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TOWARD BRIGHTER HORIZONS
How the Defy Boundaries campaign is transforming the College
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Defy Boundaries  Connecticut College raises $317.5 million in record-breaking campaign

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From the Interim President

Since its launch in 2017, the Defy Boundaries campaign, the most ambitious in our history, has been a blessing to Conn—from the sciences to the arts, from research to athletics, from classroom excellence to career preparation—and a testament to our commitment to a thriving future for the College.

This campaign is providing resources for our daily endeavors and strategic aspirations. It is fueling our pursuit of new knowledge. It is expanding our reputation as an academic innovator. And it is propelling our students and faculty toward success in their careers and in their lives as citizens in our global society, our community and our families.

In other words, Conn couldn’t achieve this new level of excellence without Defy Boundaries.

And now, as you know, Defy Boundaries has come to a record-breaking end, not only exceeding our goal of $300 million—with a final tally of $317.5 million—but doing so a year early. A remarkable achievement and testament to the pride we share in Conn.

We are profoundly grateful to the thousands of you who made gifts to the campaign. Your generosity to our students, faculty, staff and the College’s mission has been heartfelt at every level of giving. Your contributions are transforming everything we do in and out of the classroom, including major investments in student-faculty research, the arts, global study, athletics and campus renovations, as well as financial aid to support students.

Our gratitude also goes out to Conn’s Office of Advancement for their diligence and professionalism in conducting this campaign. And in particular, we thank Kim Verstandig, our former vice president for College Advancement, and President Emerita Katherine Bergeron for their efforts in spearheading Defy Boundaries over these past six years. We honor their efforts and wish them well as they seek new experiences. They’ll always be Camels and an important piece of Conn’s history.

In this edition of the magazine, you will read the impact of Defy Boundaries on our campus and on current and future generations of students. You will also read about the accomplishments of some of our alumni and faculty, including Jordan Geary ’04, a driving creative force behind Sesame Workshop; Professor Kate Rushin, whose poetry explores how enslaved people helped to create our nation; Tom Hudner III ’95, who helped bring his father’s inspiring story of heroism to the big screen; and Professor of Sociology Afshan Jafar, who is working with a special committee of experts to investigate the impact of political attacks on public higher education in Florida.

In closing, I want to again express my gratitude to the Conn community for your faith in me as your interim president during this year of transition. I am honored and humbled by this responsibility. I am confident we will accomplish much together as we continue to defy boundaries. Historians will look at our work together and clearly see just how effective and special an education at Connecticut College will always be.

Yours,
Les Wong, Ph.D.
Flock Theatre made a triumphant return to its longstanding Shakespeare in the Arboretum summer program with *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in July. The program has run every July and August since 1994, except for the 2020-2022 seasons, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The play is a fantastical comedy about a love rectangle, a bickering court of fairies, a donkey-headed fool and more set in the forest of ancient Athens. Ian Hopkins ’25, a film studies major from Chicago, Illinois, played Lysander; and Jo Duckett ’25, a theater and classics major from Houston, Texas, was Puck’s puppeteer.

“Working with Flock was a great experience,” Duckett said. “I walked in with no puppetry knowledge, and they were super patient and willing to share their knowledge with me. Brian, who voiced Puck, and Amanda, who was the puppet’s arm and body, were super fun to work with and we all came to love the little guy we helped create!”

The production, directed by Flock’s Executive Artistic Director Derron Wood ’88, ran July 12-13 and 20-23. *Henry IV, Part 2* ran July 27-30 and Aug. 3-6 as Flock continued the story of Prince Hal, Falstaff and the ailing King Henry IV.
The newest Camel on the men’s soccer team is just 10 years old. Landon Pereira signed with the team thanks to a partnership between the College and Team IMPACT, a nonprofit that matches children facing serious illness and disability with college athletic teams across the country. Landon, who lives with diabetes, is participating in a multiyear program that focuses on socialization, empowerment and resilience.

Society needs your help.
— SALLY SUSMAN ’84, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF CORPORATE AFFAIRS OFFICER AT PFIZER, INC., TO THE 421 MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2023 AT CONN’S 105TH COMMENCEMENT ON MAY 21

Professor of Art Andrea Wollensak was awarded the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to the Eesti Kunstiakadeemia or Estonian Academy of Arts (EKA) in Tallinn, Estonia. She is spending the fall as a full-time visiting professor with EKA and working on a research project utilizing interactive design for digital storytelling.
THE BEST WATERFRONT

Engineering News-Record New England has selected Conn’s waterfront revitalization as Best Project in the Sports/Entertainment Category of its Regional Best Projects Awards.

FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS WE WANT TO TAKE:
- Quilting: Art, Reuse, Protest
- Myths That Made America
- The Meaning of Dinosaurs
- Dante at 700+
- Witches, Weirdness and Wonder
- Thriving in the Anthropocene

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS

Matt Carter ’23 and Malissa Lindsey ’23 were named to the 2023 College Sports Communicators Academic All-America® Division III Men’s Track & Field/Cross Country Team and Division III Women’s Track & Field/Cross Country Team, respectively.

You will find your own Scooby Gang to help you fight the monsters.

― ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF FILM STUDIES NINA MARTIN TO NEW STUDENTS AT CONN’S 109TH CONVOCATION ON AUG. 28

Arabic, Danish, French, Greek, Japanese, Latin, Russian and Tibetan:

Languages taught by Conn students to local fifth graders at the 11th Annual World Languages Day in May.

TAKING THE PLUNGE

Geoff Norbert, assistant dean of student engagement and new programs, plunges into the dunk tank during a field day for residents of Knowlton, Jane Addams and Freeman Houses in September.

WE’RE IN OUR SOCIAL ERA!

Are you following Conn? Find us on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, X (the platform formerly known as Twitter), YouTube and LinkedIn.

CONN COLLEGE THE CAMELS TOUR
Katherine Bergeron Named President Emerita

Connecticut College’s Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution awarding former president Katherine Bergeron the title of president emerita in recognition of her exceptional service during her nearly decade-long tenure.

The honor, enacted during the Board’s spring meeting on campus in May, places Bergeron among Conn’s several other emeriti presidents, including her predecessor, Leo I. Higdon Jr., and Katharine Blunt, the institution’s first woman president.

“President Bergeron has served with integrity, purpose, passion and an unwavering commitment to the values and mission of Connecticut College,” said Board Chair Debo P. Adegbile ’91. “She imbued the College with a spirit of intellectual curiosity and a desire for the continual pursuit of excellence in all aspects of the campus community.”

Specifically, the resolution pointed to Bergeron’s involvement in developing and launching many new initiatives at Conn, including the distinctive Connections curriculum, the Athletic Department’s Action Plan for Competitive Success and Conn’s inaugural membership in the Liberal Arts College Racial and Equity Leadership Alliance.

The resolution also noted how Bergeron’s efforts impacted the campus’s physical space with the renovation of Palmer Auditorium into the Athey Center for Performance and Research, the restoration of the Kohn Waterfront and Archibald Way along the Thames River, the renovation of Fanning Hall to improve accessibility and house the Hale Center for Career Development, the repurposing of the ground floor of Blaustein Humanities Center to create the Walter Commons for Global Study & Engagement, and the implementation of the College’s first campus-wide sustainability plan.

Finally, the resolution praised Bergeron’s talents for fundraising. Trustee Pamela D. Zilly ’75, a former chair who led the search committee that selected Bergeron, said, “Katherine developed and led the Defy Boundaries campaign beginning in 2017, the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the history of the College, securing numerous major gifts through her inspiring vision, thoughtful stewardship and ability to invite support for her unwavering belief in the College.”

Presidential Search Underway

The search is on for Connecticut College’s 12th president. In May, the Board of Trustees named a 15-member search committee composed of trustees, faculty, staff and students and co-chaired by Board of Trustees Chair Debo P. Adegbile ’91 and Trustee Maria Wyckoff Boyce ’85. Members of the committee were selected by the constituencies they represent.

The committee has partnered with WittKieffer, a premier executive search and leadership advisory firm specializing in higher education, to gather input from faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the College, and to create a position profile to help identify candidates. Members of the community, including alumni, can also share comments or nominate candidates through an online submission form found on the presidential search website (www.conncoll.edu/presidential-search/).

The committee plans to identify candidates and begin conducting interviews by January and announce the new president this spring.

“This search is the most important leadership recruitment for our College,” Adegbile and Wyckoff Boyce wrote in a letter to the community. “Our next president will be an accomplished, skilled and dedicated leader who will further our College’s mission and values as a top liberal arts institution.”
Obama-Chesky Scholarship Winner

Ian Rawlings ’25, a history major and theater minor in the museum studies certificate program, has been selected as part of the 2023-2025 cohort of Voyager Scholarship/Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service recipients.

President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama and Airbnb cofounder and CEO Brian Chesky created the innovative scholarship in 2022. It combines financial aid, travel opportunities and mentorship to support future public service leaders, with the belief that exposure to new places and experiences generates understanding, empathy and cooperation and equips the next generation to create meaningful change. The 2023-2025 cohort of 100 Voyagers represents 74 colleges and universities in 33 states and territories.

“I’m excited by the privilege of being selected,” said Rawlings, who is from East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and interned this summer as an archivist at Wistariahurst Museum in nearby Holyoke, where he worked on an exhibit to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the city’s Anniversary Hill Park. He hopes to continue working in museums.

“This scholarship will allow me to focus on creating inclusive museum experiences to build bridges for neurodiverse people to empower all members of the community to participate in and enjoy our rich history and culture while I continue to study at Connecticut College. I’m proud to be part of this innovative program and can’t wait to make a difference in my community.”

Scholars receive up to $50,000 in undergraduate financial aid and a $10,000 stipend and free Airbnb housing to pursue a summer work-travel experience after their junior year. After graduation, the scholars will join the Obama Foundation’s global community, which provides additional resources and programming.

Conn Hosts International Scholars

Sixteen highly respected decision-makers and academics came to Conn in July to serve as elite U.S. policy-makers. Their roles included the White House chief of staff, the national security adviser, the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader, and they presented their political judgments about a fictional Council to Anticipate and Respond to Biohazards (CARB).

This experience was part of an intensely competitive, five-week U.S. State Department program hosted by the Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI), Foreign Policy. Scholars hailed from Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chile, Egypt, Georgia, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, North Macedonia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland and Turkey.

The SUSI scholars spent four weeks studying at the University of Delaware and one week traveling throughout the U.S. for campus visits. At Conn, Susan Eckert Lynch ’62 Professor of Government MaryAnne Borrelli hosted a workshop focused on U.S. domestic politics and international policy-making.

Borrelli divided the 16 scholars into four groups (the White House Office, National Security Council, House Republican Leadership and Senate Democratic Leadership). The scholars were directed to act and behave as their assigned politician (personality and all!) and assess the policy, organizational and political consequences of the fictional CARB initiative for their office, department, party or branch; develop two strategies (one proactive and one reactive); and present a sound bite to serve as the hallmark of their group’s response to the initiative.

SUSI scholar Bharti Chhibber, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Delhi in India who has spent nearly two decades studying and speaking about international relations and foreign strategic policy, said, “Coming to the College and meeting MaryAnne was amazing. She made it so interesting for us.”

Bharti Chhibber, assistant professor of political science at the University of Delhi, makes a point during the SUSI visit to campus.
On a seasonably hot mid-July day in Conn’s Blaustein 213, members of the Venture Incubator Summer@Conn program listened intently as they learned about Kate Raworth’s Doughnut Economic Theory. Meanwhile, less than 100 yards away, high school students participating in the Dance Intensive program were moving their way through a remix of Britney Spears’ seminal classic “Toxic,” led by Conn’s company-in-residence David Dorfman Dance.

The students, rising 9th-12th graders hailing from as far away as Richards, California, were the first to participate in Conn’s inaugural Summer@Conn pre-college programs. The immersive two-week residential programs allow high school students to explore their passions, collaborate with experienced faculty and current Conn students, and live and learn on campus to get an early feel for the residential liberal arts college experience.

Zach Zaurov, who participated in Global Focus, a third Summer@Conn program offered later in July, said he relished the opportunity to spend a few weeks with like-minded students interested in learning about the relationship between pressing global issues and the role of diplomacy.

“I go to school with lots of smart people, but we’re not always interested in the same thing or want to be studying what we’re studying. Here, everyone is so smart, and we all are really interested in talking about and learning about all of this,” he said.

Director of Summer Programs Ashlyn Healey ’20 said one of her goals when developing Summer@Conn was to make sure that pre-college students would walk away from Conn with the same sense of awe and gratitude for the community that she did when she graduated.

“The feedback from participants and parents, and, more importantly, the smiles, laughs and friendships shared and formed among participants prove to me that we absolutely provided participants with the true pre-Connecticut College experience.”

When they weren’t in the classroom or in the studio, the participants enjoyed recreational activities including tennis, swimming, bowling and kayaking on the Thames River (right from the boat launch on Conn’s campus), as well as summer camp staples like scavenger hunts, karaoke, water balloon fights, arts and crafts, and, of course, s’mores by the campfire. They also participated in a variety of skill-building workshops focused on college essay writing, interview preparation and networking, and learned more about the college admission process from the pros.

“We are sharing Conn’s specialness with a whole new population,” Healey said.

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“We are sharing Conn’s specialness with a whole new population.” — Ashley Healey ’20, Director of Summer Programs

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What’s in the Water

"Is this filtered water?" Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, a pediatrician from Flint, Michigan, joked as she lifted a full glass from the table next to her seat on the Palmer Auditorium stage in September.

A crowd of students, faculty, staff and community members were in attendance to hear her discuss her book, What the Eyes Don’t See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City, in a conversation with Associate Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies Julia Flagg. The book was Conn’s summer read selection, and the event was the culmination of the 2023 One Book One Region program.

Along with a team of researchers, parents, friends and community leaders, Hanna-Attisha discovered in 2015 that Flint residents were being exposed to lead after the city changed its water source the previous year from Lake Huron to the Flint River. The new water source wasn’t being treated with corrosion inhibitors, so the pipes it passed through were leaching lead into the drinking water. The pediatrician was worried—lead exposure can cause long-term cognitive, behavioral and health problems, especially in children.

“Is this the interesting thing about water: So many people don’t know how or where we get our water,” Hanna-Attisha said. “It’s such an invisible system, which is one of the reasons the book is called What the Eyes Don’t See.”

Equal parts scientific thriller, political drama and memoir, the book chronicles Hanna-Attisha’s fight against the austerity policies and bureaucratic indifference that endangered Flint. And that work continues; she recently testified before Congress regarding the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which includes $15 billion for the replacement of lead pipes around the country.

“I shared the Flint story and why we need to stop having Flints. When I testified, I said Flint’s crisis wasn’t the first, and it wasn’t the worst, and it wasn’t the last. These environmental injustices have been happening for a very long time,” she said.

Those injustices are political, Hanna-Attisha argued, drawing comparisons between the Flint water crisis and the recent COVID health crisis. “It’s about denial of science. It’s about disinvestment in what keeps us healthy. It’s about our lack of investment in public health infrastructure, like surveillance systems, to do what we need to do. It’s about inequality—not all people are impacted by public health issues in the same way.”

Hanna-Attisha concluded her talk by encouraging the students and other young people in the audience to speak up and make a difference.

“I’m not any superhero or special person who did this work,” she explained. “The movements that are happening now—climate change, gun violence, Black Lives Matter—are being led by young people. Your generation is sick of the status quo and is making noise and demanding justice. So find your passion ... find your thing. Is it women’s rights, is it immigration, is it climate change?”

For more on the event, visit ccmagazine.conncoll.edu.
Connecticut College’s Unity House, a beacon of support for generations of underrepresented students, is celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a year-long series of events. Officially known as Race and Ethnicity Programs (REP) at Unity House as of 2018, the center originated in 1973 as the Minority Multicultural Center in Vinal Cottage across Route 32, and moved to its current location on the main campus in 1989. But more than a name and a space, Unity House is about community.

“What I’ve seen in my short time as Dean is how committed people are to Unity House,” said Interim Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion Nakia Hamlett. “The students have told me how meaningful is has been to them that they’ve always been connected, from the time they’re freshmen until they graduate. Alumni recall how this was a refuge—a place of safety and a place for fun.”

Students, alumni, families, faculty and staff gathered during Fall Weekend to kick off the celebrations. The Offices of Advancement and Institutional Equity and Inclusion partnered to host a series of workshops and seminars focused on equity and inclusion. Saveena Dhall ’94, Annie Scott ’84, Maarten Terry ’83 and Ronnie Venture ’86 co-chair the 50th Anniversary of Unity House Committee.

Celebrations will continue throughout the 2023-24 academic year, culminating with a Celebrations Reunion for all alumni of color during Reunion 2024 from May 31-June 2.

Unity House welcomes students of all backgrounds and ethnicities and offers advising and support for students of color in the affirmation and celebration of their cultural identities; collaborates with other departments and student organizations to plan activities related to cultural heritage months; engages in community building through initiatives that promote awareness of diversity and multicultural issues; and offers the Genesis mentoring program, open to every first-year student in REP and designed to acclimate first-generation and first-year students of color to the campus experience at Conn.

Director Chris Campbell said, “Unity House’s 50th anniversary really speaks to supporting underrepresented students here on campus and helping them cement that sense of belonging that is so crucial to post-secondary success. It also speaks to how committed our students are when it comes to supporting one another. They lead the majority of the programming and events we offer and really take ownership of Unity House as a whole. I’m honored to help support the great work that has been done already and continue to look for new ways to support underrepresented students as we move forward.”

Hamlett said the directors are just as committed. “All of the people who work in the Unity House programs are experts in what they do. The directors are intentional in their use of best practices and how we can truly support this wide range of students to help increase their sense of belonging at Conn.”

Looking ahead, Hamlett said she hopes Unity continues to be a space specifically designed to support students from a variety of identities. “I would also hope, in the next 50 years, that people across campus, even if they don’t identify as BIPOC or these other identities, see it as a place where they are welcome, that they’re interested in, that they want to explore and that helps them grow as individuals,” she said.

Visit ccmagazine.conncoll.edu to watch the commemorative video.

BY MELISSA BABCOCK JOHNSON

50 Years of Unity
Unity House has been a beacon of support for generations of underrepresented students

FALL 2023 | Notebook
While it takes all kinds, most of us can agree that few treats are as perfectly enjoyable as the taste of ice cream. That goes double if you’re a parent looking for a place to relax that will delight your child. For Pam Geiger ’03 and her business partner, Erin O’Keefe, that revelation gave them a new mission: creating White Plains’ number one local ice cream spot, Ice Cream Social.

“Erin and I both grew up in White Plains, left to live our lives, and then came back with small children in tow,” said Geiger. “We realized upon our return that there was no longer a place to get ice cream, outside of a mall. I just wanted a place where I could go with my kids, maybe meet up with friends, and not spend a fortune.”

However, Ice Cream Social did not spring fully formed, like Athena from the head of Zeus, from that stray thought. It was only idle chatter between the duo at the beginning. As it did for so many, though, COVID changed their perspectives. Suddenly, chasing a goal didn’t feel like something worth delaying. Then, the final catalyst fell into place.

“This space became available to rent, and we knew it was a sign,” she recalled. “It was a historic, hundred-year-old, adorable brick building. Formerly a gas station with outdoor space, parking and a big old-style gas station sign, it was just asking for something cute. So we made it cute!”

