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The background of the cover is a photograph of a tall, cylindrical skyscraper under construction at night. The building is covered in a dense grid of scaffolding and is illuminated from within, with some lights visible. A large, bright, orange-hued full moon is positioned behind the top of the building, partially obscured by it. The sky is a deep, dark blue. In the upper left corner, the letters 'CC' are written in a large, white, serif font. Below this, the words 'CONNECTICUT COLLEGE' are written in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the word 'Magazine' is written in a white, italicized serif font. In the lower right corner, the title 'COOKIES & MONSTERS' is written in a white, sans-serif font. There are also some dark silhouettes of birds or flying objects in the upper part of the sky.

CC

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Magazine

COOKIES &
MONSTERS

Features

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On the cover: A super blue blood moon is seen behind Salesforce Tower during a partial lunar eclipse in San Francisco, California, before dawn on Jan. 31, 2018. (page 14). Photo by Josh Edelson/AFP via Getty Images.

This page: Have goats—will travel. Rhode Island-based Herd of Hope brought their Goat-Scapers to campus in June to eat unruly knotweed—an innovative alternative to using chemicals for invasive plant management. (page 10). Photo by Derek Dudek.

GOATS

ABOARD





Harold Shapiro

From the President

In every way imaginable, this has been a year worthy of a Dickens novel—the best of times, the worst of times. It has been a dramatic year, a challenging year, a year of loss, and a year of great achievement. A year of living through history and a year of making history.

Among the history-making events was the announcement, on April 28, of the largest gift in College history: \$30 million from Rob '88 and Karen Hale P' 20. This incredible act of philanthropy provides substantial new support to financial aid, athletics, and campus infrastructure—areas significantly affected by the pandemic—to ensure that we emerge even stronger in our ability to deliver an exceptional Connecticut College education.

We celebrated Rob and Karen's gift in person, thanks to our best-in-class testing program and to our extraordinary community, with their shared commitment to keep our campus safe. Unlike many colleges and universities, Connecticut College held in-person classes all year long. We even managed to convene for a glorious 103rd Commencement—the first Commencement held during a pandemic in more than a century. It is hard to describe the range of emotions we experienced on that day, but one thing I felt clearly was gratitude: for faculty and staff who made the Commencement possible; for alumni and parents who offered steadfast support; and especially for students who rose to the year's many challenges with grace and grit. The lessons they learned will serve them for a lifetime.

That gratitude was just as palpable during our first-ever virtual Reunion, held in early June. More than 800 alumni from across the world participated in the 10-day program, with the 50th Reunion Classes of 1970 and 1971 leading the way, setting new records for philanthropy. The Class of 1971 raised \$2.24 million, establishing an endowed scholarship to support a first-generation college student; and the Class of 1970 raised a total of \$4.2 million, designating \$2.4 million to name the director of our nationally recognized Academic Resource Center. A remarkably generous ending to this year like no other.

And now we look ahead to a very different kind of reunion, as all of our faculty, students, and staff prepare to return to teaching, working, and learning on campus in the fall. I cannot wait.

Yours,
Katherine Bergeron



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
Magazine

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome your letters. The magazine publishes only letters that comment on the most recent issue's editorial content. Letters may be edited. Please include your return address, an email address (if you have one) and a daytime telephone number for verification purposes.

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Andrea Wollensak

Reading the Wrack Lines

To raise awareness about how climate change impacts Conn’s community, Professor of Art Andrea Wollensak has launched “Reading the Wrack Lines,” an environmental literacy and educational outreach project designed to engage the local community in innovative learning approaches based on southeastern Connecticut’s coastal environment and our changing climate.

“The project represents a unique, diverse and inclusive partnership of faculty, students and youth clubs at Connecticut College, UConn Avery Point and Stonington High School. Focused workshops promote local and global awareness of climate issues and

provide opportunities for the general public to participate,” Wollensak said.

A wrack line is said to be the debris washed onto the beach by high tide. The wrack can be made up of seaweed, crustaceans, feathers and bits of plastic.

“Reading the Wrack Lines,” a Connecticut Sea Grant funded public art project, premiered on Earth Day, April 22, at 8 p.m. at UConn Avery Point. It features creative writing responses to climate change by UConn Avery Point and Connecticut College students which are used as audiovisual source material within generative multimedia artwork projected onto both the Branford House and the Avery

Point Lighthouse. Collaborators for “Reading the Wrack Lines” include software developer and Professor Emerita of Mathematics and Computer Science Bridget Baird and sound artist Brett Terry. The exhibit is presented in cooperation with The Alexey von Schlippe Gallery of Art.

This project will continue into next year with additional support from a recently awarded Ammerman Faculty Research grant, a summer 2021 ConnSSHARP grant with Althusa Lin ’22, and as part of an upcoming year-long hybrid artist residency at the Anchorage Museum beginning in October 2021.

Debo P. Adegbile '91 elected chair of Conn's Board of Trustees

Debo P. Adegbile '91 has been elected to serve a three-year term as the next chair of Conn's Board of Trustees. He is the first African-American in College history to serve as chair.

"I have served alongside two superb Connecticut College Board Chairs—DeFred (Fritz) G. Folts III '82 and Pamela D. Zilly '75—and, inspired by their examples, and those of the entire College community, welcome the opportunity to continue to serve the College I love," Adegbile said.

"I came to Connecticut College from the Bronx, New York, to pursue what the late Professor [Arthur] Ferrari would have explained as better 'life chances,' and I draw upon that life-changing experience daily. Our College is both inspirational and aspirational, and we summoned both over the last several months. Now we look to the future with optimism and resolve to continue to provide the transformative educational environment that starts in New London but reaches far beyond."

President Katherine Bergeron said that Adegbile enters this role at a dynamic time, as the College advances its commitment to full participation; as our communities reckon with racial justice; and as the nation rises from the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With his fine legal mind, his

disciplinary expertise in civil rights, and his deep understanding of the role of higher education in creating access and in shaping the nation's future leaders, Debo is uniquely positioned to carry forward our ambitious mission of the liberal arts in action," Bergeron said.

Adegbile is a partner at the international law firm Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr in the New York office. He chairs the firm's antidiscrimination practice. His practice focuses on a broad range of matters at the intersection of law, business and government policy. Adegbile has significant experience in commercial, government-facing and appellate litigation, as well as in investigations and strategic counseling in high-stakes matters. He currently serves as a commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, appointed by President Obama in 2016 to a six-year term.

Prior to joining WilmerHale LLP, Adegbile was senior counsel to United States Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy, where he advised the senator on legislative, constitutional and nomination matters. Adegbile previously served as the acting president and director-counsel and director of litigation of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., the nation's leading civil rights legal organization. At LDF, his work involved a broad

range of complex civil and criminal cases before trial and appellate courts. He twice defended the constitutionality of core provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in oral argument before the United States Supreme Court.

At Connecticut College, Adegbile majored in government, minored in African Studies, and was awarded the Anna Lord Strauss Medal at Commencement in recognition of his outstanding work for the College and community. He is also a recipient of the Agnes Berkeley Leahy award for outstanding alumni service. A national expert on civil rights law, he earned a J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1994, where he now serves as a trustee. He also serves as the vice chair of the board of trustees of the Vera Institute of Justice.

Adegbile succeeds DeFred (Fritz) G. Folts III '82, who has served on the board since 2012 and as chair since 2018. Under his leadership, the College saw the opening of the new Hale Center for Career Development; the expansion of the College's signature Academic Resource Center; the adoption of a comprehensive Action Plan for Equity and Inclusion; and the launch of The Agnes Gund '60 Dialogue Project. He was awarded the College Medal for his outstanding service to the College during a global pandemic.

Erika J. Smith appointed Conn's new Dean of the College

Erika J. Smith, the current dean of academic services at Brandeis University, has been appointed Connecticut College's new dean of the college, effective Aug. 1.

Smith brings with her more than 21 years of experience in higher education administration. A former Posse scholar, she holds a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University, a master of education in education policy and management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and doctor of philosophy in social policy from Brandeis' Heller School for Social Policy and Management.

In addition to her current role at Brandeis University, her tenure has included appointments as a research assistant at the Heller Graduate School's Center for Youth and Communities, a research analyst for the Office of Planning and Institutional Research, a lecturer at the Heller Graduate School for Social Policy and Management, a university ombudsperson, director of the Myra Kraft Transitional Year Program, and a Posse mentor. Her longtime mentor, Deborah Bial, founder and president of the Posse Foundation, describes her as "a smart, responsible, and talented educator who believes deeply in young people and in the centrality of diversity, equity and inclusion."

Smith has contributed to the Brandeis community through service on dozens of committees, including 10 years of service in the Student Affairs division, followed by five years on the Care Team. She has also served on the Title IX Task Force, the Committee in Support of Teaching, and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. She served on the board of directors for the Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, as well as on the boards of directors for Summer Search and Posse Boston, and has completed training with the ACE Spectrum Aspiring Leaders Program, the International Ombudsman Association, and Mental Health First Aid. Recently, she wrote a powerful piece for a Brandeis Magazine series featuring Brandeis community members of color detailing their personal encounters with racism.

As dean of academic services at Brandeis, Smith leads a team of 29 staff members to provide undergraduate advising and support for academic success, fellowships, health careers, accessibility, as well as support for first-generation and low-income students. In 2018, she participated in a major revision of the Brandeis Core curriculum, an experience that will benefit our community as the College works to bring Connections to the next level of excellence and to advance full participation.

"We are fortunate to have recruited to this vital role someone with Erika's talent and expertise," said President Katherine Bergeron in an announcement to the College community. "I am excited for the breadth of experience, intellect, and passion for inclusive excellence she will bring to our senior leadership team."

As dean of the college, Smith will serve as chief student success officer at Connecticut College, responsible for supporting Connections and the College's advising programs for first-years, sophomores, juniors, and seniors; and for overseeing centers and programs focused on retention, academic and professional development, study away, fellowships, and student employment. These include the Academic Resource Center, the Hale Center for Career Development, the Posse program, the Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program, and the Presidential Scholars program.

"I was immediately drawn to Conn by the incredible opportunity to build on the strong foundation laid by the visionary work and leadership of the faculty, students, and staff," Smith said.

"Connections is inspiring, and will set our students and alumni apart as outstanding critical and integrated thinkers for many years to come. I am thrilled to join the Conn community, bringing all of my experience to bear on behalf of student success."

Shine the Light

Persephone Hall, executive director of the Hale Center for Career Development, named honoree for the 100 Women of Color Gala, 2021

Persephone Hall has been a guest at the 100 Women and Men of Color (WOC) Awards Galas in the past. But this year she attended for the first time as a recipient, joining an impressive list of women in the region who have inspired and served their communities with distinction.

Hall, a 30-year veteran of career services, joined Conn in 2016 and now serves as Executive Director of the Hale Center for Career Development.

“When I’ve previously attended 100 Women (or Men) of Color Galas, I was always struck by the sense of joy and pride that permeated the celebration,” Hall said. “To see the excellence of women and men of color on display lifted my spirits, and to be selected as an honoree for the 2021 100 Women of Color Gala is a tremendous honor.”

The sister program to the 100 Men of Color Awards, the 6th annual 100

WOC Award ceremony, held in the spring, was created by June Archer, a motivational speaker and president and CEO of Eleven28 Entertainment, which organizes the events.

The gala recognizes the contributions that the recipients—all women of color from Connecticut, Rhode Island and Western Massachusetts—have made in various areas of business, education, sports, entrepreneurship, entertainment, government and public service.

“This year we [were] excited to honor this class of women who have persevered not only through their journey but during what has been interesting times for us all,” said Archer. “The theme for this year [was] ‘Shine Your Light’, and our honorees have been doing just that and more in their communities and we take the time to thank them on

this day for all they do, have done and continue to do.”

Committed to supporting programs that promote the advancement of young women of color, a portion of the proceeds from the gala will go towards scholarships for young women who graduate from high school and plan on attending College, leadership and mentorship programs.

“I’m reminded that folks are always watching, and we all have an opportunity to leave a positive, lasting impression,” Hall said about her recognition. “Being selected as an honoree is also a reminder that the work continues, whether it’s in my role at Connecticut College or within my community, as a woman of color, I have the opportunity to influence others and expand my reach.”

The Missing Mountain

Michael Collier ’76 publishes new book of poetry

The Missing Mountain: New and Selected Poems by Michael Collier ’76 will be published in August by The University of Chicago Press.

“*The Missing Mountain* brings together a lifetime of work, chronicling Collier’s long and distinguished career as a poet and teacher. These selections, both of previously published and new poems, chart the development of Collier’s art and the cultivations of his passions and concerns,” writes The University of Chicago Press.

“These poems cross expanses, connecting the fear of missing love and

the bliss of holding it, the ways we speak to ourselves and language we use with others, and deep personal grief and shadows of world history.”

Collier will also have two poems appearing in the Spring 2021 issue of *Ploughshares*. The literary magazine will publish “Ian Brought a Claw-Foot Tub from Williston to Cornwall” and “In Life,” the latter of which appears in *The Missing Mountain*.

Collier will be in residence at the James Merrill House in Stonington, Connecticut, for the month of November, and is “looking forward

to being in the Connecticut College neighborhood again.”

Collier is the author of eight collections of poems. He is professor of English at the University of Maryland, College Park, and emeritus director of the Middlebury Bread Loaf Writers’ Conferences. He was the Poet Laureate of Maryland from 2001 to 2004. He has received numerous honors, including a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation and an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.



Green Sun

Students, alumni and faculty install solar array

Like a shimmering bed of Onyx, more than 130 sleek black solar panels now adorn the roof of the service building, creating an on-site renewable electricity system.

The installation of the solar array was the culmination of an individual study course beginning in the spring of 2020 and led by Chad Jones, associate professor of botany and environmental studies, who teamed up with Rocky Ackroyd '83 and eight students to craft a plan and then navigate the challenges of local building rules and regulations.

Ackroyd, who owns GreenSun, a Maine-based solar company, had been talking to Jones for several years about different ways to enhance sustainability education at Conn. In 2019, Ackroyd brought a portable solar array to campus to demonstrate its capabilities and spark interest among students.

"It has been amazing to have students, alumni, staff, and faculty all working together on this project to bring solar energy

generation to campus," Jones said. "It has been an amazing learning experience for the students and I know it has been for me."

Throughout the course, students gained a comprehensive understanding of the technology, planning, regulatory and installation layers of an effective solar project.

"I think installing solar panels throughout Conn's campus is important because it provides a long term solution to reducing greenhouse gases," said Koby Giglietti '21, an environmental studies major and economics minor. "Initiatives like this also send an important message that Conn is truly committed to the values it espouses."

As a 53-kW system, the new solar array will generate approximately two-thirds of the power required by the service building. Students from the individual study course who graduated in 2020 returned to campus for the installation, including Anna Laprise '20—who now works at Ackroyd's solar company—Nate Baretta '20 and Ashlyn Healey '20.

Funding for the solar array was provided by the College's sustainability revolving fund, which is dedicated to projects that save money long-term and thus can pay back into the fund over time. The cost savings on the College's electricity bill will be invested back into the revolving fund until the cost of the project is paid back in full, meaning those funds can then be used again for future sustainability projects.

Margaret Bounds, who serves as assistant director of sustainability, suggested that this unprecedented process and collaborative approach can definitely be repeated in the future as the College continues to pursue green technology wherever it can.

"Reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with our electricity use is one of the key goals of our campus sustainability plan, and it is really exciting that this collaboration between students, faculty, staff and alumni could be a model for more solar projects on campus," Bounds said.



Photos by Rob Carlin and Aaron Kotowski

Conn Receives the Largest Gift in its History

With new gift, Rob '88 and Karen Hale P'20 contribute \$50 million

The countdown began at The Dune, where more than 1,000 students, faculty and staff gathered with President Katherine Bergeron for the Big Announcement. When the time ticked down on that April afternoon, the crowd celebrated as Bergeron announced the largest philanthropic gift in the College's history: a gift of \$30 million from Rob '88 and Karen Hale P'20 that, in combination with their prior gift of \$20 million, invests \$50 million in financial aid, athletics, career and an expansive 21st-century liberal arts education.

"As our country emerges from the trials of this pandemic, Karen and Rob have exercised another multimillion dollar vote of confidence for the future of the liberal arts, sending a message about the transformative power of a Connecticut College education," said Bergeron. "Their gifts are super-charging the momentum of a College whose spirit of creativity, resiliency and determination to lead

have been on vivid display across this challenging year. We are incredibly moved and inspired by their commitment."

Then-Board of Trustees Chair DeFred (Fritz) G. Folts III '82 and former Chair Pamela D. Zilly '75, who is co-chairing the College's campaign along with Rob Hale and Bradford T. Brown P'12 '15 '20, joined Bergeron on Tempel Green to mark the historic occasion. The celebration featured music from Conn's very own Prose & Conns and the Carly Family Band, and was catered by students' favorite food trucks: La Mesa, Munchies, Luigi's Wood Fired Pizza Risto, and Ben & Jerry's. Hundreds of students, faculty, staff and alumni also sent messages of gratitude to the Hales over social media.

In a special video, the Hales shared why they are so invested in the College. Rob said, "This College changed my life, and Karen and I believe deeply in its mission, in its innovations as a liberal

arts educator and the leadership skills it builds in students. More than ever, our society needs the kinds of graduates that this College helps develop, and we are honored to help do our part to stand with them. We hope others will join us."

The Hales' gift prioritizes three areas of importance made vividly clear by the pandemic: \$10 million for financial aid, \$10 million for athletics and \$10 million for immediate improvements to campus infrastructure.

"When we think of this College, we think of all the outstanding students we have gotten to know, the friendships of our own that have lasted across our lives and the powerful influence these graduates have on those around them," said Robert Hale. "We're excited for today's students and what they are going to make possible for themselves and others."

For video highlights and photos of the celebration, or to share your own messages of gratitude, go to: www.conncoll.edu/april28



Knotweed Dispensary

Rhode Island–based Herd of Hope brought its eager goats to campus in June to gorge on invasive knotweed.





“This is a great solution that’s sustainable ... and aligns with our sustainability goals at the College.”

