy. It’s ultimately all about matching the donor’s goal with the area of the College they want to support, and not just in the years immediately ahead but, for all intents and purposes, forever.”

During *Defy Boundaries*, Becker has seen Conn donors contribute more than $40 million through bequests so far, bringing the College close to its goal of raising $50 million in this way during the campaign. The Hales’ challenge will allow Conn donors to shatter that goal, just as New Londoners did when founding the College. One such donor whose story touched Becker deeply was the gift that Dorothy ‘Dot’ Hyman Roberts ’50 left in her will when she passed away in June 2020.

Roberts had for years led Echo Design Group, which her parents had founded as Echo Scarfs Inc. in Manhattan in the midst
Thanks to a campaign bequest from Dorothy Roberts ’50, the Outdoor Adventures program supported by the fund has already become incredibly popular among students. Registrations often fill up on the first day they open.

— Laura Becker, Director of Gift Planning
of the Great Depression. As Roberts’ leadership took hold, she
guided the company to unprecedented growth, building partner-
ships with companies like Ralph Lauren, Coach, Brooks Brothers
and MoMA. But while she did it all as a corporate CEO in the
heart of the city, she valued time in nature profoundly.

And in her estate plans, Roberts made sure to pass on that pas-

tion. Her campaign bequest to Conn resulted in the establish-
ment of the Dorothy Roberts ’50 Outdoor Education and Leadership
Fund. Becker observes, “Thanks to that gift, the Outdoor Adven-

tures program supported by the fund has already become incredibly
popular among students. Registrations often fill up on the first day
they open. Students get to explore places like the Green Mountains
of Vermont as part of their leadership training and mentorship. It
was a parting gift from Ms. Roberts that has already had a huge im-

c
tact, and it’s capitalizing on so much that is special about Conn.”

Besides student outdoor experiences, the fund also helps
purchase equipment for students to explore sea kayaking,
snowshoeing, winter hiking, backpacking and more—and all the
while removing financial barriers that might otherwise prevent
some students from experiencing the opportunities for discovery,
 bonding, challenge and growth that Outdoor Adventures drives.

Helene Zimmer-Loew ’57, meanwhile, took her Defy Bound-

aries bequest to Conn in a different direction. She did so through
an estate gift that brought her full circle as someone who had par-
ticipated in the first major fundraising campaign that followed her
graduation, when she pledged $500 out of an annual salary—as a
German teacher in Long Island—of $4,200.

That sense of commitment and service to Conn has been part
of Zimmer-Loew’s life ever since, including as a class gift chair
for 50 years, as president of the Alumni Association Board of
Directors and as a member of the Board of Trustees. It all seemed
to culminate in 2007, at her 50th reunion, when Zimmer-Loew
established an endowed scholarship fund to support students for
summer study abroad. She subsequently named the College and
her fund as beneficiaries of her estate to further increase the value
of her endowed fund. She has learned in more ways than one
that this type of bequest is the gift that will keep on giving—not
only to others but also to the donor. “Every year,” she reflects, “I
receive lovely letters and pictures from students who have spent
the summer abroad, often working on important issues. I’m very
happy about that.”

The experience has turned her one-time gift into a continuing
reward. “For someone who came from very little,” she says, “I
have had a good deal of success and good fortune. I think it’s
incredibly important that we support young people in pursuing
the fine education like the one I received at Conn. I believe that
is the way to go, to help people whenever you can.”

FINANCIAL FREEDOM

In allowing donors of all levels of capacity to make extraordinary
gifts, bequests themselves defy boundaries. Most even provide
a more material reward too, often (depending on the approach
chosen) resulting in reduced estate taxes. Helping donors through
those decisions is part of the reason Becker and her team find
their work with donors as rewarding as they do. “We love having
those conversations with someone exploring the potential of what
a bequest gift can achieve,” Becker says. “We help strategize
through the best options to achieve the donor’s goals, when they
Karen and Rob Hale have pledged $15 million in a matching bequest challenge in honor of President Katherine Bergeron. “Karen and I deeply admire how much Katherine has done for Conn across her decade of devoted service,” said Rob, who is campaign co-chair and a member of the Board of Trustees and, along with Karen, has previously contributed more than $50 million to the College. “As Katherine concludes her incredible tenure,” he explained, “we wanted to honor her in a special way that would strengthen this great College and advance all the important work she has done for it. We hope that donors who may be considering making a bequest to Conn will take this opportunity to step forward now so we can achieve the goal of this historic campaign that Katherine has led from the start.” The Hales’ matching challenge will conclude on June 30, 2023.
After persevering through a global pandemic, Conn’s graduating seniors are ready to make their mark on the world.

BY AMY MARTIN
PORTRAITS BY SEAN D. ELLIOT

They arrived on campus full of promise and potential—with maybe a few first-day jitters—on a beautifully sunny August day in 2019. The newest Camels, the members of Class of 2023, had read the brochures, browsed the website, visited campus and attended open houses. They had heard all about the Connections curriculum, and had already been invited to the inaugural All-College Symposium that November. On that seasonably warm Arrival Day, they carried their bedding and posters and giant boxes of late-night snacks into their new rooms, eager to begin their four years at Conn.

They had no idea what was ahead. None of us did.

By March, they were back home, struggling to figure out Zoom in their high-school bedrooms. Some would return in the fall of their sophomore year to a campus with a very different feel than the one that welcomed them just one year before, with mandatory quarantines, universal masking and twice-a-week COVID testing. Some would complete their whole second year from afar.

And yet, they persevered, not only adjusting to a “new normal,” but finding ways to thrive. As the world opened back up, they approached opportunities with a heightened sense of gratitude and newfound grit. They joined Pathways and Centers; interned with Microsoft, Google, David Dorfman Dance and the Connecticut Fair Housing Center; and studied abroad in Brazil, Cameroon, Belgium and Japan. They conducted research with faculty on artificial intelligence and biodegradable 3D-printed reefs, and partnered with community organizations to address homelessness in New London and poverty in Peru. They debated in Arabic in Türkiye, played chess in Seattle and won an NCAA Championship in men’s soccer in North Carolina.

This past November, 240 members of the class presented at their own All-College Symposium, highlighting the connections they made among their courses and research, their jobs and internships, and their work in local communities and around the globe—as well as the questions that animated their choices along the way. With their resiliency and brilliance on full display, they shared all they had learned about racial and gender disparities in health care, cultural xenophobia 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.

Since then, they’ve won Watson and Fulbright fellowships and Beinecke and Critical Language scholarships. They’ve been accepted to graduate programs at Harvard, Yale and Oxford, and will soon begin careers at Microsoft, Disney, Bank of America and the National Institutes of Health.

Despite the immense impact of the first global pandemic in nearly a century, these tenacious seniors are leaving Conn with the liberal education they came for and the skills they need to make their mark on the world, just as they have on our campus.

Life, as they’ve learned all too well, is full of twists and turns. They’re ready.

We’d introduce you to the whole class, but we don’t have quite enough pages in this magazine. So, please meet six of the indomitable seniors from the Connecticut College Class of 2023.
Keeping busy
Since 2019, I have been a mentor for neurodiverse middle school students through Eye to Eye, a national nonprofit organization and campus club. I am also a member of Active Minds, the Pre-Health Club and the Nu Rho Psi honor society, and I work as an educational assistant at Middlesex Community College tutoring mostly first-generation college students of diverse backgrounds in English, biology and chemistry.

Favorite class
My favorite course at Conn was “Methods and Theories of Ethnobotany” with Professor Manuel Lizarralde. Our professor made our discussions come to life with Arboretum walks and stories of the Barí people of Venezuela. I wrote a paper on the anthropological, botanical and neuroscientific aspects of ayahuasca, a psychedelic brew used for millennia in indigenous South American cultures. Ayahuasca’s therapeutic potential for PTSD, depression, and other psychiatric and neurological disorders is a promising area of research.

Biofeedback and self-compassion
I am completing an honors thesis under the mentorship of Assistant Professor of Biology Mays Imad. Last summer, I worked closely with Professor Imad in Conn’s Summer Science Research Institute. Our group completed a pilot study on biofeedback training, and the results inspired me to replicate the study on a larger scale. I am passionate about the science of mindfulness and recently became interested in the benefits of self-compassion for reducing anxiety and promoting well-being. This led to my study, which tested the effects of biofeedback and self-compassion training to discern their benefits and determine potential synergistic effects for students who met the criteria for moderate to severe anxiety. In February, my co-principal investigator, Sophie Barr ’23, and I presented our preliminary results at the Inaugural International Society for Contemplative Research Conference at the University of California, San Diego. We plan to publish our research in an academic journal.

Future psychiatrist
I plan to attend medical school and eventually become an integrative psychiatrist incorporating complementary and alternative approaches to mental health care. Along with clinical work, I wish to develop new and more effective treatments for patients through research, especially to address health disparities.
Favorite quote
“History is the fruit of power, but power itself is never so transparent that its analysis becomes superfluous. The ultimate mark of power may be its invisibility; the ultimate challenge, the exposition of its roots.” —Michel-Rolph Trouillot

Un-writing American history
My honors thesis reimagines what constitutes evidence in the historical method. I explore the ways in which the present-day prioritization and overreliance on written evidence is prioritized not because it is the most “accurate” or useful method of historical preservation, but because it can best justify and silence histories of settler colonialism and enslavement. I argue historians must turn toward methods that have been used by overwhelmingly non-white communities, such as oral histories and material culture. Each chapter is a case study on a particular method, including African American quilting, Hodinohs:ni’ wampum belts, Latin American testimonios, Black American freedom songs, community museums, and oral traditions at the dinner table among Italian American immigrants. Writing this thesis has been one of the most challenging things I've ever done, but also the most rewarding.

Seneca Nation
With Conn’s Lowitt-Lear fellowship, I interned at the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum on the Seneca-Allegany Reservation. This experience shaped me in astronomical ways as an American citizen, as a historian, as someone interested in museums and as a human being. Working in a museum and living on a reservation, I developed an arsenal of new skills, new ideas and new viewpoints. I walked out of that internship with a new conceptualization of what history was, how community museums could serve as a liberatory force and how to better approach teaching accurate American history.

Space for truth
I believe that spaces in which truths are spoken and histories are revealed can be liberatory. My dream is to run a combination community center, historical society and museum that would both meet the needs of the community (including food, housing and employment) and serve as a space for community members, especially youth, to learn about their family histories and better understand the problems their communities face.

May Kotsen
HISTORY AND AMERICAN STUDIES DOUBLE MAJOR
HOLLERAN CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM FROM PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY
Admirabilis Kalolella

BIOCHEMISTRY, CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY MAJOR
TOOR CUMMINGS CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND THE LIBERAL ARTS FROM DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

In the lab
My favorite academic experience has been working in Professor Timo Ovaska's organic synthesis lab, where we worked on synthesizing Frondosin D, a natural product initially isolated from the marine sponge in Micronesia, *Dysidea frondos*, that is of interest for its potential anti-tumor and anti-HIV properties. As a junior, I traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, to conduct research at the Holistic Drug Discovery and Development Centre. There, I worked on repurposing and repositioning a compound known as AZD0156 from an anti-cancer to anti-malarial drug therapy. In addition to increasing my scientific knowledge, I was inspired by the tireless efforts of African scientists to change the narrative of a helpless Africa to one of innovation and scientific discoveries.

Rising Black scientist
I was honored by Cell Press, Cell Signaling Technology and the Elsevier Foundation with a 2023 Rising Black Scientist Award. As part of the award, my essay, “My Christmas Holidays,” was published in the February 2023 issue of Cell, a leading life sciences journal, and I received a $10,000 research grant and $500 travel grant. In the essay, I wrote about how, as a child, I would travel with my family from Dar es Salaam to spend the Christmas holidays with my grandmother in my family’s rural home village of Mngeta, Tanzania. Every year, my father, a physician, set up a mini-clinic and absorbed me in his work. People would come in from afar; some had never seen a doctor in their lives. I took blood pressure and temperature readings and rode my bicycle to deliver medicines. This Christmas tradition brought a powerful revelation; it revealed how important giving back is. It formed the basis of who I am, wanting to use science to reach many.

Drugs for neglected diseases
For my senior integrative project, I looked at drug discovery for tropical and neglected tropical diseases. This topic is personal for me because some of the diseases that impact my community are preventable, yet still kill many. I want to be a physician-scientist and heal people while simultaneously understanding the underlying mechanisms of diseases to design better drugs. I want to make medicines that will benefit many people around the world.
I started writing my sophomore year and quickly fell in love with journalism. I’m proudest of our reporting on the Occupy Conn Coll movement and the protests throughout the spring semester this year. The College Voice team was incredible, working 12+-hour days and devoting ourselves to breaking news reporting, analysis, investigation, photography, social media outreach and more.

Exploring embodied transgenerational trauma
For my dance honors thesis in costume design and construction, I am reconstructing my grandma’s traditional Filipino terno dress to explore what it means to wear the weight of family history and deconstruct the traumas passed down from mother to daughter. I have always been fascinated by genealogy, psychology and movement, so I am combining all of my interests into my research.