And cute Ice Cream Social is. Mixing pastels and bright whites, the store is eye-catching without being overwhelming. It captures the sense of a classic corner ice cream shop without feeling out of date or stale. That sense of playful timelessness extends to the Social’s merchandise, which allows patrons to bring more than just a pint home when they visit.

For Geiger, who confesses to not having an especially large sweet tooth, the shop’s biggest purpose isn’t necessarily the frozen dairy treats, delicious though they may be, or the ringer tees; it’s connecting with and further building community. It is a lesson that she drew from her time at Connecticut College.

“The Conn College community was and remains important to me. I run into people from Conn often and recognize it because we all knew each other—or at least recognized each other’s faces. I don’t think that’s the case for bigger schools. It’s helped me understand community and that being a part of one was exciting,” she said.

“I love being a part of the White Plains community,” continued Geiger. “We had incredible support [for the Social] from our friends, families and the White Plains community at large. Within its first month, it took on a life of its own. It brings such happiness to people, and I love seeing it be used for just what we wanted—a gathering place that brings joy.”

The community’s response has, in turn, inspired Geiger and O’Keefe to expand beyond ice cream.

“Erin and I want to enhance White Plains with locally owned small businesses—help the city feel a bit smaller and have all that anyone could want,” explained Geiger. “We are currently working on Coffee Social, a new venture we are looking to open at the end of the year. Not only will it be a place to get coffee, but we have designed it to live up to the ‘Social’ name. In the afternoons and evenings, Coffee Social will be available as a space for groups to gather—meetings, classes, birthday parties, even small group entertainment like open mic.”

In this endeavor, as well, Geiger’s Conn-nections have come in handy.

“My Conn friends have been extremely supportive. Jen Warren ’04 even helped us talk through and figure out some funding for Coffee Social.”

While jumping into this new endeavor has been a lot, especially while maintaining her full-time job in fundraising, Geiger feels more than confident she and O’Keefe are up to the task.

“Conn allowed me to follow my passions while I was there, for everything from piano lessons to creating an exhibition in the library, and taught me that I can balance responsibility and ambition,” she said. “It gave me the courage to do something similar in my life now.”
The Stanley Cup weighs nearly 40 pounds, but Golden Knights Director of Scouting Operations Keith Veronesi ’14 had no problem hoisting it over his head as the team celebrated its NHL Championship in the moments after a 9-3 victory over the Florida Panthers to take the series on the Knights’ home ice in Las Vegas June 13.

“It feels like a feather,” Veronesi recalled of his brief encounter with the Cup. “You enjoy it for 10 or 15 seconds and pass it on to the next guy.”

A hockey player from childhood through his time at Connecticut College, Veronesi admitted winning a Cup as part of the front office instead of on skates does hit differently.

“Would I have liked to be playing with them and be the guy that scores the winning goal in Game 7? Of course,” he said. “This is certainly the next best thing. It’s just as equally gratifying.”

Much like his fleeting moment with the Cup, Veronesi didn’t have long to bask in the afterglow as director of scouting operations. Just a few days after the Knights had become the fastest expansion team to ever win it all, Veronesi had already geared up to travel to Nashville for the 2023 Draft.

“It all happened so fast,” he said. “We won the Stanley Cup on Tuesday night. We enjoyed it that night for sure. We, the staff, all went out with the players afterward so we could enjoy it with our families and close friends. Then, after, we had another party on the strip. The players are the ones that need to take the lead when it comes to celebration, right? They’re the guys that spent the last nine months playing.

“Wednesday morning, we all kind of got back together in the office just sort of … just reflected a little bit. When you’re going through the playoffs, you’re so high-strung. There’s so much pressure; there’s so much anxiety waiting for the next game. When you wake up after accomplishing what you were hoping to for a long, long time, you’re able to just sit back and reflect on it, which is pretty special.”

After a pause, he added, “Then yeah, Thursday and Friday, back in the office to get ready. We take off Monday for the Draft.”

For Veronesi, the hard-earned victory felt all the sweeter as he’s been with the team since it launched in 2017. After working in the American Hockey League (AHL) for the Utica Comets, then the Vancouver Canucks farm team, he decided to, fittingly, take a gamble and apply to the NHL’s newest team. He put in a resume, looking for anything, no matter how small, with operations. He was hired as an assistant in June of 2016, about 16 months before the Golden Knights would play their first game.

“When you graduate Conn, and you’re going into business, you know what you’re going. You’re going to New York, Boston, Chicago. But that was never for me. I loved hockey, you know? I wanted to be in the NHL. Then, less than five years after I graduate, I am. It’s really special. That’s the best way I can put it,” he said.

He’s since seen his loyalty to the team rewarded. “I wouldn’t say my role has changed so much as expanded. When I first came in, I was responsible for acquiring video for the scouts. And now my job is to work with the leaders of our scouting department.”

He experienced an especially exciting introduction to the NHL, as the Golden Knights became only the second expansion ever to reach the Stanley Cup in their very first season. Of course, the downside of that immediate success came in the less successful years that followed.

“When you get to the Stanley Cup your first season, you’re a little disappointed you didn’t finish. But you are able to step back and think, ‘Holy smoke, that was impressive.’ But then you spend the next years where you do well but not as well thinking, ‘We’re right there. How can we get over the hump?’” explained Veronesi.

“You know you have a good team, and you still don’t achieve it all. But then, it all starts to pay off. If you followed the playoffs, you saw what Jack Eichel did. Or Mark Stone. Or Petro [Alex Pietrangelo]. All these guys. You saw what they did, and it’s the culmination of years of work.”

As he celebrated the Cup victory, it struck Veronesi how much everyone had done to get him to that moment too.

“I had my family there. My wife, my 15-month-old. It all just hits you.”
Would I have liked to be playing with them and be the guy that scores the winning goal in Game 7? Of course. This is certainly the next best thing.

— KEITH VERONESI ’14
I worry about AI for the next generation of writers and actors. I mean, I'm predominantly a voice actor. I might be one of the easiest to replace.

—H. Jon Benjamin '88

H. Jon Benjamin '88 is the voice of Bob Belcher on the Emmy Award-winning Bob's Burgers on FOX.
On May 2, 2023, the Writers Guild of America (WGA) officially went on strike, its 11,500 screenwriting members refusing to work on any projects with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), most commonly referred to as “the studios” in media coverage. Seventy-three days later, Screen Actors Guild–American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) followed suit, sending approximately 65,000 performers to the picket lines. It marked the first time the two unions have struck simultaneously since 1960.

In late September, after nearly five months of striking, the WGA and the AMPTP reached a tentative agreement, effectively ending the work stoppage. Still, talks with SAG-AFTRA have yet to resume as of this writing. While it is unknown how the end of WGA’s strike will affect their performing counterparts, the solidarity expressed thus far suggests that SAG-AFTRA is equally committed to achieving a fair and supportive deal for their membership.

To get the picket line perspective, CC Magazine reached out to Sam Seder ’88 (Bob’s Burgers, The Majority Report with Sam Seder) and H. Jon Benjamin ’88 (Archer, Bob’s Burgers). Both have experienced Hollywood as writers and performers since the 1990s and are active members of SAG-AFTRA.

CC Magazine: While this is the first SAG-AFTRA strike of your career, you were both in the business during the commercial actors strike in 2000 and the writers’ strike back in 2007/2008. Why strike now, and how does this strike compare?

Sam Seder: I think it comes down to three things. First, it’s just harder to make a good living in this industry than it was 15-20 years ago, so people have less to lose. Second, there is a general and maybe generational shift in how people view labor relations today. Third, social media makes it much harder for the producers to dominate the media narrative. I was a member of the WGA back in the last strike in ’07, and it felt like there was much more dissent among the members than today. It’s hard for me to gauge, but I think members have become more determined since the beginning of the strike.

CC: The rise of AI and streaming seem to have altered the playing field considerably as well. How do you see that coming into play?

H. Jon Benjamin: Streaming has changed the nature of the business model entirely. The AI issue affects both categories—actors and writers—equally. I can see a future where AI takes up a large footprint in the entertainment industry, replacing a lot of jobs. I worry about that for the next generation of writers and actors. I mean, I’m predominantly a voice actor. I might be one of the easiest to replace.

SS: The streamers and the “old studios” have fundamentally misaligned interests. Apple, Amazon and Netflix do not have the same constraints, incentives and models as the old studios they are now partnered with. I think tech company culture devalues labor more than the old studios, and it shows in the attitude that has leaked from the producers.

CC: While strikes by their nature are contentious, the studios and streamers seem more aggressive this time around. Does it feel that way on the ground?

HJB: The studios deciding to not negotiate for months is a clear sign of how they operate. The posture of the studios now seems particularly, almost cartoonishly—see what I did there—
crue. No negotiating and a lot of harsh criticisms in the press, like the Bob Iger interview, for example, where he commented something like, “Let’s see how the workers feel in the late fall when they can’t pay their bills.”

CC: How has the strike impacted workers across the industry?

HJB: I would say it has impacted most those who work day to day on the productions which I work on—animators, editors, production staff. They are out of work, and it’s case by case whether or not they pull a salary. This coming off the pandemic, it’s been a tough five years in the industry. A lot of discord and uncertainty.

My girlfriend is a set decorator and her peers are really hurt by the strike. In some cases, some of them—not all—veer toward blaming the unions for striking. But this is the nature of strikes. They are divisive and difficult and have collateral damage.

CC: Is there anything you’ve learned during the strike that has surprised you about your peers or the business you have been in for nearly 30 years?

HJB: People scapegoat actors and writers as “Hollywood elite” and so forth. I carved out a career that gave me financial security, but I am a real outlier. Most actors and writers struggle to make a living. Not exactly elite. I have to argue that a strike was necessary.

In my 30 years, this happens as a matter of course. Unions made more suitable deals for cable residuals, and then streaming companies came in and found a way to erase residuals. The union fight is ongoing all the time.

CC: What’s it like on the picket lines? In the larger acting and writing community?

SS: I’ve interviewed negotiators from SAG-AFTRA and WGA on my show, and it’s interesting to see this solidarity in the context of the larger labor movement. People are into it. We never seem to want for numbers.

HJB: Having actors and writers on the line is pretty uplifting. It’s pretty festive. Actors and writers are creative people, and that’s evident on the picket line—a lot of clever signs and slogans. My hope is that union density grows, in all sectors. Like in the ’50s. Let’s get back to the ’50s in that respect only.

There is a general and maybe generational shift in how people view labor relations today.

— SAM SEDER ’88
integrating scholarship from bioethics on the norms of engineering human nature with debates in environmental ethics concerning the prospect of engineering non-human nature, Duclos sets the stage for wilderness ethics—or wilderness faith—in the Anthropocene.

Clown Shoes
By Robert Markowitz ’79
Will Ross has a successful career as a lawyer, but his heart lies in the arts. When his acquittal of a child abuser leads to the death of a child, Will decides to abandon law and become an entertainer for children. Leaning into his new passion, he dons clown shoes, picks up his old guitar and takes on a special guitar student. Only when that boy’s life is threatened does Will take up law again, fighting not only to protect the child, but to clear his guilt and free himself to love.

The Darlings
By Hannah McKinnon ’94
On a secluded stretch of Cape Cod, a wedding is being planned at a beloved beach house—only for a long-kept secret to emerge that hurries both the wedding and the family off course. One old secret, kept with the best of intentions, threatens to not only divide the family, but also shatter each member’s sense of who they really are. Can the ties that bind survive, when the history you’ve always been told turns out to be untrue?

LIBRA ... Or Hanging in the Balance
By Jill Newman ’65
A woman who works in the beauty field stumbles on an astounding secret: anyone who wrongs her gets a terrible punishment in return. As a diehard Libra who believes in truth, justice and everyone getting theirs, she can’t thank her lucky stars enough—that is, until she finds out that the person who has crossed her is someone she loves more than anyone else in the world, and that person is about to pay. How will she right this terrible wrong?

The Choreography of Everyday Life
By Annie-B Parson ’80
In this sparkling, innovative, fully illustrated work, world-renowned choreographer Annie-B Parson translates the components of dance—time, proximity, space, motion and tone—into text. As we follow Parson through her days—at home, reading and on her walks down the street—and in and out of conversations on everything from Homer’s Odyssey to feminist art to social protest, she helps us see how everyday movement creates the wider world.

¡Vino! The History and Identity of Spanish Wine
By Karl J. Trybus ’02
Infestations of oidium fungus and phylloxera aphids devastated French and Italian vineyards in the 19th century, but they didn’t extend to the Iberian Peninsula at first, giving Spanish vintners the opportunity to increase their international sales. Once French and Italian wineries rebounded, however, Spanish wine producers had to up their game.
BRIGHTER HORIZONS

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Kohn Waterfront
Connecticut College defies boundaries with a $317.5 million record-breaking campaign

$156M RAISED FOR ENDOWMENT
$67M RAISED FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS/FACILITIES
$46M RAISED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS/FINANCIAL AID
When Defy Boundaries began in 2017 as the most ambitious campaign in Connecticut College’s history, the hope was to raise $300 million in seven years, a sum $100 million greater than the College’s previous campaign. Somehow, though, the idea of shattering expectations inspired alumni, parents, trustees and friends to do even more. Defy Boundaries not only reached but also exceeded its audacious goal one year ahead of schedule, raising a total of $317.5 million in new contributions in just six years—including $70 million in the last 90 days of fiscal year 2023—to help current and future generations of students achieve their dreams.

“Our Conn community has resoundingly affirmed the cause of a College that has been defying boundaries for more than 100 years,” said former Vice President for Advancement Kim Verstandig P’23. “We are profoundly grateful for the many donors whose generosity and commitment made this historic achievement possible and for all it means to the learning and growth of our students today and in the future.”

The campaign was so true to its name, in fact, that five out of its six years defied the odds and produced the most successful individual fundraising years in Conn history. More than 14,000 donors of every level stepped forward, allowing Defy Boundaries to achieve success across all priorities: teaching and learning, equity and inclusion, student life and athletics, career preparation, sustainability and financial strength.

AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS:

■ A Dramatic Increase in Conn’s Endowment: Donors contributed an astounding $156 million to Conn’s endowment through gifts, pledges and bequest intentions. This support lifted Conn’s endowment by 80% and boosts the College’s perpetual resource for scholarships, faculty excellence and innovative programs.

■ New Financial Aid: Donors contributed $46 million in new gifts and commitments for much-needed financial aid to help make a Conn education even more accessible to the most worthy and talented students.

■ Numerous Campus Improvements: Donors contributed $67 million to fund essential capital projects, creating new spaces for students to build community and advance scholarship, creative expression and research. New and renovated facilities made possible by these gifts include the Athey Center for Global Study and Engagement.

The success of Defy Boundaries is a testament to the extraordinary generosity and dedication of our alumni, parents and friends and their deep commitment to the transformative influence of a Conn education.

— CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR PAMELA D. ZILLY ’75
for Performance and Research at Palmer Auditorium, an addition to the Athletic Center, the renovation of the College Center at Crozier-Williams, the new Hale Center for Career Development, the new Otto and Fran Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement, the new Stark Center for the Moving Image, and the revitalization of the Kohn Waterfront and Archibald Way.

- **Unprecedented Growth in Annual Support**: Donors directed $83 million to the Annual Fund and various educational and co-curricular programming initiatives that enrich the overall student experience. Yearly contributions to the Annual Fund grew by 16% during the campaign.

- **Extensive Support for Equity and Inclusion**: Donors contributed more than $22 million in endowment and annual gifts to support such endeavors as the landmark Agnes Gund ‘60 Dialogue Project, the Conversations on Race series, Hillel and related initiatives. These projects boost student coursework on social difference and power and advance this generation’s capacity for empathetic, substantive engagement.

“The success of Defy Boundaries is a testament to the extraordinary generosity and dedication of our alumni, parents and friends and their deep commitment to the liberal arts and the transformative influence of a Conn education,” campaign Co-Chair Pamela D. Zilly ’75 said. “Their giving has reshaped the future of the College and forever strengthened its ability to prepare students for lives of impact and meaning.”

President Emerita Katherine Bergeron said, “It’s beyond remarkable what our wonderful donors have done for this College. They have, quite literally, taken Conn to new heights with their historic generosity, defying all expectations. Conn now stands ready as never before to offer the kind of life-changing education that will give generations of students the tools for future leadership and success, carrying on this College’s founding mission. We could not be more grateful.”

For more information about the campaign’s impact, visit the Defy Boundaries website ▶
With an ‘insane level of optimism,’ Jordan Geary ’04 creates children’s programming for the streaming generation.

BY TIM STEVENS ’03
Inside the Manhattan hub of one of the most well-known and important forces in children’s entertainment, I meet with Sesame Workshop’s Senior Director of Production and Development Jordan Geary ’04 in what feels, in many ways, like any old conference room, albeit one with a coveted view of Lincoln Center. But just outside, there’s a cornucopia of reminders that this is a place that centers childhood curiosity: brightly colored walls lined with soothing textured fabrics, life-sized chalk drawings of the Workshop’s most recognizable characters, and a plethora of statues, costumes and video screens reminding all of Sesame’s greatest hits.

“I’ve worked in a lot of different places in a lot of different mediums, and you always start every meeting with ‘Why are you doing this?’ At Sesame, every project starts with ‘How are kids being underserved?’ It’s the purity of the mission,” Geary says of the 55-year-old nonprofit educational organization behind the iconic PBS mainstay Sesame Street.

While he has worked both in front of and behind the camera throughout his varied career in show business, Geary has spent the last eight years—a period of rapid change for the entertainment industry—creating, developing and producing innovative Sesame Workshop programming, including Sesame Street Mecha Builders, Beatrix’s Block and Charlotte’s Web for HBO Max; Ghostwriter and Helpsters for Apple TV+; and hundreds of videos for YouTube Kids.

But that certainly wasn’t his original plan. Back in his days as a Camel, Geary majored in music. But during his senior year, a pragmatic (if not pessimistic) lecturer laid out for his entire class how difficult it was to make music one’s living at that moment and how, at least in his estimation, it would only get worse. While several of his classmates remained committed, the speech resonated with Geary.

“It was almost time to graduate, which is pretty scary when you want to have a career pivot,” he confesses with a smile and shake of his head. “What rescued me was Connecticut College being a liberal arts school,” he continues. “Not only did I go to music classes, I took classes in theater, art, animation, psychology and a score of other things—all stuff I use on a daily basis now.”

Ironically, it was his music background that gave him a leg up in show business.

“My very first job was working at MTV,” he recalls. “I was the guy who underscored reality TV shows with music.” At MTV, Geary also got first taste of how quickly the entertainment landscape can shift.

“I guess you could say I worked during the high point of that MTV era. The TRL era. I worked on a show called Made. Business was booming, and I was part of the mayhem running between multiple offices all over the city.”

TRL—Total Request Live—was the station’s flagship series, hosting the most famous music and pop culture figures while showing the day’s most popular music videos to provide daily after-school entertainment to the last generation of American teenagers without social media. However, Geary was working on the shows that would soon dominate and eventually fully push music videos off the Music Television Channel—reality programming. Three years after he left Made, Jersey Shore would debut and reality would effectively, well, kill the music video star.

In 2015, he’d arrive at Sesame Workshop on the eve of another significant shift. “The company, at that point, was just dipping its toes back into original programming beyond Sesame Street,” he explains. Just coming on, Geary felt the pressure.