— MILES SAX, CHARLES AND SARAH P. BECKER '27
ARBORETUM DIRECTOR

The goats hoofed off the old school bus ready to work. Presented with an all-you-can-eat buffet of the aggressively invasive knotweed that flourishes around the Athletic Center, the herd wasted no time munching away on what, to their refined palates, is an irresistible delicacy.

The herd of hungry ruminants browsed happily along the slopes surrounding the Athletic Center for several days in June, part of an invasive-plant-management plan that began as a hypothetical idea in a senior integrative project crafted by Shefka Williams '21 through the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment. Williams was interested in exploring sustainable grazing and browsing techniques for landscaping and finding alternatives to pesticides.

“We had an ecological issue going on down at the Athletic Center with a lot of invasive species, so we decided to design a hypothetical grazing-management plan to see how we could take care of some of these invasives and favor some native species to establish on these hillsides,” said Visiting Assistant Professor of Botany Eric Vukicevich, who worked with Williams on the project.

The feisty goats, with their seemingly endless appetite for troublesome weeds, were provided by Rhode Island-based Herd of Hope. Located on Laurel Hill MicroFarm, a 28-acre farm established in 2010, it functions as a goat refuge and sustainable landscaping service.

Unaware of the environmental good they're doing, the goats are quite willing participants, “volunteering” for each project (if an individual goat doesn't

feel like getting on the school bus, it's not forced to go). Renowned for their climbing prowess and insatiable curiosity, the goats are contained within a set perimeter with a temporary fence and are monitored 24 hours a day by the herder and co-owner, Wayne Pitman, who sleeps on the school bus on-site. A hose attached to the Athletic Center delivered water to the herd.

Lawn mowers are notoriously deficient in tackling hills and steep inclines—an obstacle the sure-footed goats shrug off. And the spread of invasive plants such as knotweed, often exacerbated by mowing, is almost entirely arrested by the “goat-scaping” technique, thanks to the goats' unforgiving digestive system.

“Goats are really effective at clearing because when they eat the plants that they eat, they kill the seed because they



Photos by Derek Dufek

have a very acidic rumen that processes food to the point where 99.8% of the seed that comes out the other end is not viable,” explained Pitman.

Pitman pointed out that knotweed is particularly adept at exploiting mowers, as it’s a self-planting species that spreads through a cloning process. While most plants reproduce by a scattering of their seeds, new knotweed plants crop up from pieces of other plants that have broken free and established roots. Their greatest foe, then, may well be the bearded, bleating weed-whacking goats that find the knotweed so delicious.

“When goats eat it, they leave the stock dry and dead, so it can’t move on and create a new outcropping of the knotweed,” said Pitman. “When you mow, you create 20 new plants. Every time you mow over a stock, that cuts it

up into small sections and spreads it out to the rest of the lawn. Goats eat it in place and allow it to dry. It’s dead. And it doesn’t spread.”

Goats have served as a vital resource for humans for thousands of years. Archeological findings suggest that Neolithic farmers were the first to domesticate the mischievous beasts, about 9,000 years ago. Meat, hides, milk, cheese, bones and fur are all resources from the animal that were utilized by ancient cultures and remain desirable today.

While goat cheese is popular in the west, the meat has largely fallen out of favor. But it’s still considered a staple in many countries, resulting in close to half a billion goats each year being processed for their meat.

With a life expectancy of 15 to 18 years, Pitman’s goats have a solid 12

years of heavy leaf munching for goat-scaping purposes. Then they retire to a life of leisure and reflection on the farm. The organization has herds for projects large and small. For physically demanding jobs, the full-grown male goats, with their ravenous appetites, are most efficient. But for smaller, residential clearing and landscaping jobs, the younger and less gluttonous among the herd are chosen.

“This is the first year that we’re trying this, and we hope to use the goats for the next couple of years,” said Miles Sax, the Charles and Sarah P. Becker ’27 Arboretum Director. “It’s a process that we know will take time. This is a great solution that’s sustainable, that doesn’t use chemical controls and pesticides, and something that aligns well with our sustainability goals at the College.”



COOKIES & MONSTERS

Chris O'Hara '90 of Salesforce is helping companies ethically navigate the evolving world of digital marketing and consumer data.

BY DOUG DANIELS

There's an iconic scene in Steven Spielberg's *Minority Report* (a sci-fi thriller) in which Tom Cruise walks through a shopping mall, a steady stream of jabbering digital billboards scanning his retinas and instantly plying him with personalized advertisements that call his character out by name and even reference past purchases.

That movie is set in the year 2054. But today, we already have much of the technical capability to create the type of intrusive consumer experience Spielberg's film envisioned, generating unprecedented opportunities for businesses and organizations to reach their customers, clients and audiences with precision-targeted strategies. This can be a double-edged sword, offering consumers more-personalized marketing and advertising and introducing them to products they love while also presenting a potential slippery slope into privacy violations and misuse of online data.

"The challenge is striking a balance," says Chris O'Hara '90, P'24, VP of global product marketing in the Data and Identity Group at Salesforce, a cloud-based software company that provides customer relationship management services. "People really want personalization, but they also want privacy. And now, either because of new state-level laws or because of voluntary company policies, organizations are looking at how to start collecting data from consumers in a more responsible way and still offer that personalization."

Salesforce, with its headquarters in San Francisco, has grown exponentially since its founding in 1999, with 60,000 employees and more than \$21 billion in revenue for the 2021 fiscal year. And as the world's digital reliance continues to spread, Salesforce and its subsidiaries are expected to see steady revenue growth in the years to come.

Tech giants like Apple and Google are dramatically changing

the way they use and share personal data, and many companies are now scrambling to adjust to the new challenges to marketing and advertising as their access to that data becomes increasingly limited.

But while the privacy landscape is certainly changing in the U.S., not everywhere in the world is following suit. While Europe led the way with its highly restrictive General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR, Japan has taken a different approach. There, billboards have been equipped with facial recognition cameras so they can identify a person's gender and age as they're walking past and instantly tailor ads to them, not unlike the scene in *Minority Report*. The technology is intended to be anonymous, but it isn't a giant leap to totally personalized advertising, and that raises enormous privacy concerns. Facial recognition technology is becoming so common that many of us unlock our phones with it now. Beyond the business and advertising implications, there are also questions about data obtained by government and law enforcement entities. The FBI alone has access to nearly half a billion images for facial recognition uses.

Traditionally, data from various websites is aggregated and profiles are built based on site visits. Lots of the browsing data on laptops, and desktops are captured via "cookies," or little snippets of code that identify users and store their data. Mobile phones and other web-connected devices (even some refrigerators) also capture behavioral data. Widely available for purchase on open marketplaces, this consumer data can include credit scores, online behavior, a person's specific interests, particular websites they've visited—all information collected and shared almost entirely without the knowledge of the precise individual. If you have ever looked at a pair of shoes online and then noticed ads for those exact same shoes that follow you to a

series of other websites, such as news sites, that is part of what cookies do.

A big development in data regulation came in 2018, when California passed the California Consumer Privacy Act, requiring more transparency and limits relating to data use. That's when you may have started noticing the ubiquitous pop-ups on websites asking you to opt in or out of a company's data collection or cookies policy.

Google has said it plans to enforce new policies by next year, depriving marketers of the ability to purchase the type of data they've long treasured. Exactly how consumer relationships are built moving forward and how marketers and advertisers ply their online trade will most likely involve a blend of new tactics and strategies that will replace the use of third-party cookies, which have been a central component of online advertising for years.

"One idea is something called FLoC—Federated Learning of Cohorts," O'Hara explains. "The way that would work is Google will identify somebody as belonging to one or multiple cohorts, which are basically groups based on people's interests. So you might be in the fashionista cohort, or the traveler cohort, or the outdoors-enthusiast cohort, and you'll be assigned this random number and Google will build these various FLoCs as long as there are enough people who meet the criteria."

This type of group-level web tracking would represent a significant shift for how advertisers identify new potential customers. Instead of companies targeting the browsing history and hyperspecific consumer data about individuals, they'll now be forced to settle for information about various cohorts as a whole.

Say, for example, you are identified as a European-travel intender and antique-thimble collector. Instead of having your

personal information shared, you would simply be assigned anonymously to a larger group that could include thousands or millions of antique thimble collectors. No individual-level data that could violate privacy would be included.

"The advertising industry is pushing back on this idea of cohorts, because obviously they're used to doing things a certain way, and it has sparked a really big, raging debate about what the future is going to look like and how it's going to work," O'Hara says.

"What will these new privacy rules mean for big publishers and big marketers, and how will they collect and use data responsibly? Advertisers need to learn to use Google, Facebook and Amazon in new, effective ways that are still responsible and ethical."

One important ongoing debate, O'Hara says, revolves around whether companies such as Facebook, Twitter and Google are objective "platforms" for content or they should be considered "publishers," since they do exercise some editorial control and create their own algorithms and other structural elements that can control who sees what information.

O'Hara has been working in data-driven marketing and advertising from the earliest days, when the concept seemed more science fiction than concrete business necessity. An English major at Conn, his passions resided in creative writing, philosophy and drama. But a post-college job as a writer and editor for a cigar magazine introduced him to emerging marketing and advertising strategies just when the internet was beginning to broaden its reach, in the 1990s.

He quickly discovered he had a knack for sales and advertising and began learning about data-driven tools that would later prove revolutionary. He joined Salesforce four years ago, when it acquired Krux, the startup where O'Hara led data

“What will these new privacy rules mean for big publishers and big marketers, and how will they collect and use data responsibly?”

— CHRIS O’HARA ’90

strategy, for \$800 million. Krux, a data management firm, helped clients in the marketing industry better understand, analyze and target the customers who visited their websites and apps so that they could improve engagement and enhance customer relations through the use of far more precise ad targeting.

He and the co-founders of Krux wrote *Data Driven*, a book that examines the ways in which new data is transforming marketing. His latest book is titled *Customer Data Platforms: Use People Data to Transform the Future of Marketing Engagement*. The extensive line of marketing products Salesforce offers includes software for marketing emails, mobile ad campaigns, social media advertising and analytics, making it a one-stop shop for digital marketing. O’Hara’s role involves marketing and strategy for the products related to data.

“My job is to meet with clients and discuss data strategy with them and determine how to better understand people through their data,” he says. “This way, I can help them build better experiences across different touchpoints for their customers.”

A big part of what O’Hara does for clients at Salesforce is coordinate customer data in ways that improve customer service and incorporate more efficiency. For example, few people have been spared the misery of speaking to a call center representative who has a boilerplate script yet no knowledge of your history with the company or how to resolve your individual issue. Large companies often have disparate databases where customer info is stored. Salesforce helps consolidate data and use it more effectively so that when somebody contacts a call center, the person on the other end of the phone instantly has access to the caller’s order history, their interests and the marketing campaigns they’ve


already been exposed to. The customer doesn’t have to start from scratch with each new person they speak to, repeatedly providing order numbers and other details.

“It may sound simple, but that’s really what creates value,” O’Hara says. “That’s what makes people more likely to stay as a customer, and more likely to spend more money, and it makes them happier and more satisfied. And that’s really, from a broad perspective, the type of stuff we’re working on.”

O’Hara contends that the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated and forced changes in data collection. While some companies may have been reluctant to embrace a “digital first” model, the pandemic has left them with little choice. The challenge remains to find balance when it comes to privacy and managing data. Prior to Covid, people at least had some control over their marketing experience, in the sense that they could choose to log on to Facebook or Instagram, or to use a phone app to make purchases. But during the pandemic, to help ensure social distancing, many daily tasks—like getting coffee—have transitioned into the digital-first approach O’Hara mentions.

“I love that I can choose to place a coffee order with Dunkin’ Donuts through their iPhone app, go pick it up at the drive-through, and not have to exchange any money to get my order,” O’Hara says.

“But that’s my choice, and I know [Dunkin’ will] be using that data to suggest new items for me to try, for example. Where things cross the line is if I’m just walking by a Dunkin’ Donuts, having never opted in to anything, and my mobile phone lights up within 50 feet and says, ‘Hey, Chris, take 20 percent off a large coffee and a donut.’

“That’s an invasion of privacy, and at that point, you’re just like Tom Cruise walking through that mall.” 

DIGITAL CREATORS



Jonathan Shambroom '89 hopes to turn TikTok and YouTube social creators into movie stars with his new company, CreatorPlus.

BY TOM KERTSCHER

Every day, people watch more than 1 billion hours of video on YouTube. Each month, more than 1 billion accounts use Instagram, a photo- and video-sharing app. A newer kid on the block, TikTok, which specializes in short-form mobile video, has been downloaded more than 2 billion times.

Besides videos and numbers in the billions, what these social media platforms share is an outsized reach to younger audiences. And this: an emphasis on a term that has found its place in this age—“creators,” some of whom have used the platforms to attract tens of millions of followers.

Jonathan Shambroom '89 is seeking to capitalize on this convergence. After using the Macintosh Plus, one of Apple's first computers, in his freshman dorm at Connecticut College and PageMaker 1.0 to lay out *The College Voice* school newspaper, Shambroom parlayed that experience into helping lead a series of tech companies—the first eight of which were acquired by larger concerns.

Now, the San Francisco Bay Area resident is making news as co-founder and CEO of another startup, CreatorPlus. As *Variety* puts it, the film studio and streaming platform for digital-first storytellers wants to “turn social creators into movie stars.”

CreatorPlus, which has raised \$12 million in funding, is targeting creators with huge followings on platforms such as TikTok and YouTube. They will be featured in 90-minute movies that will premiere on CreatorPlus behind a paywall but can then be distributed anywhere.

If you're of a certain age, names such as Jimmy Donaldson (MrBeast on YouTube; 62.1 million subscribers) might mean

nothing to you. But Donaldson is on Forbes' 2020 list of the top-10-earning YouTubers. The magazine says that, together, those 10 YouTubers earned an estimated \$211 million from June 1, 2019, to June 1, 2020, a 30% jump from the previous year. MrBeast's 11-minute Fourth of July video in 2020, featuring what it said was a \$600,000 fireworks show, was viewed more than 80 million times.

CreatorPlus has not yet announced deals with any creators, but younger audiences will be targeted.

“Young audiences today are digital natives; not just mobile first, they are mobile everything,” Shambroom said. “They don't have a romantic notion of seeing a film in a theater, not like past generations did. We believe that creators are the brands and the storytellers of tomorrow, and we believe that the future of cinema is in the home. We know that creators have demonstrated they can attract, engage and monetize massive audiences.”

CREATIVE BEGINNINGS

Shambroom grew up in New York City and Westchester County. “Creativity and communication were always at a premium in our house,” he said, referring to his late parents, Rick, a Madison Avenue promotion and marketing man, and Betty, an artistic stay-at-home mother.

At Connecticut College, the English major was a member of an improv comedy group and the soccer team, and he captained the ski team. He recalled the school as a place that encouraged initiative, which he showed by fashioning his own

minor in communications, in part by taking classes at McGill University in Montreal.

Shambroom moved to the Bay Area in 1991 and started a succession of jobs in tech.

“It was the dawn of multimedia, which was years before the web would come out. I knew this was my calling. I just embraced it,” he said.

Shambroom managed the line of Virtual Petz—virtual pet games with artificially intelligent characters you could play with—at PF.Magic, then became executive producer at When.com, a web calendar and event directory service he helped launch. When.com was later acquired by AOL.

“It was a very handsome exit,” Shambroom said of AOL’s acquisition of When, which followed The Learning Company’s purchase of PF.Magic. “Now, I’m entirely hooked on: join early-stage startup, build product, build brand, build team, build company, and if you’re successful and you can provide great value, provide something that a large-enough market wants and get options. Multiple people might be interested in acquiring you.”

Next came Evite, an online invitation service, where Shambroom was the senior director of products. His team grew a user base from 50,000 to more than 1 million. In less than two years, that company was acquired, too.

“Now I’m clearly set. I’ve now had three solid experiences and I just love product management, because in all of those companies, I was in the center of the structure, where product was the hub,” Shambroom said.

“There were no more geographic boundaries; the web

unified everything. And it ushered in a brand-new mentality and capability, which continues to manifest itself to this day. It was absolutely enthralling. So much of the excitement for every web startup was possibility; everything was new. So much of what spoke to me was creative possibilities.”

After time at an internet incubator, Shambroom joined what became Crackle, a video streaming platform, in 2005.

Video—that would be a pivotal career experience.

“It was the dawn of internet video,” Shambroom recalled. “That, to me, was the epitome of creativity—making it possible for the masses to have a voice to publish and broadcast something creative.”

Shambroom said the societal implications have pros and cons.

“You accelerate the benefits and the challenges of free speech,” he said. “It certainly has fostered an incredible ability for people to connect, and to be heard and seen, and to be creative. That can be used for good and for harm, and it can be abused. I don’t envy the task of moderating today’s massive open social platforms, but overall, I see it as a net positive.”

LAUNCHING CREATORPLUS

There’s no question social media has disrupted the way people live. A majority of Americans say they use YouTube and Facebook, while a majority of 18-to-29-year-olds say they use Instagram or Snapchat, and roughly half in that age group say the same for TikTok, according to a Pew Research Center survey released in April. On Instagram, 73% of 18-to-29-year-old users say they visit the site every day, with roughly half saying they do so several times per day.

Creator

After leaving Crackle, and then doing stints at several other companies, followed by gigs in consulting and angel investing, Shambroom launched CreatorPlus in January with co-founder Benjamin Grubbs. Grubbs is the former global head of top creator partnerships at YouTube.

A key test for CreatorPlus will be whether stars on social media, known for quick bits of entertainment, can carry feature-length films. Shambroom said his company will choose creators who are passionate and have stories to tell, and not simply hand over lead roles to charismatic fresh faces simply because they have followers.

“We will make movies because we believe that select creators can be phenomenal filmmakers. Something about their art or their voice or their style is very compelling, and they have a large and engaged audience, which is a great starting point when it comes to marketing a film,” Shambroom said.

“And we built our own distribution platform because we want economic and creative freedom. We know that each creator’s community is passionate about identity and also about supporting their favorite creator.”