Dancing in Ghana
I had the incredible opportunity to travel for two weeks with Professor Shani Collins and five other dancers to study West African dance with national companies in Accra and Kumasi, Ghana. We were immersed in Ghanaian history and culture, visiting Cape Coast and Elmina slave castles, the Assin Manso last bath ancestral grounds, the Kakum National Park, and several villages and schools along the way. We practiced Twi, the Akan language, and made incredible connections with people who guided us in our research. It was a life-changing experience for all of us.

Fulbright-Roehampton Award winner
I will spend the next year in a dance performance and practice master’s program at the University of Roehampton in London, one of the leading institutions for graduate studies in dance. The Fulbright Study/Research Award covers full tuition and provides me with living and travel stipends. I plan to focus on the ethical preservation of dance, how postcolonialism and multiculturalism impact arts performance on modern stages, and how dance preserves cultural identity. I didn’t think I would again consider a performance career after I left The Washington School of Ballet’s pre-professional program in 2019, but dance has offered me so many opportunities since then that I am rekindling that childhood dream.
**Favorite campus hangout**
I like to go to the Shain Library basement to finish homework with friends.

**Tech savvy**
In high school, I was the kid that other kids would come to when they had problems with their phones and laptops. I have long been interested in the field of computer vision and its applications and always wanted to take a computer vision class—I even mentioned it in my personal statement when applying to Conn—and finally got the chance to with Professor Ozgur Izmirli. I also took a mobile development class. It was a bit challenging in the beginning, but I surprised myself by managing to build and publish my first mobile application on the App Store within three months.

**Making life easier**
I enjoy coding anything that can solve problems. As a software engineering intern at the Yale Center for Research Computing, I worked on a web application to share private keys. I then interned at the startup Sourcegraph, where I worked with the Search Product Team on a universal code search platform. On campus, I worked with other members of the Computer Science Department on an algorithm to help the Registrar’s Office assign classroom space based on maximum capacities and social distancing requirements during the pandemic.

**Music to the machine**
I am working to create machine learning software that can audio-Visually understand the scene of a musical performance—what instruments are being played, what the musicians are doing, who is singing—and describe it in different modalities like text or visuals. This software could be used for a variety of purposes, including video retrieval on streaming services, movie annotations and accessibility. I'm very interested in using technology to empower others.
Alice Volfson
SLAVIC STUDIES AND GOVERNMENT
DOUBLE MAJOR
GLOBAL CAPITALISM PATHWAY
FROM NEW YORK, NEW YORK
Favorite book
The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov

Change of course
I came to Conn with the intention of majoring in government and pursuing a career in law or politics. But after I learned about Conn’s Slavic Studies Department in my first year, I felt an urge to explore and understand more about my heritage, as both my parents were born in the Soviet Union. Professor Petko Ivanov has been my favorite professor. I took his advanced Russian language course, “Russia Today,” in which I had the honor of participating in a panel discussion for the celebration of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Novaya Gazeta, a Russian-opposition newspaper, as well as “Russian Art and Culture of the 20th Century,” in which I presented on the underlying Jewish themes of a beloved Soviet children’s cartoon, Cheburashka.

Black American migration to the Soviet Union
In Professor Eileen Kane’s “Soviet Union and its Legacies” course, I came across a reading in which Langston Hughes briefly mentions a small Black-American community residing in rural Soviet Uzbekistan, which I found interesting. Then in Professor Laura Little’s “Migration in Eastern Europe,” I learned even more about the Black-Soviet community. Last spring, I studied abroad in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and was able to further research the topic, and decided to do a historical study on the migration of Black Americans to the Soviet Union between the World Wars for my senior thesis.

After spending the last year digging through archives, I am focusing on three distinct groups who migrated to various Soviet republics, tracking and exploring their motivations for coming—and oftentimes staying—in the USSR. I found, that overwhelmingly, Black migrants left America to discover the truth of Soviet anti-racism, and stayed in the USSR because they found it to be a safer place for them than 1930s and 1940s America.

Professor Volfson
This spring, Professor Little invited me to guest lecture for the same “Migration” course I had taken two years before. I greatly enjoyed speaking about my own research and about Langston Hughes and his sojourn around Soviet Central Asia. I have spent only a few semesters on campus, due to COVID and study abroad, but that helped me realize I truly thrive in an academic environment. I now intend to become a Slavic studies professor specializing in Yugoslavia and market socialism, the influence of the Communist International on international political thought, and the culture and art of the Soviet Union.
HARBOR of PHARAOHS

Archaeologist Kathryn Bard ’68 discusses a decade of discoveries in Egypt—and the mystery of Punt.

BY MELISSA BABCOCK JOHNSON

Temple columns in Karnak, Egypt, where Kathryn Bard ’68 did her first excavation work in graduate school in the early 1970s.
More than 60 years ago, a child from Park Ridge, Illinois, visited the Egyptian collection in Chicago’s Field Museum. Her eyes landed on a small glazed ceramic amulet of a cat with two kittens. The object filled her with what would become a lifelong wonder about ancient Egypt.

That girl grew up to be Kathryn Bard ’68, an archaeologist who has co-directed two major excavations in Africa spanning about a decade each. In Aksum, Ethiopia, between 1993 and 2002, her team explored a number of sites that revealed artifacts dating to the late first millennium B.C. through the first millennium A.D., including the remains of two palace complexes and elite tombs. One tomb contained fragments of a Roman wine jar that had been imported from a vineyard in southern France.

Later, between 2001 and 2011, Bard and company switched to the other end of the Red Sea, this time excavating in Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, Egypt, at the site of a 4,000-year-old harbor, called Saww in ancient times, from where ships set sail for a land called Punt (pronounced “poont”). Bard calls it “the most fascinating project that I’ve ever worked on.”

According to ancient texts—hieroglyphs carved in stone—Punt was a prominent trading partner with Egypt for more than 1,000 years. The excavations by Bard and her team in Mersa/Wadi Gawasis yielded parts of some of the oldest seagoing ships ever found, and clear evidence that the ancient Egyptians had sparked the ongoing evolution of sea travel.

Within and outside of several human-made caves the team discovered, they excavated ancient ship timbers and riggings, well preserved food, expedition equipment, carved artifacts with hieroglyphic inscriptions about the expeditions, and materials and artifacts from Punt. Two cargo boxes were inscribed with “The wonderful things of Punt” and descriptions of their contents.

Bard says the marvels unearthed “just blew my mind. I’ve never seen evidence like we recovered there anywhere. It changed what people know about ancient Egypt.”

SAIL LIKE AN EGYPTIAN
Bard’s first excavation in grad school took place at an ancient Egyptian temple site at Karnak.

“They were looking for the foundations of four temples that were built there by a heretical king named Akhenaten,” she recalls. “He was the husband of Nefertiti and father of Tutankhamen. And we found the evidence of these temples, the foundations of these temples, which were dismantled after he died.”

When most people imagine the land of pyramids, Sphinx, Cleopatra and King Tut, they think of the desert, and maybe the Nile River. But Egypt, at the northeast corner of Africa, touches two seas—the Mediterranean and the Red. Beginning in Lake Victoria in Uganda, the White Nile flows north and joins the Blue Nile at Khartoum in Sudan. From Khartoum, the River Nile flows north to the Mediterranean, with a combined length northward of 4,130 miles.

“Most of how people think of ancient Egypt is centered on the Nile, with ships going internally up and down the Nile,” Bard says. “But from 3,000 B.C. onward, the Egyptians were sending ships north in the Mediterranean to what is now Lebanon to get wood—so it’s a fallacy to think of Egypt as being a landlocked country.”

But let’s consider another destination with much more luxurious goods than wood. A land of gold, myrrh, incense, ivory, ebony and more—Punt. Four thousand years later, the question remains: Where was it?

PINPOINTING PUNT
The Palermo Stone is one of seven surviving fragments of a slab known as the Royal Annals that contained a list of Egyptian kings between 3150 B.C. and 2283 B.C., as well as notable events each year they ruled.

This stone also bears the first confirmed record of an expedition to the mysterious land of Punt. The lines of hieroglyphs note that the group brought back 80,000 measures of ntwy, or high-quality frankincense, and other items during the 13th year of King Sahure’s reign, in 2445 B.C.

“All we know about Punt is from ancient Egyptian
inscriptions, but no one has excavated a site in Punt. I have a hypothesis about where it was located, but no real evidence. I think the Egyptians were sailing to eastern Sudan,” Bard says. “Egyptologists have been writing about Punt and debating on where it was located for over 100 years.”

Bard believes there was a harbor or harbors of Punt on the coastline there, while Punt proper was inland and contained a mine or mines in an area called Bia-Punt.

“The materials that the Egyptians were bringing back from Punt—gold, incense, elephant ivory, ebony logs, live baboons—were obtained in inland areas, perhaps as far away from the coast as Kassala,” she says. “The harbor or harbors of Punt had to have been on the Red Sea, probably in eastern Sudan, although others think the harbor could have been in Eritrea.”

Some Egyptologists had believed expeditions to Punt traversed the Nile, but that has been entirely discredited thanks largely to the discoveries of Bard and her team.

“Given the fact that we do have materials from the southern Red Sea region, that also gives a better indication of where Punt was located,” Bard says. “Some Egyptologists place Punt in Sinai, in southern Africa. I think our evidence has helped to more or less locate the general area of Punt.”

Bard recently published her 10th book, *Harbor of the Pharaohs to the Land of Punt II: Excavations at Mersa/Wadi Gawasis, Egypt, 2006-2011*. The open-source manuscript, a comprehensive report of the team’s last five seasons of work there, is 752 pages long.

Italian archaeologist and Boston University research fellow Rodolfo Fattovich, a professor at the University of Naples L’Orientale who died in 2018, directed the excavation project with Bard and co-edited the book, along with Italian archaeologist and professor Andrea Manzo. Part one was published in 2007 and chronicles the first five seasons of excavations between 2001 and 2005.

**NEW KNOWLEDGE**

At Conn, Bard majored in fine and studio arts and minored in art history. She earned an MFA in sculpture from Yale University, then another master’s degree in Near and Middle Eastern studies from the University of Michigan. Her Ph.D., from the University of Toronto, is in that same field, with a focus on Egyptian archaeology.

Her first dig took place in the summer of 1966 between her sophomore and junior years at Conn. The group was excavating in the city of Winchester, England, at the site of a 12th-century bishop’s palace. By the end of the summer, they had reached the level of a Roman street.

“I had read about this study abroad fieldwork program in the Conn College newspaper, and another Conn student went with me,” Bard says. “I really enjoyed excavating for the first time, and it certainly influenced my later decision to do graduate studies in archaeology.”

Last June, Bard retired from Boston University as professor emerita of archaeology and classical studies after 34 years. She
not only taught a course on the archaeology of ancient Egypt, she wrote the book for it. The first edition of *An Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt* was published in 2008 and the second in 2015.

“It’s used all over the English-speaking world,” she says. “Before this book was written, there wasn’t a good textbook to use.” It has also been translated into Italian, and a Spanish version is forthcoming.

The world has honored Bard throughout her fruitful career. Last year, Spain’s Egyptian Lyceum Museum of León gave her its MLE of Egyptology Award for the work of cultivation, research and dissemination of ancient Egypt. “It was a complete surprise,” Bard says. “I had never even heard of the museum.”

In 2010, Bard was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which was founded in 1780 during the American Revolution. The following year, Boston University selected Bard out of several thousand faculty members to deliver its annual lecture, which honors excellence in research.

“I was something like the eighth woman since this began in 1950,” Bard points out.

And back in 1998, the National Geographic Society honored her with its Chairman’s Award for Exploration, citing her with “providing new knowledge of our world.”

‘I STILL HAVE WORK TO DO’

Bard may be retired, but she is far from dormant. She’s keeping up on what other archaeologists are doing; she’s working on two articles; and she hopes to publish a book about her excavations in Ethiopia, a project she had to cut short in 1998 when the country became a war zone during two years of fighting with Eritrea. The team returned in 2001 and 2002.

“I still have work to do,” she says. “I keep on learning. I’m curious! That doesn’t stop when you retire.”

One of her post-retirement projects is assisting with part of a comprehensive global history databank spanning 10,000 years called Seshat, which is named after an ancient Egyptian goddess and has been in the works for more than a decade. Bard joined last year to help examine worldwide evidence on human sacrifice.

Bard explains that the databank “is being put together to test theories about political and economic development, about social and political organizations, and about how civilizations evolve through time. We are reviewing and making codes of how human sacrifice was or wasn’t practiced in different societies. Eventually, this will all go into a computer database and it will be programmed to look at the patterns that evolved.”

She adds, “I’ve been looking at evidence from societies that I’ve never even heard of before, so it’s a wonderful learning experience for me—an interesting, fascinating project.”

During its 55th Reunion weekend on Friday, June 2, the Class of 1968 invites all alumni to learn about Bard’s studies and excavations in Egypt and Ethiopia. Her one-hour talk, titled “Let’s Dig! An Excavation & Research Presentation,” will take place at 3 p.m. in Blaustein Humanities Center Room 203.
Relief in a mortuary temple in El-Bahari, Luxor, Egypt, depicting a trade expedition sent to Punt by Queen Hatshepsut, who ruled Egypt during the 15th century B.C.
The only impartial witness was the sun,” begins the latest book by New York Times bestselling author David Grann ’89. Released in April, *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* is the culmination of years of research transmuted into Grann’s brand of gripping, polished storytelling that makes reality sound like fantasy.