“I had a lot to prove,” he admits. “Being a new guy, helping them make a lot of new content that they hadn’t made in years was a big responsibility.”

Even though that was less than a decade ago, the media
landscape at the time was very different. Streaming existed, but many prominent services we know now—Max, Peacock, Apple TV+, and the like—were still years away. So, Sesame Workshop needed to find a place to showcase their experimental content. They hit on YouTube, which conveniently stopped using Flash and began streaming 60 fps videos the year before. YouTube had both the technology and the consumer base to showcase Sesame’s original programming and allow the company to get rapid feedback. "The channel was called Sesame Studios. We made about 300+ shorts just to see what the public response would be," Geary says. "People loved it. The audience wanted more. After that success, Sesame Workshop said, 'Hey, we should start making some long-form shows again.'"

From there, it was off to the races.

“We developed some shows. Nearly all of them got sold. We then went about producing them. All of them were nominated for Emmys, I’m happy to say. Some long-form shows’ success then begets more long-form shows. And that leads us to where we are right now, with a ton of series on multiple platforms.”

Geary speeds through it all so rapidly that he initially seems unmoved by it. Quickly, though, he circles back to add, “It’s a bit nuts how quickly that all has happened. I feel like I just started here yesterday. But then, when I write out what I’ve done, it feels like I’ve been here for 50 years.”

Among those accomplishments is an Emmy for his role as creative producer on Ghostwriter, a children’s mystery series. Produced as an original series for Apple TV+, the show won a 2020 Emmy for Outstanding Children’s or Family Viewing Program.

“It was really an amazing experience,” Geary says of the honor, “because that actually was a moment in history. No streaming platform had ever won an Emmy in its first year of existence, and this was Apple TV+’s first year. And [Ghostwriter] was very much a dark horse, so everyone was surprised and elated. On a personal level, though, it was one of the greatest moments of my life.”

The in-person ceremony was canceled that year because of COVID, so Geary remembers watching the remote Emmy Awards at his parents’ house with his wife and children.

“I thought, ‘We’ll see how this goes. Probably won’t happen,
but how cool would it be if I won it with all the people I love the most in my life around me? I still have that video of winning. To be perfectly honest, on my roughest days, I’ll watch that video and be like, ‘You know, life is not too bad.’”

For better or worse, however, television and streaming are constantly evolving and changing, which means one can’t even rest on an Emmy win.

Geary acknowledges as much, explaining, “Everything has changed. When I started, linear TV was king. Now streaming is king. Long-form content was what it was all about. Now it’s all short-form. My daughters prefer watching streaming platforms over linear television because they like to control what they watch. They like video games and apps over movies because they feel like they’re part of what they’re experiencing.”

When asked where the current growth edge of the industry is, he says, “Creators can self-publish. Twenty years ago, the power was in the hands of a select few. And now it’s in everybody’s hands. The biggest challenge I think is the market is so saturated now.”

Sesame Workshop is not immune to those shifts. For years, they made television primarily for PBS. Now, in addition to PBS, they also have deals with the likes of Apple TV+ and Warner Bros’ Max. That last relationship, in particular, is at the forefront, with the two companies’ contract set to expire in 2025.

“They’ve been an amazing partner because they respect us,” asserts Geary. “They just say, ‘You guys do what you do best.’ Not a lot of partners are that way. Sesame Workshop is still its own boss. Warners is very much ‘Make what you make, and we’re happy to air it for you.’”

Still, it remains unknown what, if any, relationship the two companies will have going forward. That uncertainty can make doing any job difficult, but the senior director of production and development knows it’s important to stay upbeat and be flexible.

“I think I bring] an insane level of optimism to the table,” Geary reflects. “I think it takes a certain level of insanity, as a creator, to say, ‘I feel like I have a story that in the hundreds of thousands of years of humankind no one’s told, and I have the vision to make it happen.’”

Later, as we continue on tour of the Workshop’s offices, we walk past the cardboard costume that proved the final catalyst for Sesame Street Mecha Builders, a computer-animated series that reflects Geary’s love of giant robots (also occasionally glimpsed in his cartoons for The College Voice back in his Conn days). He’s nearly as tall as the ridiculous suit of pressed paper battle armor—but no Big Bird jokes, please—and dressed in all black. He doesn’t exactly capture Sesame Workshop’s over 50 years of soft fuzziness. Still, he seems to fit in perfectly. Does that mean that he’s here to stay?

“The honest answer is I don’t know. As a company and as an industry, we don’t know. Things are in so much of a state of flux,” he says.

That said, Geary remains enthusiastically committed to the Workshop.

“It’s a company that knows what they are,” he says. “Every job, you have good days, you have bad days. But then when you go home, and you have this feeling like, ‘I think I made the world slightly better,’ it just kind of absolves everything.”
About 15 miles from the Connecticut College campus, in picturesque Old Lyme, the house where Jack Howard was born in 1795 still stands. It was built in 1790 by a wealthy shipping merchant named Samuel Mather Jr. and, like so many historic New England homes, it features a plaque near the front door that bears the date of its early post-Revolution construction.

But closer to the sidewalk, in the grass near the walkway that leads to the house, there’s another plaque—this one for Jack.

“Son of Janny,” it reads. “Born here enslaved.”

There are dozens more of these small brass plaques embedded up and down leafy Lyme Street, which, with the exception of power lines and a few parked cars, still looks much like it would have in the late 18th century.


Continued ➤
"I want everyone to appreciate all the work that formerly enslaved people put into building our communities, our states, our nation."

— KATE RUSHIN, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND POET-IN-RESIDENCE AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE


The plaques, called witness stones, are part of a growing educational and community initiative to restore forgotten local history and honor the humanity and contributions of enslaved individuals in Connecticut and surrounding states. Modeled (with permission) after the Stolperstein project, which commemorates victims of Nazi persecution in Europe, the Witness Stones Project partners with schools and civic organizations to help them research the histories of enslaved people in their own communities and bring those stories to life in a variety of ways.

In Old Lyme, that includes through poetry by Kate Rushin, professor of English and poet-in-residence at Conn, and three other distinguished Connecticut poets. "I'm very interested in history and especially in African American history. I grew up in Lawnside, New Jersey, the first incorporated African American town in the state; I breathed this history growing up," says Rushin, who traces her family's arrival in that area to her great-great-grandfather Davie Arthur, who escaped from a plantation on Maryland’s Eastern Shore in the 1840s and, with the help of abolitionist Quakers, used the Underground Railroad to get to and settle in the fledgling community.

"I want everyone to appreciate all the work that formerly enslaved people put into building our communities, our states, our nation," she adds.
The Witness Stones Project partners with schools and civic organizations to help them research the histories of enslaved people in their own communities and bring those stories to life in a variety of ways: witnessstonesproject.org
The author of the poetry anthology *The Black Back-Ups*, a Lambda Book Award Finalist, and the widely anthologized work “The Bridge Poem,” Rushin often composes persona poems, which are written from the perspective of the poem’s subject. In 2021, Witness Stones Old Lyme Committee Chair Carolyn Wakeman invited former Connecticut Poet Laureate Marilyn Nelson to the project, and Nelson in turn invited fellow poets Rushin, Antoinette Brim-Bell and Rhonda Ward to join her in creating work that captures the unheard voices, life experiences, attitudes and emotions of those who lived and labored in the community.

Using information drawn from land records, town reports, church records, property transactions, probate papers, county court proceedings, federal census counts, regional newspapers, grave markers, emancipation certificates and other primary sources, the Old Lyme Witness Stones Project has pieced together details from the lives of more than 50 enslaved people who lived along Lyme Street.

Rushin’s poems, all published in the November 2021 edition of Poetry magazine, are dedicated to three of those individuals. Jack Howard, who disappears from records after he is willed at age 14 to Samuel Mather Jr.’s unmarried son, is the subject of “Fishing for Shad.” Three-year-old Jane, a child likely of Native American descent who is sold for a questionably large sum two years after her own mother was sold, is the inspiration for “Meditations on Generations.” And Crusa, emancipated at age 39 after meeting the requirements of a 1792 Connecticut law to prove she was “desirous of her liberty,” is the subject of a three-part series, “Crusa: The Hour before Dawn,” “Praying for Crusa” and “Crusa Prays for Herself.”

To create personas for the three, Rushin combined the stories uncovered by the Witness Stones researchers with her own knowledge of history and enslavement, as well as her own experiences and emotions.

“I’m drawn by certain details. With Crusa, I was drawn to her name—the sound of it, the possible meanings of it,” Rushin says. “After she was freed, she left; there’s no more documentation. It’s interesting to me that she left, when other people in her family stayed. I imagine this person as fiercely independent. I imagine what her inner thoughts and her life might be. And I did want to focus on her inner life because it’s easy to forget that people in terrible circumstances have inner lives.

“I even unconsciously avoid using the word ‘slave,’ because it covers up a lot,” she continues. “It’s grandparents, parents, grandkids. It’s people—it’s actual people—it’s individuals who were captured in a variety of ways and had a variety of experiences, and they came from different places and had their own responses to their circumstances.”

Rushin regularly reads her poems at Witness Stones Project events and other local celebrations, including for the annual Juneteenth holiday. Her favorite to read is “Fishing for Shad,” in which 14-year-old Jack compares himself to the ray-finned clupeid fish plentiful in northern America but disparaged by English settlers.

“While doing research on the Florence Griswold Museum website, I came across a note that early some European settlers did not eat shad. They used it for fertilizer or shipped it to the West Indies,” Rushin said. “I connect emotionally to shad and shad roe because my grandfather liked it; the dish became part of the Easter tradition in our family. I’ve also learned that shad fishing has been part of Connecticut indigenous traditions for generations.”

In “Meditations on Generations,” Rushin deals head-on with the harsh realities of the slave trade, asking why someone would sell a woman away from her baby (“And who would buy?”). And why, a few years later, a man of means would pay a large sum of money for the very young child. (“Why was a ‘molado’ toddler girl worth so much in colonial Connecticut? Who has the stomach to ponder such a question? Who has the heart?” she writes.)

Rushin sometimes finds it challenging to present the entire poem before an audience. “I don’t always want to go into the painful details,” she says.

Instead, she reads the last stanza:

“Dear Jane,
I do not know, yet, where you lived,
who took care of you, how you lived your life.

I do know that you were loved.
You were named after your grandmother.

I’ll remember you, Jane. You were here.
I will honor you, respect you;
hold you in my words.”

Read more of Rushin’s unabridged Witness Stones poems at ccmagazine.conncoll.edu
ECHOES OF
Tom Hudner ’95 reflects on lessons from his war hero father and the remarkable man he tried to save in North Korea.

BY MÉLISSA BABCOCK JOHNSON
M any children grow up believing their father is a hero. Thomas J. Hudner III ’95 grew up knowing his was—Thomas J. Hudner Jr. had received the Medal of Honor, the U.S. military’s highest accolade.

The story culminates on a remote mountaintop in North Korea on Dec. 4, 1950, when Hudner Jr., a Navy fighter pilot, intentionally crash-landed his plane to try to save his wingman and friend Jesse Brown, who had been shot down during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir while supporting Marines on the ground. Jesse was trapped in his flaming Corsair 17 miles behind enemy lines.

Amid hostile presence and temperatures, Hudner Jr. ran across the rugged terrain to Brown and packed the plane’s fuselage with snow to keep the flames away from his friend, whose leg was pinned by the wreckage against the instrument panel. He ran back to his own crashed airplane and radioed for a helicopter to be dispatched with an ax and fire extinguisher.

Hudner Jr. and the rescue pilot who arrived were unable to free Brown with the ax, and he eventually lost too much blood. His last words to Hudner Jr. before dying were, “Just tell Daisy how much I love her.” He was 24 years old and left behind his wife, Daisy, and a toddler daughter, Pamela. Hudner Jr. was forced to leave Brown where he was.

But Hudner Jr.’s devotion did not end on that mountaintop in 1950. In July 2013, when he was 88 years old, he returned to North Korea and battled significant red tape to try to bring Brown’s remains back to his family and to Arlington National Cemetery for a proper burial with military honors.

Unfortunately, it was monsoon season, and the roads to the Chosin Reservoir and up into the mountains were washed out, so the expedition to the crash site was canceled.

Although the 10-day quest was unsuccessful on that front, the expedition members were treated like dignitaries and supportive North Korean military officers, including the nation’s leader, Kim Jong Un, vowed to continue recovery efforts, calling the return of war dead a humanitarian—not political—issue.

Joined by a bond that transcends their beloved pilots, the Hudner family remains close friends with the Brown family to this day.

‘SELFLESS DEVOTION’


Makos approached Hudner Jr. and asked to interview him for a magazine article. But the story’s magnitude soon became apparent—this was book material. After years of research and writing, including endless hours interviewing members of the Brown family and other squadron members and their families,

“Just tell Daisy how much I love her.”

— LAST WORDS OF JESSE BROWN, THE DOWNED PILOT

THOMAS HUDNER JR. RISKED HIS LIFE TO TRY TO RESCUE

JESSE BROWN, USN, CIRCA 1950
and accompanying Hudner Jr. on his journey to North Korea in 2013, the book *Devotion: An Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship, and Sacrifice* was published in 2014.

Hudner III says Makos became a close and trusted friend of the family. “When I read the draft before it was published, I told Adam that it felt like it was a gift to me personally, because there was so much detail in that book that I never knew about my dad’s story.”

The book’s title is taken directly from Hudner Jr.’s Medal of Honor citation, which says, in part, “Hudner’s exceptionally valiant action and selfless devotion to a shipmate sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.”

Makos, who was instrumental in facilitating the trip to North Korea in 2013, told Radio Free Asia at the end of last year that he wanted to re-attempt the recovery of Brown’s remains, which are still on the mountain.

**JESSE’S JOURNEY**

Jesse LeRoy Brown was the first Black aviator to complete the Navy’s basic flight training program. Born into poverty in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in 1926, Brown graduated salutatorian of his segregated high school class in 1944 and went on to earn an architectural engineering degree from Ohio State University.

During his sophomore year at OSU, Brown learned of the Navy’s V-5 Aviation Cadet Training Program. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1946 and was admitted to the aviation program, becoming a member of OSU’s Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. He was one of just 14 Black NROTC students in 1947 out of 5,600 NROTC students in the nation.

In July 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 mandating the desegregation of the U.S. military. Six months later, Brown was assigned to Fighter Squadron 32 aboard the USS Leyte, where he met Hudner Jr. While some on the base were openly racist toward Brown, Hudner Jr. went against the tide. This doesn’t surprise his son.

“A lot of the opposition to integrating the military was the feeling that no white soldier or airman would ever risk his life for a Black soldier or airman,” says Hudner III. “Dad’s action was important to fly in the face of that sentiment and to prove it wrong. I think Dad was just a good, earnest, kind person.”

Those characteristics trace back to the first Thomas Jerome Hudner, his grandson says. “My grandfather’s lesson to my dad was that people show their character through their actions and behavior and not through the color of their skin,” says Hudner III. “Where they grew up, their background or socioeconomic means, or what have you—all of that stuff was irrelevant in terms of someone’s true character and integrity.”

**HUDNERS IN HOLLYWOOD**

Glen Powell, the actor who would play Hudner Jr. in the movie, visited the Hudner family in Concord, Massachusetts, on Memorial Day 2017, a few months before the elder Hudner would pass away at the age of 93. The meeting reassured the family that the story would be handled with care.

Hudner III says, “Glen wanted to meet Dad and tell him how he felt about the story and why it resonated for him, and share his hope to have the movie made and to portray him. That gave us a lot of faith and confidence that he, in particular playing Dad, and the team that he was working to assemble, would have the right things in mind.”
He added, “I told Glen that I would rather a movie not be made than for it to be done in the wrong way. I think in the wrong hands, the characters of my father and Jesse Brown could become caricatures—the privileged white New Englander and the Black son of a sharecropper from Mississippi.”

Hudner III has a cameo during the scene portraying his father’s Medal of Honor ceremony, for which he provided the actual medal and his father’s Naval Academy class ring, which Powell wears in the scene. Hudner III says it meant a great deal to him to give his father a physical presence on the set.

He recalled some downtime on the set between takes when he was standing with the actors playing the squadron members. Joe Jonas, who played Ensign Marty Goode, received a video call. After chatting for a few minutes, he held up his phone and told the caller, Matthew McConaughey, to say hi to everyone.

“There I was on the set of the White House Rose Garden, in a scene portraying this key moment in my father’s life, and then Joe Jonas introduces me to Matthew McConaughey on a FaceTime call. That was one of many surreal experiences,” Hudner III says with a chuckle.

More than meeting famous actors, Hudner III was impressed by the kindness everyone on set showed him even before they knew who he was, and the lengths the production company went to, including building a full-scale aircraft carrier superstructure on an airfield in Statesboro, Georgia, to film real takeoffs and landings for the scenes on the carrier.

“You’re watching real Corsairs from that period in World War II and Korea doing these incredible aerial maneuvers and takeoffs and landings,” says Hudner III. “I met the pilots and the guys who own and maintain those aircraft, and they were so psyched to see Dad’s Medal of Honor and his logbook with all the missions portrayed in the movie documented in his own handwriting.”

Hudner III and his wife, Jennifer Preuss Hudner ’94, have two daughters, Lily and Reese, and a son named—you guessed it—Thomas J. Hudner IV, who at age 5 thought the Navy destroyer USS Thomas Hudner (DDG-116) was actually being named after him and not just his grandfather.

In January 2023, Hudner III hosted a screening of Devotion at Conn for the men’s and women’s lacrosse teams. It was a full-circle event for the former soccer and lacrosse captain, who was inducted into the Connecticut College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012. He also earned the Anita DeFrantz ’74 Award, given annually to the male and female members of the graduating class whose athletic ability, leadership and sportsmanship best exemplify the qualities of the Olympic medalist for whom the award is named.

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No one would have had any idea that Dad was a war hero. And he would be the last person to tell them, of course.

— THOMAS J. HUDNER III ’95
“I was honored to be asked to come down and talk to the team,” Hudner III says. “My experience on those teams was awesome and certainly central to my Connecticut College experience.”

When asked about his time in the classroom, Hudner III, an English major who now works as chief development officer for Boston MedFlight, recalled being a student of James Joyce expert John Gordon, who retired as professor emeritus in 2015. “It’s pretty incredible to be taught by these folks who have a depth of understanding and scholarship that’s pretty hard to attain.”

While he appreciated the tutelage of top-notch professors, Hudner III focused much of his attention on the field. His father was a frequent spectator. “My parents would be on the sidelines of most of my soccer and lacrosse games,” says Hudner III. “No one would have had any idea that Dad was a war hero. And he would be the last person to tell them, of course.”

Hudner III notes a connection between his sports experiences and his father’s time in the military—both revolve around teammates.

He says, “While I played at Connecticut College, the most important elements were that the needs of the team are above your own, and individual accolades are meaningless if the team doesn’t work well together. The best athletes and the best leaders that I played with had that same attitude. Whether you’re in the military or not, I think my dad’s and Jesse’s actions and selfless service are good examples of those lessons.”

Hudner Jr. saw himself as a regular guy who believed men and women everywhere performed selfless and heroic acts throughout history that were never recognized or even witnessed, his son says. “It’s the sentiment of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. The attitude was always, ‘I was just doing my job’ and ‘I was just doing the right thing.’ You think, ‘What would I do in that circumstance? Would I have the bravery, the wherewithal, to do something like that?’ And you hope you would.”