Some creators have already made the jump from social media. Issa Rae created her series, *The Mis-Adventures of Awkward Black Girl*, on YouTube in 2011. By 2016, she was starring in an HBO series called *Insecure*, and by 2021, she was signing a new five-year TV and film deal with HBO. Joe Penna was MysteryGuitarman on YouTube. His pitch: “I make crazy videos and short films with animation, stop motion, visual effects, music, etc..” Now he has a bio on

IMDb, which notes not only that his videos have received more than 400 million views but also that he directed and co-wrote the films *Arctic* (2019) and *Stowaway* (2021).

Shambroom said CreatorPlus will deliver a quality product by bringing in people with deep experience in Hollywood filmmaking and by having large enough budgets—initially \$500,000 to \$2 million per movie.

“At that level, we can have outstanding production value, but what we will be driven by is story, that’s our focus. And I think that’s the difference. We will appeal to audiences really based on the merit of the story and the characters,” he said.

Shambroom said the company, which aims to release its first film during the first quarter of 2022, will split revenue equally with the creators after it recoups the costs for financing and marketing a film. A central strategy is to connect with the target audience, ages 13 to 29, by reflecting their values.

“The young audiences today are more diverse than ever, and they also care about diversity and their identity more than ever,” Shambroom said. “And creators, also younger, are equally diverse. We want to represent that diversity. We want to tell stories that reflect that, and we are embracing that as a company.” 

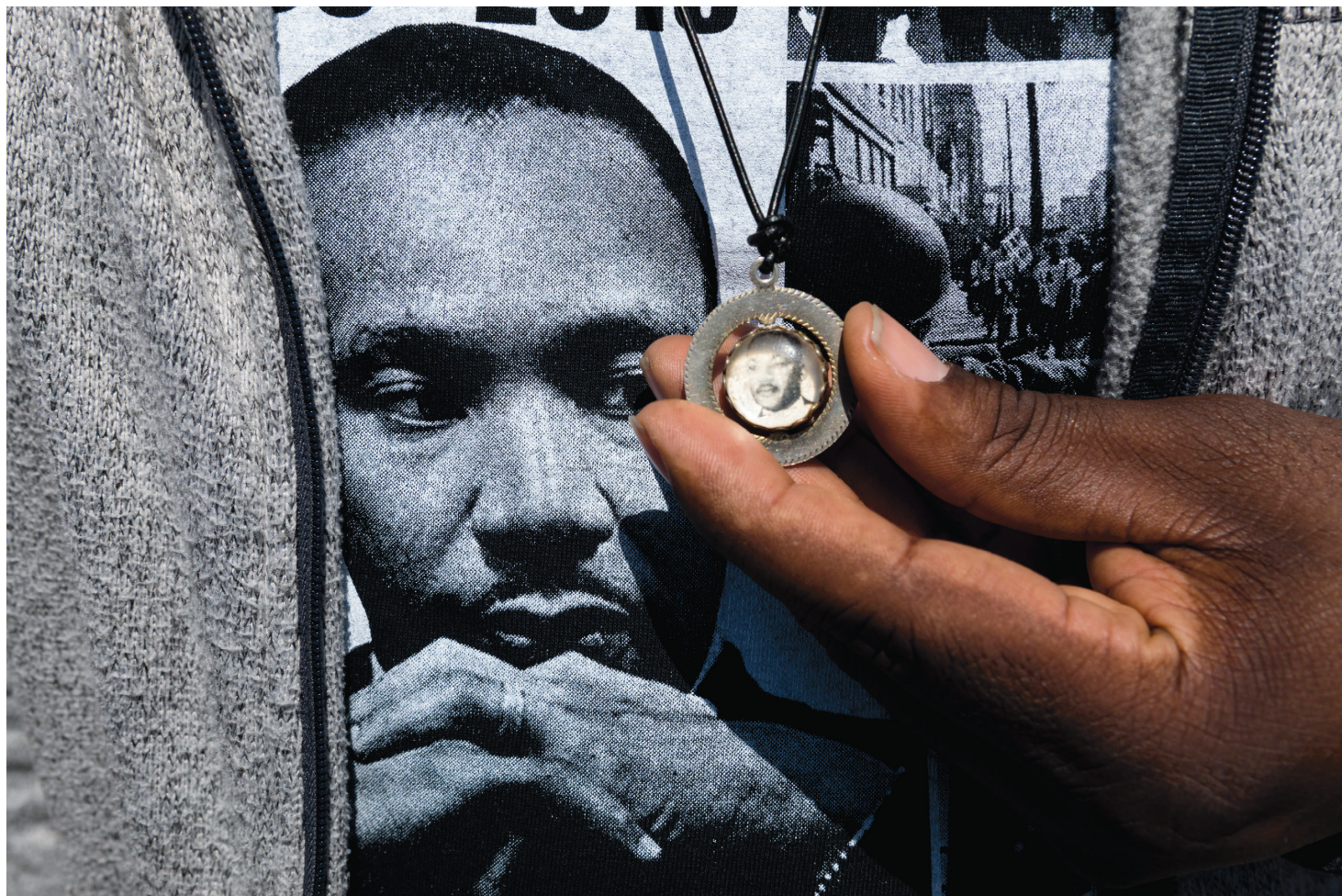
Tom Kertscher is a national freelance writer; he is a contributing writer for PolitiFact and a sports reporter for The Associated Press. His reporting on Steven Avery was featured in Making a Murderer. Kertscher is the author of sports books on Brett Favre and Al McGuire.



OUTSIDE THE LORRAINE

David Katzenstein '76 shares a few of his photos from "Outside the Lorraine: A Photographic Journey to a Sacred Place," an exhibition now showing at the National Civil Rights Museum, in Memphis, Tennessee.





This image is an iconic representation of how Dr. King is venerated in the sacred place, the courtyard in front of the museum where people congregate on a daily basis prior to entering the National Civil Rights Museum. The image on page 22-23 is the Hero image for the exhibition.

When photographer David Katzenstein '76 visited the historic Lorraine Hotel, home to the National Civil Rights Museum, he noticed that, before entering the museum, visitors spent long periods of time in the courtyard outside the hotel where Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

"I spent about 20 minutes capturing images and observing how, in this sacred place, families, individuals, friends and strangers experienced personal relationships within the collective narrative—a shared human experience of deep loss, grief, triumph, hope and change," Katzenstein said.

These initial images formed the idea for "Outside the Lorraine," an exhibit containing about 90 photographs that highlight the museum as a mecca for peacemakers, a place of memory and connection during this, the museum's 30th anniversary.

"'Outside the Lorraine' offers the rare opportunity for our visitors to see themselves reflected in the artwork of one of our exhibitions," said Dr. Noelle Trent, the museum's director of interpretation, collections and education.

"The exhibition is a 'thank you' to our visitors who have lovingly supported the museum over the last 30 years, and



This image is the overview of the Lorraine Motel. The wreath on the second floor balcony is placed where Dr. King was standing when he was shot.

it emphasizes the beautiful array of humanity that energizes the courtyard and museum. As the world slowly reopens, we hope this exhibition reminds our audience how much they mean to us,” Trent said.

Katzenstein has traveled extensively throughout the world creating narrative imagery for fine art exhibitions, global corporate giants and philanthropic organizations. In 2018, he formed The Human Experience Project, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create and mount exhibitions of photographs depicting the human experience.

“My work is steeped in the tradition of documentary and reportage photographers such as Cartier-Bresson and Josef Koudelka. I set the stage for the viewer of my images to be in the moment with me, as if they were standing beside me,” Katzenstein said. [CC](#)

“Outside the Lorraine” is on display at the museum until April 4, 2022. For more information, visit:
www.civilrightsmuseum.org/outside-the-lorraine

www.davidkatzenstein.com



This image represents all of the school groups that come to the museum from all over the country.



This image is representative of the immense crowd that gathered for the events surrounding the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's death, April 4, 2018.

RIDE ALONG

Kathy Evans '14 is among a growing number of mental health professionals who patrol with police officers to assist citizens in crisis and help de-escalate police encounters.

BY AMY MARTIN





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and Protect

PLEASE PRACTICE
SOCIAL DISTANCING

A few days into her new job, Kathy Evans '14 encountered a person trying to jump off a balcony.

Some days, Evans might end up at the scene of a drug overdose or a burglary. She was recently involved in a car chase through the streets of Denver.

“My knuckles were white; I was definitely practicing my deep breathing,” Evans said.

Evans isn't a detective, an investigator or a patrol officer. She is a licensed clinical social worker who rides along with police officers to assist people in need, de-escalate encounters between the general public and the police, and divert citizens into treatment rather than the criminal justice system.

At a time when many communities across the country are looking to reimagine public safety, the co-responder model is gaining popularity. And for good reason: It's a straightforward way to mitigate the overreliance on police to respond to matters that aren't criminal in nature.

“In Denver, 41 percent of the emergency calls are mental health related and have nothing to do with crime. These are people who just need resources,” Evans said.

Ronald Davis served as a police officer for 30 years and as the director of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services under the Obama administration. During a virtual event in January, he spoke about the dangers of relying solely on police to address social issues, in “Continuing the Conversation on Race: Policing in the U.S. and New London,” hosted by Connecticut College and *The Day* newspaper.

“Over the past 20 to 30 years, we have deconstructed most of the social services capacity in our communities, whether it's mental health services, drug addiction services, reentry services—and that one 24-hour entity, the police, is the only

one left to respond. ... It criminalizes activities that should not be criminalized,” he said.

“Homelessness is not a crime. Addiction is not a crime. Mental illness is not a crime. [Police officers] need to get out of that business.”

That's where Evans and her fellow clinicians come in.

“I work with fantastic officers who have the community's best interest in mind and want to help people, but they don't always have the training I have,” she said. “They aren't prepared to deal with certain mental health issues, and they don't have the resources. That's why it's so great we have this partnership—we can collaborate. We can support each other.”

A CO-RESPONDER

Evans' day starts at 6 a.m. with roll call. Clinicians and officers discuss any large public events planned for the day and follow up on previous activity or other pertinent issues. Then, Evans puts on her bulletproof vest and hops into a police car.

“The calls can be so unpredictable, and even when they don't initially seem to be related to mental health, they often are,” Evans says.

She uses a car accident as an example—a two-car accident on a busy road doesn't sound like something that would require a social worker, but once on scene, Evans might realize that the person driving erratically was doing so because they were experiencing mental distress.

“I've been on calls where I've been able to say, ‘Hey, this is impacting your ability to drive safely, and we should really talk about that. I could help you find resources and get connected to mental health services.’ The person ends up really benefiting.”

Some calls are clearly mental health related, such as a person considering suicide or someone with schizophrenia acting

“We are taking people who otherwise might have ended up in the criminal justice system and really changing outcomes for them.”

— KATHY EVANS '14

aggressively toward a family member. In those cases, after her partner officer has made sure the scene is safe, Evans often takes the lead. Other calls are related to addiction—fentanyl overdose is especially common in the Denver area—or homelessness. In some instances, Evans aids distraught family members, witnesses or victims.

“I go on a lot of calls where family members have found loved ones who have passed away. The officers have their job they need to do, but when I’m on scene, I can provide support for people who may have found the body, for example.”

After providing on-scene assistance, Evans connects the people she encounters—called clients—with a network of resources and services through the Mental Health Center of Denver. She collaborates with case managers, hospital staff and service providers to make sure people get the follow-up care they need.

The co-responder model is remarkably effective in keeping clients out of the criminal justice system. In the past year, Evans and her fellow clinicians have responded to 3,213 calls for behavioral health issues. Only 1.6 percent of those calls resulted in a citation or arrest. A similar co-responder program in Massachusetts, Advocates, reports that, on average, 75 percent of individuals presenting with criminal behavior are diverted from arrest and into treatment programs.

And even individuals who can’t be diverted, including cases involving serious crimes or outstanding warrants, can still receive services.

“We have clinicians at all different levels. We have a clinician who works in the jail itself, clinicians who work in our probation program, clinicians who work with housing and eviction programs,” Evans said. “We want to make sure people get connected to resources.”

10,000 CALLS

Scott Snow, director of the Denver Police Department’s Crisis Services Bureau, says the department and the city of Denver have a history of being forward-thinking, which led representatives to begin exploring options to improve crisis response in 2015. After conducting research on other co-responder and mental health partnership programs, the DPD launched a pilot partnership in 2016 with the Mental Health Center of Denver, and the department welcomed its first three ride-along clinicians.

While the patrol officers liked the idea of the program in theory, they were initially hesitant about inviting a civilian social worker into their cars for 10 hours a day, Snow said.

That didn’t last long.

“Officers pretty quickly saw the value of the partnership from call to call, when the clinical staff is bringing a skill set and access to resources that police officers haven’t had,” he said. “I’ve been with the Denver Police Department for a long time, and I’ve never seen any type of program integrate and make an impact so quickly.”

The program has now grown to include 32 ride-along clinicians who have responded to more than 10,000 calls in the past five years. All the clinicians work directly for the Mental Health Center of Denver, the city’s largest community mental health provider, which allows them to tap into the center’s vast network of resources and better track follow-up care. Evans, who majored in psychology at Conn and earned a master of social work from the University of Denver, joined the program in 2018. She initially began her career as an elementary school social worker, but when a friend told her about the co-responder program during an Ultimate Frisbee game, she knew she had found her calling.



“This really is my dream job. I love that every day is different, and that I’m challenged to use all the skills I have as a social worker. It keeps me on my toes every single day, and even after almost three years, I’m still surprised by the things I encounter at work,” she said.

Snow says the partnership between officers and clinicians is a key component of the program’s success. And while some communities have clinicians ride separately or respond after the fact, Snow sees clear benefits to the ride-along model in his city.

“We find it more effective to pair them, so they are truly responding simultaneously. They can both assess the situation on the way to the scene and discuss who is going to take the lead and under what circumstances the lead may need to change,” he said, adding that officer-clinician pairs rotate so that every officer has a chance to participate.

“There’s a clear pathway from initial call to assessment to support services,” Snow says. “We are taking people who otherwise might have ended up in the criminal justice system and really changing outcomes for people.”

Denver’s co-responder program has attracted attention from police departments and communities around the country, and similar initiatives are expanding in Connecticut, including in New London. The city and the New London Police Department are looking to expand on an existing ride-along partnership with the state’s Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services by hiring “peer navigators” to provide follow-up services. The peer navigator program was a recommendation of an NLPD task force appointed by New London Mayor Michael Passero ’79 in 2020.

Connecticut College has also been working with Evans to develop its own co-responder program, believed to be one of the first in the country on a college campus.

“Last summer, students were engaged in conversations about

general issues of policing, given what was happening in our country with the [Black Lives Matter movement and protests surrounding the death of George Floyd], and we began thinking about how, on our campus, Campus Safety is the first response, and is there another way to think about that,” said Senior Associate Dean of Student Life Sarah Cardwell.

Student Life staff are currently interviewing candidates to serve as student support specialists, who would co-respond with Campus Safety officers to students in crisis. The College already partners with a service that provides off-hours support from licensed professional clinicians, but the co-responder program will allow the specialists to intervene immediately and provide a more targeted response from the outset.

Evans said she hopes Conn can serve as a model for other colleges and universities.


“College is a time of great change, when many mental health issues start to emerge. Having a provider who can work through a crisis situation when and where it happens is extremely valuable,” she said.

“I hope to help develop and implement more co-responder programs throughout the U.S.”

But not every social worker is cut out for the job of riding along with police officers. Evans explains that it takes a certain skill set—and a certain personality.

“You are going to be in the car with someone for 10 hours, you are going to be spending a lot of time together,” she notes.

There’s also inherent risk involved.

“I feel like my officers do their best to keep me safe, but they can’t predict all situations,” Evans says. “We’ve had clinicians shot at or involved in shootings, but I haven’t really felt like my life has been threatened. I’m always very aware of my surroundings.” 

Erasure

E. Kristin Anderson '05 talks about the power of poetry, the erasure poetry technique and how popular culture informs her work.

BY TIMOTHY STEVENS '03

E. Kristin Anderson '05 seemed poised to pursue a career as a journalist. Sixteen years later, she achieved a byline in *The New York Times*. However, there's a twist. Anderson jumped off the journalism track some time ago, deciding to expand and diversify her literary pursuits. As a result, *The New York Times* came calling not because Anderson had a hot scoop or a new expose, but because she had a delicious command of the written word. Using the newspaper's own words, she created a work of blackout, or erasure, poetry and provided a brief instructional guide on how others could follow.

Timothy Stevens: Why did you, someone who started out in journalism, begin to focus on poetry?

E. Kristin Anderson: I think part of what works for me with poetry is that I'm not a very linear thinker. Especially as I'm getting older and my brain has been changing. Poetry comes in short bursts, and while I often can't concentrate for very long to work on long-form writing these days, I can park myself at a café, put on my headphones, and get a poem onto the page in maybe an hour. I usually have a running text thread with myself that's all notes—thoughts, phrases that sound nice or weird, facts I picked up from a podcast—and I use that hour to put a first draft together like a puzzle before I space out and get distracted.

TS: While you've been writing poetry for some time now, earlier this year you achieved something of a milestone, being

published in *The New York Times*. How did that happen?

EKA: Honestly? I think part of it is that I keep my DMs open on Twitter. Which can be risky—being a woman in public means sometimes the DMs that come through are less than pleasant. But sometimes it's a young writer who needs help with a tough situation, and sometimes it's an editor with *The New York Times* who is looking for something of an expert in the field of erasure poetry and maybe heard you're cool.

TS: Was being published in *The New York Times* ever a personal or professional goal of yours?

EKA: The year after I graduated from Conn, I actually interviewed for a position at *The Times*—on my flip phone in a hotel bathroom, because nowhere else in the building seemed to have reception. There was a time when I wanted to be a journalist, but that wasn't my path. I am very proud to have been in *The Times*, and it felt really fantastic, but it's truly more of a happy surprise that I had the opportunity to write for the paper.

TS: Now that you have topped that peak, do you have your eyes on any other proverbial mountains?

EKA: I have like eight novels on my hard drive, and every year I'm like, this is the year I'm going to revise one of these and start

sending it out again, and then I get some weird idea like writing an entire collection about trauma and *The X-Files*, and there goes six months. So my primary goal is getting a full-length collection out there. I have several chapbooks to my name, and I love the format of the chapbook and the excellent editors I've worked with, but this is a next step for me.