The Wager was a British Royal Navy warship that set off in September 1740 from England as part of a squadron of five warships with a secret mission to capture a Spanish galleon filled with treasure. The Wager was believed to have been lost in May 1741 after the ships became separated during a battery of severe storms near Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America.

In reality, the Wager had wrecked on a desolate island off the southern coast of Chile, and the 145 survivors among the crew’s original 250 men had spent several months in chaos. Grann says, “The British naval officers and crew descended into a real-life *Lord of the Flies*. There were warring factions, mutiny, murders, and, for good measure, cannibalism.”

Then in January 1742, something resembling a boat—built partly from scraps of the Wager—washed up on the coast of Brazil nearly 3,000 miles from where the Wager wrecked. Thirty crew members had traveled for more than three months and were barely alive. They were received as heroes until, six months after that, an even scrappier ship washed up on the coast of Chile with three additional Wager crew members, including Captain David Cheap, who said the 30 who preceded them to shore were mutineers.

The first group countered with their own accusations, and the Admiralty, a department of the U.K. government responsible for the command of the Royal Navy, brought key players to a court martial to try to untangle the truth six years after the Wager had first set sail.

Grann ultimately structured the book’s narrative around the accounts of three individuals—Captain Cheap, gunner John Bulkeley and John Byron, who would become the grandfather of poet Lord Byron.

“They had very competing perspectives, came from different elements of society with different churning ambitions and dreams, and each one of them was shaping the story,” Grann explains. “In many ways, they’re not always inventing things, but in their own accounts they shade certain facts or leave out certain things.”

This tendency is not unique to these men, Grann points out. Rather, it points to a larger facet of human nature. “You start to see the way we all tend to tell stories. We shape them, we edit them, we revise them, hoping to emerge as the hero of them, to live with what we have done or haven’t done.”

*We Tell Ourselves Stories*

Several factors piqued Grann’s interest in the story after he stumbled upon a written account by John Byron, who joined the Wager as a midshipman at just 16 years old and was 22 by the time he and several other survivors made it back to England and faced judgment.

“I’ve always been fascinated by mutinies,” Grann explains. “What causes members of a military organization, whose mission is to impose order, to suddenly disorder? Are they extreme outlaws or were there circumstances that justify their rebellion and make it even noble?”
Grann also notes parallels between themes of almost 300 years ago and today. “I always liked Joan Didion’s line ‘We tell ourselves stories in order to live,’” he says. “But if these crew members failed to tell a convincing tale, they could be literally hanged. A war ensued over the truth, with disinformation and allegations of so-called ‘fake news.’ And, just like today, there was also a great battle over who would tell the history, and efforts by those in power to erase the scandalous truth.”

Robert Evans, CEO from 1967 to 1974 of Paramount Studios, which happens to be a distributor of an upcoming film based on one of Grann’s books (more on that later), is credited with the saying, “There are three sides to every story: your side, my side and the truth. And no one is lying. Memories shared serve each differently.”

While Grann says the basic facts of what happened after the Wager shipwrecked are generally agreed upon, he opens the book with the explanation that he tried to gather all the facts and present all sides of the story to let the reader “render the ultimate verdict—history’s judgment.”

Grann is no armchair author. He spent three weeks on the island where the crew wrecked, which is now known as Wager Island. He explored the Amazon rainforest while writing The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon. He made several trips to Oklahoma while researching Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI. But much of his work is spent combing through written firsthand accounts and original sources.

During a recent video interview, he gestured behind him to indicate stacks of books and notebooks filling his office floor like miniature skyscrapers—a veritable landscape of his life’s work.

“You can have a glimpse of all the research,” he says with a chuckle. “The office gets taken over and kind of turned into an archive, but I spend several years working on these books—Killers of the Flower Moon and The Wager both took about half a decade.”

New London to The New Yorker

Today, Grann is a widely praised journalist who has published six books. Killers of the Flower Moon and The Lost City of Z were No. 1 on The New York Times bestseller list. The former book “has proven [Grann] is simply the best narrative nonfiction writer working today,” according to San Diego Magazine. The latter was made into a movie starring Charlie Hunnam and Robert Pattinson. Grann has also been a staff writer for The New Yorker for 20 years.

But in 1985, Grann—who was born in Manhattan and grew up in Connecticut with a father who was a doctor and a mother who was the first woman CEO of a major publishing firm, Penguin Putnam—was 18 and had just started at Conn. He majored in government and international relations with a concentration in Latin America.

In recalling his four years on campus, Grann says, “I loved it. We’re living in an age where people sometimes question the value of humanities or a liberal arts education, and it’s something I still really value. You forget a lot of things you learn and the specificity of them, but what you come away with is a way to look at the world, a kind of civic education, a way to hopefully discern the truth, to be judicious.”

While a Conn student, Grann studied abroad in Costa Rica and won a highly competitive Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, a one-year grant for purposeful, independent exploration outside the United States. It allowed him to do research on Mexico’s transition away from a single-party political system. He also began his journalism career there, freelancing for an English magazine published by the Mexican daily newspaper La Jornada.

Grann honed his narrative nonfiction storytelling techniques under the tutelage of Blanche Boyd, who taught at Conn from 1982 until her retirement in 2022. “I took a wonderful writing class with her, and she really had a profound impact on me,” he says. “She taught so many aspiring writers how to use techniques to tell nonfiction in a compelling way.”

Many topics have grabbed Grann throughout his career, prompting him to dig deeper.

“My story ideas can begin in so many different ways,” he says, “but when I look back, many of them often derive from a letter or even a photograph or some document in an archive or a museum or sometimes in somebody’s home that they share with me, and it will hold a clue to some kind of extraordinary saga.”

He further forayed into the world of journalism after graduating from Conn, reporting for The Hill newspaper in Washington, D.C. His initial beat of political reporting—which, he admits, didn’t do much to feed his soul—morphed into more fantastical, but true, fare.

“Gradually, I began to tell these stories about mobsters and hit men and giant squid hunters and the world’s greatest Sherlock Holmes scholar, who was found mysteriously garroted in his apartment,” Grann recalls. “These were the stories that I found gripping and that I was drawn to and I felt showed something about the human condition. And then around 2003, The New Yorker hired me and it went from there.”
Handled with Care

*Killers of the Flower Moon*, in which Grann details the largely covered-up story of the suspicious murders of members of the Osage nation in the 1920s after oil was discovered beneath their land, has been adapted into a film that will be released in October. Leonardo DiCaprio, who has reportedly called the film “a masterpiece,” and Robert De Niro star with Lily Gladstone under the direction of Martin Scorsese.

DiCaprio and Scorsese worked closely with the Osage nation to faithfully reflect the era’s history, ensured actors learned the Osage language and cast a number of Osage actors.

Grann says of the pair, “They spent many years working on it and shaping it, and I’ve been happy with the level of care they have taken.”

Because of how well DiCaprio and Scorsese handled *Killers of the Flower Moon*, Grann was thrilled when they recently decided to give *The Wager* the same treatment. Apple Original Films has picked up the rights to the film, which will be DiCaprio and Scorsese’s seventh project together.

“Obviously, when they then expressed interest in teaming up for *The Wager*, I was like, ‘Yes!’” Grann recalls.

“I really care about these stories, so while I know a book will help share it with so many people, a movie with people of their caliber will share the story with an ever broader audience.”

Artists use science fiction to center the Black experience and imagine a more equitable future.

BY AMY MARTIN

What if Black realities were different? This existential question is the driving force behind “6th Dimension,” a visually gripping, purposely trippy, Afrofuturistic multimedia exhibition that debuted this winter in Conn’s Cummings Arts Galleries.

Centering the Black experience and eliminating the confines of time, space and reality, the exhibition is curated by New London’s Juanita Sunday, an artist, curator and budding Afrofuturist who serves as an Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology community research and creation fellow.

“In physics, the 6th dimension is a 3D space of every possible ‘world’ or state of our universe that exists after the big bang,” Sunday explains. “This exhibition transports viewers through a multiversal experience of Black realities: In different planes of existence, what does the Black body look like and how does it function? Who are we in another world, in another time, in another dimension?”

Sunday, who is based in New Haven, says the initial inspiration for the exhibition, her fourth curatorial effort and second to debut at Conn, came from combining her love of all things science fiction with her professional interests in exploring Black identity and the Black experience through art.

“I’m a really big nerd. I love anything sci-fi, anything with time travel,” she says with a laugh.

But with “6th Dimension,” she also leans hard into Afrofuturism, an emerging genre that incorporates science fiction, history, technology and futuristic elements to reclaim Black ancestral, spiritual and cultural practices and imagine a more inclusive and prosperous future for Black people.

“Afrofuturism is about opening your mind to a different way of thinking and different possibilities,” Sunday says. “We’re so used to thinking within the box lines, but Afrofuturism is questioning, ‘Why does our reality have to be this way? Are there other options? Are there other ways that we can live and work together, as people and as communities?’”

Sunday was first introduced to the concept two years ago during an Ammerman Center workshop led by Ingrid Lafleur, a curator, artist, activist and leading convener of the Afrofuturist cultural movement. But looking back, she says she now recognizes Afrofuturistic themes and approaches in all of her work, including her first exhibition, “NAPPY,” which explored black hair and culture and debuted at Conn in 2021.

“My work celebrates and honors our ancestry, our history, our past, but is also about reclaiming what has been lost to us through colonization,” she says.

“Through the exhibition and all the associated programming, I want people to think about these different ideas of a Blackness and Black experience that may be outside of the bounds of what they think about Black people or our history, present or future,” Sunday says.

“Afrofuturism centers the Black experience, but the principles and concepts are meant to be applied to everyone. And by centering folks who are the most marginalized, we can start revolutionizing our world and making it a better place for everyone.”

For more, visit 6thdimension.net.
This page, clockwise from top left:
Kin, Preeminent, acrylic painting on board (2022)
AnUrbanNerd, Melanated Mandrake I, plant sculpture, pot by Marshun Art (2023)
Winter Dior Hart, Preacher's Nephew, 63”x63” mixed media on denim and canvas (2022)
Aishatu Ado, African Steampunk #2, digital giclee print

Page 42: illFormative, New Character Unlocked Pt. 2, 3D animation
“My work celebrates and honors our ancestry, our history, our past, but is also about reclaiming what has been lost to us through colonization.”

— JUANITA SUNDAY

Winter Dior Hart, God Lives in Texas, mixed media on denim (2022)
Greg Aimé, The Calvary, digital collage on canvas with augmented reality (2022)
The College is honoring Elizabeth Babbott Conant ’51 with a memorial plaque placed in the Arboretum wildflower garden.

SPRING 2023 | Class Notes

other interesting animals close at hand. I probably wouldn’t have even when I was 35. But the whites, grays and blues of the surrounding waters, with the ever-moving icebergs, were beautiful. Through documentaries and lectures I learned a lot about Antarctica and the research projects carried out on the ship. I did see whales, seals and dolphins from the comfortable on-ship vantage point. No, there are no polar bears in Antarctica. And, contrary to other people’s fears for my comfort, I had the best sleep for a long time, rocked in the cradle of the roll, pitch and yaw of the trip through Drake Passage. Our next cruise is planned for this August, beginning in Reykjavik, Iceland, and ending in New York. I wouldn’t be able to do any of it without my son, Doug, who does all the hard work of planning and schlepping, while I pay my half. The most important news for this column is our delight that Connecticut College is honoring our classmate Elizabeth Babbott Conant with a memorial plaque to be placed in the Arboretum wildflower garden on May 6. Knowing her as we did, we know she deserves this and more for all the ways she served CC. It’s a joy to claim her as one of our own.