Hudner III says his father, if he were still here, would shy away from the Hollywood fanfare, but he would be immensely pleased that the movie is bringing Jesse’s story to a wider audience.

“Dad felt like he got more attention than he deserved,” Hudner III says. “When he was honored, he accepted humbly, but he also said he wore the medal for all the men and women who have served and are serving, and especially for those like Jesse who gave their lives for their country.”
THE FLORIDA EFFECT
In May, the American Association of University Professors’ Special Committee on Academic Freedom in Florida released a preliminary report concluding that academic freedom, tenure and shared governance in Florida’s public colleges and universities face a politically and ideologically driven assault unparalleled in U.S. history. Committee Co-Chair Afshan Jafar, the May Buckley Sadowski ’19 Professor of Sociology at Conn, explains what’s at stake.

After the Board of Trustees of New College of Florida (NCF) moved to eliminate gender studies from its offerings in August, NCF Trustee Christopher Rufo tweeted: “Governor [Ron] DeSantis was right: Florida voters should not be forced to subsidize ‘zombie studies’ degrees that do not meet a basic scholarly standard or conform to the mission of liberal arts education. I’m proud to have worked to abolish gender studies at New College. No apologies!”

Back in January of 2023, NCF’s Board of Trustees had welcomed several new members appointed by Gov. DeSantis. Many of these new appointees, including Mr. Rufo, openly acknowledged their agenda to change New College from a small, progressive, liberal arts honors college that espoused a unique approach to education (there are no letter grades at NCF and students work closely with professors on theses in their senior year) to a college with conservative values much like Hillsdale College, a private, conservative Christian college in Hillsdale, Michigan. The new appointees to the Board wasted no time.

When their first meeting rolled around on Jan. 26, 2023, the Board moved to fire the president of the college, Pat Okker, who was 18 months into her position. Subsequently, they also moved to eliminate the division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, fired the dean overseeing those programs, and started targeting other staff for layoffs. The initial round of terminations often centered on those who were known to be liberal or members of the LGBTQIA community. Now academic programs are on the chopping block and the trustees are starting with those that they find most “threatening” to conservative values.

In the meantime, more than 40% of faculty members have left NCF and more than 30 students have transferred to Hampshire College in Massachusetts (a college with values and culture similar to NCF’s pre-takeover).

Should the fate of this small public liberal arts institution in Florida concern us? Very much so.

I am co-chairing a special investigative committee put together by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), a nonprofit association of academics from more than 500 U.S. campuses. Founded in 1915, the AAUP has helped develop the standards and procedures regarding academic freedom in American higher education. The task of this special committee is to look into the pattern of politically, racially and ideologically motivated attacks on public higher education in Florida. Our efforts thus far have led us to conclude that “academic freedom, tenure and shared governance in Florida’s public colleges and universities currently face a politically and ideologically driven assault unparalleled in U.S. history. Initiated and led by Governor [and Republican presidential candidate] Ron DeSantis and the Republican majority in Florida’s state legislature, this onslaught, if sustained, threatens the very survival of meaningful higher education in the state,” with catastrophic implications for the entire country.

Over the last couple of years, Florida (and, in its wake, several other states) has passed a plethora of legislation that monumentally impacts individual rights and freedoms. Those involving higher education and K-12 schools focus on severely limiting or outright banning DEI programs; limiting the teaching of race in K-12 and public higher education systems; preventing teachers and professors from teaching about structural forms of racism and employers from requiring diversity training (colloquially known as the Stop WOKE–Wrongs to Our Kids and Employees–Act); and prohibiting gender inclusive bathrooms and banning trans individuals from using bathrooms that match their gender identity, asserting that all schools must
uphold the belief that “a person’s sex is an immutable biological trait” and “it is false” to use a pronoun other than what matches the sex on a person’s birth certificate.

Other legislative measures erode tenure protections, limit workers’ abilities to unionize in public institutions, coalesce power in the hands of the president and governing boards regarding academic appointment, and allow the board of governors and the state board of education to review all elective courses that cover “theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political and economic inequities.”

As one union leader and longtime faculty member in the Florida system stated during an interview with the AAUP special committee, “The legislative measures taken together are not a laundry list, but a strategic plan to implement [DeSantis’s] agenda.” That is to say, all of these bills work together to attack higher education on different fronts and serve to (1) threaten academic freedom as it relates to the teaching and research of certain topics, (2) weaken shared governance and workers’ rights by concentrating power in the hands of the boards of trustees and presidents, and (3) weaken educators’ ability to unionize, thus limiting their ability to fight the abuses of power that are bound to occur after the passage of these bills.

As we noted in our preliminary report, during the dozens of interviews conducted thus far by the AAUP special committee with faculty members across Florida, two sentiments and phrases came up frequently: the reality in Florida is “Orwellian” and Florida is the “canary in a coal mine.” Indeed, the threat from authoritarian politicians who use phrases like “Stop WOKE,” “DEI bureaucracy” and “indoctrination” to limit academic freedom while imposing their own worldview and censoring others cannot be overstated. Neither can the threat of Florida-style legislation spreading across the country and globally. As the conclusion of the preliminary report warns, “If there are those in academia who think this threat does not affect them because they are at a private institution, or because they are outside of Florida, or because they do not teach in a ‘controversial’ field, or because they are politically conservative, we urge them to pay close attention to the words of a professor at the University of Florida who self-identifies as a conservative and devout Christian. In an email message to his colleagues, he wrote, ‘Bottom line: Big Brother is watching. He is taking names. I’m on their ‘woke’ list! I’m the faculty advisor for the Federalist Society, for the Law School Republicans, and for the Christian Legal Society. If they find me threatening, the rest of you are dead in the water. Be wary and be aware. If I don’t have academic freedom, neither do you. If you don’t, neither do I. We are in this together.’” (Emphasis in original.)

But beyond the concerns regarding active forms of surveillance by politicians, administrators and governing boards, we must remember that authoritarian cultures and values are hard to contain—they have a way, through fear and intimidation, of creeping into the backs of our minds, into our classrooms, into our research, into our conversations, and into our thoughts and speech, eventually leading to self-censorship. And what is the U.S. educational system without academic freedom? Without the ability to pursue knowledge and teach and research and learn without interference from authoritarian politicians? What kind of worldview will the generations of students not taught the truth about slavery and race and gender and sexuality grow up with? What limits are we imposing on the freedoms of generations of future students, when we allow ideologues, not academic experts, to determine what will be taught and discussed in the classroom?

The attacks on higher education are not just confined to Florida or even the U.S. Currently, in India, history, political science and sociology texts are being revised as part of a “rationalization process,” but academics argue that the changes help promote the Hindu nationalist vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party. Part of their “rationalizations” have been to limit references to Muslim rule, anti-Muslim violence, and Hindu-Muslim unity in history, sociology and political science textbooks. Similarly, Viktor Orban, prime minister of Hungary, has been on an anti-LGBTQ offensive, limiting the teaching of gender and sexuality in schools and reinforcing “Christian values.”

I grew up in Pakistan. Much of my childhood was spent living under a military dictatorship. I remember clearly, in the 1980s, when our curriculum, the media and free press were under attack and molded to reflect the values of an authoritarian, military, religious regime. It was suffocating.

We cannot sit on the sidelines for this one. I urge you to write to your politicians, state legislature and local school boards, and to get involved in your local communities. As horrifying as each individual piece of legislation is in Florida and beyond, the impact of such measures is much more than the sum of their parts. What is at stake is not just the movement toward a more just and equitable world, especially as it relates to minorities. Our future generations’ very ability to envision, desire and achieve such a world is in danger of being snuffed out.

Afshan Jafar is the May Buckley Sadowski ’19 Professor of Sociology, chair of the Sociology Department at Connecticut College and chair of AAUP’s National Committee on College and University Governance. She is the author of Women’s NGOs in Pakistan (2011) and co-editor of Global Beauty, Local Bodies (2013) and Bodies Without Borders (2013). Her public scholarship has appeared in numerous media outlets, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, LA Review of Books, Inside Higher Ed and Ms. Magazine.
CC Magazine welcomes your Class Notes and submissions. Please contact your class correspondent, email notes to classnotes@conncoll.edu or submit Class Notes online at: conncoll.edu/news/cc-magazine

51 Correspondent: Mona Gustafson Affinito, forgivensesupotions@earthlink.net, 723 Water Street, Apt. 1001, Excelsior, MN, 55331, 612-760-5007 Phyllis Hoffman Driscoll’s daughter and son-in-law, who live in New Hampshire, visited for a week, bringing their kayaks to tour the many waterways around Hilton Head Island, including near Harbour Town and the iconic lighthouse. They could see Daufuskie Island, S.C., which can only be reached by boat or plane. Phyllis drove back to New Hampshire with them for her yearly “hurricane vacation.” In August, she hoped to see her granddaughter, who is working for Raytheon on a project in Poland but will be home for a friend’s wedding. “I’m anxious to hear more about Poland. Even though we talk on the phone often, it’s not the same as having her right next to me.” Barbara Wiegand Piljote and husband Bob enjoyed a noontime 70th anniversary celebration on July 22 at the Columbia Country Club, in Chevy Chase, Md. Speaking of anniversaries, Harriet Bassett MacGregor wrote, “We are well, just ‘wick-ed old.’ We celebrated our 71st anniversary in April with a family luncheon. I spoke with Joan Campbell Phillips. She is the same sweet Joan, living in a retirement apartment in Bruns-wick, Maine. Her children took her to visit her home on the coast for a few days, which she greatly enjoyed.” Marge Erickson Albertson delighted me with a call to say she was happy to see our class in these Notes. Everything is going fine with her; no reportable changes. Pat Roth Squire sent a lovely note remembering Elizabeth Babbott Conant, remarking on the honors Babbie had appropriately received for all she contributed to the college, and recalling the time when Dean Burdick asked her [Pat] to run against Babbie, knowing full well that popular Babbage would win, but wanting an “election.” Pat also reminisced about Miss Mulvey, our North Cottage “house mother.” She con-tinued, “David and I are celebrating our 53rd year of marriage (after 20 years of marriage to other spouses). Hard to believe. And we no longer have friends alive—I am sure that’s true for many.” Pat and David have six great-grandchildren! I, Mona Gustafson Affinito, am still happy and active at the Waters of Excelsior. Our Social Justice Team sponsored an educational program on water conservation along with a campaign to reduce our personal usage.

We did two “Celebrations of Water” programs featuring food and door prizes: a pizza and beer (or root beer) gathering and a somewhat less elaborate donuts and coffee event. I’m also writing On My Way Out, a kind of memoir of the development of psychology as filtered through me over the years. By the time you read this, I expect to have completed a Viking cruise from Reykjavik to New York with my son, Doug, who does all the planning and schlepping. All I have to do is pay my half. At this age, I like sticking closer to home, so ending up in New York is a big draw. At Thanksgiving I’ll enjoy our annual stay at Cove Point on the shores of Lake Superior. And I will be looking for news of our Class of ’51 stubborn survivors. Please help by providing content via the contact info above. Or even send photos!

53 Correspondent: Marion Skerker Sader, marsader24@gmail.com, P.O. Box 1700, Briarcliff Manor, NY, 914-941-3735 After many years, Sue Weinberg Mindlin and Barbara Weil Grant have reconnected. Both were recently widowed and with lots in common have enjoyed catching up. Sue and Joan Fluegelman Wexler have kept in close touch, as have Sue and Jane Graham Pemberton P’81 ‘87 GP’14. Jane’s husband was an expert in African art; Sue recalls a lovely visit to a local museum with Prof. Pemberton as an exceptional “guide.” Sadly, there are several deaths to report. In November 2022, Elinor (Nicki) Noble Martinez died after a short illness. She was survived by her son, J. Adam Martinez ’80, daughter Aadair Martinez, and a granddaugh-ter, Constance Baker Woolson. She died in her home in Shelburne, Vt., on March 22, leaving three children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Nancy Hudson died on May 14. She was active with the Rhode Island newspaper the Woonsocket Call (established by her grandfather in 1892), her church, the Girl Scouts, the YWCA and other organiza-tions, and she enjoyed travel. Our 70th reunion has now come and gone. I, Marion Skerker Sader, was glad to attend in June. It was a perfect day, definitely not the cloudy or rainy weather I recall from our days in the ’50s. My husband, Ray, was impressed with the campus and the quality of the program. It was not easy to locate Harkness and Blackstone—the cam-pus is so grown! But it is so beautiful; the land- scape design is unequalled! Three of us showed up: Zita Flaherty Smith and Chris Gomes Regan were at our table. It was fun to catch up and reminisce about the old days. Please send your news; we all would love to hear how you are and what you are doing.

54 Correspondent: Joanne Williams Hartley, jodihartley69@icloud.com, 69 Chesterton Road, Wellesley MA 02481, 617-620-9385 It’s remarkable: We have reached the venerable age of 90, and I still have a long list of classmates to call for Class Notes! Irene Ball Barrack may be our youngest, at 89. She is active in town affairs, still lives in her lovely New Canaan, Conn., home and occasionally goes to her cottage on Martha’s Vineyard. Granddaughter Jennifer Barrack ’18 was married this year in Puerto Rico, preceded by a civil marri-age and followed by a grand after-party, both in Rhode Island, events that enlivened Irene’s year. Irene received from a collector a CC banner displaying “CONNECTICUT 1941” and CC’s Tree of Knowledge symbol. Mysterious-ly, the banner is made of purple and gold felt. Does anyone have a clue about the royal col-oring? Janet Rowe Dungan was in Wolfeboro, N.H., for the summer, where she’s been going since age 6; she has a place with a dock on Lake Winnipesaukee. She reached 1,120 points in bridge and is now a Silver Life Master, an ex-traordinary accomplishment. She plays online three times a week. She also helps in her family law firm during the summer. She winters in her condo in Sarasota, Fla.; all is well. Sally Ashkins Churchill and Bob still live in their home on lovely Cape Cod. Lots of excitement in their family this year, with several grands planning weddings. Leila Anderson Freund still lives in Cincinnati in her home of many years, though she grew up in Connecticut. None of her four children or eight grandchildren live nearby, but they visit regularly and remain close. Everyone came for Christmas, and in May she took them all to Hilton Head to celebrate her 90th birth-day. Always active, Leila works and volunteers in her community. The day I talked to her, she gifted herself a cleaning service for the first time ever! I had a lovely conversation with Dave, husband of Gretchen Marquardt Seager, who lives in a nursing home due to Alzheimer’s. Gretchen was at CC for one year, then transferred to Northwestern. She maintained ties to our class and wrote a note for our 50th reunion yearbook. She and Dave settled in Pasadena, Calif.; she was a successful real estate broker after raising four children and started an invest-ment club after learning the trade doing her own...
investing. A Francophile, she became fluent in French and held a weekly French-speaking lunch for years. Dave said that while Gretch- en was a little person she was a terrific tennis player; often unsuspecting opponents thought she would be an easy target, only to be beaten. Dave is from the Boston area, and they have a home on Chappaquiddick Island, off Martha’s Vineyard, that the family still enjoys. Mildred (M’Lee) Catledge Sampson lives in an assist- ed-living home in Stratford, Conn., and sees her family when they can; they are scattered across the country. Commenting on our age, she spoke of a luncheon for the 100-year-olds across the country. Commenting on our age, she would be an easy target, only to be beaten. She is a Francophile, she became fluent in French and held a weekly French-speaking invest- ing. A Francophile, she became fluent in French and held a weekly French-speaking lunch for years. Dave said that while Gretch- en was a little person she was a terrific tennis player; often unsuspecting opponents thought she would be an easy target, only to be beaten. Dave is from the Boston area, and they have a home on Chappaquiddick Island, off Martha’s Vineyard, that the family still enjoys. Mildred (M’Lee) Catledge Sampson lives in an assist- ed-living home in Stratford, Conn., and sees her family when they can; they are scattered across the country. Commenting on our age, she spoke of a luncheon for the 100-year-olds across the country. Commenting on our age, she would be an easy target, only to be beaten.

Connie Stein Higgins still works half-time with former Harvard president Derek Bok, who is writing a book “on liberals’ and conserv- atives’ complaints about our ‘elite’ uni- versities. It has been a wonderful experience over the past 30 years working with him,” Connie splits time between Cambridge and Truro, Cape Cod, “where I love my salt wa- ter, my garden and my kids, who visit us in the summer.” She exercises by walking and re- cumbent cycling at a Harvard gym a few times a week—up to seven miles. “Since I lost my dear Melbourne in 2014, I still make dinners every night, as we loved cooking and sharing a martini before dinner. I am lucky to be healthy and still ‘with it,’ aside from a few senior mo- ments of forgetfulness.” She enjoys New York Times crossword puzzles and the daily Word- les. Her grandson graduated from the Univer- sity of Oregon and is in an optical engineering graduate program. Her granddaughter, an Elon graduate, edits and writes for various publica- tions and is considering working in Europe. Connie’s two daughters design and sell their own jewelry in San Francisco. “It’s all good and I am grateful.”

Afterward, we joined the traditional all-cam- pus picnic on the Green. Saturday included our class meeting, and of course, THE PARADE!

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Correspondent: Joan Schwartz Buehler is busy reading, attending New York shows and playing bridge with friends. Grandson William, a graduate of Emory, works in private equity. Granddaughter Kimberly is a senior at Washington University and spent last semes- ter in London. In June, Joan Heller Winokur GP’18 came north for granddaughter Ariel’s wedding at the Mayflower Inn in Washington, Conn. “It was spectacular and fabulous.” Joan teaches poetry to three students at the Florida senior residence where she lives. Their poetry will be published in their quarterly magazine. Bev Vahtleite DeLaney GP’26 lives in a cottage at Crane’s Mills Senior Residence, in Cedar Grove, N.J., where she was president for two years. Bev’s step-grandson, from Boise, Idaho, is a sophomore at CC and loves it. Bev has six grandchildren. One is getting a master’s degree in opera. Bev is making scrapbooks of her parents’ memorabilia. Nancy Hamilton MacCormac has lived in a retirement home in Raleigh, N.C., for six years. Husband Earl passed away at the beginning of the pandemic. Nancy, a History major at CC, has a master’s degree in public administration from the Har- vard Kennedy School of Government. She has four grandchildren. Her daughter is a lawyer in San Francisco. Judy Hartt Acker had both a knee and a hip replacement. She does fine with the aid of a cane. Judy sings in her church choir and plays bridge at least twice a week. Sue Krim Greene P’85 and Helene Zim- mer-Low sent were planning September travel with three of Sue’s friends from Colorado to Greenland and the Arctic. Helene keeps busy with season tickets to the Lyric Opera, the Jof- frey Ballet and the Chicago Orchestra. She is active in museums and is on the board of many organizations. Helene and Sue attend the Vail Dance Festival in Colorado in August. Helene keeps physically active by walking everywhere and by doing yoga, Pilates and tai chi. She is a member of the German Book Club in Chicago. Condonles to the family of Joan Faraci Jenks of Niantic, Conn., who passed away in May. Survivors include her husband, son, daugh- ter, three grandchildren and six great-grand- children. Joan had a master’s degree from the University of New Haven and worked in re- search and human resources management. She published two books, The Route to Family Wis- dom and And They Just Kept Going...Residence in 17th and 18th Century Great-Grandmothers, and was a docent at Niantic’s Lee House and Old Lyme’s Florence Griswold Museum.