TS: Your published poem was a very specific form of poetry called erasure poetry. What is erasure poetry, and how does it work?

EKA: Erasure is a technique where you use an existing text to write a poem by removing part of the text and leaving a select series of words that become a poem. Some writers use a visual format, blacking out the words they're not using with a Sharpie or even illustrating the page or collaging around the poem.

I did a blackout poem for *The Times* on request, but I draft most of my poems using words in the order that they appear in the source text and then type the draft into a Word document so it can look very much like a traditional poem—it just has a source citation at the bottom.

I've worked a lot with Stephen King novels over the past few years, which has been fascinating as a woman who grew up in Maine. I've also mostly been approaching his most problematic books with the intention of flipping some of his sexist tropes on their heads.

TS: You utilize pop culture as the inspiration for your work. In addition to Stephen King, the artists or works that have inspired many of your poems include the musician Prince and the television show *The X-Files*. What do you find artistically inspiring and fulfilling about drawing from pop culture?

EKA: I think that pop culture is a through line for all of us. We don't all grow up with access to MoMA, but most of us have read a comic book or seen an episode of "Law & Order." Most of us have heard a song by Prince or Sheryl Crow. I think these parts of culture are just as important as any other thing we can write about.

And often these pop culture moments can be a point of entry—for both reader and writer—to more intense or difficult stories. My Scully (a character on *The X-Files*) poems were largely informed by my experiences with medical trauma, abuse and misogyny. Scully's journey through cancer, through being a highly qualified woman in a boys' club, through the paranormal—it all provides a grounding mechanism for my stories. If you know Scully, in a way, you know me.

TS: In general, are you a writer who needs to lock herself in and write during specific times, or do you find yourself more comfortable with only writing when the moment seizes you?

EKA: There was a time when I could write wherever, whenever. At the end of 2015, I was hospitalized with kidney

failure and found out I had a rare autoimmune disorder. The treatments were difficult, and my brain never really recovered from being on chemo and prednisone. PTSD affects me every day. And the only way I've been able to keep writing is to create time and space for it.

I have a routine. I go to my Starbucks, I decide what I want to achieve for the day (like draft one new poem, or set a word count), and I put a certain amount of time into it. This past year has been particularly hard, though patio seating has helped. But without routine and this sort of specific focus (often with a reward—like, you can go home and watch your show when you finish writing for the day), I don't know that I'd ever get much done these days.

TS: What are you currently working on?

EKA: Right now, I'm actually in the middle of a group project I do with a bunch of poets twice a year called the Poeming. In October, for spooky season, we take the entire catalog of one horror or thriller author and divvy up the books and every participating writer makes 31 poems using their assigned book and found poetry techniques. In April, for National Poetry Writing Month, we all use the same book. This year, it's *The Silence of the Lambs*, and it's getting really weird.


I'm also working on finishing up a manuscript of response poems written after songs by women artists—Aimee Mann, Tori Amos, Jenny Lewis, Taylor Swift, Kesha. I'm sort of bouncing political issues and personal traumas and experiences off the songs—maybe a way of singing along, maybe a poet's version of a cover. But they seem to be resonating with folks, and they're finding homes in magazines, many online. Online

magazines have been such a gift for poetry. Literary journals can be hard to access, but all you need to read an online mag is an internet connection.

TS: For those who want to read more of your work, where should they go? Do you have any kind of social media presence people can keep up with to stay current on your work?

EKA: I'm very much a Twitter person—you can find me at @ek_anderson. My Instagram is @ekristinanderson, but mostly I just post pictures of the masks I've been making for friends and essential workers. Twitter is where I post about writing, recent publications and, lately, hot takes about *Star Wars*. Don't even try to tell me that R2-D2 doesn't have badass auntie energy.

TS: Finally, I have to ask about the pen name “E. Kristin Anderson.” I'm not wrong that it is a play on Hans Christian Andersen, right? What about the Danish writer most famous for fairy tales appealed to you, if he did at all?

EKA: It's actually mostly my name. Kristin is my middle name, and Anderson is my grandmother's middle name. She and I are very close, so it's kind of a nod to her. But my legal name is common, and I wanted something that was googleable and memorable—the Danish author helped with the latter. But it's also been good for safety, keeping a little of my name to myself. 

Timothy Stevens '03 is a staff writer and social media manager at The Spool.

WAVING SHADOWS

By E. Kristin Anderson

I was fine—right up to the moment
I survived, the heart as clumsy

as floodlights in the morning.
I saw that tree, that chaos twisted

on the surface of the water and
I was living in telephones.

Silver, I'm turning the camera now,
rising, a weapon awakened

by hissing static. It was
my mouth, sharp and warm and

sideways—you know the danger
I feel the weight of, the way

I went down into the basement
and shut off memory and memory—

*This is an erasure poem. Source material: Crichton, Michael. "Jurassic Park."
Mass Market ed. Ballantine, 2015. 271-285. Print.*

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

R denotes a Reunion class year. 2022 Reunions will be online June 3-5, 2022.



Louise Reichgott Endel '43 with great-grandson Max Kerner, son of Alison Roth-Kerner '01 and Andrew Kerner '02. Max is the grandson of Suzy Endel Kerner '67.

52 **R** **Emilie Starke Piper** passed away on Feb. 15. She earned her BA at CC and sang in the choir all four years. After graduating, she and some classmates toured Europe by train and bicycle. She earned an MA at Cornell the following year. She liked a challenge (and without making a big deal, the bragging rights), so she swam across the Twin Lakes in Salisbury, Conn. Emilie's long life was distinguished both by her determination to live on her own terms and by her many sacrifices for those she loved. Her moral compass pointed unerringly to fairness and justice. She passed on a rich appreciation for the natural world and a clear-eyed understanding of our part in it, as well as finding self-expression there. She felt that humans were pretty sturdy and that discomfort or even some hardship was part of living a full life. She was decades ahead of her time in teaching her sons that, when their turn came, contributing to family life required more than bringing home a paycheck.

57 **R** **Correspondent: Elaine Diamond Berman, 100 Riverside Blvd., Apt. 20C, New York, NY, 10069, elainedberman@comcast.net** On Feb. 12, our class agents planned to meet online with Lynne Crider, Assistant Director of Annual Giving. **Sue Krim Greene** and **Helene Zimmer-Loew** thought it would be fun to include more classmates. What a great idea! Word spread and 15 classmates joined. The experience was so successful that another was planned for March,

with perhaps more in the future since it is an effective way to communicate with each other. But there is still a need for Class Notes, so please continue to submit them. Sadly, we have lost a few classmates in recent months. **Meg Weller Harkins** died in October. She was a librarian and admissions director at the U. of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. Meg is survived by daughter Kate, son-in-law Matts and two grandsons. **Jackie Markun Weisenberg** passed away in October. She was described in her obituary as the consummate volunteer. She held board positions for numerous golf associations and community organizations. Jackie spent many years working as the director of volunteers at the Auxiliary of the Hebrew Home and Hospital. She is survived by two sisters, three children and four grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband. **Anne Detarando Hartman** died in August. Anne was a music major at Conn and a gifted pianist. She received her master's degree in education from Harvard. Anne taught piano privately in Newton, MA, and was very active as a 50-year member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Allan Hartman. **Penelope Howland Cambier** died in May. She is survived by two sons and two sisters. **Nancy Tuttle Ivers** died in December, just two months after her husband of 63 years, F. Kenneth Ivers II. She and Ken split time between homes in Shelter Island, N.Y., and Palm City, Fla. Nancy was a competitive golfer, winning many tournaments in the New York/New Jersey area. She is survived by three children and eight grandchildren. **Joan Stevens Bingham** passed away in October. Her husband, Robert Worth Bingham III, died in a freak accident in 1966. Joan was the founding publisher of The Washington Weekly and later edited an economics newsletter in Paris. She helped found the Grove Atlantic publishing house in 1993, where she acquired and edited more than 100 titles in fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Joan supported numerous charitable organizations. She was particularly passionate about the American School of Classical Studies at Athens and was a member of its board. Joan is survived by daughter Clara Bingham and three grandchildren. **Sabra Grant Kennington** died in January in Allentown, Pa. A music major at Conn, Sabra married a career U.S. Navy submariner, William Kennington. She taught preschool and kindergarten while raising her four sons and obtaining an MS in linguistics. All four sons are graduates of the Naval Academy. When her husband retired to Annapolis in 1985, Sabra became a speech therapist at the Harbour School there. She was predeceased by her husband and is survived by her sons and seven grandchildren.

59 **Correspondent: Carolyn Keefe Oakes, 3333 Warrensville Center Road, Apt. 412, Shaker Heights, OH 44122, 216-752-5384, carolynoakes07@gmail.com and Marcia Fortin Sherman, 602 Red Maple Way,**

Clemson, SC 29631, 864-654-1957, marciasherman@bellsouth.net **Fern Alexander Denney** is married to a sculptor and lives in a Quaker retirement community near Philadelphia. She got her MA in art history at Temple and has been an adjunct professor at various colleges as well as a docent at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She has three daughters (one a CC grad) and five grandchildren (the oldest a freshman at Dartmouth). She is now an expert Zoomer, lecturing on art history and virtually studying the Iliad and Odyssey. She also plays tennis. **Sandy Sidman Larson** is staying safe, only making excursions to the dog park. She is grateful for Zoom and the internet, where she watches operas. Fortunately, she planned trips, pre-COVID, to Palm Beach Poetry Festival in Florida and to see a friend in Scottsdale, Ariz., where she explored art galleries and botanical gardens and had many outings, as well as a side trip to Tucson. Her granddaughter was accepted into med school in Chicago. Sandy has completed her second poetry manuscript and is looking for a publisher. **Connie Snelling McCreery** Zoomed with her family in California and Connecticut. She has also connected with relatives in New Zealand and Bali. **Ann Seidel Fletcher** uses Zoom for literacy tutoring with migrant workers' children in California. Things are quiet for **Jean Alexander Gilcrest** in North Carolina, as she won't travel this year. **Gail Glidden Goodell** enjoyed a tiki raft tour around Salem, Mass., with her son and family. She hopes to do a cruise this year with **Carol Broer Bishop**, which had been postponed. She is still busy with water aerobics, walking, Zoom church activities and, of course, sharing humor with us weekly. **Hope Gibson Dempsey Hungerford** helped raise money to maintain plants in a city garden near her home. She works out in her building. A year ago **Anne Earnshaw Roche** spent time at their beach with family, enjoying sailing, tennis tournaments and visiting with her sister, all before COVID hit. They managed a celebration for John's 90th birthday. They walk on the New Zealand Trail, which is near them, and have enjoyed holidays with family since quarantine was lifted. Anne's youngest granddaughter starts law school. We offer condolences to the families of classmates who passed away recently. **Judy Pratt** died in December. She was an office secretary in Boston and for the National Audubon Society nature center in Connecticut. She moved to New Hampshire and was the first paid employee of the New Hampshire Audubon Society and then retired after 27 years as an administrative assistant for the New Hampshire/Vermont district Unitarian Universalist Societies. Judy loved books, especially about the British Isles, and she loved animals. She was a spinner, gardener and environmentalist. **Judy Petrequin Rice** died in January. She cherished time with her family and tried to attend their every activity. She was devoted to her high school, Hathaway Brown, where she played field hockey. She volunteered


with the Junior League, played tennis, and enjoyed music, theater and travel. She spent her last days in Arizona near her daughter's family. **Diane Miller Bessell** died in September. Her husband, Norris Clement, kindly shared some information about her. They loved their home in British Columbia but ultimately returned to Sausalito, Calif., and the wine country. After Norris retired in 2000, he returned to his roots as a jazz pianist and, not surprisingly, Diane began to sing with him. During recent years, while Di was battling COPD, she, **Lolly Espy Barton** and **Ginger Reed Levick** talked regularly by phone. Please send us news about the good things in your life during these strange times.

60 *Correspondent: Millie Price Nygren, 1048 Bedford St., Fremont, CA 94539, (408) 464-2907, m.nygren@att.net* Last issue I reported that **Karen Hoffman Hanson** had passed away. I subsequently heard from Dick Harris: "I read your column about the passing of Karen Hoffman. My wife, **Maggie Hammalian Harris**, grew up with her in Hackensack, N.J. Karen's father married us at the Second Reformed Church in Hackensack, and Karen was a bridesmaid. It was sad to read about her. After graduate school, I joined the Army and married. Maggie could not go back to school for her senior year because Conn would not allow a married girl to live in the dormitories. My job was about 50 miles away and I could not live near Conn. Maggie did go on to get several degrees afterwards. We had four children and lived in the Philadelphia area. It's been difficult for me to write this, however; sadly Margit, as her family and friends called her, passed away suddenly about three years ago without having any illnesses. We all miss her so much: four children and seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren she never had a chance to see. Her friends at school were **Betsy Thompson Bartholet**, who was maid of honor at our wedding, and **Linda Strassenmeyer Stein**, **Cathy Warne** and **Bayla Solomon Weisbart**. By the way, Karen's father also baptized one of our children. He and his wife were terrific people, and the congregation at church loved him so much. That's all I can say for now, other than I and our family still miss Margit so much." **Harriet Kaufman Breslow** is still a psychiatric social worker, doing telehealth from her home. "I am probably putting in more hours than I've ever worked in recent years. It is great to have this job in these difficult times. Many of my clients are elderly, and it is nice to know I can help them." Harriet and husband Jerry still live in their original home in Potomac, Md. All their wonderful trips were canceled, but they are both doing well. They feel fortunate to have received their vaccines and lucky to still have each other. Harriet is in touch with **Pat Wertheim Abrams**. **Carolyn McGonigle Holleran** received both injections of the Pfizer vaccina-

tion. All travel and family celebrations stopped because of the pandemic. They biked locally last summer on new electric bikes: "One still must pedal, but the battery gives the rider an extra boost." Sharing memories: **Renee Cappellini Slater** wrote, "I lived in Emily Abbey House my junior and senior years. We did our own cooking and cleaning. I learned to cook for 20 and keep ovens clean. We usually have 15 or 20 for Thanksgiving now. It's cozy, but we all sit down together. One Christmas at Emily Abbey we had a small, bare tree decorated with apples and paper baubles. It was so beautiful that I now have what I call my Golden Bough, a buddleia branch from my garden sprayed gold and hung with stars and angels and dried flowers. I had the great fortune to be taught by Rosamund Tuve and Dorothy Betherum—life-shaping experiences." **Patricia Wertheim Abrams** wrote about Song Fest and the Class of '60 production, "It's a Matter of Opinion": "I spent so much time rehearsing that I didn't do the required reading for my English major Romantic poetry class. I reasoned I'd read the assignments in high school so it wasn't necessary. Wrong! I got a C on the test. *It's a matter of opinion* as the years have passed which was more important—class camaraderie or grades. I vote for loyalty to our class."

63 *Correspondent: Bonnie Campbell Billings-Wauters, 1315 Winding Oaks Circle, East Unit #903, Vero Beach, FL 32963, (802) 734-1876, bsq22@aol.com* I emailed "pleas" for Class Notes in October and February. Hoping to inspire shared experiences during this unusual time, I asked: *How has life changed over the past year? What's replaced family visits and socialization: new interests, completion of projects, renewed apprecia-*


*tion of what you have, virtual connections with old friends? What personal insights have you developed? And it worked! I've received so many wonderful, thoughtful, insightful and often humorous responses. It's clear that our years together created a bond that could be rekindled. Think about joining the dialogue next issue! Space is limited, so I must edit mercilessly for the magazine. Fortunately, the alumni office offers the full text of your responses online as a Google Doc: <http://bit.ly/2ZVSDz4>. Check it out! **Patricia Said Adams** embraced the year's isolation to further her research into slavery, in the world and particularly the U.S., for a book yet to be written. "The worst part of the isolation, besides wearing masks, has been realizing my own part in continuing the oppression, or at least the inequality, of Black people and other minorities." Her book project and a weekly blog "provide purpose for a longtime stay-at-home mom who didn't have a career until past retirement age." **Ruth Roney McMullin** writes from Savannah, Ga., of the abundant outdoor opportunities to observe nature, birds and wildlife. Husband Tom suffers from dementia but retains a remarkable sense of humor and enjoys hikes, boating and other outdoor activities daily. **Connie Cross** is happy to be retired and not having to teach school remotely. She and Lou enhanced their usual summer at their lake cottage with the addition of two Arizona cousins. "Those two kids made last summer so much fun! They held fishing derbies, achieved long-distance swim goals, canoed, kayaked, cooked s'mores over the fire—and I relived my days as a camp counselor." Connie is still active on the board of her local land trust, aiming to conserve 30,000 more acres around Sebago Lake. **Lonnie Jones Schorer** and husband David rebuilt the family summer cottage into*



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JAY YUNAS '22
Gorakhpur, India

MAJORS:
Computer science and economics

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES: Serves on Honor Council, as a teaching assistant in the Computer Science department and as a writing tutor at the Roth Writing Center

"Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me."