Correspondent: Mona Gustafson Affinito, 723 Water Street, Apt. 1001, Excelsior, MN, 55331, 612-760-5007, forgivenessoptions@earthlink.net I hope you enjoy reading this column. Even more, I hope you’ll send me news before the next deadline, which is Aug. 1. It doesn’t have to be a report of some fantastic event. It’s just fun to know we are alive and kicking. Email makes my life easy, but please use any route that gets your name out there for the rest of us to see. And now to the news I do have: While visiting family in Detroit last October, Phyll Hoffman Driscoll attended the Van Gogh in America exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Art. The exhibit was in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the DIA’s acquisition of Van Gogh’s Self-Portrait (1887). “Upon returning to my home in Hilton Head Island, S.C., I found in my mailbox the Grand Rapids Times obituary of Chloe Bissell Jones, sent by a mutual friend. I last saw Chloe when I was there for my grandson’s wedding, in August 2020. I will miss talking to her on the phone from time to time. Otherwise I’m on my usual schedule here: working in my garden pulling weeds; supplying transportation for many of my friends who no longer drive; meeting friends for lunch.” Barbara Wiegand Pillote is happy to say she is “still here,” limited somewhat by declining vision but enjoying husband Bob, family and friends. Mona Gustafson Affinito (that’s me) is still traveling, most recently in January on Viking’s Octantis in Antarctica. I didn’t leave the ship on the Zodias to see penguins and

Correspondent: Joanne Williams Hartley, 69 Chesterton Road, Wellesley, MA 02481, jodihartley69@icloud.com, 781-235-4038, cell: 617-620-9385 It is interesting as I get in touch with classmates to realize over and over that we are all in the same boat, with the same issues and blessings at this auspicious time in life. Ann Matthews Kent had her 90th birthday in February, as did I. Ann has the same enthusiasm for life that she did back in college. She and Tom moved from South Carolina some years ago to a retirement community near family in Pennsylvania. She has lost her husband but remains very active. She plays tennis three times a week (astonishing to me) as well as coed water volleyball. She is still an avid birder and is on her community’s landscape committee, nest-watching for bluebirds and tree swallows. She is thrilled that her driver’s license has been renewed until 2027! She has children and grandchildren nearby and will greet her second great-grandchild later this year. Nancy Blau Lasser and husband John live in their own place in a high-rise building. He graduated from Yale and spent two years in the Navy, finishing as we graduated; they were married right after college. They are fine and keep busy; Nancy particularly loves her book club of many years, and she also plays mah-jong. She played bridge from college days until COVID but hasn’t picked it up again. Janice Smith Post has moved to a lovely retirement community in Naples, Fla., one that Kathy Hull Easton and Peter have enjoyed for several years. Jan gave up her place in Connecticut to enjoy Florida full-time, and she loves that her daughter and husband have retired in Naples. I look forward to visiting Kathy and Jan and hope to have a picture of us for the next issue. Marsha Cohen Gordon passed away in Riverhead, N.Y., in July 2021. Marsha was a chemical engineer and former resident of Sandwich and Cambridge, Mass. After having two daughters with husband Morton Gordon, Marsha co-founded Development Sciences, Inc., in the 1970s, the first company in Massachusetts to offer energy and environmental consulting. Marsha received a couple of advanced degrees, taught school and eventually ran the Resource Technologies Group, involved in renewable recycling. The Class of 1954 sends condolences to Marsha’s family; she was a treasured member of our class. Bud Huffman, husband of Jane Mixsell Huffman, passed away on Dec. 20, 2022.

Correspondents: Carolyn Keefe Oakes, 3333 Warrensville Center Road, Apt. 412, Shaker Heights, OH 44122, 216-752-5384, carsonake08@netzero.net; Marcia Fortin Sherman, 205 Bud Nalley Drive, Easley, SC 29642, 864-654-1957, marciasherman@bellsouth.net Anne Earnshaw Roche had COVID but is fine. In New Zealand it was summer during the holidays. She read Christmas stories to preschoolers and celebrated the holidays with some of her family who live nearby. Gail Glidden Goodell travels a lot, exercises at the Y, and plays bridge and dominos. To keep up with family and friends she is Zooming (aren’t we all?). Olga Lebovich likes her nursing home, where the staff is very caring. Her brother and his wife visit often. She looks forward to spring, when all the flowers are blooming. Connie Snelling McCreery has been in California, and she hopes to visit her sisters in Florida. Ann Seidel Fletcher and her husband continue to volunteer as tutors for migrant children on Zoom and in person in January and February. Jean Alexander Gilcrest went to Kentucky to visit her sister and met her daughter there too. Her son’s son, Jack, is a computer programmer and is into cryptocurrency. He made a presentation about it at Columbia. Daughter Gretchen’s daughter is a full-time emergency medical technician and is applying to medical school. Another granddaughter spent time in Costa Rica and is studying the environment. Currently her granddaughter has an internship with a Nevada senator. We send our heartfelt condolences to Marge Brash Crisp on the loss of her husband and daughter.

The College is honoring Elizabeth Babbott Conant ’51 with a memorial plaque placed in the Arboretum wildflower garden.

Riverhead, N.Y., in July 2021. Marsha was a chemical engineer and former resident of Sandwich and Cambridge, Mass. After having two daughters with husband Morton Gordon, Marsha co-founded Development Sciences, Inc., in the 1970s, the first company in Massachusetts to offer energy and environmental consulting. Marsha received a couple of advanced degrees, taught school and eventually ran the Resource Technologies Group, involved in renewable recycling. The Class of 1954 sends condolences to Marsha’s family; she was a treasured member of our class. Bud Huffman, husband of Jane Mixsell Huffman, passed away on Dec. 20, 2022.

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That's all folks. It was fun sharing with you.

Sally Glanville Train died in November 2020. She was not sure if this was reported. They are going on a last family “hurrah” in August: a safari in Kenya with 10 people, including Weezie’s husband, children and grandchildren. The rest of our Class Notes come from random calls I made to classmates: Barbara Livingstone Aguirre shared her son’s quip, “Tallahassee is in Georgia with a Florida zip code.” We attended high school together, and we caught up on wonderful things about Laurel. Nancy Osterweis Alderman works full-time in a nonprofit organization. She is the president of Environment and Human Health, Inc. This was always her field of interest. She finally got her degree from Conn in 1994 and from Yale in 1997. Nancy Bald Ripley is the oldest member of her kayak-king group. She is still at it at after rotator cuff injuries to both shoulders. She has trouble getting her kayak out of the water. Cynthia Enloe is still lecturing; she spent two months last fall in England. She is trying to work with Ukrainian women. Ellen Purdy Webster had cataract surgery. She lives in a caregiving retirement community in Southern California near Claremont College. Pam Van Nostrand Newton is glad she went to Conn when she did, when it was ALL women. After graduation, Mary-an Marshall entered the field of chemical research. She found this “boring” because there was little friendly communication and left to teach at a junior college. She was diagnosed with leukemia and is just recently in remission. She lives in an assisted-living facility in Maryland and is glad to feel independent again. That’s all folks. It was fun sharing with you.

I especially hope you’ll be writing in to share wonderful memories, anecdotes, or other thoughts! And I would love for future issues to include notes from more of our classmates. Roberta Slone Smith is “very happy to be able to stay in my house here in northern Vermont, although I’m trying to empty out all the extraneous stuff. Living alone has made me very aware of what I don’t need to have anymore. Every morning I do word puzzles, and I’m starting a yoga class. I continue to enjoy traditional rug-hooking, reading, jigsaw puzzles and attending concerts, everything from classical to bluegrass to Scottish folk music.” From downtown Bangkok, Thailand, “not Bangor, Maine,” Elana “Lanny” Brown Anderson sent greetings. “Bill and I are visiting our son and his family. Spenser is in the U.S. embassy here, perhaps for the next three years.” I, Bonnie, am the happy recipient of Lanny’s delightful email logs, documenting the most interesting and amusing aspects of their travels! Lanny is now a very proud great-grandmother: Baby Mayotta was born in January 2022. Jeannette Cruise Pease, a commuting day student at CC for two years, isn’t sure if anyone remembers her but reports that she’s still “alive and kicking.” Another happy great-grandmother, Connie Cross, is now knitting baby things again. “As they say, it’s easier to wear out than rust out, so I keep active with a senior fitness class and daily walks (often taking wonderful nature photographs), and I have enjoyed a little snowshoeing about a stimulating and satisfying get-together.}

Thank you to June or hoped that they could. By the time this issue either planned to attend Reunion in 2019, Class of 1964. Seated (from left): Cathy Layne Frank, Judy Campbell, Platt Townend Arnold, Janet Wallars, Darcy Miller Austen, Sue Bender; Fiona Barth Wolf, Judy Wisbach Curtis, Pat Arnold Orlove standing (from left): Sandy Nowicki Garick, Pat Edwards Anderson, Lyn Parker Haas, Ann Weatherby Gruen; Kirk Palmer Senske, Jean Klingenstein, Dianne Hyde Russell, Hope Batchelder Stevens, Ann Staples Dixon

Correspondent: Bonnie Campbell Billings-Wauters ‘63 and Gale Flannery Tunnell ‘63 had a wonderful visit. This can only continue if the rest of you will try to let us know about your life and activities! If you’re reading this, please contribute!}

Correspondents: Susan Peck Hinkel, 1064 N. Main Street, Danby, VT 05739, rerob@mac.com; Pat Antell Andrews, 2800 S. University Boulevard, Unit 4, Denver, CO 80210, pandre0615@gmail.com Maggie Emmons still manages a rent-stabilized building in New York. She, like all of us, is somewhat shocked by the imminence of her 80th birthday. Joan Havens invites classmates to visit her next winter in Venice, Fla. During the rest of the year Joan lives in Falmouth, Maine. Jim Saunders MA ‘65 served as a member of the board of directors of the Hearing Loss Association of America from 2011 to 2020, advocating the needs of those with hearing loss. He recently received an amateur radio license. On trips to Cape Cod he and his wife often stop at CC. “It always brings back fond memories.” Dana Hartman Freyer and her husband managed several treks to visit the mountain gorillas in Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda. Last year’s travels included a boat trip to Alaska’s Inside Passage with Karen Metzger Ganz and her husband. Dana also sees Margery Raisler Fisher and Pam Gwynn Herrup. They all met up this summer at the Freyers’ Stratton, VT, home, where the Freyers spend an increasing amount of time. Donna Maulsby Asnani wrote, “Like lots of other people, I found that as pandemic restrictions eased, I felt less in-
resumed extensive international travel. Marty and Lincoln have six grandchildren and co-founded 25 years ago; and BRAC (www.brac.org), which I serving on the boards of the U.N. University I love. That includes teaching at Harvard and professional development for teachers to provide reading competency for all students, including those with dyslexia.” (Correspondent’s note: In her honor, the program presents the annual Lenox McClendon Reed reported from Houston that she is “trying to embrace turning 80 as a good thing. Still involved with the Neuhaus Education Center, for which I was founding director 40+ years ago; it offers professional development for teachers to provide reading competency for all students, including those with dyslexia.” (Correspondent’s note: In her honor, the program presents the annual Lenox McClendon Reed Seminar, which features educators prominent in the field of reading.) From Martha “Marty” Alter Chen: “I feel fortunate to still be actively engaged in work I love. That includes teaching at Harvard and serving on the boards of the U.N. University World Institute for Development Economics Research; WIEGO (www.wiego.org), which I co-founded 25 years ago; and BRAC (www.brac.net), which I worked with in the 1970s.” Marty and Lincoln have six grandchildren and have resumed extensive international travel.

66 Correspondents: Carol Chaykin and Bridget Donahue Healy, cchaykin66@gmail.com. Our devoted scribe, Carol Chaykin, recently fell and severely broke her shoulder. She underwent surgery and rehab but is still not in writing mode for our Class Notes deadline. Patt Dale, our other devoted scribe, recently passed away. Patt died Jan. 26 at the Actors Fund Home in Englewood, N.J. Patt graduated Phi Beta Kappa and was part of the theatrical community for 50 years. She had recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from her union, ATPAM (Association of Theatrical Press Agents & Managers). During her career, Patt worked on such hits as Hair, Seweeney Todd, Evita and Little Foxes. She had recently worked to publicize the legacy of her grandfather, Seth Bingham, a composer of sacred music and an organist at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church from 1913 to 1953. Bridget Donahue Healy will join as class co-correspondent, and we promise full news in the next issue.

67 Correspondents: Deborah Greenstein, debbyg837@verizon.net; Marcia Hunter Matthews, marciamatthews3@gmail.com. Our class sends sincere condolences to the families of Evelyn Larson Delia, Ellen Glascock and Carolyn Arms Young, who have died. Terry Taffinder Grosvenor and Rick published an art history book, Charles DeWolf Brownell: The First American Landscape Painter in Cuba. Charles Brownell is Terry’s great-great-grandfather. He made seven consecutive trips to Cuba in the 1850s and documented exotic vistas during the country’s heyday, when sugar production was at its peak. “The oak image often replicated is from a painting, The Charter Oak,” done by Brownell.” Sandy Clement Haddad was a caregiver for more than 50 years: first for her five children, then for her 95-year-old mother, and then for her 87-year-old husband. She has a new life now: She works three mornings a week at the Church of the Epiphany in Durham, Conn., and is writing a book about her time in the Middle East while married to a Palestinian refugee. She lives in an in-law apartment with her daughter, Jenny Mosher, and continues to get together with Anne Foss, Judy Macurda Oates, Deb Benjamin, Deb Funkhouser Perlman, Martha Birkett and Trish Carr on Cape Cod. Heath-
Correspondent: Mary Clarkeson Phillips, 36 The Crossway, Delmar, NY 12054, mphil2@nycap.rr.com

Kathryn Bard received the 2022 award in Egyptology from the Museo Liceo Egipcio in León, Spain. Among the top five bestsellers in Wiley’s anthropology books, Bard’s book, *An Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt*, has been translated into Italian and is now being translated into Spanish. Her 735-page, two-volume book, *Harbor of the Pharaohs to the Land of Punt*, about her excavations at a 4,000-year-old pharaonic harbor on the Red Sea, was published in January. Sue Sharkey Hoffman writes that all is well with the Hoffmans. She and Tom survived COVID via multiple vaccinations, and though a couple of their kids and grandkids came down with it, all recovered quickly. They enjoyed their annual family week on Hilton Head Island; “even the Western kids and families made it!” Tom is 80 and very healthy. Sue is also well. “But as we age we find it more difficult to do those jobs we used to do, so … we’ve found people to do it for us. We really hope to stay in this house for the duration—too much stuff to move!”