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The world, winning many trophies, including U.S. sailing’s highest, the Herreshoff. Sincere sympathies go to her family. Gail Wieland Stewart died on March 11 after a brief ill- ness. Gail and Bud raised five children on their Pennsylvania farm, which had an alpaca herd of up to 80 animals. Some of us enjoyed Gail’s story in a Zoom meeting last year. We send warm sympathies to her family. The class also sends condolences to Ded Swain Bull- ock, whose husband Bill died on Dec. 24, 2022. Eleven intrepid classmates attended our 65th reunion: Carol Fuhrer Berger, Marie Iselin Doebler (and her Joe), Judy Epstein Grollman, Arline Hinkson, Phyllis Malone, Peggy Goldstein Marx, Bobbie Cohn Mind- dell, Carol Reeves Parke, Jean Cattanach Sziklas, Barbara Barche Tuneski and Lucia (Lolli) Beadel Whisenand. What a week- end! House in Lumbdin, a newer dorm (to us!), we were near Harris Dining Hall and each other, with a first-floor hospitality suite fea- turing our class banners (the original and the beautiful newer one quilted by Evelyn Evatt Salinger for our 50th). Helpful planners Lynne Crider and Dena Poblete, from CC Advance- ment, were on hand all weekend. We shared CC memories and personal stories. We read a lovely letter from Nancy Dorian (sent by her cousin Kathy) and email greetings from Bea Rittenberg Gilat (from Israel), Joan Waxgis- er Goodstein and Elaine Wolf Stein, who all were on hand. This year the rain mostly held off through the weekend. Fri- day’s Sykes Society Luncheon (50th reunion classes and up) featured keynote speaker André Lee ’93, the filmmaker, who spoke powerfully about race, privilege and his recent document- ary. Later we enjoyed the traditional Lob- ster bake on the Green. Saturday included our class meeting, and of course, THE PARADE! Jaunty in red bandanas and white visors with a red CC, carrying our excellent banner, we fol- lowed the 50th reunion class ahead of the rest, to great cheers from the assembled crowd. We also enjoyed lectures and exploring the newly developed waterfront, with separate piers for water activities and marine and conservation research and study. We have a remarkable campus, flanked as it is by the Arboretum and the astonishing new waterfront. In the late morning, we met at the renovated Athey Cen- ter at Palmer Auditorium to learn about alumni award winners and cheer each class’s giving. Our own Judy Grollman, in her sixth and final year on the Board of Directors (and third year on the Recognition Committee and second year as its chair) led the research and selection of the award winners. She was honored with a crystal bowl in recognition of her superb work. Afterward, we joined the traditional all-cam- pus picnic on the Green. Saturday also includ- ed the Service of Remembrance, which grows ever more meaningful. We all miss the 65 class- mates no longer with us. That afternoon, two of us participated in the library’s Alumni Oral History Program, helping preserve the stories
of alumni and their time at CC. Our Class Dinner was held in the “old Palmer Library” space and shared with the Class of ’63. We all fit at a single, large table, and Arline Hinkson supplied keyboard entertainment, playing hits from the ’50s. She was very well-received! (What topped the charts in ’58? Dean Martin’s “Volare!”) We felt fortunate to enjoy the College, the weekend and each other, even with Sunday’s bittersweet goodbyes. We missed you, classmates, and hope this recap nudges some good CC memories of your own.

59 Correspondents: Carolyn Keefe Oakes, carolyne蘸o蘸es07@gmail.com, 3333 Warrensville Center Road, Apt. 412, Shaker Heights, OH 44122, 216-752-5384; Marcia Fortin Sherman, marciasherman@bellsouth.net, 205 Bud Nalley Drive, Easley, SC, 29642, 864-654-1957

Lynn Graves Mitchell serves on committees at her retirement home and has been on her church’s deacon’s board for five years. She belongs to a 100-year-old group that researches unacknowledged historical women. Her family gathered for the wedding of her granddaughter, who is in medical school. Her grandson graduated from Colorado College and is in Brazil getting a master’s in computer science and engineering. Her younger grandson is a senior at Colorado and an intern for a financial firm. Nancy Osterweis Alderman is in West Palm Beach, Fla., after living as an expat on a Caribbean island. Her sons live in NYC and Bangor, Maine; her daughter lives in Bangkok. Her grandsons are in high school and college. Nan would love to hear from you at nanoscolow@icloud.com. Gail Glidden Goodell is recuperating slowly from surgery. She still does water aerobics. She enjoyed visiting her family in Wisconsin. Joel Krulewitch Socolow is in Sebastopol, Calif., for 30 years, and expected. I learned that Beatrice (Bunny) Block Griffin left Conn in 1958. She lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio, with husband Burt, who has published JFK, Oswald, and Ruby: Politics, Prejudice, and Truth, a book about the Kennedy assassination based on his own experience and knowledge. Burt was the youngest attorney chosen to work in the Warren Commission’s investigation. Bunny still works part-time; last year she taught classes to psychiatrists, social workers and psychologists training to become psychoanalysts. They have three children and five grandchildren, and happily, two live in the area. Son Mark is the law director for Cleveland, and granddaughter Caitlin has graduated college and works for KeyBank. Another son is a lawyer in Washington, D.C., and a third is a college professor in Nicaragua. One grandson is still in college and two others work in D.C.

As for me (Millie Price Nygren), my husband, Merl, has completed chemo. He is struggling in many ways but doing as well as can be expected. I learned that Marilyn Hinkes Bruce has lived in Sebastopol, Calif., for 30 years, and I was embarrassed I hadn’t realized it before. She lived in Emily Abbey all four years, and I lived there freshman year. I hope we can visit soon. She is doing well.

Author Nana Jessen Rinehart P’91 published A Woman Who Did Not Wait: Louise Odencrantz and Her Fight for the Common Good (New Academia, 2021), the biography of a social worker and advocate for immigrant women and their families in New York in the early 1900s and economist who during the New Deal mainstreamed progressive employment practices in the industry, and The Pastor’s Daughter Takes Charge (Politics & Prose, 2022), the edited memoirs of Odencrantz’s Danish mother, who homesteaded with her family in Nebraska in the 1880s. An exchange student from Denmark at Conn (1960-1961), Nana returned to the U.S. in 1966, taught high school and college, and retired in 2009 as vice president of the International Student Exchange Program in Washington, D.C.

Correspondent: Bonnie Campbell Billings-Wauters, baw22@aol.com, 1348 Winding Oaks Circle W, Vero Beach, FL 32963, 772-773-1043, and Millie Price Nygren, 1048 Bedford St., Fremont, CA 94539, 408-464-2907, m.nygren@att.net Nancy Osterweis Alderman is president of Environment & Human Health, Inc. She started with our class but found she couldn’t pursue her career in EHHI, so left and didn’t get her degree from CC until 1994. EHHI, founded officially in 1997, is a science-based nonprofit dedicated to protecting human health from environmental harms through research, education and the promotion of sound public policies (EHHI.org). Beatrice (Bunny) Block Griffin left Conn in 1958. She lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio, with husband Burt, who has published JFK, Oswald, and Ruby: Politics, Prejudice, and Truth, a book about the Kennedy assassination based on his own experience and knowledge. Burt was the youngest attorney chosen to work in the Warren Commission’s investigation. Bunny still works part-time; last year she taught classes to psychiatrists, social workers and psychologists training to become psychoanalysts. They have three children and five grandchildren, and happily, two live in the area. Son Mark is the law director for Cleveland, and granddaughter Caitlin has graduated college and works for KeyBank. Another son is a lawyer in Washington, D.C., and a third is a college professor in Nicaragua. One grandson is still in college and two others work in D.C.

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In the final weeks of the Defy Boundaries Campaign, Rob ‘88 and Karen Hale P’20 launched the Hale Legacy Challenge to inspire new planned gifts from fellow donors. If the College could document $15 million in new bequest intentions by June 30, 2023, Rob and Karen offered to double that giving with a matching legacy gift of $15 million—resulting in total future commitments to the College of $30 million.

The response from the Conn community was overwhelming as $31 million was raised in bequest intentions from committed alumni and friends! With the $15 million from the Hales, the result was a total of $46 million in just 60 days.

Our deepest thanks to the amazing donors who answered the call. This generosity will benefit students, faculty and staff for years to come.

For more information on leaving your own legacy at Connecticut College and joining the Rosemary Park Society, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at giftplanning@conncoll.edu.

“I’ve made a bequest of unrestricted funding because I believe the College that could see the value of an investment in the young me will see the possibilities in the generations of young people who must now lead their families, professions, communities and country through another era of challenging times.” — Carol Ramsey ’74

$43.4 MILLION
IN FUTURE ENDOWMENT DOLLARS

$2.7 MILLION
IN FUTURE ANNUAL FUND DOLLARS
IGNITING Office of Gift Planning at giftplanning@conncoll.edu.

College and joining the Rosemary Park Society, please contact the students, faculty and staff for years to come.

With the $15 million from the Hales, the result of the Hale Legacy Challenge Lifts Campaign was $31 million was raised in bequest funding because I believe the possibilities in the generations of young people who must now lead their College that could see the value of an annual fund.

IN FUTURE ANNUAL FUND DOLLARS

802-734-1876 A small but hearty group attended our 60th reunion: Gale Flannery Tunnell, Barbara Drexler Lockhart, Connie Cross, Sally Hobson, and me, Bonnie Campbell Billings. Anne Stephens Ryan and Betty Andersen Falxa joined us Friday just for the Sykes Society luncheon. It was fun to see Hope Batchelder-Stevens ’64 and Paige Platt Townsend Arnold ’64 there too. Martha Joynt Kumar, Linda Osborne, Elana Brown Anderson, Lonnie Jones Schorer, Pattie Keenan Mitchell, Teddy Dracopoulos Argue, Bobette Pottle Orr and Marcia Pygh Phillips joined us on Saturday for a good Zoom discussion; we shared experiences, especially about careers. The ’60s were challenging times for women entering the workforce; hearing individual perspectives was interesting. We stayed in Lambdin House. Despite Friday’s chilly rain, we enjoyed a delicious and fun all-alumni lobster picnic under a tent on the green. Saturday included lectures, tours, and scheduled events, including an intimate gourmet dinner; we enjoyed our time together and mixing with other alumni classes and current students (on hand to help). The campus looked spectacular, even in the cool, rainy weather. The Athletic Center and waterfront facilities are amazing. Conn is unique among the NESCAC colleges in having its own waterfront, which provides facilities for the rowing and sailing teams and opportunities for recreation, marine research and general enjoyment.

Barbara Drexler Lockhart was glad she went, especially seeing “the new campus across the street and a more inclusive group of folks”—alumni and student helpers. Gale Flannery Tunnell loved every minute of Reunion, “although two nights of dorm living was enough.” She enjoyed reflecting on times past and reuniting with classmates—realizing our commonalities and reestablishing lifelong friendships. “I was impressed by the growing number of yearly applicants and donations, large and small. So I encourage you each to donate to our class fund; wouldn’t it be great to leave a legacy as one of the classes with the highest participation? It’s easy, even $5 will do it.” Gale looks forward to another inspiring weekend at our 65th. She added, “I am so impressed that two current best-selling authors, both with rave reviews, are CC alumni: Ann Napolitano ’94 (Hello Beautiful) and David Grann ’89 (The Wager).” Connie Cross wrote, “What a good time we had! Fun to be together on campus and learn once again that our alma mater is a remarkable place.” Connie added that she enjoys frequent Zoom reunions with Barbara Drexler Lockhart, Helen Frisk Buzyna, Wally Coates Paprocki and Susan Young. Connie works with her local land trust to preserve 35,000 acres in the Sebago Lake, Maine, watershed. Having missed our 55th, Sally Hobson was glad to return for this one. “I enjoyed our dinner conversation with Lynne Crider’s (from the Office of Advancement) son about living in NYC today—how things have changed since I left the city—a HALF CENTURY ago.” Lonnie Jones Schorer couldn’t attend in person, but she helped with preparations. In July she did “an overnight at Dartmouth’s Moosilauke Ravine Lodge and a nine-plus-mile round-trip day hike to the 4,802-foot summit, the 10th-highest of New Hampshire’s 4,000-footers, with family (except husband Dave, who wisely relaxed with a book at the lodge).” Please consider participating in our 65th reunion, in 2028! It seems far away, but time flies! Sadly, I’ve learned of the passing of Ann Accardo Horvitz and Sally Baker. Our condolences to their families and friends.

Susan Peck Hinkel, 1064 N. Main St, Danby, VT 05739, reroj@mac.com; Pat Antell Andrews, 2800 S. University Blvd., Unit 4, Denver, CO 80210, pandre0615@gmail.com Harriet Pinsker Lasher lives in Raleigh, N.C., happily retired since 2011 and enjoying “precious family time as I approach 80.” Family travel included Ocean Isle, Fla., and a special weekend in Wellington with family I haven’t seen since the pandemic.” Pattie Olson celebrated her 80th with family in June on the shore of Estes Park Lake, Colo. The “kids” (in their 50s!) did plenty of uphill hiking while Pattie dreamt of past treks. She sees Calista (Sally) Morrill regularly; despite the summer heat, spring and June in Colorado were wet and the wildflowers were wonderful. “Happy Birthday everyone! We are officially old!” Judy Reich Grand keeps up with several classmates, now extended family. She and husband Gil, Nancy Martin Peavy and husband Bob, and Betsy Carey Herald had lunch in February in Stuart, Fla. Betsy left CC after freshman year to marry Gina Herold Mynittinen’s brother David. Nancy married Betsy’s brother, Eddie Casey, who died in 1967, and then married Bob Peavy. (Gina’s husband is a cousin to Barrie Mynittein Prybil). The five met again in March at a charity polo match. Judy and Gil sold their St. Louis house in September 2022 and moved to Jupiter, Fla. Nancy and Bob traveled to Petra and Israel last year, and Judy and Gil toured Israel in March 2022, followed by a safari in Kenya and Tanzania this year. Marion Nierintz lives at North Hill, a retirement community west of Boston. Her volunteer work with seniors prompted her to move to a more secure environment; they have taught her to stay fit and healthy, be socially interactive, and watch for internet hoaxes. Marion participates in her community’s social and educational programs and continues her volunteer work in fundraising, marketing and public relations. Judie Abbott Raffety P’01 wrote of the July flooding in Vermont; it seriously damaged her town of Ludlow. The Raffetys are fine; she hopes other Vermont classmates are too (Sue Peck Hinkel, in Manchester, also weathered the storm well). “Vermont is indeed a ‘brave little state’ and will eventually recover.” Jill Newman Iversen published a novel in July under her maiden name: Libra, or Hanging in the Balance... (Legacy Book Press); it mentions some CC classmates, although she likes to think they’ve been carefully camouflaged. “See if you recognize them—or yourself!” Sue Peck Hinkel is in her third year on the CC Board of Directors and experienced a student sit-in when the board met on campus in February. “Hopefully you received the up-to-date messages from the college and understand the importance of what evolved. You can always confer with any board member for information.” Condolences to Leslie Setterholm Curtis, whose husband, Tim—her helpmate in her years of work for CC and for the Colechester Land Trust—died recently. Keep your Class Notes coming!

Correspondents: Carol Claykin and Bridget Donahue Healy. cncnotes66@gmail.com While on vacation, Sue Abbe Yates was delighted to meet Martha Blanchard Twigg P’01 when Martha visited her family (Todd Twigg ’01, Kristin Collins Twigg ’00 and grandchildren), for Christmas on Lopez Island, north of Seattle, Wash. Finding themselves on the same small island was a treat since Martha lives in Norwell, Mass., and Sue lives near Seattle. Martha shared her knowledge of the island and directed Sue to spectacular sites. L-R: Kate Curtis Donahue, Jill McKelvie, Bridget Donahue Healy, Deborah Nichols Lossie, Terry McNab Rinke, all Class of ’66, in Ogunquit, Maine
hikes. They also celebrated their graduation from the same high school 60 years earlier. **Ellen Cole** is starting a new life in Florida and wishes to connect with alumni and friends. **Mae Conconi Bradshaw** still practices law, primarily estate planning, with SK Lawyers in Florida in the winter and New Hampshire in the summer. She and fiancé Burt Dibble are a Rotary romance of 17 years and still involved with Rotary. Mae is on the Cape Coral (Fla.) condo association board and active in the Cape Coral Sunset Rotary, preparing and serving food for the homeless. Burt sings in a 30-person barbershop group. Retired from his medical practice, he enjoys walking their schnoodle, Carmella. Mae and Burt love sailing the Maine coast on friends’ boats or sitting with friends on their Rye Harbor terrace. They visited Sicily and Key West this year. In June, **Kate Curtis Donahue, Bridget Donahue Healy, Jill McKelvie Neilson, Muffy McNab Rixse** and **Debby Nichols Losse** met in Ogunquit, Maine, for a lovely time visiting the Ogunquit Museum of American Art and walking, talking and eating seafood. **Diana (Pokey) Davis Kornet** sadly reports the death of her husband, John, on Jan. 8. John had been in assisted living since 2021. Parkinson’s had robbed him of his joyful activities. “His passing was a release; he is at peace, and so are we.” While preparing for John’s Celebration of Life, Pokey learned that her sister Penny had passed. Pokey remains grateful for her family and six wonderful grandchildren; she finds comfort living near the water, surrounded by the wonders of the natural world. **Liz Leach Welch** attended the services for John: “Such a special, warm, and loving service. Pokey’s loving hand was evident throughout. Dartmouth classmates came, as well as dear Cohasset and Cape Cod friends. Pokey looked elegant, and her whole family shared the service with song and memories.” **Kathleen Dudden Rowlands** and her husband are settled in their retirement home in Kaneohe, Hawaii, and catching up with friends. It was her son’s idea: “He said, ‘If you are far enough away that I can’t hear your bad jokes, it will be OK!’ His first child, our 10th granddaughter, was born in January.” Kathleen enjoys walking the beach cleaning up rubbish and finding occasional beach treasures. Her CC roommate, **Dede Nie Good** visited while en route to Kauai to vacation with children and grandchildren. Approaching 80, **Lenore Farmer** is “working on qualifying for the ‘grumpy old woman’ award. Maxine is my heroine.” **Ellen Hofheimer Bettmann** still teaches courses on race and racism through Dartmouth’s adult education programming and runs a monthly community forum, “Difficult Conversations About Race,” which she created in 2015. **Ellen Kagan** spent part of the frigid winter at the DoubleTree in Hyannis, Mass. While hiking on a remote trail in Sedona, Ariz., **Debby Nichols Losse** and husband John met John Weyrauch ’81 and Ellen Levine Weyrauch ’81, and their daughter, Hiking together, they reminisced about professors, dorms and the Arboretum—“it is always enriching to run into CC alums.” **Ellen Schwartz Allington** is well, “still shacking up with that Coastie I was dating in ’66. We now live in The Middle of Nowhere, Wisconsin. I love cross-country skiing, biking and gardening when the weather permits. An advantage of marrying into the CG is that we have cruised over 18,000 miles on the US inland waterways, a great way to see the sights.” **Marian Silber** reports that Hurricane Ian created havoc in Florida in September 2022. But the Gang of Four (Marian, Susan Kirshnit Woodall, Asia Rial Elsbree and Ruth Zaleske Leibert) suffered little damage and had their annual ’66 birthday celebration. Marian found the recent tumult on campus extremely distressing, but it had one positive result for her: Through the numerous emails and texts she reconnected with classmates including **Betsy Greenberg Feinberg, Betsey Staples Harding, Eleanor McNab Doumatou** and our class reunion committee. While saddened by the events, Marian hopes CC will emerge better and stronger. We extend our condolences to the friends and family of **Shermane Billingsley** (Apr. 16), **Molly Hageboeck** (May 17) and **Nancy Sterner Griffith** (Sept. 21, 2022). Please continue sending your news and photos.