a full retirement home and are settling into rural life in Moultonborough, N.H. She wrote perceptively about taking on a puppy at their (our!) age. And of how that led to “the talk” on a range of end-of-life issues with their children. **Elana (Lanny) Brown Anderson** wrote humorously of the pandemic winter on Deer Isle, Maine, of “two little old people, crabby, crotchety, and relieved that the election is over and went the way we fervently hoped.” All three of their children own homes nearby on Deer Isle though are primarily still in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Islamabad! “The grands, ranging in age from 5 to 31, are all brilliant and charming and delightful.” She and Bill walk and hike, play online duplicate bridge, read, and watch “the boob tube.” Zoom calls keep the family connected. **Quinta Dunn Scott** has spent 20 years researching and photographing the Missouri Ozarks. When, 10 years ago, she took on the project of writing articles for a new university magazine, she wondered if she would live long enough to finish the project. She has now outlived the magazine, a victim of the pandemic, and has finished a book she hopes will be published by a university press. Happily, **Barbara Thomas Cheney**’s entire extended family is well; she has learned to do everything online, from competitive ballroom dancing and Argentine tango to holding worship services and conducting spiritual guidance. Barbara and husband Doug live outside New Haven, Conn., and are Episcopal priests. **Judy Judson Kitson** visited **Marion Pierce Hart** in South Carolina en route to exploring southern living options some years ago. They built in a 55+ community in Englewood, Fla., and moved from Old Saybrook, Conn., in 2016. Their community choice proved prescient when, 16 months later, David passed away from pancreatic cancer. New friends and neighbors “really stepped up” with much-needed help and support. Before the pandemic, community activities—cultural events, volunteer work, joining a chorus—began to fill the void. “Writing an online journal of my life for my children” is one of Judy’s projects. Pre-pandemic, Judy got together with her daughter, Carolyn (CC ’91), and her granddaughter in a summer rental in Connecticut. **Susan Wilson King** owns and operates a farm in Elkins, N.H. “Running the farm has kept me sane and involved. I have two wonderful young helpers, and I see a couple of friends. The farm has become a great go-to place for families with kids. With masks outdoors, it seems pretty safe. This is called agritourism. It’s such fun to have visitors from all over. My alpaca business includes breeding, selling fiber, and whatever else we can do with 35 alpacas, two Scotch Highlands cows, five angora rabbits, and about 20 fancy chickens. Find Skyview Alpacas on Facebook and see the whole show!” **Theodora Dracopoulos Argue** recovered from a hip she broke in December 2019, the last time her family was together. Walks and Zoom get-togethers with family, friends and various groups (book, social, Bible, church), plus managing her

church bookstore, are the pandemic’s “new normal.” **Milbrey Wallin McLaughlin** has been a professor, now emerita, at Stanford since 1983. She is still involved in research projects, mainly focused on disadvantaged youth and community change efforts. “Connecticut College and Irwin Lieb (philosophy) provided the foundation for all I have been able to do ... books, articles, etc. It’s been a good career, thanks CC.” **Susan Kellogg Grigg** wrote, “It was wonderful to find **Bonnie Campbell Billings** as our neighbor when we purchased a winter home in the Sea Oaks community in Vero Beach, Fla., in 2019. It’s been fun from the start. We get together in the summer, when we are both back in Vermont. We feel blessed by our lives and grateful every day for our relationships with our active family and good friends. Life keeps getting more interesting as time carries us forward.” Sue and Charlie planned to return to Sea Oaks in March, after their vaccinations. I, **Bonnie Campbell Billings**, as your class correspondent, enjoy reconnecting with old friends and finding connections with other classmates. The significantly increased response has been most rewarding. My husband of 26 years, Joe Wauters, and I also joined the Sea Oaks community in 2019 and will soon move into a new home here. I play lots of tennis and golf and thoroughly enjoy the lifestyle. This will be the first year I’ve not skied since college! We will spend five months at our home in Stowe, Vt., again this summer.

65 *Correspondents: Susan Peck Hinkel, 1064 N. Main St., Danby, VT 05739, rerob@mac.com; Pat Antell Andrews, 2800 S. University Blvd, Unit 4, Denver, CO 80210, pandre0615@gmail.com* **Mary Keenan Tremoulet** had a career in nursing and social work (including teaching in both fields) and focused professionally on continuing-care retirement communities. Now she has lived at Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, in Asheville, N.C., for more than 10 years. Widowed, she especially misses her younger generations, who live in New Jersey and California. She maintains her RN and social work licenses and looks forward to volunteering to administer the COVID vaccine—and to returning to the gym and the pool. While sheltering in place, **Lois Larkey** began writing a blog describing the experience of being isolated, unable to see families, and seeing people die in New York and New Jersey, with hospitals overrun and refrigerator trucks brought in as morgues. Her blog posts will be published by Archway Publishing. The last day she describes is Inauguration Day, although she now plans an epilogue because of the trial. The working title is *Diary of a Dystopian Era*. Both **Marge Tupling Knyper** and her husband had COVID-19; they are out of isolation and doing their usual activities (mostly Zooming ukulele, guitar and painting classes). She had a dry cough for about a week and had to lie down occasionally during the day, while her husband had a fever and couldn’t get out of

bed for a week. They both recovered within 10 days. “It’s nice to know it’s not so lethal for all 77-year-olds!” They miss traveling, especially to London, but remain patient to see what the next year brings. Meanwhile, they enjoy walks along the beautiful coastal areas in San Francisco. Their two sons are both healthy and working toward their goals, “so what could be better?” What kept **Pat Johns Bell** from going stir-crazy during COVID turned out to be a storm with an unanticipated silver lining. While Marie Kondo-ing her overstuffed file drawers, she discovered a large stash of travel diaries dating back through her years as travel editor at Gourmet magazine, as well as several from her college days. Food featured prominently, and the diaries were an inspiration for a cookbook. Cue COVID isolation, and by year-end she had completed her third book—parts memoir, travelogue and cookbook—entitled *Breakfasting Around the World*. It was self-published through Blurb.com and is available in softcover or as an ebook PDF. **Peggy Huddleston**, in Punta Gorda, Fla., is learning to speak Dutch in preparation for a move to the Netherlands. There, she will complete her PhD dissertation in mind-body medicine from Saybrook University (Oakland, Calif.). Her involvement in this field began with the observation that some children have a spiritual gift for healing. To foster these skills, she founded a Camp for Young Healers under the umbrella of Harvard Medical School. This led to a master’s degree in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School, focusing on emotional and spiritual components of healing. Peggy has published *Prepare for Surgery, Heal Faster: A Guide of Mind-Body Techniques*, and she has trained more than a thousand health professionals. Her website is www.healfaster.com. **Pam Byecroft Wetherill** and husband Dave spent much of the summer exploring Nantucket on foot, recording their adventures in a daily photo journal, and preparing to sell their family vacation home. Now they are ensconced in Princeton, N.J., keeping up with their younger generations. Son Doug rehabilitates the brain-injured, and their other son, Dan, is in hospital consulting. Pam and Dave play tennis, and Pam is auditing a Princeton course on Jesus and Buddha. The Class of 1965 was saddened to hear of the death of **Martha Williams** in December. She will be remembered for her outgoing personality and continued interest in our class and the College. We are also saddened by the cancellation (for the second time) of all alumni reunions this May due to COVID.

66 *Correspondents: Carol Chaykin & Pat Dale; cnotes66@gmail.com* **Lenore Farmer** has been making masks for the cats at her local cat shelter and watching reruns of *I Love Lucy* on TV. **Mary Ellen Hosmer Dinwoodey** is trying to stay healthy physically and mentally but is feeling her years rushing along during these strange times. She keeps up with **Adair Albee Hendrickson**,



Dr. Alison Days, Ann Langdon '66, Liz Days with Drew S. Days III, in September 2019

Liza Chase Millet and Leslie Feely. **Ellen Kagan**, still active in politics, is working to ensure President Biden's policies are passed by Congress. During the winter weather, she stayed occasionally at the DoubleTree Hotel in Hyannis, Mass. **Ann Langdon-Days wrote to us, saying that 2020 was an extraordinarily difficult year, spent** caring for her husband, distinguished civil rights attorney and activist Drew Days. She saw him mostly through a two-inch opening in a bedroom window of the long-term care facility where he was kept locked away from visitors from March to September—when she was finally able to go inside for visits. Daughter Liz came from New York and spent a week helping Ann with many of the responsibilities after Drew's death on November 15, 2020. Ann **got through** their 54th anniversary alone, followed two weeks later by Christmas when Liz and her spouse returned for a visit. **Ann** spent much of the holiday season planning a wonderful Zoom memorial visit, with 480 people participating. **Roxcy Platte** suffered a bout of COVID-19 in Venice, Fla., where she and David live half the year. She is grateful for the kindnesses of friends and neighbors during her slow recovery. David was asymptomatic and took care of their needs. Her tennis group kept them supplied with dinners and chicken soup, and her little rescue dog, Winslow, never left her side. Their kids in Vermont are well, and their grandchildren, who are in school most days, enjoy skiing on days off. Roxcy sits outside in lovely weather and hopes we are all staying safe. **Betsey Staples Harding** and Sam love being on the Maine coast—a great place for kayaking, hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. She is pleased to volunteer again as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, or CASA/GAL, in Maine, as she had done in New Hampshire. It's a terrific opportunity to help abused or neglected children—especially now, with families struggling during COVID. Betsey sends best wishes to everyone. **Mardie Walker** reports that the story of her trial and conviction in Atlanta in 1964—and subsequent reversal by the U.S. Supreme Court—is part of an exhibit at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford that will be on display until October. Included is the role that the Conn College community



Suzy Endel Kerner '67

played in raising money for her bail. Please continue sending your news and photos. We love hearing from you!

67 ^R *Class Correspondents: Deborah Greenstein, debbyg837@verizon.net; Marcia Hunter Matthews, marciamatthews3@gmail.com* The Class of 1967 sends condolences to **Nancy Taylor Hunt** and her family for the death in April 2020 of her husband, Ron. She moved to Bethel, Conn., to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Nancy bought a house there (“either brave or foolish at age 75”) and is getting settled. She got her first dose of the vaccine in February. We also send condolences to **Judy Foldes Dickson** and her family for the death of her husband, Don, who died in January in Burlington, Vt. He was a political scientist, environmentalist and affordable housing advocate. **Susan Melinette Haerle** commented in January that there were no vaccines available in Massachusetts or Rhode Island. **Laura DeKoven Waxman** and husband Jon felt lucky to get their vaccines in January in DC. **Lynn Weichsel Hand** tried three times and was grateful to get her vaccine in February. She has been busy with granddaughter Mia, who graduates from Concord (N.H.) high school in 2022 and has been remote most of the year. Lynn took an online art course and is a member of Women's Caucus for Art, New Hampshire. **Rae Downes Koshetz** wrote “What's on a Wall: Moving in the Time of COVID-19” for the February New York Law Journal—a reflective piece examining the irony that what we put on the office wall (degrees and photos with important people) reflects the least important part of what we do. **Suzy Endel Kerner** was sad to lose her mother, Louise Reichgott '43, to COVID a month before her 99th birthday. Her family treasured Louise's boundless energy, devotion to family and passion for community service. Suzy hosts weekly Zoom sessions with CC classmates **Nancy Blumberg Austin, Rae Downes Koshetz, Dana Freedman Liebman, Judith Rosman Hahn, Susan Leahy Eldert** and **Marcia Hunter Matthews**. She and Paul moved to Waterford, Conn., and often join **Peggy Keenan Sheridan** and Tony for sunrise walks. Suzy is directing a hybrid production of



Priscilla Smalzel-Delas '67 with granddaughter Chloé

Top Girls at Montclair State U. and was invited as a guest artist to teach a virtual London Theatre course at the O'Neill Theater Center in March. “Retirement from full-time teaching is beckoning, but I'm still having too much fun.” **Merryl Gillespie Hodgson's** husband started losing heart function just as COVID started gaining strength. He had several surgeries, and she became sick worrying about him. Thankfully, their health issues cleared up and they returned to old hobbies: He ties flies, and she draws and paints—and sewed 60 American Girl Doll outfits for their granddaughters. “In spite of the political mess, kindness seems to have come to the fore.” She has stayed in touch with **Deborah Dearborn** since graduation and got back in touch with **Marianne Bauer Howard** after Reunion. “These great friends allow me to be honest and have helped me survive this past year with laughter and tears. And, last of all, I will never, ever wear a bra again!” **Priscilla Smalzel-Delas** lives in Paris with daughters Emilie and Olivia nearby. Her second granddaughter, Chloé, was born in 2020 and is, with big sister Lisa, the light of Priscilla's life. Priscilla has mild dementia, which makes it difficult to answer emails or letters, but she still lives at home. **Debby Greenstein** made the hard decision to return to Florida this winter. It has been lovely but very different: no guests, no eating out, no movies, no theater, no museums or art shows. Despite that, the ability to go out and walk in the sunshine and socialize with neighbors made it a good choice. **Elayne Zweifler Gardstein** and Hank were fortunate to get both doses of the vaccine on Long Island. She continues to work remotely and hopes that most of the library personnel will be inoculated by the next academic year. She's been writing a new Special Collections article. They miss family celebrations and daughters Tracy (CC '92) and Betsey.

68 *Correspondent: Mary Clarkeson Phillips, 36 The Crossway, Delmar, NY 12054, mphil2@nycap.rr.com*

ALUMNI AWARDS

HARRIET BUESCHER LAWRENCE '34 PRIZE

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

THE MACH AROM '89 AWARD

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

AGNES BERKELEY LEAHY AWARD

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

ALUMNI TRIBUTE AWARD

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

THE GOSS AWARD

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

2020 Alumni Award Winners

*Harriet Buescher Lawrence '34
Prize Recipient*

Mary-Jane Atwater '70

Locust Grove, VA
Atwater Communications
Retired Principal

Mary-Jane transformed her community and strengthened ties between neighbors by creating a unique program for elders that enables them to remain in their homes. It features a variety of programs and recruits volunteers to meet the needs of each person. Mary-Jane is also an active and generous supporter of Connecticut College and an award-winning public relations executive.



*Harriet Buescher Lawrence '34
Prize Recipient*

**Katherine O'Sullivan
See '70**

Williamston, MI
Michigan State University
Professor Emerita

Katie dedicated her distinguished academic career to the study and understanding of comparative race and ethnic relations, social stratification, gender relations, and political sociology in our global society. She is widely published and has received a number of awards for excellence in teaching and research. Katie is also a generous supporter of internships, faculty, scholarships, and the annual fund at Connecticut College.



*Mach Arom '89 Award
Recipient*

Alexandra Felfle '10

Hoboken, NJ
Vice President at JP Morgan
Chase

Alex has worked tirelessly to create internship and job pipelines for Conn students and is a mentor to many undergraduates interested in finance and business. Alex is an engaged volunteer and consistent annual fund donor. She is currently a vice president at JP Morgan Chase, where she is a Relationship Manager covering corporates and financial institutions in Central America and the Caribbean.



*Agnes Berkley Leahy Award
Recipient*

Gwendolyn H. Goffe '70

Galveston, TX
Chief Investment Officer,
The Brown Foundation

Gwen has been deeply committed to the College since graduation and is an inspiration to her classmates. Serving in a wide range of capacities over the years, she is currently class president and has been very active in fundraising, using her professional skills to benefit the College. Gwen retired as director of investment and finance at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston in 2013.



*Alumni Tribute Award
Recipient*

Eric J. Kaplan '85

Philadelphia, PA
Chief of Staff, Dean of
the Graduate School of Education at
the University of Pennsylvania

Eric has been an enduring supporter of the College and its mission. He currently serves as the class vice president and nominating chair for the Class of 1985, co-chaired the 25th Reunion Gift committee and is a member of the Board of Trustees. He is a generous supporter of the internship and financial aid programs at Conn.



Goss Award Recipient

Dr. Lois Mendez Catlin '80

Carrabelle, FL
Phoenix Family Health Care
Center Chief Operations
Officer

Lois has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to Connecticut College and her class, having served as vice president of the CC Alumni Board, class correspondent, CCAC volunteer and admissions representative. Lois has been instrumental in furthering equity and inclusion initiatives at the College. She is the co-founder of Renovatio Youth Leadership Program and the Executive Director of the Take Stock In Children Mentoring and OnTarget: College and Career Exploration Programs in Franklin County, Florida.



2021 Alumni Award Winners

*Harriet Buescher Lawrence '34
Prize Recipient*

Lois Olcott Price '71

Santa Fe, NM
Retired Director of
Conservation, Winterthur
Museum & Country Estate



Lois's commitment to the College shines through every responsibility, both large and small, that she has undertaken in service of the Class of '71 and the College. She is an active listener, reliable partner, strategic thinker, excellent communicator and creative problem solver that have been evident as class correspondent, Reunion committee member and Reunion chair. She inspires others to engage with one another and the College, creating a cohesiveness and bonding amongst classmates.

*Harriet Buescher Lawrence '34
Prize Recipient*

John W. Walters '71

East Haddam, CT
Retired Director of
Planning, Connecticut Department of
Higher Education



John's impressive career has been devoted to furthering the critical role of higher education in today's world. As the Director of Planning for the Connecticut Department of Higher Ed, he set academic policy for all of the state's public universities and colleges. John was the first African-American male graduate of Connecticut College and a Watson scholar and went on to earn a Ph.D. in history from Princeton. John has been a trustee of Goodwin College since 2010.

*Mach Arom '89 Award
Recipient*

Adrienne B. Capaldi '06

New York, New York
8th Grade Science Teacher,
KIPP Infinity Elementary School
Adrienne's outstanding success as a teacher has been driven by her extraordinary commitment to the education of young people in low-income communities. This dedication has helped others become better teachers



and inspired students to reach high levels of achievement. She was selected for a Math for America Master Teacher Fellowship. In 2017, KIPP presented her with the Harriett Ball Excellence in Teaching Award.

Mach Arom '89 Award

John W. Meade, Jr. '11

East Harlem, NY
Senior Program Manager-
Policy, AIDS Vaccine
Advocacy Coalition



John has dedicated his life to helping the most vulnerable. After college, he joined the Peace Corps and worked in Peru for three years on HIV and AIDS prevention and later received his master's degree in global public health from Emory University. John is a dedicated, motivated and compassionate advocate for those in need who embodies the College's commitment to "full participation" through the flourishing of others.

Agnes Berkley Leahy Award Recipients

Ronna Reynolds '71 and Anne Maxwell Livingston '71

Ronna and Anne hit the ground running as soon as they assumed their roles as Class Gift co-chairs for their 50th Reunion. They strategically used their one-on-one relationships, outreach by phone, personal emails and meeting classmates in person to gain support for the Reunion and the 1971 Endowed Scholarship Fund for first-generation students.

Ronna Reynolds '71

Greenwich, CT
Retired Executive Vice
President, The Bushnell
Center for the Performing
Arts



Before she retired in 2018, Ronna was one of the most respected women arts leaders in Connecticut. At the Bushnell Center, she oversaw development, marketing and communications, in addition to managing the Bushnell's Board of Trustees. She was widely recognized for her leadership in external affairs and for her fundraising skills.