Joan Pekoc Pagano was in NYC for the fall season, catching up with clients and friends, continuing to specialize in fitness training for osteoporosis, and happy to enjoy city life. As winter approached, she and James looked forward to spending the season in Florida. “We are heartbroken that large swaths of our spectacular corner of the world were leveled by Ian, but fortunately our condo, car and boat survived intact.” Miriam Daniel finds life in three homes surprisingly good: a camp in the lake region of Maine—where most of life is outdoors—is truly wonderful; a condo in downtown Seattle one mile from grandchildren Mira (5) and Max (2) combines urban life with the best of grandparenting; and finally, life in a redone condo in Chevy Chase, Md., with old and new friends is comfortable and fun. Miriam and husband Larry traveled to Tel Aviv in November to visit the Daniel Centers, after three long years of COVID absence. Beit Daniel, a Reform synagogue built in 1990 by Miriam’s family, is an oasis of pluralism and understanding of the other in Tel Aviv. In December, she enjoyed attending the annual CC Christmas party with Helen Epps. Linda Groat continues in her position as a professor of architecture at the University of Michigan, with no immediate plans to retire, but looks forward to a sabbatical in the 2023–24 academic year. She works extensively with doc-

On an archeological tour of Egypt in February, friends Liz Tobin Mueller ’69 and Hannah Leavitt ’69 visited the Saqqara necropolis and saw the Pyramid of Djoser, the oldest complete stone structure known in history, dating back to 2600 B.C. “It made us feel very young!”
Pat Gumo Stumpf is enjoying a second career as an Italian-to-English literary translator. “Three of my translations of Pirandello short stories have been published at Pirandellodirecttranslation.org, and my translation of Roberto Porcelli Trenti’s book of poetry is available on Amazon under the English title *Dreaming Margaritas*. I’m also working on my master’s degree in Italian at Hunter College. It’s a lot of fun being back in school and interacting with the brilliant young people in the Romance language department. I still play music whenever I have the chance and recently hosted a quartet at my house, with Beethoven and Mozart on the agenda. Life in NYC continues to be exciting and rewarding!”

Dagny Hultgreen Griswold wrote while dog-sitting and noted that with 12 (soon 13) grandchil-
dren, she is also occasionally asked to look after teenage boys while their parents are traveling. She continues to sing and is on the board of the her choral group, as well as on the board of the local historic society. She and Harry have been in the same house in Simsbury, Conn., for 36 years, enjoying gardening and the space to host family and friends. Larry and Jan MacDonald visited her youngest sister and husband in Danville, Ky., in December and were joined by her other sister, Suzanne MacDonald Horan ’72. “We also visited Larry’s niece and nephew and their families in Louisville and met four new little ones, all under the age of 18 months. Great fun! Earlier in December, we visited our granddaughter, Emily Brank and her husband, Sandy, 78, died in Denver on Feb. 15 from complications after a bone marrow transplant. They were married for over 51 years, with two children and five grandchil-
dren. They had moved from Wellesley, Mass., four years ago to be closer to family. Class Reunion Chair Rene Kolanko Shedlosky reminds everyone that our 55th Reunion is next spring. She’s looking for ideas for fun activi-
ties and seeking volunteers for the ’69 Reunion Committee that will make those ideas happen. Get a head start on the wonderful experience that is Reunion. Please contact Rene at irene.

Pam Brooks Perraud said that she and her husband recently downsized and plan to spend more time in Paris. While she continues to work on women’s rights interna-
tionally, she is “totally dismayed at the level of backlash and backpedaling on women’s rights in the U.S.” As the vice president of the U.S. Women’s Caucus at the U.N., Pam continues to work on policy issues. “On the local level, when in Houston, I volunteer with Zonta, pro-
viding job readiness classes for women at the local women’s home.” Cynthia Conrad took two exciting trips in 2022. In February she traveled to Antarctica, and in November she flew to the Galápagos Islands. The Antarctic trip began with a flight from JFK to Ushuaia, Argentina. There she embarked on the Viking
expedition ship Octant. ‘Our crossing of the Drake Passage was smooth as glass—no Drake shakes.’ We sailed to various locations for land excursions and kayaking. My travel companions and I were fortunate enough to take Viking’s six-passenger ‘yellow submarine’ to the bottom of the Southern Ocean. There were spectacular glaciers and icebergs, loads of penguins with their chicks, sea lions, and abandoned scientific stations.” For the Galápagos trip, Cynthia and 16 friends charted a yacht from adventure company MT Sobek. “We flew from JFK through Atlanta to Quito, Ecuador, and then to the coast for a short flight to Isla Baltra to board our yacht. We took several excursions each day—snorkeling, kayaking, hiking. We saw giant tortoises, land and sea iguanas, cormorants that don’t fly, sea lions, the famous blue-footed boobies, flamingsos, and more.” On Oct. 30, 2022, Cynthia was the featured guest at Conn’s first fundraising dinner to promote the women’s basketball team, celebrate alumni and raise money for the Camel Athletic Network. “I was honored for my support and contributions to the athletic department, women’s studies, and the women’s basketball program.” In the future, “the women’s basketball staff will present this award, named for me, to another person ‘who exemplifies who and what Dr. Conrad stands for.’ This dinner will take place every year in the fall prior to the basketball season.”

Lee Marks and her husband, John C. DePrez Jr., donated their collection of photographs to the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art at Indiana University. Ranging in date from 1856 to 2017, the 116 works include historically instructive and got our feminist blood boiling ... in a good way! Planning is under-way for spring events: (1) The spring Book Club meeting will discuss Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote. Author Susan Ware will join us in person for what promises to be another extraordinary evening. (2) A May Social Hour is in the works. Tentatively called “‘The Class of ’71 Brag-a-thon,' all attendees are encouraged to shamelessly boast about career, family and/or community achievements that hold special meaning for them. Lois Olcott Price is enjoying her renovated spare bedroom, now a carpentry studio; taking sculpture classes; and taking the extraordinary opportunity to examine Native American drawings and paintings at the School for Advanced Research. March brought a trip to Phoenix for spring baseball (Cactus League); the annual Price brothers reunion; and warmer weather, accompanied by hikes in the Sonoran Desert. ‘It has been a cold, snowy winter in Santa Fe, N.M.—we needed the snow, but spring can’t come too soon.’

Margaret Williams ’72 with Jay Levin ’73 in New London, Conn., November 2022

(2) Over 30 classmates signed up for our first 2023 Book Club meeting, again so ably and generously facilitated by co-chairs LaMarian Hayes Wallace and Joan Dagle. The spirited discussion, which focused on Kate Moore’s The Woman They Could Not Silence, was historically instructive and got our feminist blood boiling ... in a good way! Planning is under-way for spring events: (1) The spring Book Club meeting will discuss Why They Marched: Untold Stories of the Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote. Author Susan Ware will join us in person for what promises to be another extraordinary evening. (2) A May Social Hour is in the works. Tentatively called “‘The Class of ’71 Brag-a-thon,' all attendees are encouraged to shamelessly boast about career, family and/or community achievements that hold special meaning for them. Lois Olcott Price is enjoying her renovated spare bedroom, now a carpentry studio; taking sculpture classes; and taking the extraordinary opportunity to examine Native American drawings and paintings at the School for Advanced Research. March brought a trip to Phoenix for spring baseball (Cactus League); the annual Price brothers reunion; and warmer weather, accompanied by hikes in the Sonoran Desert. ‘It has been a cold, snowy winter in Santa Fe, N.M.—we needed the snow, but spring can’t come too soon.’

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 Joan Hart Weigel is “doing pretty well for a 93-year-old cancer survivor.” This summer she had immunotherapy with cemiplimab infusions at Smlow Cancer Hospital Care Center, in Waterford, Conn., and saw the miraculous disappearance of the large growth on her pituitary gland with just two infusions. And the cancer that had metastasized behind her ear, on her collarbone and on her neck was gone! There are side effects of the infusions in her fingers, shoulders and leg muscles, but she is in therapy twice a week and mak-ing progress. Prayers and love from her family, church and friends have been a blessing. She does not mix in crowds and outings but keeps active with the many supports at StoneRidge.

Anne Maxwell Livingston still works as a tax preparer for H&R Block and enjoys meeting and helping people whose circumstances are so different from her own. Combined with babysitting her 6- and 1-year-old grandchil-dren and being very involved in local Demo-cratic politics, that keeps her quite busy. Susan Scott Kelley participated in the recent Book Club meeting; she enjoyed the discussion and looks forward to the next one! She keeps occupied with her piano studies and is excited about moving from the beginner to the intermediate stage. They are planning a trip to Iceland with her granddaughter to celebrate her grand-daughter’s high school graduation. (“Didn’t she just start kindergarten last year?”) Susan also looks forward to a trip to Taos, N.M.—one of their favorite areas—for a reunion with Rick’s sisters. In February, Ronna Reynolds sent greetings from Santa Barbara, Calif., along with a shout-out to our class for its excellent re-sponse to this year’s Zoom activities: (1) More than 35 classmates signed up for our first Social Hour, which focused on the question “How are you defining retirement?” Among the many highlights: Barbara Ballinger, who wrote the award-winning book Not Dead Yet, provided a fascinating introduction; Jane Terry Giardino called in all the way from Peru; and Jane Dif-ley revealed that she has taken up tap dancing.
Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Martha “Matty” Kessler Huckins continues to own and manage Huckins Farm, a micro dairy in New Hampshire. With a small herd of 20 cows, the farm has 12 part-time employees and young homeschooled students who volunteer each week. Matty says that the farmwork means a lot of fresh air and exercise, along with a family of wonderful people who support the farm. She loves what she does! Her son, Jeremy, and his family live nearby, as does the family of her late husband, Gordon. Mary Ingoldsby’s leukemia remains in remission, and she is feeling very well and very blessed. She continues to be in contact with Helen Crispe Hesselgrave and Barbara Ainslie Settembrini. Seven years ago, Mary retired from her job as a social worker and now stays busy doing community outreach work with her church. As a volunteer with a refugee resettlement program, she teaches English as a second language (ESL) and works as a cultural companion for newly arrived refugees. Family plans for 2023 involve a cruise to Bermuda, their first family trip since the pandemic began. At Reunion, Mary enjoyed reconnecting with Ann Tousignant and Jennifer Sinclair. In February, Kristin Alexander Eschauzier and her husband departed on a Caribbean cruise to celebrate, belatedly, their 50th anniversary. Her grandchildren are now 20, 18 (twins), 14 and almost 9—“growting up too fast!” Barbara White Morse reports on her life-changing experiences helping Afghan families navigate life in America. In 2022, she and a friend organized an Afghan Women’s Group to help the women learn English and socialize with other Afghan women. In addition, Barbara began working with an Afghan refugee family of nine. She serves as the school liaison for five kids and handles the mail, bills and all the doctors’ appointments. “It is a privilege to truly make a difference in their lives. And they are incredibly appreciative! If you are looking for added meaning to your life, I encourage you to become involved with the refugees in your area and/or become an ESL teacher.” Patti Reum lives in Blue Grass, Va., a tiny, mountainous farming community. She retired there after teaching science and math in Charlottesville. Her two daughters are married, and she has three grandchildren, ages 4, 5 and 6. She is the owner of Eagle Annie’s Cottage, located on the Virginia Bird and Wildlife Trail. As an avid birder, Patti works with American kestrel birds, monitoring their movements and banding them. She also plays with a contra dance band and tours in nearby states. After 45 years on the faculty in the Psychology Department at Emory University, Sherryl Goodman is completing her last year of teaching. She looks forward to less stress and more time with grandchildren, children and friends; writing, reading and mentoring junior colleagues; and dabbling in art and practicing yoga. At our 50th she loved reconnecting with classmates, reliving our time on campus, and hearing and seeing how wonderfully exciting the College is now. She plans to connect with Wendy Chintz Weiss and Lisa Booth ’71 this summer. She will be in Hingham, Mass., for the summer and most of fall if other classmates would like to connect. Ruth Ritter Ladd loved being part of our 50th reunion and connecting with people she had not seen since we graduated. To his surprise, her husband, Larry, also had a great time! Although working on fundraising was challenging, Ruth found it rewarding to talk with people around the country, and she noted “We ended up breaking records!” Her sixth (and final!) grandchild, Jordy Beau Ladd, arrived in September. Karen DuBrul writes that Reunion was amazing, and she loved hearing how our classmates make their days count. She is grateful for the programming committee for shaping a forum that showcased the accomplishments of our colleagues. In retirement she takes watercolor and drawing lessons via Zoom. She also works with Mighty Writers, a program helping elementary students with reading. In addition to supporting animal rescue and shelters, her next project is to find a solution for people who will not leave an abusive home and go to a shelter because they cannot take their pets. Louise “Oni” Moores Berglund reports: “My news isn’t that exciting, but I am still here!” She lives in Dallas near her daughter and three grandkids, one girl and two boys, ages 3 to 7. She spends a lot of time with them and cares for her 14-year-old boxer.