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Correspondents: Deborah Greenstein, debbyg837@verizon.net, and Marcia Hunter Matthews, marciamatthews5@gmail.com

Rita York Vogal, Susie Terrell Saunders, Faith Jackson Parker and Terry Taffinder Grovesnor attended a gathering in July in Little Compton, R.I., to celebrate **Susan Melinette Haerle**’s life. Rita spoke about Susan in high school, and Susie shared memories of Susan at Conn. “Susan cared deeply about Conn and our friendships there.” Susie hears from **Nancy Stone** that Susan’s ashes were being spread over the waters by her husband, Denny. Susie spent time in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence, France, renting a house and hosting a flow of friends. She is an art advisor, volunteers, and plays pickleball and tennis. Life and work for **Margie Lipshutz Simon** have resumed “normal” proportions in 2023. A highlight was a NYC jewelry exhibition, “Restringing the Pearl.” Artists with personal narratives concerning pearls created works around a story and recorded their narratives, which were displayed at The Jewelry Library. Researching family history and creating new work helped boost Margie out of a COVID-induced malaise; attending the opening was a reentry into post-pandemic life. In May, Margie enjoyed a visit with **Debby Greenstein** and her two cousins. In June **Lindley Bates Briggs** and husband Jeff arrived for a long-postponed visit with Margie, catching historical sites in Philly. Lindley and Jeff, award-winning sculptors and mixed-media artists with international reputations, live in Newburyport, Mass. **Debby Greenstein** adds a footnote to Margie’s post: Debby and her cousin went to New York; along with Debby’s niece they went to the exhibit, unanimously awarding Margie “Best in Show”! Debby enjoyed a summer of travel, visiting her sister in Alabama and cousins in Philadelphia. She looked forward to 19 days in Scandinavia, a trip home to New Jersey to see childhood friends, and a few days with friends in Lewes, Del. **Ashley Hibbard** sends greetings from Arizona. She survived COVID without getting infected. Her retirement community was vigilantly aware of their many neighbors in fragile health. Ashley had only traveled once since 2020, to Maine last summer to see her sister, but she planned to attend her 60th high school reunion in Newtown, Conn., in August, followed by a Maine visit to her sister. **Marcia Hunter Matthews** and husband Bill took two grandparents, graduating high school seniors, to France in March, to visit oldest grandson Cooper, studying in Aix-en-Provence: “A wonderful trip to a country we adore—fun introducing them all to Paris.” **Andrea Hricko** writes that her husband of 42 years, father of Rebecca Froines Stanley ’89, died in July 2022 from complications of Parkinson’s disease. He is greatly missed. Google “John Froines, NY Times” for an obituary. Son Jonathan (a Vassar grad) moved to Santa Fe, where he propagates native plants at a nursery. If he settles there, Andrea may leave Santa Monica to follow him. Rebecca is in Philadelphia, where she is chief nursing officer at Friends Hospital. Andrea is retired after 20 years at the Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California; contact her at ahricko@usc.edu. **Jackie King Donnelly** and husband Patrick sold...
their home in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, after 17 years. Jackie cannot speak of love in Spanish but is fluent talking to plumbers and electricians after numerous renovations to their casa. They’ve downscaled to bare-bones living: family treasures gifted to the kids (minus their favorite artworks); selling or donating the rest; and renting in Sarasota, Fl., closer to the five grandchildren in Oregon and Illinois. They plan to “own nothing, travel constantly until our hips give out, and then buy a roof and a rocker somewhere ... living in the frisky 70s!”

Wendy Sarkissian was MA (English) ’67 at Conn, “so I wasn’t part of the classic scene, commuting from New Haven,” but shares news of her ebook Creeksong (creeksongbook.com). Sandra Stevens has recovered from “a wretched fall” that fractured her elbow and opposite wrist, as well as her pelvic sacrum. After six weeks in the hospital and weeks of therapy she can finally take a long-awaited trip to Italy to meet new daughter-in-law Emily, who married younger son Justin in January 2020. Emily has a son, Mattia, 9; Sandie has met them only on video calls. After only being able to swim, garden and do yard work this summer she is planning lots of sailing this fall. The class sends condolences to the family of Judith Folds Dickson, who died in July.

Correspondent: Mary Clarksen Phillips, 39 The Crossway, Delmar, NY 12054, mphi12054@msn.com. There were many of you at our 55th reunion in June. Kudos to Patti Reinfeld Kolody, Andy Hintlian Mendell and Nancy Finn Kukura and their team for the hard work. Sadly, Kathryn Susman Howe passed away on May 31, in Houston. At 75, Donna Matthews has finally retired after 25 years as a special education school psychologist and has joined every club in sight, including skiing, sailing, Democrats, planning board, etc. She is aging in place in her hometown, a walkable village on the Hudson River, N.Y. She is a weekend’s driving distance from her three children and grandchildren. She summers at Lake George and is grateful for her life. Allyson Cook Gall is slowly recuperating from 13 fractures (pelvis and ribs) from a car crash. “Carpe diem! Good to be alive; I hope to travel, do yoga and kayak again eventually!” Candace Mayeron is captain of the U.S. backgammon team that went to North Macedonia in August for the World Team Backgammon Championships. “If backgammon were tennis, this would be like being appointed Davis Cup Captain. I am beyond thrilled.” Linda Monahan Dresch is sorry she missed Reunion; she intended to go. She and Hank had a special family vacation that Hank had been planning for five years; the only time. The class sends condolences to the family of the older grandchildren. Grandson Teddy graduated high school and entered West Point, where sister Olivia is in her second year; their older brother is in his fourth year at the Naval Academy. “We will be in San Francisco in October with Craig, Kathy, and their three boys.” Dagny and Harry enjoy their Simsbury, Conn., home and gardens. “I’m busy on the board of the Simsbury Historical Society and the Farmington Valley Chorale and just started ukulele lessons!” Heather Morrison P’95 enjoyed Mary Scheckman Hubka’s visit in August. They enjoyed their traditional dinner with Anne Sargent Walker and Laurie Cameron and reviewed plans to visit Judi Bamberg Mariggiò and then Lake Como, Italy, in October. Pam Schofield had “a great time” in Spartanburg, S.C., visiting daughter Analise and grandchildren Adrian (5) and Nadia (2). In May, Dick and Tina Scott Brogadir visited Stephanie Phillips and husband Lewis Ruberg at their home in Elkins Park, Pa., for lunch and a plant exchange. “I brought plants from my garden in Connecticut, and Stephanie gave me plants from her garden.” They were in Philadelphia attending Dick’s 50th dental school reunion at Penn. Maria Varela Berchesi was in Buzios, Brazil, with her husband, “trying to escape our winter cold down south in Uruguay.” At home in Montevideo, Maria goes to gym classes and swims at the club, and enjoys reading and attending concerts, theater and movies, including a beautiful concert celebrating Mozart, performed by the Munich Camera Orchestra. Mark your calendar for our 55th reunion, May 31–June 2, 2024!

Correspondent: Myrna Chandler Goldstein, myrnagoldstein@gmail.com. In Colorado, Margaret McCreary is in good health: no prescription medication, but a few spine issues. “Sad for limited yoga, no running, but thankful to still walk, lift weights and kayak. Sadder still to have friends and family with harder health challenges.” She recommends Mary Pipher’s Women Rising North, a feminist perspective on thriving as aging women; basically, practice resilience through change and stay in a joyous present. “Colorado snow was magnificent this year ... near-nirvana ecstasy carving through light powder at Snowmass and Aspen.” Not fully retired, Margaret
Weddings

1. Lisa Podoloff Boles ’77 P’08 ’17 and husband Howard celebrated the wedding of their daughter, Natalie Boles Wezelman ’17 to Steven Wezelman on May 6 at the Graduate Hotel in Providence, R.I. Front row, from left: Caroline Boyce ’18, Alissa Chambers ’17, Elizabeth Janney ’17, Natalie Boles Wezelman ’17, Bethany Boles-Sheslow ’08, Lisa Podoloff Boles ’77 P’09 ’17. Back row, from left: Laura Lundegard ’18, Lindsey Ruzza ’18, Steven Wezelman (University of Michigan ’18), Shepard Cook ’77, Vikki Fitzgerald Cook ’79, Linda Amstendig ’62

2. Kim Bolick Dixon ’15 and John Dixon’s wedding in Marion, Mass., on Sept. 24, 2022: (from left) Paula Trearchis McGeady ’84, Charlene Toal Best ’84, Shelly Warman Santanello ’84, Susan Quigley Worley ’84, Corinne Kraemer Dulaney ’15, Caroline Shepard Bolick ’84, Bella Franz ’17, Robbie Douglas ’15, Kimberly Bolick Dixon ’15, Sarah Fishman ’15, Jane McKee Douglas ’84, Kate Adams ’16, Lauren Munhall ’16 (crouched next to Jane) and Lilly Beck ’13

3. Les Munson ’80 and wife Stacey at wedding of their daughter, Allie, and her husband, Sam

Births

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3. Les Munson ’80 and wife Stacey at wedding of their daughter, Allie, and her husband, Sam

Kevin Kelly ’14 and Vicky Wade Kelly ’15 welcomed daughter Hayes in December 2022.


On Feb. 21, 2023, Becca Elias Weene ’08 and Alan Weene ’07 welcomed Elias Jacob Weene.
helps some clients with real estate or estate planning issues and tends to four houses, short-term rental income and management. “We just returned from Milan’s lovely family gathering on Big Eagle Lake, outside Minnesota ... the stark Badlands and the ongoing oppression of the Oglala Lakota was both beautiful and haunting.” She wishes smooth sailing to all. As she ages, Nancy Pierce Morgan thinks her conversations sound like sermons; are others finding that? “As signs of global warming make it impossible to look away, what can I do? What part can I play to restore the quality and biodiversity the Earth requires to support all life?” Nancy reduced her lawn size, drives an EV, traded her oil heat for a heat pump, invested in solar panels and supports advocacy groups. “Miles to go, but there’s progress and hope.” Sadly, Alice Handy died on May 30 in Charlottesville, Va. I’m sure classmates are aware of her many professional achievements and glass ceilings she broke in higher education and nonprofit investment. Kate O’Sullivan Van See commented on Alice’s achievements as an economist and her deep commitment to liberal education, civic engagement, family and friends. “Alice and I lived in Branford for four years, and I admired her mightily for her bright intelligence, her humane disposition and her wicked good humor ... Alice was a big-hearted friend who embodied the spirit of tolerance and inclusion. Ours was a turbulent era and in that context of turmoil and change, Alice Handy was to me a temperate and generous presence, the soul of equanimity.” I’m also sad to share that Eda Rothenberg Roth died in Arlington, Mass., on March 2. She blossomed as an actor at New York University’s Graduate Acting Program and later brought her theater-based skills to the world of business communications, working in a range of non-profit and private businesses. A founding faculty member of Boston University’s School of Management Leadership Institute, she taught in their executive MBA program. I would be glad to include comments from Alice and Eda’s friends in my next column.

72 Correspondents: Lisa McDonnell, lmcdonnell@denison.edu, 79 Audubon Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903, and Lois Olcott Price, loprice@yahoo.com, 933A Alto Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501 Susan Scott Kelley took an “amazing, incredible” trip to Iceland with her husband, daughter and granddaughter, Morgan, to celebrate Morgan’s high school graduation. They hiked a glacier, walked black sand beaches, saw waterfalls and geysers, watched puffins, snorkeled in ice-cold, clear water, soaked in a geothermal pool overlooking the ocean, and marveled at the scenery. They have also van-camped in the Hudson Valley and the Adirondacks and have plans for Kentucky, Chicago and Taos. Susan continues her piano lessons; two years on, she’s making progress! Patricia Stein Wrightson, her husband and two dogs live in beautiful Blue Ridge, Va. Their prolific vegetable garden has yielded beans and zucchini galore, sugar baby watermelons, and enough basil to make basil ice cream, which Patricia says is delicious. At writing, the “tomato tyranny” was about to begin Patricia had plans to see Barbara Byron. In Maryland, Lucy Van Voorhees continues in her solo medical practice three or four days a week, with liberal vacations and long weekends. She doesn’t make much $8 but doesn’t care because she can take care of patients the way they need. Lucy vacationed in Utah, where her sister lives; her brother came from Nashville and they enjoyed family time. Lucy rides her horse several times a week and says her garden is doing well. March found Cynthia Parker scrambling to revise Air France bookings to Cairo and Johannesburg to avoid the French strikes over raising the retirement age to 64 (!!!). She found Egypt “just OK” and hopes her autumn safari will be less crowded and minus the COVID infection she suffered on return from Cairo. Joan Weigle RTC “71 is healing nicely from July’s Mohs surgery and cheering grandson Kael as he finishes his 13-month pedal cross-country from New London to Washington. “I am an older classmate at 93 and wish you all a happy, healthy time of life whatever your birthdays. Go Camels!”

71 Correspondents: Lisa McDonnell, lmcdonnell@denison.edu, 79 Audubon Avenue, Binghamton, NY 13903, and Lois Olcott Price, loprice@yahoo.com, 933A Alto Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501 Susan Scott Kelley took an “amazing, incredible” trip to Iceland with her husband, daughter and granddaughter, Morgan, to celebrate Morgan’s high school graduation. They hiked a glacier, walked black sand beaches, saw waterfalls and geysers, watched puffins, snorkeled in ice-cold, clear water, soaked in a geothermal pool overlooking the ocean, and marveled at the scenery. They have also van-camped in the Hudson Valley and the Adirondacks and have plans for Kentucky, Chicago and Taos. Susan continues her piano lessons; two years on, she’s making progress! Patricia Stein Wrightson, her husband and two dogs live in beautiful Blue Ridge, Va. Their prolific vegetable garden has yielded beans and zucchini galore, sugar baby watermelons, and enough basil to make basil ice cream, which Patricia says is delicious. At writing, the “tomato tyranny” was about to begin Patricia had plans to see Barbara Byron. In Maryland, Lucy Van Voorhees continues in her solo medical practice three or four days a week, with liberal vacations and long weekends. She doesn’t make much $8 but doesn’t care because she can take care of patients the way they need. Lucy vacationed in Utah, where her sister lives; her brother came from Nashville and they enjoyed family time. Lucy rides her horse several times a week and says her garden is doing well. March found Cynthia Parker scrambling to revise Air France bookings to Cairo and Johannesburg to avoid the French strikes over raising the retirement age to 64 (!!!). She found Egypt “just OK” and hopes her autumn safari will be less crowded and minus the COVID infection she suffered on return from Cairo. Joan Weigle RTC “71 is healing nicely from July’s Mohs surgery and cheering grandson Kael as he finishes his 13-month pedal cross-country from New London to Washington. “I am an older classmate at 93 and wish you all a happy, healthy time of life whatever your birthdays. Go Camels!”
miles. **Amy Lewis Tabor** traveled to Sri Lanka for a wedding in July. “What an experience! As a family member (the groom is my daughter-in-law’s brother), the bride dressed me in a beautiful sari made of silk from Singapore. The ceremony was in Sinhalese with printed cards to explain the rituals. The event was at a former British hotel built in 1864 facing the harbor. Also, special to me: Exactly 50 years ago Bob, while on special assignment to the Navy, pulled into that very port. After the wedding, we traveled south to a jungle resort, went on a safari and visited a tea factory.” Amy looked forward to an August mini-reunion on Cape Cod at the home of Martha Cogswell LaMontagne, together with Jinx Stuart Atherton, Suzi MacDonald Horan and Linda Havens Moore ’73. After our great reunion, **Connie Shaffer Synakowski** and Dan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and their son-in-law’s 50th birthday with family by hiking and biking for 10 days in Yellowstone. “The rides through the Tetons were glorious, and I will never forget watching my granddaughter (7) pedaling furiously, determined to keep up!” She and Dan wintered in St. Simons Island, playing tennis and eating good seafood. They enjoyed summer back in western New York, working in their gardens, attending a Santana concert, and listening to the Buffalo Philharmonic from a hillside picnic on the Fourth at an outdoor concert at the bottom of a ski slope. “The evening ended with fireworks accompanied by the William Tell Overture.” They are thankful for their health and family. **Margaret Williams** attended our 50th reunion—“I knew I would have a great time based on last year. I was not disappointed.” She enjoyed seeing Jay Levin ’73 and celebrating **David Clark**, who received the Goss Award, given annually to a member of the Alumni Association who has made a significant contribution to the CC community. In July 2022 **Ann Tousignant’s** family gathered for her youngest daughter’s MBA graduation from Madrid’s IE Interna- tional Business School. New Year’s found them in Toronto for her older daughter’s wedding. This summer, Ann and husband David Gute ’73 spent eight weeks in France while he taught at the Tufts University European Center, followed by a trip to Normandy and Paris for Bastille Day. **Barbara White Morse** has been helping an Afghan refugee family of nine and traveling. In March, she and three friends went to Guatemala for two weeks. They visited Tikal, the second-largest Mayan ruin, and visited local markets, churches, small villages and museums. In June, she and Ted rented a car with two friends and toured Germany and Switzerland. Highlights were Dachau concentration camp (sobering), hiking down Mt. Rigi, viewing the Matterhorn up close by cable car, and visiting Eltz Castle, built in 1472.

73 Correspondent: Hester Kinnicut Jacobs, fjacob@midriviers.com **Terk Williams** and Lisa had an outstanding time at Reunion, “she almost more than I. The combination of the 50th for rowing and our class gathering made it doubly enjoyable. We got to row in the tank and drink with friends.” Terk met classmates he hadn’t known well while at CC. He and Lisa met some younger alums through a coral restoration lab in the Keys and then reconnected through the rowing events. “Through them, we got a good look at a cross-section of grad. Conn is a special place and community of unique people. Those that skipped ... you were missed, but Lisa has already declared that we’re makin’ the next one. Or come see us in the Keys.” At Reunion **Joe Srednicki** enjoyed wonderful conversations with old friends as well as with those whose paths did not cross his at college. “As a musician I learned that I can be adaptable. On Saturday, we found that the Great manual on the chapel organ was not working. Although I had to change some reg- istration on my pieces, John Anthony and I played the memorial service by coupling the stops of the Great manual to the choir. (For nonmusicians, this is like trying to drive a car with standard transmission when some gears are not working.)” **Pam Barnett Bakal** missed Reunion but heard that it was great from **Margie Bussmann Gillis**; they had lunch together shortly after (“I hadn’t seen her in 30 years”). Pam adopted a rescue dog; she lives on Cape Cod, “so it feels like we’re always on vacation.” They plan a trip to Woodstock in October and a 2024 trip to Ireland. As for me, **Hester Kinnicult Jacobs**, I continue as class secretary and look forward to keeping in touch. Reunion was awesome. Campus sightlines have changed a bit since the trees have grown so large. The Plex transformation is wonderful; we had a very comfortable stay. Afterward, I visited three friends in Virginia I hadn’t seen in 25, 16 and 42 years. In September we’ll attend a sib- linger reunion in Homewood, Calif., on the north end of Lake Tahoe (includes Valerie Kinnicult Powell ’70). Montana continues to be our paradise. Come see us any time.