Anne Maxwell Livingston '71

Jamestown RI
Self Employed; Chair of
the Jamestown Democrat-
ic Town Committee



Anne's lifetime commitment to public service spanned government, corporate and nonprofit sectors in Rhode Island. While practicing law, she became active in local politics. In 2011, the Governor of Rhode Island appointed her to chair the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council, the quasi-public state agency that regulates and manages all coastal activity in the state.

Alumni Tribute Award

Deborah Nichols

Losse '66

Sedona, AZ
Retired Dean of Human-
ities, Professor Emerita of
French, Arizona State University
Debby is and has always been deeply committed to Conn, beginning with her tenure as Chief Justice of Honor Court. After serving in the Peace Corps, Debby went on to become a professor at Arizona State University, and then dean of the faculty. A dedicated supporter of the annual fund, Debby has served on the Alumni Association Board, as a class gift officer, Reunion chair and admission representative.



Goss Award

Anne-Marie Lott

Lizarralde '91

New London, CT
Senior Research Scholar,
Connecticut College

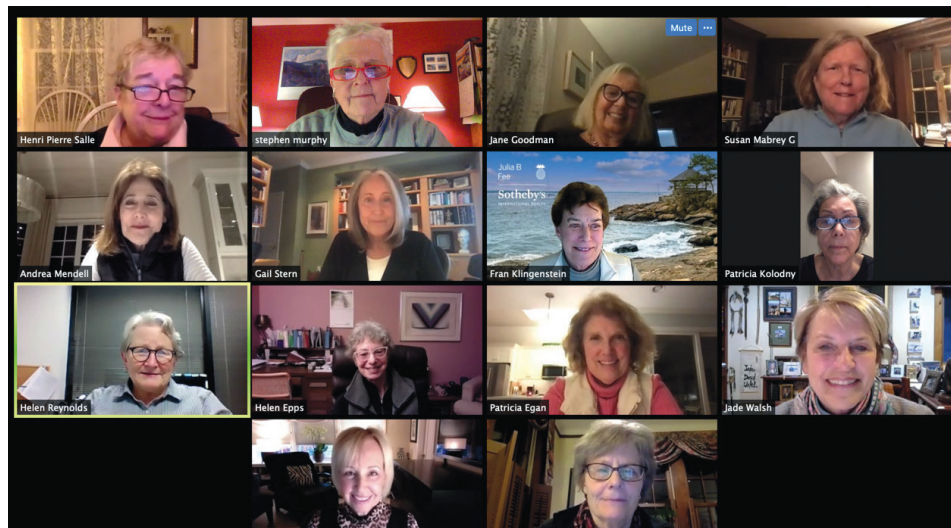


Anne is an active and enthusiastic supporter of the College and always eager to connect with classmates and peers. Anne has earned the respect and admiration of her entire class and is a selfless and dedicated volunteer. As an alumna, she has served as class president, class gift officer, reunion committee member and reunion chair. She has built her career at Connecticut College where she is currently a Senior Research Scholar in the Botany Department.

It's been a tough year. I hope you are all well and keeping busy. **Brooke Johnson Suiter** stays home and enjoys her garden and the peace and quiet of this new way of life. She bought fitness equipment for indoor biking; her trainer comes twice a week to meet on her back porch in masks. She began watercolor painting before the pandemic and enjoys online art classes, as well as webinar and Zoom meetings with friends, families and organizations, including some Conn buddies. "Stay safe and well!" **Pamela Berky Webb** has a new granddaughter, Betsy, born in August. Pam's husband, two daughters and daughter-in-law all see their medical patients, her son teaches middle school remotely, one son-in-law supervises the at-home elementary education of three children, and another son-in-law commutes into his San Francisco office. Pam paints and helps with childcare. **Midge Auwerter Shepard** is a snowbird, spending six months in Naples, Fla., and six months in Darien, Conn., near two of her children. Being alone now that she's lost her husband makes the isolation that much harder. She would love to meet up outside if anyone ventures to Florida when she's there. Last year, **Georgia Urbano Raysman** and husband Richard left their co-op apartment in NYC, as their building was torn down and replaced by a high-rise. It was rather shattering; they had lived there for 32 years. They spent time near Charleston, S.C., where Georgia's middle sister lives, then completed their retirement move to Nantucket, where they've spent summers since 1987. On Nantucket Richard has adjusted to retirement and Georgia restarted her YouTube channel, *Monday Scoop*, presenting entertaining and informative conversations with interesting people, aimed at the over-55 demographic. On Nantucket each summer Georgia connected with **Andrea Hintlian Mendell**, her freshman-year roommate in Grace Smith. In

New York she occasionally saw **Susan Lasovick**, who works in the Bloomberg building. Georgia's favorite CC connection is **Roberta Ward Holleman**, who lives in Napa Valley. The Raysmans bought a condo in South Carolina, so they spend June through Thanksgiving on Nantucket and December through May on Isle of Palms, S.C. **Joan Pekoc Pagano** and James spent the holidays in NYC for the first time in decades. After sheltering at a friend's house in Southampton, Mass., for nine months, Joan returned to the apartment with a clear head to consolidate and clean out closets and files. In January they headed to their condo in Cape Coral, Fla., where they spent the season, both working virtually, enjoying the challenges of reinventing the way we do business. **Patti Reinfeld Kolodny** and her husband stayed sheltered in their apartment in NYC, only seeing their daughter and her boyfriend. She and **Andy Hintlian Mendell** have visited outdoors three times since the pandemic began. Patti has been reading more and enjoying many Zooms. She joined a group of CC classmates for monthly Zoom meetings—a joy she highly recommends. **Sharyn Crocker Frisbie** and John are well and feel lucky to have son Rob and his wife, Jaimie, close by in beautiful Georgia, where they've lived for 31 years. Their grandsons, ages 9 and 11, are U. of Georgia fans and into sports. Sharyn and John cheer them on at outdoor sports events. Right before COVID started they celebrated their 50th anniversary with a big party. Sharyn plays bridge online every day with friends, reads a lot, quilts and is grateful for great walking weather. **Nancy Gilbert Murphy** and several classmates have enjoyed a monthly coast-to-coast Zoom meeting since September. They laugh, share stories, reminisce, discuss the state of the world and more. They all enjoy connecting in these challenging times.

69 Correspondent: **Judi Bamberg Mariggio**, 1070 Sugar Sands Bl. #384, Riviera Beach, FL 33404, jgmariggio@bellsouth.net **Alice Boatwright** has kept a "plague diary" of daily writing and drawings since March 1, 2020. Each "volume" is a small Moleskine notebook. At writing she was on volume 12 and plans to continue. She finished two long-term knitting projects, sweaters for each of them. "I'm still writing Ellie Kent #3 and expect it to come out in 2021, but progress has been slow. I had a banner year for short stories though—five published!" See www.aliceboatwright.com/short-stories-online/. Bob and **Beth Brereton Smith** were "fortunate to celebrate 50 years of marriage in September. We shared deep gratitude for all the family, friends and colleagues who have sustained us over the years." **Cee (Carol) Bunevich** lives in the same Miami apartment building as **Clotilde Luce**. "We do weekly Zoom calls with **Constance Hassell** and **Cathy Frank Halstead**. Cathy's daughter, Liza Finkelstein, introduced us to the Voter Participation program, a nonprofit to register young and minority voters in swing states." Cee plans to work with them in preparation for 2022. Like others, **Susan Cannon** noted, "When it's big news that one has been able to get a vaccination, it speaks to the weirdness of our lives." She's working on genealogy and organizing family photos, hopefully including some in the genealogies of her daughter and stepsons. **Laura Davenport Petcavage** is happy to live in a congregate senior apartment community. "Activities are reduced, but I see **Audrey Kuh Straight** in the hallways and look forward to seeing her again in the quilting and needlework club." **Ara Fitzgerald** has spent the last year in Massachusetts with her partner, Peter Cunningham, working on writing and performance projects (araftzgerald.com). *Don't Sit Down, Reflections on Life and Work*, by Martha Myers, memoirs compiled and edited by Ara and Stuart Pimsler MFA '78, is available digitally and in print. Aging is not easy: John and **Babette Gabriel Thompson** thought it wise to move from their house and gardens on Whidbey Island to the independent-living section of a continuing-care residential community in downtown Seattle. "COVID deflated our high expectations, but this place was just not for us. We had fewer rules to follow in our Conn days! The marketing and the reality were so far apart it bordered on fraud. Anyone considering such a move should first contact the National Continuing Care Residents' Association. As of early March, we are happily back on our beloved island, to a much smaller home and garden." In Rhode Island, **Suzanne King Wagner** approves of the vaccine prioritization of Hispanic communities and areas with multigenerational households. "There is no earthly reason for me to jump to the head of the line. I live alone and have throughout the pandemic—but my two dogs keep me warm and active. My quality



Nancy Gilbert Murphy organized monthly Zoom get-togethers for the Class of 1968. Participants in the February 2021 gathering: Top row: Kathy Spendlove Salle, Nancy Gilbert Murphy, Jane Ranallo Goodman, Susan Mabrey Gaud. Second row: Andrea Hintlian Mendell, Gail Weintraub Stern, Francine Wattenberg Klingenstein, Patricia Reinfeld Kolodny. Third row: Helen Reynolds, Helen Epps, Patricia Bethel Egan, Jade Schappals Walsh. Bottom row: Jill Silverman Cossman, Joanne Flynn Frantz

of life has improved remarkably since Jan. 20.” **Stephie Phillips** has kept her Globe Travel office open. “It’s hard to manage rent, utilities, etc. with no incoming business, but I’m ready and hoping a recovery comes soon. I haven’t seen my California grandson (age 3) for a year, but our nightly FaceTime dinners are a highlight of each day! We raise our water glasses and say ‘Cheers’ and then compare what’s on our plates.” **Lynne Scott** met a longtime goal and wrote a children’s book. “*Worth the Wait* is about a little girl living in my town of Worthington, Mass., and her relationship with the sandhill cranes that have been coming for the past six years—an unusual event, as they hadn’t been seen in Massachusetts for over a century. The book is for K–4th grade and beautifully illustrated. It sells for \$20 and benefits the Children’s Advocacy Center in Northampton, which works to help abused children. To purchase, contact me at worththewait487@gmail.com.” Over the year, **Tina Scott Brogadir** has “read many books, exercised daily, played the piano, done crossword and jigsaw puzzles, baked and cooked a lot, kept in touch with **Stephie Phillips** and **Ellen Robinson Epstein**, and led a monthly book club on Zoom! We’ve seen our family on FaceTime and Zoom, and enjoyed sporadic outside visits, masked and distanced. Still I feel very lucky to order groceries, instead of going into stores, and not to worry about the mortgage.” No vaccines in Uruguay as of late February, but it was summer, so when her son visited from California, **Maria Varela Berchesi** could safely “go to the beach and have long talks with him in the garden in plain air.” Tom Young sadly informs classmates that the progress of Alzheimer’s disease makes it impossible for his wife, **Carla Welsh Young**, to communicate with her friends from CC. The Class of 1969 sends sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Erika Lehninger Whitmore-Aretz**, who died on Feb. 7.

70 *Correspondent: Myrna Chandler Goldstein, mgoldst@massmed.org* By publication we will have had our one-year-delayed 50th reunion, hopefully a spectacular success. **Lucy Livingston Thomson** gave an update on her daughters: “Liz is facing the pandemic head-on as a social work manager at Inova Fairfax Hospital, supervising the discharge program for two buildings—the sickest adults and the children’s hospital—with expanded units for COVID patients. She shares the joy of patients returning to

their families as the staff celebrates the arrival of the vaccine. Shifting from a master’s to an MBA program at George Washington U., she is pursuing her goal of becoming the CEO of a children’s hospital. She and husband Sean purchased a condo in a lovely area nearby, so we see them occasionally—with social distancing. Tory enjoys the challenges of working (from home) at the State Department. Now in its fifth year, her Zoonhackathon program, which encourages the use of technology to combat wildlife trafficking, continued to expand worldwide in a virtual format, and was rated in the top 20 most successful State Department programs. She moved to a modern apartment in Alexandria.” **Lauren Schaffer Disick** wrote, “There are no trips, family gatherings or exciting events to report. My husband and I spent last spring locked down in Florida. We returned to New York for the summer and then went south again, being careful and feeling grateful to be healthy and vaccinated. A son and his family are here, and we met up with other family for outside meals last summer. I long for the day I can see my California grandchildren.” Lauren’s son Grant is a urologist in Florida. Her other son, Evan, was a dentist, but he no longer practices. She has four grandsons, aged 8 to 16. Two live in south Florida and two in the San Francisco Bay area. As for the **Goldsteins**, our most recent book, *Dietary Supplements: Fact Versus Fiction*, was published in July 2020. We are currently working on a book on the research behind different forms of pain management.

71 *Class Correspondents: Lisa McDonnell, 134 W Maple Street, Granville, OH 43023, mcdonnell@denison.edu, Lois Olcott Price, 933A Alto Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501, loprice@yahoo.com* **Lucy Eastman Tuck** reports weekly Zoom calls with **Daryl Davies Davis**, **Clara Montero**, **Jane Elliott Drebus**, **Rosemary Bonser Johnson** and **Sue Bear** to nurse their socially deprived souls through the pandemic. Navigating maintaining appropriate connections with children, the challenges (or not) of retirement and the continuing political chaos makes for lively conversations. They agreed to a monthly book club Zoom but have only managed to expand the reading list. One day they will talk about one! **Judith Borkin Scott** and **Frazier** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. Judy, now semiretired, sold her insurance agency in 2020. She never expected a 27-year insurance career, but life happens. They

A LIFE TRANSFORMED

S **HERRYL GOODMAN'S** love of learning



Sherryl Goodman '72

was ignited and she discovered her life’s work during her time at Connecticut College. Taught by “masterful teachers” over four years, Sherryl found her true calling, her professors bringing what she was learning to life. During her experiences at Conn, Sherryl envisioned what she wanted to do professionally—become a developmental clinical psychologist. Sherryl’s advisor, John Mackinnon, now Professor Emeritus of Psychology, guided her through the process of finishing her Ph.D. After graduation, Sherryl accepted a position at Emory University in Atlanta where she has been a professor for the past 45 years. She says of Professor Mackinnon, “I owe him my career.”

In honor of her upcoming 50th Reunion, Sherryl shared with us that Conn is in her estate plans. Due to her seminal experience at Connecticut College, Sherryl decided to direct her bequest to establish a named endowed scholarship fund with a preference for first-generation students. Reflecting on her own success, Sherryl wants to help ensure that all deserving students have the chance to realize their full potential. Sherryl hopes that her gift will inspire her classmates and others to make gifts during their reunion year.

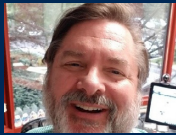
With your own legacy gift, you, too, can support future students by allowing them to recognize their passions, ignite their curiosity, and develop the concrete skills to turn their visions into solutions for a better world.

Contact Laura Becker, Director of Gift Planning at (860) 439-2416
giftplanning@conncoll.edu
conncoll.giftplans.org

WELCOME TO THE HERD



Angela Bannerman Ankoma '97



Chip Clothier '79 P'10, Vice President



Saveena Dhall '94, Vice President



Austin Jenkins '95



Jonathan Kateman '90 P'21



Margaret Davay '20



Erik Gammell '00



Susan Mabrey Gaud '68 P'07



An-Ming Sze Truxes '71



Mario Laurenzi '90



Evan Piekara '07, President



Katrina Sanders '92



Jermaine Doris '19



Yalidy Matos '09



Ivan Tatis '10



Stephen Wilkins '94



Harris Resenheim '09



Derrick Newton '17



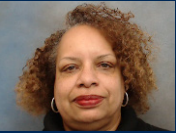
Marta Martínez Fernández '18



Daniel Wernick '12



Heather Morrison '89 P'95, Secretary



Denise Wheelless '80



David Schonberger '77 P'10



Judith Epstein Grollman '88

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

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

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

For feedback, or more information on involvement, please contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement at alumni@conncoll.edu.