73 Correspondent: Hester Kinnicut Jacobs, djacobs@midrivers.com Bonnie Clark Kalter and husband Craig have been trying to recapture the “normal” life they enjoyed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. A large part of that has been reviving their yearly European vacation during the summer months. “Our challenge in 2022 was to find a place where we could minimize the number of people we would be exposed to, travel that would involve limited time spent on an airplane, somewhere we could eat all three meals a day al fresco, and a destination that provided an abundance of outdoor historic and scenic places to visit.” With a lot of research, they created a bespoke trip to the Peloponnese peninsula, in Greece. The Peloponnese peninsula is about 55 miles (89 km) west of Athens and has many famous archaeological sites, like Olympia (site of the first Olympic games), Mycenae, Corinth and Epidaurus. “Its seaside places like Kalamata, Porto Cheli, Nafplio, Monemvasia and Koroni provided a perfect mix of interesting sites and waterside, fresh-air taverns serving renowned Greek dishes and wine. Combine these with gorgeous beaches and many (many) Byzantine and medieval castles and cities and we had a fantastic reintroduction to Europe.” Eleanor Kucinski Thompson and husband Ian are both retired and live in a village in North Buckinghamshire, England. “We are in good health and try to keep active with walking and Pilates classes. We both enjoy busy retirements with hobbies and socializing. I am looking forward to our 50th reunion in June.” Joelle Desloovere Schon ’73 is still in Nairobi working at Akili Kids! as a video editor but has cut back to three days a week. Akili Kids! is the children’s TV channel founded by Joelle’s husband, Jeffrey Schon, and his partner; the channel celebrated three years on air in March. “We travel back home to Westport, Conn., every few months to see friends and my daughter, Chloé Schon Geary ’03, and her husband, Jordan Geary ’04, and our granddaughters, Athena (9) and Tatum (5). We were home for the holidays; a highlight was attending a performance of The Nutcracker. We are planning a family safari in August.” Jane Barbo Gabriel is not sure she can be at Reunion but will continue to look at the possibility. “Our son Jason (a major on active duty with the U.S. Space Force) owns his own hot-air balloon, Spirit of ’76, which he flies for fun and at organized hot-air balloon festivals. Steve and I are part of his faithful chase crew, Steve as crew chief and me as ‘crew chief in charge of the after-flight tailgates,’ which always feature champagne! We were in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., at their January festival weekend. Jason flew his beautiful balloon over London Bridge and did a gentle splash-n-dash into the lake during the early-morning flight. We’ve been chasing and flying in hot-air balloons for almost 30 years—sights like this never get old!” Jane is from Massachusetts, so she is a fan of all the Boston sports teams; she follows...
Weddings


Sandra Shahinian ’74 with her family in Rome last August at her daughter's wedding.

James Fleming ’83 and wife Rebecca 25 years ago with guests Seth Stone ’82 and Jill Crossman Stone ’82, Barbara Lasley Reid ’83, Bernard Weiss ’82 and Lisa Rice Weiss ’83, Barry Finn ’82, Peter Bernson ’82 and Kim Jaeckel Bernson ’83, and Lili Kanfer Castle and Andrew Castle.

Rose Wall ’12 and Ian Jakus were married on Aug. 13, 2022, in Waitsfield, Vt. Many Camels were in attendance, including (from left): Elizabeth Jones, Steve Sweriduk ‘12, Marina Gluckman ’12, Davey Ives ’10, Gina Delft ’13, Sam Mauck ’12, Len Gray, Ipak Bakir Gray ’12, Bryson Cowan King ’12, Rose Wall ’12, Ian Jakus (the groom), Nicole Moomijy ’12, Erik Karwatowski ’12, Jordan Kalish, Carrie Rubury ’12, Sarah Petit ’11, Mark Roberto ’13 and George King ’13.
Births

From left to right (all Class of 2009 with their future Camels): Lizzie Leonaggio Pizza, Maya Jacobs, Hannah Charren-Ohle and Alex Rogalski

the Celtics closely and is a Red Sox fanatic; "charter member of Red Sox Nation!" This year, Colorado has had more than its share of frigid weather, "so it’s been a blessing to escape to our winter home in Delray Beach, Fla. We’re not waiting for warmer weather; we went looking for it!" As for me, Hester, I am busy helping plan Reunion and working on our 50th Reunion yearbook. Looking forward to going back to CC for the first time since ’73.

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Correspondent: Barbara Herbst Tatum, Barbara.tatum52@gmail.com

Last summer, Amy Cohen and her husband moved from the Springfield, Mass., area where they had lived for 39 years to Brewster, Mass., on Cape Cod. She would love to connect with any Conn classmates or alums nearby. Writing as Margaret S. Hamilton, Margaret Hamilton Turkevich has three mystery short stories accepted for fall 2023 publication. Currently, she is querying her debut traditional mystery, Curtains for the Corpse, set in a small Ohio college town. She uses her background in interior-design sales management and home renovation as the basis for the book, adding her standard poodles and perennial gardens to the mix. Margaret and her husband, Lee, enjoyed a month-long trip to Paris, Bordeaux, Dordogne and Provence last October, with family visits with her children and grandson, Jack, over the holidays. Mark Samuels Lasner marks 20 years of work as senior research fellow at the University of Delaware library, which holds his collection of late-Victorian books, manuscripts and artworks. Last fall, the Grolier Club, in New York, mounted the exhibition “Aubrey Beardsley, 150 Years Young,” drawn entirely from the collection, which Mark co-curated with Margaret D. Stetz, the Mae and Robert Carter Professor of Women’s Studies at UD. The exhibition received considerable attention, notably a review in the New Yorker’s “Goings on About Town.” Next up for the two collaborators is another exhibition, currently titled “Max Beerbohm: The Price of Celebrity,” scheduled for this fall at the 42nd Street branch of the New York Public Library. With a core of materials drawn from the NYPL itself, enhanced with loans from U.S. and U.K. institutions, this will bring the celebrated British caricaturist, writer, wit and dandy (1872–1956) into public view for the first time in decades. After 40 years as a member of the UCLA faculty, Chris Dunkel Schetter is retiring in June as distinguished professor of psychology and psychiatry and associate vice chancellor of faculty development. She plans to continue to be active in research and related topics, and she looks forward to spending time in Ann Arbor, Mich. “Putting my Asian Studies major to good use,” Sandra Shahinian volunteers as an art docent at the Rubin Museum of Art, on 17th Street in Manhattan, where she enjoys explaining the uses of art in religious practices. All three of her children are married, and she feels lucky to have three grandchildren living nearby. She sends regards to all our classmates; she enjoys reading everyone’s updates. While retired from clinical practice at Mount Sinai in NYC, Neal Stone has continued to pursue academic and business opportunities. He recently set up Viomerse, Inc., with son Jonathan, who is a neurosurgeon at the University of Rochester. Viomerse is a medical education company that builds realistic models of human anatomy designed to train physicians on how to do procedures. His company recently introduced an augmented-reality wearable headset to facilitate remote training. Neal and his wife, Gloria, feel blessed with five grandchildren they visit often, as children Michelle, Jonathan and Laura are based in New York and Colorado. Neal and Gloria
spend their time between Vail (mostly fall and winter) and New York City. “Retirement is not for this Camel,” writes Jim Berrien. His company, Ahl, Berrien & Partners, continues to hunt for exceptional talent in the fields of media, molecular farming, higher education and nonprofits. Jim’s daughter Lacey is getting married in June 2024. The Class of ’74 extends deep sympathy to the family and friends of Michael S. Hunold, of Woodstock, N.Y., who passed away Dec. 3, 2022.

Correspondents: Kenneth Abel, 334 West 19th Street, Apt. 2-B, New York, NY 10011, kenh616@aol.com; Susan Hazlehurst Milbrath, P.O. Box 3962, Greenwood Village, CO 80155-3962, smilbrath@gmail.com Dave Alden and Annie have moved to Villanova, Pa., from the Detroit area to be closer to family. They have three grandchildren, with their son and daughter-in-law living within an eight-minute drive. Dave continues as a Village Chair, a peer-group facilitator and business coach in the Philadelphia area. He looks forward to connecting with the CC alumni group in their area. Craig Chapman retired from Sidley Austin LLP at the end of last year after 39 years (30 years as a partner) and 43 years as a practicing New York lawyer. He is still chair of the American Australian Association. He and wife Susie are continuing to have a blast after almost 40 years of marriage. The family’s getting bigger: Daughter Jane Lodge has a 9-year-old daughter, Sophie, and daughter Louise Levin and her husband, Denys, have a 9-year-old daughter, Sophie, and daughter in-law living within an eight-minute drive. Dave continued as a Village Chair, a peer-group facilitator and business coach in the Philadelphia area. He looks forward to connecting with the CC alumni group in their area. Craig Chapman retired from Sidley Austin LLP at the end of last year after 39 years (30 years as a partner) and 43 years as a practicing New York lawyer. He is still chair of the American Australian Association. He and wife Susie are continuing to have a blast after almost 40 years of marriage. The family’s getting bigger: Daughter Jane Lodge has a 9-year-old daughter, Sophie, and daughter Louise Levin and her husband, Denys, have two daughters, Georgina (3) and Beatrice (1). Everyone lives in Cos Cob, Conn., and also enjoys retirement. Len LuPriore and his partner, Emily Blefeld, through their constellations facilitator training program Lip, charged into the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year he attended the Passion Play, done every 10 years in Oberammergau, Germany. Then he spent Christmas cruising the Rhine. This year, he spent most of January and February in New Zealand. “En route to New Zealand, I stopped in Melbourne to attend the Australian Open tennis tournament and can now tick a major item off my bucket list: attending all four Grand Slam tennis tournaments. I returned from New Zealand just in time to go skiing for a week in Italy in March. More trips are planned for the rest of the year.”