74 Correspondent: Barbara Herbst Tutum, Barbara.tatum52@gmail.com Please plan to attend our 50th reunion, May 30–June 2, 2024! Your reunion committee is planning special Class of ’74 events, plus fun activities for the entire alumni community. Watch for details and encourage your friends to reconnect back on campus! **Katharine Parsons** ‘00 ’23 has settled into filmmaking by way of retire- ment from her acupuncture practice in Canada, where she lives on an 87-acre horse farm. She circled back into writing, then earned a master’s certificate in screenwriting (chance of getting produced, about 1%). A story fell into her lap in 2017 about the pets surviving the horrific California wildfires, so she stumbled into documentary filmmaking. Katharine says the learning curve was “delightfully vertical” and she completed postproduction during the pandemic. She enlisted (“volun-told”) the ex- pertise of her children, Mac Stevens ’00 (who works for AWS and lives in Minnesota with wife Candice and two sons) as audio engineer, and daughter Lili Strawbridge ’23 as creative director, re-enactment actor and voice-over artist. **The Fire Cats: SAVED SOMETHING SMALL** has made the festival circuit and garnered 23 awards worldwide. Congratulations, Katharine! She looks forward to Reunion! HAPPY NEWS: **Jim Berrien** celebrated the birth of a new granddaughter and the wedding of his younger daughter. **Sherry Alpert** got together with Hester Kinnicut Jacobs ’73 after nearly 40 years apart, their friendship sustained by many Zoom calls. Traveling from Montana to her CC 50th reunion, Hester and husband Da- vid visited Sherry and her partner, Jay Foley, in Canton, Mass. Sherry and Hester recounted fun times at Wright House. It was great to see **Caroline Louise Cole** and Catherine Menges holding the 50th Anniversary Rowing Team Banner in this past June’s Reunion Parade! Caroline says the festivities were well attended and included a tour of Conn’s new waterfront facilities. **Scott Jezek** has been a member of the Connecticut Bar for 45 years and is se- nior partner at Jezek, Barbi & Antone in East Haddam, Conn. He and wife Shea competed in the Block Island Triathlon in August, hop- ing for repeats as age-group winners. Grandson Ryan entered Eastern Connecticut University as a member of the swim team. Scott is in touch with Jeanne Messick ’75. The Class of ’74 ex- tends heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of **Suzanne Badal Faustlin**, who died Feb. 14; Suzanne received her master of arts in teaching at CC.

75 Correspondents: Estella Johnson, estjohn- son1@aol.com, and Miriam Josephson Whitehouse, casablanca1@gwi.net **Patty Reilly**, vice president for the Rehabilitators Associa- tion of Massachusetts, has worked as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for the state for four years. She cares for orphaned and injured small mam- mals, specializing in cottontail rabbits. Last year she established her own nonprofit, North River Wildlife Rehabilitation, to help with the cost of a facility for wildlife. She has cared for 100+ animals during the busy baby season, March to October. She keeps up with many Camels on social media, and **Faye Neillan** and Jim Neillan ’74 visited last summer. Mar-
gie Rosenbaum Bassman and husband Mitch took two river cruises rescheduled from 2020. In May, they cruised the Snake and Columbia Rivers in the Pacific Northwest. In August, they sailed with Viking on the Douro River in Portugal.

Mark Warren cycled 100 miles in his 29th Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) in August, raising money for Boston’s Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. In May he attended the wedding of Daniel Lantz, the youngest child of Paul Lantz and Kathy.

Maureen Fahey and husband Stanley Williams completed a 111-day big item on their bucket list. They plan more travel in the coming year.

Cay Youn transitioned to airport operations management independent consulting, in service to the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine Transportation Research Board, Airport Cooperative Research Program, sponsored by the FAA. Cay sailed to Bermuda with family on her first ocean cruise. Estella Johnson and several Camels had their annual gathering in Savannah, Ga., visiting Saylon Harris Johnson and Lester. Saylon’s son made a delicious low-country boil for dinner. They ran into alumni from the Class of 2011, who happened to be celebrating their annual trip too.

Elizabeth (Nikki) Lloyd-Kimbrel’s poetry chapbook, *Matrimonies*, was published in July by Finishing Line Press. She still edits and does beta reading, events management for the Amherst Woman’s Club and (“combining my cinephilia with employment”) staffs the Studio Theater at Amherst Cinema Arts Center (which provides time for writing during screenings). Sadly, we recently learned from her sister that Debra Durerr passed away in April 2021; Patricia Brown Glenn died in December 2022, and Charles Curkin has also passed.

We invite you to nominate a fellow alum for the Connecticut College 2024 Reunion Alumni Awards. This year, we will recognize alumni with class years ending in 4s or 9s. Help us celebrate notable alumni for their service to Connecticut College, distinguished personal or professional accomplishments or their commitment to improving their communities. Nominate a great Camel today!

For more information, visit: conncoll.edu/reunion
vacation in Croatia with side trips to Montenegro and Slovenia: “one of the best travel experiences we’ve had.” In fact, they’ve already planned three more trips in Europe between now and May. Bernie still works full-time evaluating educational and social service programs in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. After replacing his backyard deck with a stone patio last summer, this year he replaced the upper decks of the house. He helped lead the refurbishment of the Trinity Cathedral and grounds in preparation for the June consecration of a new female bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey. In July he hosted his seventh “Taste Trenton—a self-guided, weekend-long tour of 35 restaurants throughout Trenton.” Sam has retired from his work as an evaluator but is now interim executive director of the 1719 William Trent House Museum. “Exactly what is this ‘free time’ of retirement of which people speak?”

Cathy Greenwald Fulton has gathered with several classmates at least yearly for decades. They often meet in Rhode Island, where they can always see some amazing Jerry Ehrlich sculptures. Their recent gathering included Laren Herman Lynn, Jerry Ehrlich ’75, Richard Mann ’75, Meg Shaker Rarey ’75, Brian Rarey ’77 and Paul Fulton ’75. Since retiring as program director for the New York Open Center, Jonathan Bricklin has been program consulting for Eastover in Lenox, Mass., and revived the New England Insight Meditation Family Retreat there. He continues to write and lecture, including a commissioned essay for IALT TV (Institute of Art and Ideas): “The Metaphysics of Laughing Gas.” This spring, he spent a month in Greece, culminating in a 50-year retrospective concert in their Olympic Stadium with “their Bruce Springsteen,” Vasilis Konstantinou. Jonathan’s been reading ancient Greek all his adult life, starting with Dirk Held’s wonderful intro class, but modern Greek songs especially enthral him now. He’s trying to learn a new song every day. He is in weekly contact with Meghan Found Coleman. This summer Nadine Earl Carey enjoyed catching up with Tom Howland ’77 in NYC, where he was visiting from London. Holly Wise ’P10 retired from teaching at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and enjoyed the summer in Midcoast Maine. Todd Cody and Kristi Vaughan-Cody ’75 joined Dana Sochacki and Kate for a relaxing week on the gorgeous, quiet island of Anguilla. Each day’s strenuous events included beaching, music, napping, reading, and of course, food and drink. It was Todd and Kristi’s first time in Anguilla and Dana and Kate’s 22nd! David Alden and Annie moved from the Detroit area to Villanova, Pa., to be closer to their four children; they were advised 18 months ago that “no one is moving back to Detroit” and we should be back on the East Coast: “Mission accepted!” David continues as a Vistage Chair (peer advisory group for mid-market business owners), now in the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

对应: Stuart Sadick, stuart.sadick@gmail.com. Lisa Podoloff Boles and husband Howard celebrated the wedding of daughter Natalie Boles Wezelman ’17 to Steven Wezelman on May 6 at the Graduate Hotel in Providence, R.I.

78 Correspondents: Laurie Heiss, lauriec.heck@gmail.com, and Susan Grenberg Gold, sggold@gmail.com. It was great to reunite with fellow ‘78ers in June on campus. Joining the Class Parade: Dianne Grady Evans, Sue Greenberg Gold, Gary Jones, Cheryl Tate Harrigan, Laurie Heiss, Debbie Craig, Alan Goodwin, Larry Walters and Catherine D’Esopo Walters. Mark your calendars NOW: June 2028 is our 50th, chaired by the indefatigable Gary Jones! Dianne Grady Evans’ older son, Brandon, graduated from Iowa State (2021) with a degree in mathematics and then married his teenage sweetheart, Victoria, from Russia, now pursuing her PhD in biochemistry. Dianne retires from insurance in the field this year to pursue her true passion in the field of law, handling immigration/asylum claims and veteran benefits claims, helping the most marginalized members of our communities. Larry Walters and his brother started SteadyStraps, a company in Orange, Conn., that manufactures adjustable grip straps that make it easier to hold/use a smartphone. Of course, he brought straps for all of us, emblazoned with Connecticut College and the seal! Sharon Go- lec attended Reunion from Paris, earning top honors among the longest distances traveled to CC. In Paris, she enjoyed a long career as a lawyer, starting with corporate counsel at Microsoft, and is now retired from full-time work and provides placement and counseling for attorneys, still in the Paris area. Isa Borras Marin wrote from Calabria, Italy, where she was immersed in a two-week course in Italian cooking. She looks forward to becoming a grandmother. In September, Mass Humanities, in partnership with Governor Maura Healy, honored Elizabeth Ashforth Bacon and three others with the 2023 Governor’s Awards in the Humanities. The awards recognize their commitments to education, civil/human rights, community development and philanthropy.

Elizabeth used history as a tool for community development and economic empowerment while tirelessly advocating for the humanities in Worcester and across Massachusetts. In August, she participated in the eight-mile Boston Light Swim. Julie Kalt Gale published The View from My Kitchen Window: A Memoir with Recipes through Epigraph Publishing, on Sept. 5. It is a journey through the kitchens of her life, including Harkness House, with 100+ recipes ranging from apple dumplings to zucchini tempura. There are original drawings and photographs, including flag football on Tempel Green. David Bohannon takes in a few Camel soccer and hockey games, since he lives in Madison, Conn. Last winter, he was with the men’s ice hockey team and Fran Shields when they played Middlebury and enjoyed lecturing them, saying, “My wife, Libby, went to Middlebury, so please don’t let me drive home without a WIN.” Dave, among many other grades, was thrilled when CC men’s soccer won the 2021 National Championship. He had attended some critical games with teammates Bear Kobak and Mark Warren ’75. In Dave’s travels as a maritime lawyer, he sees Ben Sprague at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. Dave is trying to stay healthy in anticipation of our 50th so he can pull the cork of some 1978 vintage wines from his collection to share with us! He says campus remains beautiful, and the integrity of the Conn education remains sound. Allison Macmillan retired from teaching in 2021; sold her house in Newcastle, Maine; and moved to Rockland. She loves being closer to the water and islands of Penobscot Bay. She runs her seasoning business; sails when the winds are favorable; and sees her two sons, either in Maine or visiting them in NYC; and on Oahu. Sarah Rabinowitz Mogon and husband Russ are still in Waterford, N.J., and run Ahava Farm—Colorful Living Studio; grandchildren Greyson and
Living organ donors

Drew Sanzenbacher ’90 and his wife, Meg Burns ’91, each donated their kidneys nine months apart. Sanzenbacher went first, donating in December 2021 to the parent of one of his son’s travel soccer friends.

“I had been wanting to do something meaningful for someone else for a long a time but wasn’t sure what it would be,” Sanzenbacher said. “When the opportunity presented itself, I knew immediately that I wanted to do it.”

Two of his coworkers had donated kidneys, and Sanzenbacher had done a lot of research about the incredible need for living donors and the long wait list for individuals needing a transplant, especially those with Type O blood. He learned that the procedure was done laparoscopically, and that recovery time was very short. He also learned that if he donated his kidney and ever needed one himself, he would go to the top of the list.

“Once I learned about the need and the very low risks involved in the procedure, there was no question that it was something that I was going to do,” he said.

Shortly after Sanzenbacher’s successful surgery and recovery, Burns decided that she wanted to donate her own kidney. Unlike Sanzenbacher, who participated in a direct donation, Burns was part of a paired exchange. Her altruistic donation in September 2022 kicked off a chain of donations involving individuals across several states.

“I know very little about the recipient of my kidney,” Burns said. “She was a woman from the Chicago area who was between 20 and 25 years old. I’m okay with that, though. All I wanted was to help someone if I could, and I was fortunate that it was someone younger with a lot of life left to live.”

Both Sanzenbacher and Burns said they are grateful they were healthy enough to be living donors and have no regrets about their decisions. They both fully recovered within weeks and have no limitations or restrictions.

While they don’t necessarily expect other Conn alums to start volunteering up organs, they do hope that their experiences raise some awareness about the great need and that if an alum ever personally knows someone in need of a kidney that they will consider the process. Sanzenbacher and Burns say it was the best thing they have done for another person.
2023 was honored by the Pennsylvania Legal Intelligencer/ALM with a Lifetime Achievement Award at a dinner at the Loews Hotel in Philadelphia. “The most important skills I have were as a result of my CC education. A liberal arts education is just so important to your thought process and your ability to communicate.” David says Professor William Meredith’s creative writing classes were more important than any law school class. “Being a trial attorney is about having a voice and telling a story.”

80 Correspondents: Connie Gemmer, chgemmer58@gmail.com, and Lois Mendez Catlin, fabulois824@gmail.com

Andrew Dreyfus stepped down as CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts after 12 years in the position. He was a Senior Fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health last spring, and continues to work on health system change by serving on public and private boards, advising young companies and not-for-profit organizations, and mentoring emerging health leaders. He lives in Brookline, Mass., with his partner, Meredith Rosenthal, and is in touch with several classmates, and friends from Emily Abbey.

Tim Dempsey worked in the U.S. Senate, then at a New England boarding school teaching history and coaching cross-country. He learned about personal computers, and after doing a computer graphics demonstration in 1986 was recruited to a software company in Cambridge, Mass. “Lotus sent me overseas; IBM acquired Lotus and gave me a big office in their software division’s HQ.” He then took assignments to help smaller companies articulate the value of their technology. Tim’s two sons are in Seattle and southern New Hampshire. Now retired, he and his wife volunteer at the local trauma center. They are extremely grateful for all they have been given.

Douglas Fisher is still alive, as can be confirmed by some of the usual troublemakers who attended Josh Lyons’ birthday party. He recently found a very, very old and not entirely complementary photo of Fred Kuehndorf.

Jonathan Goldman P’10 and Nicole Novick Goldman P’10 are doing well in Cape Cod and were looking forward to the September wedding of son Isaac to Nicole Granger, his girlfriend of many years from Roger Williams University. Daughter Sasha Goldman ’10 and husband Steve Juckett enjoy their year-old daughter, Vera. Jonathan is working on a project about the word “truth” and the current challenges of finding it. Nicole enjoys weaving, stitching and collaging when she’s not grandbaby-sitting or managing their life. Next year they’ll celebrate their 40th anniversary! Ginger Hesse and husband John continue to work, with no immediate plans to retire. She has been principal historical architect at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission for 34 years. “Why quit when you’re still having fun?” Daughter Emily Hesse ’19 is at RISD studying for her master’s in architecture. They have shown their German shorthaired pointers for a few years and were thrilled to show one at Westminster this year.

Ginny Houston Lima is “living la vida loca” in Scituate, Mass. She enjoys live music, kayaking, tennis with Lucia Santini, weekly Zumba, European travel twice a year, and volunteering twice a week, delivering Meals on Wheels “and hanging with my elders!” William Kavanaugh is still documenting life for workers in the former steel town of Bethlehem, Pa., working out of his new garage headquarters in Brooklyn, N.Y. He hopes classmates find joy in being in the world and making connections with others. “I think often of the joyful moments we had at the Abbey co-op and in editing our short-
lived newsletter out of the Chapel boiler room.” Adam Martinez attended Reunion, including the Rowing 50th Anniversary celebration. “It was our class’s 43rd but would have been my mother’s 70th (Elonor Noble Martinez ’53).” He ran into Jeff Gray in the library at the rowing exhibit, and met three “very nice” members of the Class of ’53 at the reunion luncheon. Adam also enjoyed meeting members of the Class of ’73, the first coed class, and hearing their stories of Conn. Adam saw Trisha Rose Swonger ’81 the following week when she visited his mother’s hometown of Canaan, Conn. “I had a nice Conn-centered year and hope to see many of you at our 45th reunion, but especially in 2030 for our 50th.” Lesley Munson P ’14 and Stacey had “a wild ‘n crazy, totally hectic, but all good, 2022!” After retiring from Becton Dickinson last January after 32 years, they sold their condo and made the much-desired move to Cape Cod, to a beautiful new over-55 apartment complex in Hyannis. They love their new digs and are minutes from several beaches. “A retirement dream come true.” Eldest daughter Jaclyn was married in 2022; she and her wife live in Boston, where Jaclyn is an attorney and Alex is an executive for a pharmaceutical firm. Their youngest, Alexandra Munson ’14, married Sam Gevirtz ’14—it was a great time shared by several alums (including ME!). Allie and Sam live in Manhattan; Allie is an attorney for Verizon and Sam works for a wealth management firm based in London. Living in D.C., Roberta Newman is in school for occupational therapy for kids with psych/behavioral disabili- ties. She has been a single mom for 19 years to two sons, both in cybersecurity. She has one precious granddaughter (age 4) and hopes to retire within a few years and relocate south. “Would love to hear from alums (arleenewman@ verizon.net)” Tom Speers and his wife moved from Delaware to Concord, Mass., where she is now head of school at Middlesex School. He was sorry to miss the celebrations of rowing at Conn during Reunion—hard to believe the pro- gram has been going strong for 50 years. “The stress of our move was lessened by sipping on Hafner wine, thanks to Scott Hafner!” Lois Mendez Catlin appreciates all the submissions! “It was wonderful to hear your updates.” She has had health challenges but is persevering and living life to the fullest. Hubby Lionel Catlin ’79 and Denise Wheelless saw each other in NYC, “where we celebrated Denise’s mother’s 95th birthday and introduced our new (and only) ni- ceta (granddaughter), Cynthia Marie, to every- one. Living in Florida can be challenging, as we have become the state everyone loves to hate, but the weather is a good return. Would love to see any of you who are passing through or are snowbirds or have relocated!”

81 Correspondent: Brooke Perry Pardue, bpar- dure@gmail.com Marsh Williams re- tired from her market research career in spring 2022 and has been living it up! For the past 10 years, she’s traveled the world as a volunteer medical courier, transporting bone marrow or stem cells from donor to patient, wherever they are. She loves this work and will do it as long as she can—especially when their trips allow visits with friends like Susan Coakley ’83, Diane Smith Zeni, Jacquey Zuckerman Tynan or Jill Eisner ’80. At home, Marsha enjoys freedom from client obligations and a head swimming with research data! Hiking, pickleball, nature walks and photography are her favorite pas- times. She also enjoys Zoom happy hours with Jill Eisner ’80, Holly Burnett Mikula ’80, Dawn Tattpaugh Herdman ’80, Linda Garant ’82, Martha Brest ’80, Suzzy Brewster McCarthy ’80 and Julia Stiles ’80. Rusty Spears survived the pandemic and attended our 40th reunion Part Deux in June. As soon as the required testing for international travel was eased, he visited Bul- garia to spend a week on the Black Sea coast and reunite with friends from his student days in Moscow. This was his second trip to the coun- try; the first was in 1985 on an IREX trip. He met up with Tom Allen back in Virginia. They had planned to meet in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, where Tom lives, but Tom was in the States! Rusty and wife Tonya continue to live in rural eastern Virginia, but discussion is open, with retirement is around the corner and their chil- dren scattered across the globe. Eldest daugh- ter Emily teaches at an expat school in Venez- zuela; son Grant is an assistant attorney for the Commonwealth in Hampton, Va.; and young- est daughter Karen lives in the greater Atlanta area. After 35 years as an insurance vagabond, Rusty is ready to settle down in a place of his own choosing. Brooke Perry Pardue enjoyed a summer trip to Finland with her husband to celebrate their son’s marriage; they took a side trip to Tallinn, Estonia.