have two sons: Morgan in Cincinnati and James, who lives nearby with his wife and two children. Life is good. **Christine Howells Reed** enjoys working on *Koiné Gold* and salutes editor **Linda Sullivan** as a force of nature. Christine is emeritus professor in the School of Public Administration at the U. of Nebraska, Omaha, working with doctoral students, the chancellor's sustainability committee and publishing research on wild horse protection policies. She has three horses and goes to the barn almost every day—no humans, so no exposure to the virus! She doubted she could adjust to Nebraska but after 40 years can't imagine being anywhere else. Her adult son and daughter live in Omaha, and she has a grandson who turned 6 in June. **Joan Hart Weigle** asks how can one be so busy and yet socially distanced from the world?! StoneRidge had COVID-19 positives and sadly, deaths, but she is healthy and vaccinated. Educational and family Zooms, book club, in-house TV exercise classes, laps in the pool and even a TV cooking class with ingredients brought to her door have kept her busy! She also does a page called "Glimpses" in Crow's Nest, the quarterly resident's journal. **Susan Schmidt** lives in Beaufort, N.C., at the southern end of the Outer Banks, where she kayaks to monitor shorebirds, walks beaches with her Boykin Spaniel Kiwi, leads a critique group for novelists, writes poetry and essays, grows veggies in her home garden and flowers in the Maritime Museum garden, and sails as skipper for the Maritime Museum. She was undecided about knee-replacement surgery scheduled for April 1 but hopes to walk the Wales Coast Path in 2022. She retired as a professor of literature and environmental decision-making, works as a developmental editor and is listed among top 10 editors in New England. **Linda Rosenzweig Baxter** looks forward to participation in our virtual reunion from the comfort of home and the broader participation it may generate. She works three days a week as a judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey, hearing criminal cases on Zoom—it has worked out well, though with some pretty comical moments. She also serves as president of the board of trustees of John F. Peto Studio Museum in Island Heights, N.J. **Beverly Edgar Grady** has our on-campus 50th Reunion in all-cap letters on her calendar—can't wait! She still practices law in Fort Myers, Fla. **Susie Pool Moses** enjoys our Zoom meetings and "seeing" friends from 50 years ago! With the pool closed, her four artificial joints (two hips and two shoulders) miss the water aerobics. She manages her condo association and attends Zoom meetings with her book group and AAUW gatherings. She is also taking a Zoom knitting class and making quilts for her grandsons—a bear for Bear and a wolf for Wolf—now looking for a lynx pattern but may need to return to Sitka, Alaska, where she found the first two. **Penelope Fritzer** retired from Florida Atlantic University as tenured full professor in 2016 after teaching for 22 years. She authored 11 books, mostly social history and literary criticism, and many education articles. Her husband of 40 years, Joseph Gannon Bland, passed away in 2014; their son, Bartholomew Fritzer Bland, runs the art gallery at Lehman Campus, City University of New York. She splits her time between Coral Springs, Fla., her home of almost 50 years, and Guilford, Conn., where she grew up. She looks forward to seeing **Marian Dietzgen Carapezza**, who is a family therapist in California, later this year. **Kathy Wilson Mansfield** joined a panel discussion at the virtual Worldwide Classic Boat Show showcasing the work of the six top wooden/classic boat photographers. It's a competitive area and very exciting to be one of the six. **Terry Swayne Brooks** and Byron are enjoying the Hollis, N.H., condo community they moved to last April—wonderful to let someone else do the plowing, shoveling and mowing! Walking surrounding town trails with neighbors and dogs and her election to the community board keep her busy. **Anne Sigmond Curtis** reports they are doing well, although her husband broke his scapula and a few ribs skiing—it has been an excellent snow year. She runs, walks and exercises in their new home gym. They have seen their 10 grandchildren regularly, go to the beach or the park, have takeout Thai food or pizza, and hike in

the many beautiful forests and parks. The Seattle Art Museum reopened, and they saw a fabulous exhibit of Jacob Lawrence's works titled *Struggles*: 30 paintings of events from American history. She is looking forward to our in-person reunion in 2022. **Vera Gordeev Lowdermilk** has kept busy painting, reading and baking ancient grain Einkorn wheat sourdough bread. She always has projects on her back burner—a children's book, a hooked rug, some sewing in reserve for a rainy day. She also works with a fellow California artist on large, challenging art projects: murals for clients in the Bay Area. She lives near one of her sons and enjoys visits with his family and her 2-year-old grandson. **Betsy Breg Masson** is dealing with hurricane damage to their condo on Abaco Island in the Bahamas, where they spent winters. The structure was bulldozed last summer, but they are still awaiting an insurance settlement. Their sailboat's mast broke into three pieces, but after four trips to Abaco, her husband repaired it and happily sailed while she shoveled the 20 inches of snow dumped on Niagara. Betsy lost her father to COVID in November after three distressing weeks, and she has not seen her grandchildren since Christmas 2019. **Elizabeth Harrison** has been sheltering at home for a year, but with vaccinations, plans to go to Sacramento to see grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends and then back to work for the State of California. **George Gager** is a consultant helping to create affordable housing in cities like Detroit, New Orleans, New York and Gary, Indiana. He and wife Deborah live in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he spends weekends creating sculpture in his garage and keeping up with their six children and four grandchildren. **Judith Dern** opines that if anything positive came from COVID-19 isolation, it was the opportunity to slow down, to reflect and consider. What do I value in my life? What path do I want to pursue? In the season of minimal celebrations, contemplation and recollections are welcome. A gift to balance the uncertainty. The Class of 1971 sends its deep sympathy to the family and friends of **Patricia Smith Henriques**, who passed away May 17, 2020.

72 ^R Correspondent: *Barbara Vosburgh Omohundro, barbaraomo@aol.com* **Carol Blake Boyd** retired on April 1 from Naples Trust just in time for the COVID-19 lockdown. "It felt like the country retired with me." When restrictions lifted, they could occasionally see son Mike and his family in Jupiter, Fla., but haven't seen son Gregory and wife Kate in DC for over a year, nor Carol's parents in Kettering, Ohio, near her brother. "Retirement is good; Peter and I are both on several boards. Looking forward to our 50th reunion in 2022 and hope to see many classmates." **Suzy Soldo Bock** is doing well in Chappaqua, N.Y. "I retired after 42 years in educational administration and enjoy my freedom." Husband Ely left the corporate world

and works as a gallery director. They enjoy their three grandchildren tremendously. Suzy is a docent at the Hudson River Museum, conducting virtual tours for now. She works with the election board in Westchester County and fostered a dog from the SPCA, which they ultimately adopted. "Our two dogs provide much entertainment and keep us laughing." Suzy keeps in touch with **Karen DuBrul**: "I enjoyed seeing her and **Susan Welshonce Brewer** at our last reunion. Hope our classmates are thriving; regards to all." **Linda Johnson Wessling** volunteers in San Diego, only now on Zoom! She works with Just in Time, which supports former foster youth as they turn 18 and "hit the ground with only food stamps for support. We help each 'class' find jobs, apartments and mentors and hold group seminars for personal growth and practical skills. Tuition-free college is part of the deal. I also read to first-graders in underprivileged schools—nothing more fun than that! Hope everyone's family is healthy and finding support when needed." This has been a particularly challenging year for **Amy Lewis Tabor**, as Bob, her husband of 46 years, passed away in May from pancreatic cancer. "He put up a valiant fight for a year and a half and was at home when he passed. My two older children visited him in March just before the shutdown, and my youngest, in New Jersey, was here regularly to help me and visit." The upside for Amy has been a closer connection to classmates **Martha Cogswell Lamontagne**, **Suzi MacDonald Horan** and **Jinx Stuart Atherton**, along with friends Linda Havens Moore '73 and Jan Komorowski Rothhaar '73; they Zoom chat weekly. "I also got a cockapoo puppy named Sasha, who keeps me occupied with training and, more importantly, lots of cuddle time. Bob was a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy; this fall his ashes will be interred in the Columbarium during his class's 50th reunion weekend." **Georgia Ahlborn Sorensen** finds it hard to believe we all are about 70 years old. She married Richard Sorensen as a sophomore at Conn in 1970; he was a graduate student. Married life took them from Connecticut to Maryland to retirement in North Carolina. "We have two successful daughters and five grandchildren. We traveled the world and led a very full life. Sadly, after 50 years of marriage, Rick passed away in December from COVID."

Barbara Vosburgh Omohundro has been coping with the pandemic like the rest of us. "My husband and I have lived in Fairfield, Conn., for 43 years. We have three married children and two granddaughters, whom we haven't seen for the past year. Dan retired several years ago from his ophthalmology practice, and we traveled extensively until last March; we hope to resume international travel soon. Last March we were on a cruise in South America, returning to the U.S. on March 15, right before the lockdown. Hope everyone is well; looking forward to our 50th reunion in 2022." **Anna Petto** writes that **Linda Podnek Cohan** passed away on Feb. 11. Our sympathies go to her husband of 50 years, Mark, the love of her life, and to her children, Andrew and Allison. Linda earned her bachelor's degree in History and Asian Studies at Conn and later her MBA at UConn. Throughout her many career successes and volunteer endeavors, she remained a steady, loving and present figure to her children. Those who knew Linda well will remember her fondly for her attentive listening, loyalty, wisdom and humor. Linda loved life's simple pleasures, looking forward to the annual library book sale with as much enthusiasm as she would an international trip. In retirement, she and Mark traveled to Thailand, Morocco and lastly, Japan, a lifelong dream of Linda's. Later in life, she learned to play the ukulele and joined the Glastonbury Ukulele Band. Her farewell advice to her children was to make the most of life by spending each day appreciating the small moments and connections with friends and family.

73 Correspondent: *Hester Kinnicutt Jacobs, PO Box 277, Melstone, MT 59054, (406)358-2279, djacobs@midrivers.com* Like everyone, **Bonnie Clark Kalter** and husband Craig have been weathering COVID-19. After being stranded in the South Pacific on their January–February 2020 cruise to Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, they finally returned to the U.S. on March 28. "It was great to see everyone at the Class of '73 Zoom call last October! Until then, I had only been in touch with **Dave Clark** and **Debbie Lahr Lawlor**, who both live nearby in Boca Raton, Fla." Before COVID, Bonnie and Craig saw Debbie and husband John every few months for dinner. After the



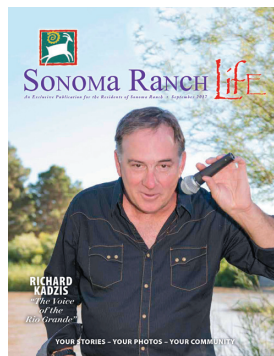
Joelle Desloovere Schon '73 with the staff of AkiliKids!, where she works as a video editor, with Nairobi in the background

Zoom call, **Lucy Weiger** and Bonnie caught up by phone. “We had not been in contact since her 1975 visit to my Peace Corps host country, Cameroon, when she was based in Peace Corps Ghana. It was great to share stories and feel the years melt away.” Bonnie and Craig are sequestered in Boca and have received vaccine dose #1. They have been completing projects neglected due to pre-COVID travel. Despite the pandemic, Bonnie is thankful for much, especially the technology that keeps her in touch with family, friends and fellow CC alums and connected to the world from the safety of her home. **Wendy Royer Billue** has plans for late June in Belgium but had trouble obtaining a vaccination in Virginia, so they went to a North Carolina drive-through: “Crazy third-world stuff.” **Joelle Desloovere Schon** writes, “At an age when most people slow down, my husband and his partner launched the only free, 24/7 children’s TV channel in Kenya, AkiliKids!” Joelle works full-time as a video editor for the channel, and March 31 marked one year on the air. They were stuck in Nairobi for nine months due to COVID and could not come home to Westport, Conn., until September 2020. “We really missed our daughter, Chloé Schon Geary ’03, and her husband, Jordan Geary ’04, and their two adorable daughters. FaceTime helps a bit.” **Nancy Williams Ward** is in NYC, “where progress is being made” concerning indoor dining, even while NYC was still considered extremely high risk. “Go figure.” Nancy had her second Moderna shot and hopes to resume Sunday-night suppers with her grandchildren. “Other than that, I will stay masked and isolated as much as possible.” **Nina Davit** is fully vaccinated but still being careful. Retirement in Wilmington, N.C., has not been as expected, due to COVID, but they enjoy renovating their house and garden. She looks forward to time with her kids and six grandkids soon. **Carol Proctor McCurdy** has zero news since COVID except getting her first shot. “Come to think of it, even prior to COVID I had no news to report.” She’s lived in the same house since 1981 and worked for the same law firm for 23 years, cutting back to three days a week. “I plan to visit my adopted rhino, Apollo, in Nairobi (www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/) when it is safe. One can always dream.” At writing, **Hester Kinnicutt Jacobs** said about 10% of Montana’s population was fully vaccinated. “They turned it over to the medical clinics, who have done an awesome job. The state has a website directing people to their county vaccine location; getting an appointment was easy. Dose two: sore arm, a little light-headed, but feeling better. Still masking in public (no longer mandated in Montana) and keeping distance. My ‘bubble’ includes my daughter’s family and two couples who live near me.”

76 Correspondents: **Kenneth Abel**, 334 West 19th St., Apt. 2-B, New York, NY 10011, kenn616@aol.com; **Susan**

Hazlehurst Milbrath, P.O. Box 3962, Greenwood Village, CO 80155-3962, shmilbrath@gmail.com **Richard (Dickie) Kadzis** was elected to the board of directors of KTAL Radio and Las Cruces (N.M.) Community Radio in January. Dickie became known on-air in 1974 as “The Buzzman” during his days as co-founder of WCNI-FM, CC’s campus (now community) radio station. He has worked concurrently for KBUT-FM in Crested Butte, Colo., and for KTAL Radio in Las Cruces, spanning the Rio Grande River Valley and earning Dickie the moniker “The Buzzman, Voice of the Rio Grande.” His broadcast career includes NPR, WBUR-FM, WHDH Radio, ABC Monday Night Football, Associated Press Audio and the New England Radio Network. He hosts two weekly live rock and jazz shows streamed at lccommunityradio.org. **Mike Cassatly** writes, “Class of ’76 continues to hold outdoor reunions despite COVID.” The **Aldens**, **Cassatlys** and **Sochackis** met post-COVID shots in Sebring, Fla., for lunch, camaraderie and first-time introduction of their respective dogs. Though never sharing a CC course, 45 years later **Mike Cassatly** and **Dave Alden** took an eight-week business coaching class together—and shared class notes. **Jansi Chandler Grant** is a fundraising consultant to nonprofits in her second act, after her first career in urban planning and development. She helped Cardinal Cushing Centers, in Hanover, Mass., successfully complete a \$10 million campaign to build the MarketPlace, a 20,000-square-foot sustainable building. Cardinal Cushing serves individuals with intellectual disabilities, and the MarketPlace houses vocational classrooms and retail stores where students learn employment skills and adults access job opportunities. **Pat Harcourt** sends warm greetings to classmates, adding, “Many will remember Professor Charles Chu, who chaired the Chinese Language department and taught the history of Chinese art. In 1980 I married his son, Kevin Chu, and although Professor Chu passed away in 2008, Kevin and I regularly visit Chu relatives in New London. In January we walked in the Goodwin Natural Area of the Arboretum, on trails north of Gallows Lane. I recommend that walk to glimpse a less familiar but lovely part of the Arboretum. When COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, I will resume visits to the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room in the Shain Library.

Its lovely, peaceful atmosphere and compelling artworks invite and reward contemplation.” **David Katzenstein** announces his exhibition, “Outside the Lorraine: A Photographic Journey to a Sacred



Richard (Dickie) Kadzis '76

Place,” at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn., running until April 4, 2022. See davidkatzenstein.com for more. He hopes everyone is well and safe.

77 Correspondent: **Stuart Sadick**, stuart.sadick@gmail.com **Pam Sharp Hulme** and **George Hulme** can’t believe it’s been a year since the COVID restrictions began. They were “on a trip of a lifetime to Australia and New Zealand when things started going south” last year. They quickly left Australia—an adventure itself. Their new routine began: George worked from home, and Pam kept busy with long walks, Zoom calls, reconnecting with old friends and keeping up with family. “We were ecstatic to start playing golf so we could see others at a distance.” They spent last August at their family cottage on a Maine island, following the appropriate protocols. Fortunately, their family is well and their children have stayed employed, though working and dealing with young children is a challenge. They’ve welcomed three new grandchildren since November: twins (a boy and a girl) born in November and a grandson in January, bringing the total to seven grandchildren under age 7! “We miss their visits and enjoying activities together but are glad all are healthy. We look forward to getting vaccinated and a return to normal (a new normal?) life.” **Chris Zingg** is still in music retail and opened a new store in Warren, R.I., with lots of space for records(!); they’re more popular now than any time since the ’80s. He is a partner in a new experiential music venture called Wonder Corps. The new music store is next door to the Guild brewery, which was scheduled to open in the spring. He’d love to see classmates in town on a pub crawl. I, **Stuart Sadick**, want to remind you of our 45th reunion, in June 2022. Let’s hope that we can gather in person and celebrate being together! Anyone interested in planning, please contact me or **Lisa Podoloff Boles**. Sadly, we lost classmate and friend **Mimi Lasker Ginott** on Dec. 8. After living a full and giving life, Mimi succumbed to complications from juvenile diabetes, a disease she’d lived with for 51 years. We will sorely miss her laughter, her love, her energy at our reunions. Many of us joined a Zoom memorial hosted by her daughter, and it was wonderful to hear of the difference Mimi made to so many.

78 Correspondents: **Susan Greenberg Gold**, sgold51@yahoo.com and **Laurie Heiss**, laurieheiss@gmail.com Former class correspondent **Susan Calef Tobiason’s** husband, Arthur, died from COVID-19 complications on Dec. 22; the restrictions on funeral gatherings was difficult with so many friends. The class sends condolences. **Barry Gross** can’t imagine retiring; he loves his work as a sales manager for a mattress firm, particularly since it’s all virtual meetings now. He and wife Cindy moved to Pompano Beach, Fla., from Penn-

Weddings



Dianne Benson and Lysbeth Marigold '62 exiting St. Luke's Episcopal Church after their wedding ceremony in September 2020



Yasemin Özümerzifon '06 married Efe Karanci on Jan. 22, 2021.



Charles Cochran '10 married Sarah Rhodes '12 on Oct. 17, 2020, in Great Barrington, Mass.



Bradley, son of Jesse Abbott '78, and Taylor, daughter of Steve James '78, were married last fall.



Janan Reilly '11 (maiden name Evans-Wilent) and Christopher Reilly '07 were married in September 2019 on Cape Cod. They met while working in alumni relations at Becker House and started dating a few years later in Boston after reconnecting at a Conn College Holiday Party. Camels in attendance: back row Jon Tortora '07, Nate Staub '05, Jaime Pepper '07, Kerri Casey '07, Keith Anthony-Brown '07, Nate Borgelt '07, Janan Reilly '11, Chris Reilly '07, Katy Serafin '08, Tori Hallowell '08, Jessica Truelove '11, front row Becky Webber '09, Katy Varga '11. The couple just welcomed their first baby and future Camel, Quinn Kinsley Reilly, to their family on April 4, 2021. Lots to celebrate!

Births



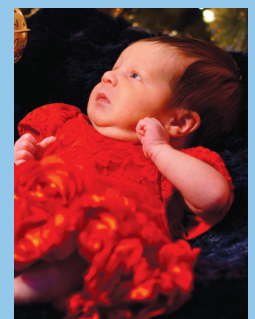
Sarah Rabinowitz '78 and Russell Mognoni's grandson Greyson (age 2) with a friend



Lindsey Rothe Huckins '08 and husband Nathan welcomed daughter Evelyn Marie Huckins on Oct. 30, 2020.



Ethan and Arthur McLean (sons of Jon McLean '08 and Leslee McLean) celebrating Ethan's 10 months at home in Singapore.



Neil McGowan '07 JD, MBA, and wife Danielle McGowan, FNP-C, welcomed Reagan Elizabeth McGowan on Dec. 1, 2020.



Rich Abate '10 and Elyse Goveia '08 welcomed daughter Eleanor Mae Abate-Goveia into the world on May 6, 2020.