Correspondent: Stuart Sadick, stuart.sadick@gmail.com Kim Lawrence wrote that the past 10 years have been difficult. “We are finally settled and, for the most part, content. I think of CC often and enjoy the various communications, even from the Bookshop. I purchased a CC Rowing cap—are you there, Ric Ricci? Best wishes to all.” Last July, Karin Ray Mathews retired from her position of nine years as manager of the Ronald McDonald House in St. Petersburg, Fla. Prior to that, she had spent 35 years in the world of education, serving as teacher, school principal, and accreditation director for Florida independent schools, “so I was ready!” Since retiring, she has done quite a bit of traveling, including visiting her two grandsons in New York and hiking part of the Camino de Santiago, in Spain, “which was an amazing adventure! For now, I’m working through my Retirement To-Do list, still running and cycling, and recently decided to commence ballet lessons, 45 years after my last ballet class at CC! If you’re ever in the St. Pete/Tampa area, come visit (mathray12@gmail.com).” Kimberly-Troy Reynolds Pellerino gladly welcomes 2023. During early COVID, before a vaccine was available, Kimberly faced some serious health challenges. Luckily those issues are all behind her now and she continues to move forward. She spent time in Avon, Conn., last fall with Ellen Beach Shaw 78. Kim was always known as a Coastsie Girl, so of course she went to the 45th reunion at the Coast Guard Academy, in New London last October. During the winter, her entire family went dog sledding, with the grandkids in tow, in Ely, Minn. Last summer her family also visited Italy for Kim and Giorgio’s wedding anniversary. Thanks to the Office of Alumni Engagement’s publication Conversations, Kim and her husband read about Judith Bamberg Mariggi 69. They learned that Judith retired and moved to Canale, Italy. To their surprise, this town is only 15 minutes from their home in Magliano Alfieri, Italy. Kim contacted the alumni office and requested Judith’s email address. The rest is history. Judith and Kim got together during the Christmas–New Year’s holidays, and now they plan to spend a lot of time together. Benvenuti 2023. Tom Howland is making up for the lack of travel during the years of the pandemic. Last year he attended the Passion Play, done every 10 years in Oberammergau, Germany. Then he spent Christmas cruising the Rhine. This year, he spent most of January and February in New Zealand. “En route to New Zealand, I stopped in Melbourne to attend the Australian Open tennis tournament and can now tick a major item off my bucket list: attending all four Grand Slam tennis tournaments. I returned from New Zealand just in time to go skiing for a week in Italy in March. More trips are planned for the rest of the year.”
miss the 45th reunion; he is still working full-time and his sales region covers 23 states! He lives in South Florida, and his daughter and son-in-law visited over the Presidents’ Day weekend. **Robin Schwartz Leitner** really enjoys the next chapter, having retired from a long career in fundraising at the end of December 2021. She and her husband now spend six months a year at their new home in Rangeley, Maine, and love lake life. “We have been blessed with five amazing grandchildren and spend lots of time with them.” **Rindy** and **Peter Hallman** welcomed grandbaby number four, Emily Hannah Wais, to the world on Jan. 25, 2023. Come to Reunion to see baby pictures! Our fall 2022 column ran well over the Class Notes word limit, so following are some Career Spotlight extras we couldn’t fit earlier. To augment **Cliff Kozemchak**’s report from the June 2022 Memorial Celebration for Charles Luce: Coach Luce and Ric Ricci also hold a special place in **Laurie Heiss**’s heart. They were her first- and second-line “bosses” at the CC summer camp where **Tim Luce ’79**, **Dianne Argyris** and Laurie created an unusual and popular camp for kids (including children of the summer American Dance Festival staff). Honestly, Dianne and Laurie were very bossy to the slightly bewildered Ric R.—often directing him to drive a busload of campers to the most unusual places for out-of-the-ordinary activities (that the kids loved). Meanwhile, Tim Luce was the same one. Charlie Luce was always supportive. He was not only a great coach and friend to many CC athletes but a hands-off, enthusiastic, beloved boss for three special summers. Spotlight on **Dianne Argyris**: Dianne began her career in the early 1980s, when she had the unique experience of apprenticing to her father, a pioneer in the field of organizational behavior and industrial psychology. Through this work and her graduate work, she built a strong intellectual and theoretical foundation for her work as an organizational consultant. In the late ’80s, she joined an innovative strategy-consulting startup called GeoPartners Research. To gain a corporate-insider perspective, in 1991 Dianne joined Unix System Laboratories, a spin-off of AT&T, as their first internal organizational manager and was then asked to become director of human resources. She was also the HR lead on Unix’s merger with Novell. In 1994, Dianne joined Lotus Development Corporation as a member of their innovative human resources organization, and her last position at Lotus (now part of IBM) was as head of training and development. In 1998, she began her own practice providing consulting services to organizations in a variety of industries, including the nonprofit arena. Dianne has many education and professional affiliations and holds master’s and doctoral degrees from the Harvard School of Education. At CC, she majored in Psychology—and co-managed a great summer camp under Ricci and Luce! Blast from the past! **David Rosenthal**, checking in after 45 years, tells us that despite his absence from Class Notes, his heart has never been far from CC. Whether it be the TSMIT (Tri-State Mulligan Invitational Tournament)—which just celebrated its 42nd consecutive year, with **Trae Andersen ’79**, **Stephen Litwin ’79** and **David Geller ’81**—or the Belmont Stakes, a tradition since 1975 (Avalar) to 2022 (Mo Donegal) with **Guy Morris ’76**, **John Lee ’75** and **Dan Cohen ’76**, David’s connection to CC has been a North Star. Along the journey he married and divorced but was gifted with a beautiful daughter, Emma, who is a working actor based in Chicago. “I found the love of my life when I finally settled in the home I always wanted: Stockbridge, Mass. I’d lived there in one form or another since 1986, and after having two homes for too long I put Jersey and NYC in my rearview mirror permanently in 2011. I became a local when I married one (Martha Sauer) in 2016 and together we continued our journey playing the best golf courses in the U.S. and chasing E Street Nation around the country fulfilling my personal quest to see Scooter (aka Bruce Springsteen) and the Band in as many American cities as 49+ years.
of following him allowed. I lost Martha in May 2022, but I continued the journey with her on my shoulder at opening night of the 2023 tour in Tampa and I also crossed Kansas City off the list last week. I’ll be hitting Albany, Boston and Newark in the weeks ahead and might find a golf course or two in Europe if I follow the band across the Atlantic.” When not following the band, David runs a small but worldwide-in-scope risk-management consulting group, all from his front porch in Stockbridge, and all without marketing or advertising or social media, which suits him just fine: “a pleasant business and quiet personal life.” Says David, “Looking forward to Reunion.” Cheers!

Correspondent: Vicki Chesler, vachesler@gmail.com

Ben Sperry lives in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. One of his main goals this summer is to hike the portion of the Appalachian Trail he has yet to finish (from eastern Pennsylvania to Maine). This past year he taught a course on the history of the Beatles, through a lifelong learning program associated with Case Western Reserve University. He recently joined the session (board of elders) of his church, where he is active in social justice issues. He keeps in touch with Chip Clothier and other ’79 volunteers raising class money for the College. Ben is married, has two grown married daughters and three (about to be four) grandchildren. Beth Kukla England writes, “Although it seems like lots of my classmates are already enjoying retirement, I’m holding out a bit. My work for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) takes me across New England to support independent schools with their accreditation and school improvement plans. My three daughters are all thriving, and I cherish the holidays when they all return home to Newtown, Conn. My husband and I enjoy traveling to visit the girls during our vacations, and they are happy to show us their new hometowns of Chapel Hill, N.C.; Washington, D.C.; and Chicago.”

Jill Bleemer retired two years ago after teaching middle school social studies in Greenwich, Conn., since graduating from CC. Last fall, she and husband Seth Weitzman ’80 finally embarked on their first postretirement trip overseas: “Our first-ever September trip, since Seth is a retired middle school principal.” They biked from Amsterdam to Bruges, Belgium, then flew to Portugal to rest in the sun. Daughter Emily teaches freshman writing at Columbia University, and son Jason is a video editor at A&E Networks. “We have lived in Larchmont, N.Y., for 30 years and continue to spend time in Truro, Mass., marveling at the beautiful bay and dunes, the view of Provincetown, and the brilliant sunsets from Corn Hill.”

Ned Breed says, “Life is good!” He is president of Farquhar & Black Insurance Agency, in Salem Mass., and also has a house in Florida. He is happily married (on the second try) and has two grandsons (18 months and 9 years old) and two granddaughters (18 months and 7 years old). David Rosenberg has retired, moving to an “of counsel” status with his law firm. “Laurel and I have relocated full time to Hilton Head Island, S.C., and would be happy to see any classmates visiting the island. I can promise a better view than from Mr. G’s and colder beer than at the Dutch. I hope to spend my time cycling, learning to fly-fish, practicing yoga instead of law, traveling, being an attentive spouse and enticing my three grandchildren to visit often.”

Robert Markowitz has a novel coming out in June: Clown Shoes, published by Heliotrope Books. Congratulations Robert! Barry Norman finished and published his sixth and seventh books. We Blew It, taken from the iconic line uttered by Peter Fonda’s Captain America from the 1969 counterculture film Easy Rider, tracks myriad incidents, events and people to determine exactly how America and the world arrived at its currently dysfunctional dystopia. Counting Kitties is about his lifelong struggle with insomnia. Barry is a substitute teacher at Everett High School, in Everett, Mass. He recently finished visiting all 50 states by knocking off Alaska and Hawaii. John England celebrated his 65th birthday with his six grandsons over the holidays in Florida. As for me, Vicki Chesler—my husband, Matt Kovner, and I had the thrill of becoming grandparents on Oct. 24, 2022, when our older daughter, Melissa, gave birth to Oliver Bertie Kovner Levine in Nashville, Tenn. Needless to say, he is the cutest, sweetest baby in the world, as I’m sure all of you grandparents out there can attest about your own. We spent six weeks in Nashville when he was born, prompting us to buy a place down there to use when we visit and rent when we are not. We just returned from our first trip outside the U.S. since COVID, visiting friends in Mexico City and San Miguel de Allende. In September we had a wonderful sailing trip with Anne Garrison and her husband, David Hewitt, to visit the Elizabeth Islands and Cape Cod, where we
2023 ALUMNI AWARDS

ALUMNI TRIBUTE AWARD

The Alumni Tribute Award honors an alumna or alumnus who has provided sustained and extraordinary service to the College.

THE GOSS AWARD

This award is given annually to a member(s) of the Alumni Association who through his or her enthusiastic participation in the area of Association programs or activities has made a significant contribution to the Connecticut College community. The award is given at the discretion of the President of the Alumni Association.

THE MACH AROM '89 AWARD

This award honors alumni for service to Connecticut College and for distinguished achievements in his or her professional field or within society. Any member of a class that graduated within the past fifteen years is eligible to be nominated.

HARRIET BUESCHER LAWRENCE '34 PRIZE

This prize recognizes outstanding contributions to society by any member of the College community. The candidate’s life achievements will have equaled or surpassed those of other leaders in his or her field and should reflect the values instilled in graduates of Connecticut College.

AGNES BERKELEY LEAHY AWARD

This award honors alumni who have contributed outstanding service, demonstrated by continued interest in the Alumni Association, and sustained active participation in class, club or Board of Directors activities.

Alumni Tribute Award Recipient

André Lee ’93
Philadelphia, PA
Filmmaker

André is an award-winning film maker, keynote speaker, consultant, writer and educator. André majored in history at Connecticut College and volunteered as a senior pledge agent. He is a former alumni board member, class gift officer and career mentor and has participated in regional and on campus programming. He is the president and founder of Many Things Productions and his work has been featured through powerful platforms, including CNN, Paramount TV, Sundance and other film festivals. He is currently developing a documentary on mental health programs within the California Department of Education. André also teaches filmmaking at the Germantown Friends School and The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Goss Award Recipient

Dave Clark ’73
Delray Beach, FL
Retired

Dave is one of the original coeds who helped begin the integration of men at Conn in 1969. He was a Government Major and involved in student government, the student newspaper, rebooting WCNJ, housefellowing and was a charter member of the first Camels basketball team. In addition to his work in local politics, Dave had a long and successful career in consumer planning and buying, the longest with his award-winning tenure at L.L.Bean. He has been to all of his class Reunions, chaired his 20th Reunion, served as class president for five years after that and is a co-chair for his 50th Reunion. He was elected to the alumni board in 2012 and re-elected in 2015. Dave has mentored and interviewed more than a hundred Conn undergraduates and has been a class gift officer since 2013.

Mach Arom ’89 Award Recipient

Shaniqua Shaw ’18
New York, NY
Columbia University Law Student

Shaniqua was an extremely dedicated member of the Camel community. She was involved in student government, played on the women’s basketball team and was a CISLA scholar and volunteer. She mentors young alumni and serves as class president. After graduating from Conn, she was an immigration paralegal in New Orleans and a paralegal at Reed Smith LLC in New York City before enrolling at Columbia Law School.

Harriet Buescher Leahy Award Recipients

Patricia Reinfeld
Kokodny ’68
New York, NY
Jewelry Designer

Andrea Hintlian
Mendell ’68
New York, NY
Goldsmith

Patti and Andy have been true leaders for the Class of 1968. They have spearheaded class and Reunion engagement since their 25th Reunion in 1993 and continue to keep classmates engaged as they head toward their 55th Reunion. They share news of classmate accomplishments with the alumni office and use this information to design creative content and programming that showcases the College and their class and encourages classmates to return for their Reunions every five years. Thanks to their dedication, their class recruited 82 women to return for their 50th Reunion in 2018 and their support and collaboration with the gift committee raised record support for their 50th class gift.

Patti majored in sociology at Conn and, following graduation, received her graduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work in 1970 and worked at a residential program for at-risk teenage girls. As an alumna, she has volunteered as a class gift officer, Reunion committee member and chair, an alumni admission representative and a member of the Kresge Challenge Steering Committee. Andy majored in art history at Conn and received her graduate degree in art history from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1973. Andy was an art history teacher in the Boston area and, after a move to NYC with her husband, worked for over 20 years in the creative garment industry. Andy has also volunteered as class gift officer and Reunion committee member.

Agnes Berkeley Leahy Award Recipients

André Lee ’93
Filmmaker

André is an award-winning film maker, keynote speaker, consultant, writer and educator. André majored in history at Connecticut College and volunteered as a senior pledge agent. He is a former alumni board member, class gift officer and career mentor and has participated in regional and on campus programming. He is the president and founder of Many Things Productions and his work has been featured through powerful platforms, including CNN, Paramount TV, Sundance and other film festivals. He is currently developing a documentary on mental health programs within the California Department of Education. André also teaches filmmaking at the Germantown Friends School and The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Harriet Buescher Leahy ’98
Co-founder, PEGAfrica
New York, NY
International Sustainability Developer

Nate is the founder of PEG, a company that engineers solar kits to provide power to remote villages in West Africa. He also has over 20 years of experience in international social enterprise and development, including 12 years building innovative distribution and finance channels for poor consumers in this part of the world. At Conn, he was a CISLA fellow and also spent time in Dakar. After graduation, Nate served in the Peace Corps and earned an M.A. from Johns Hopkins SAIS in international relations and international management and an M.B.A. from Yale School of Management. He is fluent in English, French and Wolof, and conversational in Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.
Bora Bora over the Christmas holidays, which has long been a trip on Dana’s bucket list. She called it her “revenge trip” because Paul chose last year’s Christmas trip to Antarctica, which was VERY cold (though Dana also admitted to ultimately having fun on that trip). Next up, Europe in the summer, culminating with a wedding in England for a friend Dana met her junior year abroad in Bath. Their kids are doing well; both currently live in Los Angeles. Dana and Paul are nowhere near being grandparents yet but remain hopeful. They are both still fully immersed in their careers—psychology and law—and enjoying this time of life. Rick Gersten, Scott Hefer and Norm Livingston checked one more item off their bucket lists this year by hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. They must have found some inspiration from the mountaintop, because all three have now moved to the Connecticut shoreline so they can focus their golden years on golf. However, they have a lot of work to do in that arena to catch up to Kevin Sullivan. Peter “Spice” Simpson fulfilled a dream since college of riding a motorcycle to Alaska. Last summer he traveled from LA to Anchorage, explored many parks, visited Chip Maguire and toured the 49th state for two weeks before riding back to Pennsylvania.