84 Ted Corcoran ’84, Liz Sargent ’84, and their children, Liam and Maeva, happily reunited with CC friends Lolly Jecks Crawford ’85 and Ben Ford ’84 in Charlottesville, Va. and the sub base. One daughter is an OR nurse at Sibley Hospital in D.C.; another is an Air Force staff sergeant in the Reserves at Patrick AFB while finishing school; their son works in retail in northern Virginia. As empty nesters, they have three rescue beagles and enjoy their second home in the Virginia mountains. Jennifer Price Tuohey lives in Tampa, Fla., with her husband and two Australian labradoodles. The kids are in Indiana, one finishing undergraduate at Butler and another starting law school at Notre Dame. After many years in the tech industry, Jennifer is now head of school at Middlesex School. She has returned to teaching middle school science, courtesy of COVID. Last summer, she spent two weeks in the Galápagos, studying volcanoes and earth- quakes with 10 geologists. Space Camp is next! “Science teacher” was never on her list, but she is glad for this challenge! Jennifer stays in touch with Molly Goodyear Wolter. Fran Trafon Barnes still lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and pup. Their two daughters are in New York, one an artist and the other a law- yer, and a May wedding is planned. This year, Fran’s traveled to India, South Africa, Ireland and France. Last winter, she lunched with Anne Rasmussen Zacco and her daughter in D.C. Duncan Robertson and his wife retired last year and have been traveling and garden- ing. He volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, building houses. Their daughter just graduated from CC, continuing the Camel tradition. Their son is at UMass Amherst studying engineering. Elected to the Town Council in 2021, Kimber- ly Butler Norton is running for first selectman in New Canaan, Conn.; see www.kimberlybuntonfornewcanaan.com and Facebook. At writing she’d made 50% of her fundraising goal. Her eldest is an investment banker in NYC; her second attends the physician assistant pro- gram at Quinnipiac University; her third is a musician, singer, songwriter; her youngest is in high school. Kim received a research fellow- ship at the Longfellow House in Cambridge, Mass. After almost three decades in Michigan, Gretchen Galbraith has returned to her New England hometown as dean of faculty at Saint Michael’s College, outside Burlington, Vt. That History major at CC has served her well! Leslie Graham Jobson sends greetings from El Cerrito in San Francisco! After NYC and Boston, she’s lived in California for 34 years. Working in book publishing and selling since graduation, for the past 15 years she’s managed a team selling to independent bookstores. Her daughter attends Berkeley High and is touring colleges. Louise Zeitlin has lived in Oberlin, Ohio, since 1993. She and her husband teach in the conservatory at Oberlin College. Their two children are suc- cessfully adulting! After a long career in market research consulting and as a U.S. naval officer, Cushing Anderson retired in July 2022. A typi- cal retiree, he reads, gardens, sails and watch- es adventure movies. He’s qualifying to officiate sailboat races, a hobby of 20+ years. He’s building his first Arduino microelectronics project, involving an air horn, lots of buttons, a soldering
iron and many Amazon deliveries. He sees **Sue Kur Lees** and Marina Armellini Janus ’84 regularly, and met Peter Shope ’84 sailing Lasers in Newport, R.I. After 25 years in Silicon Valley, **Nicole Gould Goldstein** and her husband settled in Golfito, Costa Rica, where they founded and operate Cielo Lodge, a small ecodome on 380 acres of rainforest, overlooking the Golfo Dulce. With six private suites, the Lodge is ideal for small-group retreats, multigenerational gatherings, honeymoons and vacations. Monkeys, sloths, coatis and red-eye tree frogs call the forest home. See www.cielodelodge.com; use promo code CIELOCC for a 15% discount. **Tim Richards** and **Anne Kiely Richards** completed 12 years at Pomfret School, where he’s head of school. Anne teaches in the Wellbeing Department, runs the yoga program, and is involved in service at the school and as a board member of a local social service agency. This summer, they celebrated their big 6-0 by going on safari, attending three weddings, and having a small Conn reunion with Pablo Siraco and Leslie Griffin Siraco ’87 and Suzanne Hanny Russell and her husband, and vacationing at Squam Lake, N.H. Tim enjoys his bikes, and they golf near their Newport, R.I., home. Tim is thrilled to be a grandfather; two of their three children are CC grads. **Kathy Paxton-Williams** and her husband celebrated their 20th anniversary three years late due to COVID by sailing from Amsterdam to Budapest on a “Grand European Adventure” river cruise. Teaching since 1990, Kathy tentatively plans a 2024 retirement. **Scott Brenner** retired this year from a career as a software engineer, web developer, technical project manager and cybersecurity consultant. He’s focusing on entrepreneurial projects, creating educational materials for people building online businesses. Scott and his wife live near Philly; happy to be empty nesters, they plan to travel frequently. Their three daughters have launched careers as a mental health counselor, career in software engineering management, and career in software engineering management, mostly at Cigna/Express Scripts. Roger and wife Rebecca live in suburban New Jersey and have three daughters; their youngest, a high school senior, plans to apply to Conn. Roger plays guitar every day and looks forward to traveling more. He enjoys being active outdoors, in the gym and pushing a cart around the grocery store. **Louise Mitinger** and her family came across Camel Rock on the Tesuque Pueblo in New Mexico during their summer travels and earlier saw other Camels in New London during a college tour with her daughter. Louise enjoys teaching English language in Pittsburgh and encourages fellow Camels to get in touch if they are in the area. **Alison Knocke Forbes** writes, “What? Our 35th reunion is next summer? If Jamie Forbes and I weren’t the parents of two girls in college (Brown ’24 and Skidmore ’27), I would never believe that number!” Humming along in Portsmouth, N.H., they enjoy the mountains, ocean and arts culture. They feel lucky to work remotely from Dominica (West Indies, not the Dominican Republic) for a few months every winter, where their kids went to elementary school part-time. They are awed by the 4,000-foot mountains and tight village communities. Five years ago Jamie founded the nonprofit Learning Courage and has partnered with Amy Wheeler ’88 to help independent schools prevent and respond to sexual misconduct and abuse while keeping survivors at the center. Alison continues to work as a college consultant, saying it’s a fun way to combine her love of kids with her belief that the college process can be a vehicle for self-awareness instead of an anxiety-laden nightmare. It’s been a blast to connect with fellow alums and help their kids navigate admissions, especially during such a crazy time. She and Jamie are in close touch with **Deb Schachter**, Jonathan Schwarz, Frank Suher, Mike Hartman, Greg Porto and Liz May. Shout-out to David Grann for his literary success and new bestseller, *The Wager!* Our 35th reunion will be here before we know it—please share your ideas! The Class of 1989 has always had a special bond with Conn and with each other. We look forward to reuniting on campus to celebrate. Thank you for your continued support throughout the years and for the years to come. Reach our class Leadership Team at: Camel89news@gmail.com OR Connclass89@gmail.com.

**FALL 2023 | Class Notes**

From left: Seth Alvord ’93, Clayton Kunz ’94, Sam Kingston ’94, John Binsted ’93, Derek Krein ’93, Igot Serev ’94 and coxswain Daniella DeFilippo Garran ’94 gathered in the rowing tanks during CC’s celebration of 50 Years of Rowing. **UCLA junior. Between her kids and family in Germany, she’s always on the go.**

After 10 years with the Niantic Children’s Museum, the last six as education coordinator, **Donna Roberts Dione** became an educational consultant at UConn’s Middlesex County Extension Center in September 2022, where she enjoys the much calmer atmosphere. Her twins are 26; Donnie works for Amazon and is applying for his chemical engineering degree, and Dakota received her doctor of physical therapy degree in 2022. **Correspondent: Jenifer Kahn Bukkala, jkbblue@gmail.com, 51 Wesson Terrace, Northborough, MA 01532, 508-523-8930 Helen Murdoch** got caught up in the “great tech layoffs” but quickly found another job as COO of a local ed tech start-up, High 5 Movement, in Santa Barbara, Calif. She had a fun visit with Peg Harlow in January. Peg managed to visit during a flood, which extended her stay. “Lucky me!” writes Helen.

**Correspondent: Tamsen Bales Sharpless, camel89news@gmail.com Roger Placer** is still happy that he joined the so-called 2021 “Great Resignation” and retired from a 20-year career in software engineering management, mostly at Cigna/Express Scripts. Roger and wife Rebecca live in suburban New Jersey and have three daughters; their youngest, a high school senior, plans to apply to Conn. Roger plays guitar every day and looks forward to traveling more. He enjoys being active outdoors, in the gym and pushing a cart around the grocery store. **Louise Mitinger** and her family came across Camel Rock on the Tesuque Pueblo in New Mexico during their summer travels and earlier saw other Camels in New London during a college tour with her daughter. Louise enjoys teaching English language in Pittsburgh and encourages fellow Camels to get in touch if they are in the area. **Alison Knocke Forbes** writes, “What? Our 35th reunion is next summer? If Jamie Forbes and I weren’t the parents of two girls in college (Brown ’24 and Skidmore ’27), I would never believe that number!” Humming along in Portsmouth, N.H., they enjoy the mountains, ocean and arts culture. They feel lucky to work remotely from

From left: Pablo Siraco and Leslie Siraco ’87 and Suzanne Hanny Russell and her husband, and vacationing at Squam Lake, N.H. Tim enjoys his bikes, and they golf near their Newport, R.I., home. Tim is thrilled to be a grandfather; two of their three children are CC grads. **Kathy Paxton-Williams** and her husband celebrated their 20th anniversary three years late due to COVID by sailing from Amsterdam to Budapest on a “Grand European Adventure” river cruise. Teaching since 1990, Kathy tentatively plans a 2024 retirement. **Scott Brenner** retired this year from a career as a software engineer, web developer, technical project manager and cybersecurity consultant. He’s focusing on entrepreneurial projects, creating educational materials for people building online businesses. Scott and his wife live near Philly; happy to be empty nesters, they plan to travel frequently. Their three daughters have launched careers as a mental health counselor, career in software engineering management, mostly at Cigna/Express Scripts. Roger and wife Rebecca live in suburban New Jersey and have three daughters; their youngest, a high school senior, plans to apply to Conn. Roger plays guitar every day and looks forward to traveling more. He enjoys being active outdoors, in the gym and pushing a cart around the grocery store. **Louise Mitinger** and her family came across Camel Rock on the Tesuque Pueblo in New Mexico during their summer travels and earlier saw other Camels in New London during a college tour with her daughter. Louise enjoys teaching English language in Pittsburgh and encourages fellow Camels to get in touch if they are in the area. **Alison Knocke Forbes** writes, “What? Our 35th reunion is next summer? If Jamie Forbes and I weren’t the parents of two girls in college (Brown ’24 and Skidmore ’27), I would never believe that number!” Humming along in Portsmouth, N.H., they enjoy the mountains, ocean and arts culture. They feel lucky to work remotely from
Kent, Conn. Spielman Been ’95 to run Next Level Academy in Kent, Conn. A true showcase of the value of the liberal arts—a Government major and Dance major teaming up to run a sports camp! Matt Smith, a California native, has written I Am Applicant, a firsthand account of his and his family’s experience building a house in Sausalito, Calif. An Amazon review captures the essence: “It’s the story of a husband & wife encountering an (almost comically) sad, never-ending barrage of resistance from crazy neighbors, local politicians, and Kafkaesque commissions and procedures…. a gripping story [and] front-row seat to the reality of local housing politics in California.” Hope all is well with other Camels and the Class of ’97!

Ed Metzendorf owns Next Level Camps—four summer camps in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. This summer, Ed hired classmate and friend Kirsten Spielman Been to run his Next Level Summer Academy in Kent, Conn. A true showcase of the value of the liberal arts—a Government major and Dance major teaming up to run a sports camp!

Tiana Hercules was appointed to the Hartford City Council in January 2022 and plans to run for re-election. Tiana is a member of Hartford’s Working Families Party and advocates for equality and equity for all members of the Hartford community. Kristina Helb Derr welcomed her second daughter, Kendall James, on Sept. 29, 2022. Kendall joins older sister Cameryn Grace (5). Kristina and husband Brendan live in Glen Ridge, N.J., where she leads Sotheby’s International Realty’s global press office, social media and content marketing efforts. In January, Nora MirickGuerrera opened Northome Group, a strategy and business consulting firm focused on bringing the tools and techniques of design thinking to individuals and organizations through online courses, coaching and consulting engagements. Nora lives in Deephaven, Minn., with her husband and daughters Lily (12) and Brooke (8). Mary Bushnell Lynch ‘04, Mollie Gage ’04, Laura Rosenshine ‘04 and Emily Carroll Rasgo ’04 got together in April to celebrate Mary’s birthday.

Colin Block ’05, Jesse Fink ’05, Gabe Gold ’05, Matt Brogan ’05 and Daniel Braziller ’05 met in Maine in June to celebrate Jesse’s 40th birthday.
FALL 2023 | Class Notes

Remembering Trustee Alice Handy ’70

Alice Handy ’70, a member of the Connecticut College Board of Trustees and a pioneer in the field of nonprofit investment management, died on May 30, 2023, at the age of 75.

The granddaughter of a Cape Cod cranberry farmer, Handy majored in economics at Conn and began her career as a bond portfolio manager at Traveler’s Insurance in Hartford. From Traveler’s, she went on to the University of Virginia, where she served for 29 years, first as the university’s inaugural investment officer, managing the university’s endowment. She later became an assistant vice president and then the first woman treasurer of the university, bringing to UVa an emerging philosophy of modern endowment portfolio investing. In 1988, she took a brief leave of absence to serve as state treasurer of Virginia—the first woman to hold that post. She returned to UVa in 1990 and soon became the first president of the newly-formed University of Virginia Investment Management Company. During her tenure, she is credited with growing the UVa endowment 300%, from $60 million in 1975 to some $2 billion by the time she departed in 2003, placing UVa henceforth among the top endowments for public universities in the U.S.

For most people, that would have been the perfect moment to retire. But for Handy, it was just the prelude to her next impressive act. After UVa, she went on to found a new company, the Charlottesville-based firm Investure, designed to assist not-for-profit colleges, universities and philanthropic foundations in managing their investment portfolios. Among her first clients was Smith College, who saw their endowment expand dramatically under her stewardship. Other colleges would follow, and, in short order, Handy had essentially created a new service industry—the outsourced chief investment officer—a model soon to be widely imitated. According to Bloomberg, by the time she retired from Investure in 2018, there were many competitors and $100 billion in outsourced higher education investments across the sector, with Investure managing approximately 15% of that total.

Bruce Miller, her former colleague and current CEO at Investure, said Handy “had a genuine calling to serve others and a competitive spirit that defined winning by investment results and service rather than assets under management.” Not surprisingly, she was a sought-after adviser who shared her talents generously with many nonprofit organizations. In Virginia, she served as the chair of the board of the Miller Center, a nonpartisan affiliate of the university focused on presidential scholarship, public policy and political history. She also served on the boards of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, the United Way of Greater Charlottesville and the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. She contributed expertise and investment advice to national efforts as well, including the Smithsonian Institution; The American Friends of the National Gallery, London; the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the Focused Ultrasound Foundation; and St. Jude’s Hospital. Connecticut College benefited from her talents when she joined the Board of Trustees in 2021, serving for two years on the finance, investment, and student experience committees.

“Alice Handy will be remembered and admired for her deep intelligence, independent thinking, entrepreneurial spirit and trailblazing career. She brought great honor to her alma mater,” said President Emerita Katherine Bergeron.

From weddings to birthdays, Christmastime teas to awards ceremonies. This dynamic duo has fun together no matter what they are doing! On Feb. 21, Becca Elias Weene and Alan Weene ‘07 welcomed Elias Jacob Weene. Congratulations and best wishes to all!

Renee Stainrod, James Jackson, Jillian Cunningham and Ernel Wint ‘09 reunited to celebrate the upcoming birth of Eriel and wife Laila’s baby and to celebrate the birth of Sevy, daughter of James Jackson.

@Kevin Kelly and Vicky Wade Kelly ’15 welcomed daughter Hayes in December 2022.
In Memoriam

1940s
Josanne Ginzberg Farkas ’49 died May 28, 2023
Sylvia Joffe Garfinkle ’49 died May 28, 2021
Ina Dube Imbrey ’49 died March 1, 2023
Irma Klein Schachter ’49 died May 11, 2023

1950s
Nancy Hudson ’53 died May 14, 2023
Constance Baker Woolson ’53 died March 22, 2023
Carla Strassenmeyer Wilde ’56 died June 3, 2023
Joan Faraci Jenks ’57 died May 18, 2023
Gail Wieland Stewart ’58 died on March 11, 2023

1960s
Sally Baker ’63 died March 31, 2023
Anne Accardo Horvitz ’63 died April 18, 2023
Shermane Billingsley ’66 died April 16, 2023
Nancy Sterner Griffith ’66 died September 21, 2022
Molly Hageboeck ’66 died May 18, 2023
Judith Foldes Dickson ’67 died July 6, 2023

1970s
Alice Handy ’70 died May 30, 2023
Eda Rothenberg Roth ’70 died March 2, 2023
Suzanne Badal Faustlin ’74 died February 14, 2023
Charon Brinning White ’74 died July 21, 2023
Charles Curkin ’75 died September 1, 2022
Debra Duerr ’75 died April 28, 2021
Patricia Brown Glenn ’75 died December 30, 2022

1980s
Richard Flory Wilde ’81 died April 4, 2023
Barbara Hunter Kellogg ’84 died June 23, 2023
John McLoughlin ’84 died January 10, 2023
Maureen Tierney ’89 died May 13, 2023

Deaths as reported to CC between 3/6/2023 and 8/7/2023
Anika Ekra ’27 lines up her composition in Associate Professor of Art Chris Barnard’s “ART 212: Introduction to Painting” class in Cummings Arts Center in September. The photo, taken by Conn staff photographer Sean D. Elliot, is part of a new series capturing everyday life on campus. A curated “Month in Pictures” gallery is posted every month to Conn’s news site.

Visit conncoll.edu/news/month-in-pictures/ to browse the galleries.
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103% PERCENTAGE OF CONNECTICUT COLLEGE FUND GOAL REACHED DURING CAMPAIGN

The recently completed Defy Boundaries Campaign surpassed the $45 million Connecticut College Fund goal, reaching $46.2 million. This success is essential to the College and is an enduring portrait of the loyalty and pride of the thousands of alumni and parents who make Camel achievement and growth possible.
Connecticut College wrapped up its seven-year Defy Boundaries campaign, bringing in a record $317.5 million which contributed to important campus revitalizations, like Kohn Waterfront, pictured above. Story page 18.

Jazmyn Gillespie '24 shelves books on the third floor of Shain Library earlier this semester. Gillespie has been working at the library since her first year.