Correspondents: Claudia Gould Tielking, 6533 Mulroy Street, McLean VA 22101, claudiatielking10@gmail.com Gregg Hartvigsen and Meredith Drake (who met in the parking lot by Cro in 1980) still make each other laugh after 38 years of marriage. They live near Rochester, N.Y., and Gregg is an ecology professor at SUNY Geneseo. Tennis, cycling and cross-country motorcycle trips fill his spare moments, along with guitar gigs at the local farmers’ market. Meredith is a part-time clerk at the local library and still gardens, cooks, knits and spins (wool). Son Tom is a computer science postdoc and lives with his wife in Cambridge, Mass. Daughter Phoebe is a naturalist at Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, in New Hampshire. Lisa Tropp Fitzgerald has been told there is a bed waiting for her in heaven! In 2005 she acted as a surrogate for her sister, delivering a baby boy. Two years later, she repeated this loving act and delivered her twin nephews. Today the three nephews, aged 17 until 18 years old, and Lisa and her sister are each the proud parents of three sons, all six of them carried by Lisa! In July 2019, Lisa gave another gift of life by donating a kidney to a friend who had been receiving dialysis for years. Lisa serves as an advocate for the Donate Life program, hoping to get others to consider such an act of love and life. Lisa and her husband of 29 years, Tim, are the proud parents of Brian, 26, a sergeant in the army, who is stationed in Oahu, Hawaii; Eric, 23, a college graduate in the field of environmental engineering; and Steven, 19, majoring in computer science. Lisa takes pride in her job as a preschool teacher, preparing her students for kindergarten. David Gleason lives in Boston and New Hampshire, skiing, woodworking and sharing the empty nest with a puppy. He hopes to see everyone at Reunion! Alison Gerstell Smith and Sally Peters Holzinger spent time together at the Doris Duke house in Diamond Head as part of the Oahu tour Sally offers when friends join her at her house in Lanikai, Kailua, Hawaii. James Fleming and wife Rebecca celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Alums Seth Stone ’82, Jill Crossman Stone ’82, Barbara Lasley Reid, Bernard Weiss ’82, Lisa Rice Weiss, Barry Finn ’82, Peter Bernson ’82, Kim Jaeckel, Lili Kanfer Castle and Andrew Castle attended. Jim is retired and they have three daughters, one in NYC and two in college. Sean Peoples has been a litigation partner at Brown Paindiris & Scott in Hartford, Conn., since 1998, where he also serves his district as a probate court judge. Wife Cathy retired from Dell Technologies. Daughter Emily graduated in 2020 with a degree in data analytics from the University of Denver, son Matthew is studying economics at Union College, and youngest son Mark is studying economics and political science at The George Washington University in D.C., while undergoing platoon leaders class (PLC) training to become an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. Sean keeps busy as an assistant crew coach for Glastonbury High School and is a captain in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, serving as the national director of administrative investigations. He looks forward every year to an annual CC alumni crew get-together in Mystic, Conn. After 20 years working at Tufts University, Dana Elder started working in March 2020 as the metadata librarian at Babson College’s Horn Library. Dana lives in Winchester, Mass., with wife Nancy and children Liana and Julia, who are students at Winchester High School. Karl Usami is active in the business field of renewable-energy-power project development. He wishes he could return to Connecticut and work in the U.S., but he lives in Tokyo working for the Norwegian company Equinor Japan. Karl has also been helping an American friend expand sales of his product in Japan. Karl would love to develop

Correspondents: Connie Gemmer, chgemmers82@gmail.com; Lois Mendez Caitlin, fabulous824@gmail.com Upon completing a total renovation of his condo, Jonathan Etkin retired after 42 years in the insurance, corporate investments, audit and compliance fields. Since then, he and wife Amy have been busy enjoying the city, seeing Broadway shows, attending lectures and going to Yankees games. They’ve also been traveling around the country and to Europe, including a trip to London to meet up with their daughter, Bella, who studied abroad in Europe, including a trip to London to meet up with friends, Curtiss Bruno and wife Amanda, and Jenny Sewall ’78 and husband Bill. Scoop owns a construction company specializing in 19th-century homes, and Ellen is retired from 30 years of managing cooking schools. Linda Collins Thomas was part of the Return to College program and was mentored by Dean Alice Johnson. After graduating from Conn, Linda received her master of social work degree at Smith College School for Social Work, in Northampton, Mass., and has had a full-time private practice for 40 years. She married a playwright, David W. Christner, and she is also a produced playwright of short plays. A member of the Dramatist Guild of America and the International Center for Women Playwrights, Collins Thomas has been published in The Peregrine Journal, Volume XXIV, produced by Amherst Writers and Artists. Check out her website at LindaCollinsThomas.com. Dana Friedman Kiesel, husband Paul Kiesel ’82, Paul Escoll, Jeff Oshen ’76 and Michael Tulin ’77 got together for their annual birthday dinner in October. They love hanging out with fellow Camels and always have lots to talk about. Dana also visited Andrea Bachike Wallace in New Jersey recently, and they had a wonderful time catching up post-pandemic. It has been a big year of travel for the Kiesels, starting with a trip to Churchill, Canada, to see the polar bears in October. Then they went to beautiful

Correspondents: Brooke Perry Pardue, bppardue@gmail.com Nick “Scoop” Walker and his wife, Ellen Taylor ’78, live in the woods near the Delaware River in Stockton, N.J., with two dogs, two cats, and six fish. Son Christopher, 30, lives in Portland, Maine. They also had a second son, Scott, with their late friends, Curtiss Bruno and wife Amanda, and Jenny Sewall ’78 and husband Bill. Scoop owns a construction company specializing in 19th-century homes, and Ellen is retired from 30 years of managing cooking schools. Linda Collins Thomas was part of the Return to College program and was mentored by Dean Alice Johnson. After graduating from Conn, Linda received her master of social work degree at Smith College School for Social Work, in Northampton, Mass., and has had a full-time private practice for 40 years. She married a playwright, David W. Christner, and she is also a produced playwright of short plays. A member of the Dramatist Guild of America and the International Center for Women Playwrights, Collins Thomas has been published in The Peregrine Journal, Volume XXIV, produced by Amherst Writers and Artists. Check out her website at LindaCollinsThomas.com. Dana Friedman Kiesel, husband Paul Kiesel ’82, Paul Escoll, Jeff Oshen ’76 and Michael Tulin ’77 got together for their annual birthday dinner in October. They love hanging out with fellow Camels and always have lots to talk about. Dana also visited Andrea Bachike Wallace in New Jersey recently, and they had a wonderful time catching up post-pandemic. It has been a big year of travel for the Kiesels, starting with a trip to Churchill, Canada, to see the polar bears in October. Then they went to beautiful

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To nominate a person or team for the Athletic Hall of Fame, please scan: 

The College will induct the next classes to the Hall of Fame during Fall Weekend 2023.

Anyone can nominate a Connecticut College alumni athlete to the Athletic Hall of Fame. Inductees may include alumni, coaches, faculty members, administrators or friends of the Connecticut College community and teams that are exceptionally distinguished through outstanding achievement or significant accomplishment.

To nominate a person or team for the Athletic Hall of Fame, please scan:

- **CALLING FOR ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS**

The Connecticut College Athletic Hall of Fame, created in 1989, honors those who have brought distinction to themselves and the College through their achievement, commitment, sportsmanship and leadership in athletics.
Thank you for your continued support throughout the years and for the years to come. If you wish to reach out to 1989’s Leadership Team, please contact us at: Camel89news@gmail.com OR Connclass89@gmail.com.

In November 2022, Sahar Chaudhry traveled to Vietnam for the first time since participating in the first-ever CC Study Away, Teach Away (SATA) program, in 1999, which was led by Professors Bill Frasure and Don Peppard. “Participating in SATA Vietnam was a life-altering experience that I will be forever grateful that Conn gave me. But the best part of my recent visit was an unbelievable twist of fate. Professor Frasure was in Hanoi at the same time! It was beyond special to see him for the first time since graduating in 2000, and in Vietnam no less. It was great to connect with him and to share our memories of that amazing time together from over 20 years ago.”

Tim Stevens has officially been accepted to the Critics Choice Association. He pledges to do his best to use this honor and the powers bestowed with it in a fair and thoughtful manner and not just to settle personal scores.

Correspondent: Daniella Garran, dgarran@gmail.com Ann Napolitano’s bestselling novel Dear Edward has been adapted into a television series by Jason Katims (showrunner and creator of Friday Night Lights and Parenthood). The show airs on Apple TV+, and the ensemble cast stars Connie Britton and Taylor Schilling. Dana Rousmaniere spent some time with Neil Maniar and Jon Zaff ’95 (honorary member of the Class of ’94) celebrating Burns Night in true Scottish fashion, and had a family dinner with Jon Finnimore and Dan Levine. Dana will be riding in the two-day Pan-Mass Challenge in August on Team Haggis, capped by Jon Zaff. He will be riding in memory of Esther Potter-Zaff and to raise money for the Zaff Family Fund at Dana-Farber, which supports research for graft-versus-host disease. Search for Team Haggis at donate.pmc.org to support any of the Team Haggis riders. Dana also caught up with Friend Weller while two of their kids played hockey. Dana does not want to talk about who won the game.

Sahar Chaudhry and Professor Frasure in Hanoi.

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Emily Heller changed jobs, moving from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) headquarters’ Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Office of Planning Analysis and Accountability, where she has been a program analyst for the past seven years, to the EPA’s Chesapeake Bay Program office, in Annapolis, Md., joining their grants team as an environmental protection specialist in September 2022.

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In Memoriam

1940s
Elizabeth Smith Twaddell ’41 died January 19, 2023
Judith Bardos Pinter ’42 died November 8, 2022
Elsie MacMillan Connell ’45 died January 18, 2023
Eleanor Tobias Gardner ’46 died January 25, 2023
Anne Fromm Forbes ’47 died November 26, 2022
Nancy Beebe Spindler ’47 died December 21, 2022
Donna Williams Klopf ’48 died February 19, 2023
Mary Stecher Douthit ’49 died February 8, 2023
Grace Lurton Miller ’49 died January 8, 2023
Barbara Bohman Pond ’49 died January 13, 2023
Janet Johnston Strang ’49 died January 8, 2023

1950s
Virginia Meharg Silliphant ’50 died February 4, 2023
Justine Shepherd Freud ’51 died December 23, 2022
Chloe Bissell Jones ’51 died January 9, 2023
Mary Pennywitt Lester ’51 died December 16, 2022
Margaret Park Mautner ’51 died December 21, 2022
Elizabeth Zorn Mettler ’52 died December 9, 2022
Elinor Noble Martinez ’53 died November 26, 2022
Betty Schneider Ottinger ’53 died January 25, 2023
Marsha Cohen Gorden ’54 died July 24, 2021
Joan Parsells Schenck ’55 died November 30, 2022
Mary Callahan Kimball ’56 died January 29, 2023
Elsie Loeb ’57 died January 21, 2023
Mary Male Savage ’58 died December 13, 2022

1960s
Jo Gates Eskridge ’61 died December 29, 2022
Gretchen Straub Russell ’61 died October 8, 2021
Marcia Brazina Littenberg ’62 died December 29, 2021
Barbara Morse ’65 died January 23, 2023
Merry Usher Rothbard ’65 died December 22, 2022
Patricia Dale ’66 died January 26, 2023
Sandra Jones Thomasson ’66 died January 7, 2023
Susan Melinette Haerle ’67 died December 7, 2022
Deborah Whitlock Madden ’69 died February 22, 2023
Sallie Williams Neubauer ’69 died January 12, 2023
Christine Loebel Sandulli ’69 died December 30, 2022

1970s
Sandra Ruisi Greenwood ’70 died September 25, 2021
Catherine Shackelford ’72 died December 28, 2022
Zelma Bostick ’73 died January 4, 2021
Martha Kitchen ’73 died January 17, 2022
Michael Hunold ’74 died December 3, 2022
James Clifford ’77 died December 5, 2022
Richard Blakley ’79 died December 7, 2022
Suzanne Hand ’79 died December 14, 2022

1980s
Anne Pomeroy ’80 died February 24, 2023
Wilfred Stebbins ’82 died February 11, 2023
Terry Garfinkel Perkins ’88 died November 1, 2021

Deaths as reported to CC between 12/2/2022 and 3/5/2023
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.”

Pro-Ukraine activists and political groups held peaceful rallies across Europe on Feb. 24 to mark the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion. Moises Chiquito ‘24, who was studying abroad at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome, Italy, captured this image at a rally near the Marcus Aurelius monument on the Capitoline Hill.
COME BACK TO CONN …

And make memories that last a lifetime!

FALL WEEKEND 2023

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023 conncoll.edu/fall-weekend
Lily Gladstone and Leonardo DiCaprio star alongside Robert De Niro in Martin Scorsese's Killers of the Flower Moon, adapted from the 2017 bestselling book by David Grann '89. The film is set to premiere at the Cannes Film Festival this month before opening nationwide in October.