Peter Hallarman '78 and Rindy Regan Hallarman '78 shared an adorable photo of their granddaughter, Prudence Mona Wais, aged 16 months.



Laurie MacInnis Hartnett '79 with two of her five grandchildren



Jacob (Jake) Stolar '08 and wife Kaila welcomed daughter Rosie on July 24, 2020, in New York City.



Jesse Abbott '78 and Steve James '78 at the top of Rattlesnake Mountain, N.H.



Ben Sperry '79 and granddaughter enjoy an outing in the park in Shaker Lakes, Ohio.



Robert Markowitz '79 and his wife, Linda, at the Great Wall of China in 2019



Vicki Chesler '79 and freshman roommate Anne Garrison '79 had a wonderful fall get-together in the Catskills.



Vicki Chesler '79 (right) with Mark McLaughlin '79 and his wife, Daphne Northrop, aboard Easy Wind en route from Woods Hole to Edgartown, Mass.

sylvania in 2019 and enjoyed a visit from their two grandsons before COVID. Still on his bucket list: golfing at Pebble Beach and a ball game at Wrigley Field. He keeps in touch with Betsy Bravman Halpern '80. **Debbie Craig Merrick** and husband Tom live in Nova Scotia. Four step-grandkids live nearby. She stays in touch with **Judy Voorhees Trope** in Maryland, **Anne Morrison Danaher**, **Marty Gaetz Karasek** and **Leigh Semonite Palmer**. **Peter Hallarman** and **Rindy Regan Hallarman** adore toddler granddaughter Prudence Mona Wais. On her 65th, **Laurie Heiss** was delighted by an early-morning birthday call from **Jane Kappell Manheimer**; they picked up where they left off. Jane and Jack live outside Portland, Maine, staying sane and playing pickleball during COVID. **Sue Greenberg Gold** was honored at her professional association's virtual convention (National Association for Temple Administration) with a Service to Community Award, capping a rewarding career that will soon pivot into retirement. Armed with double vaccinations, she looked forward to seeing her sons and their partners in New Orleans and Chicago this spring after a year and a half separation. What a year! **Steve James** writes, "My daughter, Taylor, married **Jesse Abbott's** son, Bradley, last fall. Who'd have thought meeting at Marshall as freshman and being friends all these years would result in a marriage? Jesse and I have been friends since 1974." Jesse and his wife live in Higgins Beach, Maine; the newlyweds in Portland; and Steve and Betsy in Boston.

79 Correspondent: *Vicki Chesler, vachesler@gmail.com* During COVID, **Barry Norman** has been busy writing—two books: *The Delightful Denver Dol-drums*, about his time in Denver after CC, and *Poetry in the Sand*, about professional wrestler Sid Vicious; two short stories: "Radio Banksy," about a young music critic, and "The-Not-Quite-North-Shore-Holiday-Lights-That-Sometimes-Don't-Turn-On Show," about a personal event; and a play (in Shakespearean English) about infamous professional wrestler Montreal Screwjob. He is working on a hybrid novel/graphic novel, *Ambient Sanity*, about a defense contractor who believes his synthesizer noodling has found an other-dimensional resonance frequency, transporting him there temporarily. A psychiatrist and theoretical physicist try to determine if he is insane, a genius or both. **David Stern** is holed up in L.A. trying to evade COVID. He's been in touch with **Lex Richardson** and Don Peppard through the duration. "My best wishes to all." **Ben Sperry** lives in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and teaches an undergrad seminar on race and mass incarceration at Case Western Reserve U. He is active in prison issues and social justice, is a freelance writer, and teaches U.S. history. He taught a course on Lincoln and the changing meaning of the Civil War. Ben is married and has two grown married daughters and a

granddaughter (3). He enjoys volunteering at his church, hiking on the Appalachian Trail, playing chess with friends, and the company of his dog, Willa. In Oxford, **Christine Fairchild** sends greetings from a locked-down U.K. Her work world has shrunk to the dining-room table, while the Oxford outdoors has provided sanity checks. Losing travel has been tough, but she's never been busier; alumni relations have skyrocketed with digital content delivery, and Oxford U.'s currency has never been higher, given its work on a COVID vaccine. "Regular Zoom calls with Conn friends and family have helped lessen any sense of isolation or distance." And Christine feels like Jan. 20 ushered in fresh air: "Hope has returned; I can admit being an American again. Here's to 2021!" **Mary Wright** is a snowbird splitting time between Fort Myers Beach, Fla., and Orleans, Mass.: "something I never thought I would become. But when my husband says the winter's too cold in New England, we pack up." She works at the SHRM Foundation, managing an apprenticeship program for HR specialists—an unexpected career turn after leaving New London. She is on the board of the Institute for Work & the Economy, focusing on infusing equity into the COVID recovery. "Amazing that I watched my daughter graduate from Conn 10 years ago!" She sees **Diane Hovenesian** for occasional dinner or lunch but misses seeing friends and family because of COVID. "I'm blessed that my immediate family has stayed healthy." **Laurie MacInnis Hartnett** is a retired middle school teacher enjoying time with five grandchildren and nine-year-old black Lab Tessa. In January 2019 she participated in the alumni program helping CC students with practice interviews. She hopes to return to artifact research at Mystic Seaport when things are better. She loved her past online educator experience. "I'm still figuring out retirement life! All the best." **Pam Crawford Mosenthal** reports no major changes. She and her husband are retired and split time between New York and Rhode Island, "a perfect balance." They had a wonderful trip to Costa Rica last March and luckily got one of the last flights home before the shutdown. "Lots of cooking, reading, walking and Zooming has kept us sane." She's in touch with **Connie Whitehead Hanks**, who enjoys retirement and is hunkered down with her family in Auburn, Mass. "I look forward to a post-pandemic life and being reunited with friends!" **Joan Prescott Busk** enjoys retirement after many years in sales, most recently as a department manager at Nordstrom. She and Joe, whom she met at Conn, celebrated their 40th anniversary. Their travel plans for 2020 were canceled, but they feel blessed to spend time with their sons and their wives. They love weekly Zoom visits with two granddaughters in Seattle. Joan got together pre-pandemic with Linda Sittenfeld '77 and Leslie Whitcomb '76. **Lucia Montero de Benavides** has spent the pandemic at home

in Lima, Peru, supporting educational projects during the hard times. She is board chair of Enseña Perú, part of the Teach for All network, and serves on the board of Teach for Bolivia in its first year. She enjoys time with her children and four grandchildren. **J. Michael Harvey** retired from the U.S. Foreign Service last summer, having returned from Mexico to the D.C. area. He and wife Veronika enjoy the adventure of settling into the U.S. after living overseas since 1994. Three children are in school; two in high school, one in college. Distance learning is no fun, but they are soldiering through it. Michael teaches English online to immigrants in Northern Virginia. **Robert Markowitz** still sings and plays guitar for children. He is querying an adult novel and working on a few children's books. His daughter (17) signed a contract with a modeling agency in NYC. His 20th anniversary to wife Linda, a psychotherapist, is this year. He has published two personal essays in The New York Times. **Alex Richardson** sold his company, Netkey, to NCR, and took roles at RalphLauren.com, ToryBurch.com, Kidbox.com and Frederic Fekkai Beauty. "I've been lucky to work in the Ivy League of ecommerce companies and travel the world to grow ecommerce sales (pre-COVID), most recently as chief digital and technology officer at Frederic Fekkai Beauty Brands in NYC." During COVID he's learned new leadership and communication skills to adjust to constant Zoom meetings and work-from-home environments. "I love my teams and am excited to inspire them to become the next generation of digital leaders and managers." Alex is based in Old Lyme, Conn., and NYC with wife Liddy and son Nick. Nick completed his engineering and robotics degree at Carnegie Mellon and often works from Alex's third floor for a Silicon Valley software company. Liddy founded a new investment firm, Mizzen Capital. They see **Marcia McLean** and her family in Old Lyme, and Alex talks to **David Stern**, who was a spinning fanatic long before Peloton! **Amanda Marshall Zingg** lives in Rhode Island with husband Chris Zingg '77. Their son, Marshall Zingg, works as a research associate in metabolic immunology at Rheos, a biotech firm in Cambridge. Daughter Emma is in the Master of Social Work program at Boston College. Amanda dabbles in her art studio, reads, dreams of the garden and feeds everyone. As for me, **Vicki Chesler**, the Year of COVID has been a challenge, but I feel fortunate that my husband, Matt Kovner, and I live in the Catskills and can spend much time outdoors, which helped us get through the isolation. We've worked from home and spent time at our place in NYC, and we sailed on our boat in New England. Daughter Kelsey left Brooklyn when COVID hit and stayed with us before buying a house in the Hudson Valley; daughter Melissa moved with her husband to Nashville pre-pandemic. I was glad to see some CC friends: **Mark McLaughlin** and wife Daphne



Thank you to all the Camels from around the globe who joined together to support the CC Annual Fund during the 2020-21 year.

Your generosity benefits:

- ▶ Financial Aid and Scholarships
- ▶ Equity and Inclusion Initiatives
- ▶ Vibrant Student Life
- ▶ Competitive Athletics



Northrop, who live in Milton and Osterville, Mass., met us for beaching and sailing on Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard; we saw **Amanda Marshall Zingg** and husband Chris '77 in Rhode Island, where they live; **Martha Rago Bernstein** and I met in NYC for lunch and the Met; and **Anne Garrison** and husband David Hewitt, who live in San Diego and have family in New Hampshire, visited Olivebridge last fall in their awesome Mercedes camper van. Life expectations changed this past year, but I look forward to returning to some semblance of normalcy soon. It's always great to hear from everyone. Wishing you all health and happiness!

81 *Correspondent: Brooke Perry Pardue, bpardue@gmail.com* Some CC "girls" got together for a Zoom cocktail. It was great to catch up with **Dana Friedman Kiesel**, **Mindy Kerman**, **Nancy Lundebjerg**, **Talie Ward Harris**, **Christine Burke Cesare**, **Brooke Perry Pardue** and **Linda Rosenthal Maness**. So sorry **Susan Spilman McNerney** couldn't make it at the last minute. **Dana Friedman Kiesel** settled in L.A. after graduation and never left. She's happily been in touch with **Andrea Bachike Wallace** and **Judy Ford Michurski** by Zoom since the start of COVID. It's like no time has passed, and they are still freshmen on Windham's fourth floor, hanging out and drinking Tab. Except they drink tea, live in three different time zones, and are all married and have had full careers. Dana's thrilled her daughter passed the California bar and works at Kids In Need of Defense, helping unaccompanied minors move through the legal system, and happy that son Josh enjoys working with a hospitality group in L.A. Paul Kiesel '80 thrives in his law firm, even though the courts have been closed. His first virtual trial took half a day instead of the typical pre-COVID full week. Dana's psy-

chology practice has gone all telehealth and is busy. Thanks, Dana, for the connection to **Andrea Bachike Wallace**, who's lived in Stockton, N.J., nearly 30 years. She and husband Bill love rural Hunterdon County, N.J., where they live in a converted barn. When Bill retired in 2009, Andrea pivoted from the marketing and advertising business that consumed her for decades. She now paints and writes in her studio and shares a gallery with seven painter friends in a stone linseed mill at the historic Prallsville Mills. She serves on the board of Artsbridge, a nonprofit arts organization, helping with their marketing and PR. She is working on a memoir but promises **Dana Friedman Kiesel** and **Judy Ford Michurski** that what happened at CC stays at CC. Zooming with them has been a tremendous upside of COVID. **Nancy Lundebjerg** is CEO of the American Geriatrics Society (still) and can't remember the last time she went more than two months without flying, much less a year! She is launching a society-wide initiative focused on the intersection of structural racism and ageism. She enjoys walking the city streets (always with her camera). **Brooke Perry Pardue** works at the Louisville Parks Foundation (LPF), focused on equitable investment in Louisville's public parks which, unsurprisingly, have seen systemic disinvestment in communities of color. She is in regular contact with **Nancy Lundebjerg**, as both helm nonprofits. Nancy helped connect Brooke to the head of geriatrics at the U. of Louisville, as LPF also focuses on park amenities for older adults. Brooke was happy to welcome her son home from L.A. in September. A COVID layoff, and no prospect of returning to work in the event industry, brought him back to Louisville. He landed a great job and bought a house, so she hopes he will remain, after years of traveling and living across the country. Husband Tom retired and is working on a

30-year-long “Honey Do” list. **Susan Spilman McNERNEY** still lives in Georgia, near the Chattahoochee River in Marietta (north of Atlanta). She is a realtor with Berkshire Hathaway, resuming a career in real estate she began in NYC after graduation. Her three kids are scattered: one in DC, one in Chicago, and her youngest in Athens, Ga., still working her way out of the nest. Susan loves being connected to **Brooke, Rick Gersten, Paul Escoll, Talie Ward Harris and Nancy Lundebjerg** after a mini-reunion in Kentucky a few years ago. After three months of being cloistered in L.A., where things closed early, **Paul Escoll** headed east and spent most of the summer “down the Shore,” where he saw **Andy Storero** and had a drink with **Lee Smith**. Then he headed to Philadelphia, where he’s “driving my mother to drink.” Working from a laptop—avoiding L.A. drive times and parking validation—has its upside. Plus, he saw Rayna Nitzburg Pomper ’82, who lives around the corner. He doesn’t know when he’ll return to L.A., though he misses **Dana Friedman Kiesel, Paul Kiesel ’82** and other CC expats. Another Gersten heads to CC: **Jonah Gersten**, finishing at Millbrook School, applied to CC as his first choice and was accepted early-decision. Vicki and **Rick Gersten** look forward to visiting Naragansett to spend time with Jonah, as well as **Kevin Sullivan, Norman Livingston** and now **Scott Hefter**. Actually, Scott will be nearest to Jonah, since he and wife Anne bought a vacay spot close enough to order Mr. G’s from Uber Eats. Small world: Alexander Tighe ’82 was the closing attorney. Sorry we can’t meet in person for our 40th reunion, but watch for communication from reunion gift officers **Nancy Lundebjerg, Linda Rosenthal Maness** and **Rusty Spears**. Thank you!

83 *Correspondent: Claudia Gould Tielking, 6533 Mulroy Street, McLean VA 22101, charlesbudworth@gmail.com* **Betsy Gorvine Houde** has been Director of Community Partnerships for Southern New Hampshire Health for the past few years, responsible for creating the hospital’s first philanthropic arm, the Legacy Trust. She’s been active with Nashua West Rotary for 23 years and serves on multiple community boards. Betsy

enjoys time with daughter Jane Starke Freund and grandson Luca. She lives in Nashua with husband Peter. **Christine Marshall Roberts** majored in Dance and is grateful for the career in dance she has enjoyed for the past 35 years. The past 20 years have been an adventure developing her company, Nurturing Pathways, Inc., that fosters early childhood development from 3 months to 4 years with creative dance. It’s been a very fulfilling journey. Thank you Connecticut College! **Judith Krigman** works as a research associate and lab manager at Ohio State University in a mitochondrial and aging lab and has had the opportunity to do a good bit of writing, with a few publications under her belt now. She is painting again, having been given a digital tablet for her birthday. As she tells her sons, God Bless the undo icon. Both of her boys are doing well. Her older son Martin was married last year and returned from Kuwait with commendations. He is applying for a commission as an officer. Her younger son, Samuel, who works QC at Rubex bought a home. Judith tries to stay active and safe during these crazy times. She is happy to have Facebook to see what her former Conn College colleagues are up to.

87 *Correspondent: Jenifer Kahn Bakala, 51 Wesson Terrace, Northborough, MA 01532, (508) 523-8930, JKBBblue@gmail.com* **Bill Warren** enjoys life in Cleveland, particularly with both kids in college. Daughter Katie is a Camel, Class of 2024. Bill’s work for Steris is rewarding. He leads global sales and service, but retirement is increasingly on his mind. Bill loves running, swimming, cycling, sailing and paddling, and he enjoyed doing it all with Tiggy Howard ’88 and his wife, Susan, at Lake Chautauqua last fall. He also enjoys bumping into **Robin Canton Oliva** and **Tod Oliva** occasionally at the Cleveland Racquet Club. Bill would love to catch up with fellow Camels (billwarren@live.com). After CC, **Maggie Simonelli** earned an MFA in painting and an MS in art history from Pratt Institute. She has an art studio in Manhattan. This year, she had a solo exhibition at Gary Marotta Fine Art, in Provincetown, Mass., and was asked to illustrate a cookbook: *Lockedown*

Journeys: Recipes from Around the World, by Pick Keobandith. Maggie spoke on a panel for the World of Color conference for the New York Society of Cosmetic Chemists in September, and she was featured in the short film *A Studio Visit and Interview with Maggie Simonelli*, directed and filmed by artist Billy Gerard Frank and edited by Patrick McCarthy. Maggie has donated artwork to raise money for the Yamba Malawi Foundation, whose director is **Peter Twyman**. The organization supports children and their families in Malawi. **Alison Cornyn** is spreading awareness about the New York Child Victims Act lookback window, which closes on August 14. She was interviewed on the *Law and Disorder* radio show about youth—then and now—in the criminal legal system. Check it out by searching at lawanddisorder.org/2021/01. Alison plans to host a panel with the NYC Department of Records and Information about youth justice for girls.

88 **Sara Eddy** has published *Full Mouth*, a chapbook of poems about food, just 32 years after her last class with Charles Hartman. It was published by Finishing Line Press and can be found at www.finishinglinepress.com.

89 *Correspondent: Tamsen Bales Sharpless, camel89news@gmail.com* It’s been great to hear from everyone this past year, challenges and triumphs alike, stories of resilience and innovation—Camel Strong! To connect on Facebook, please contact me at camel89news@gmail.com or request via FB to join the private group Connecticut College Class of 1989. Thank you to **Noelle Ifshin** and our class officers for coordinating our inaugural Zoom holiday gathering. Screenshots are included here. If you missed it, no worries! We will plan another one. Hint: study your Conn trivia in advance. It was wonderful to connect with classmates during these challenging times. We congratulated **Elizabeth Ladwig Leamon** on her election to judge of the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Probate District. **Stephanie Hamed Borowy** writes, “Happy New Year, Camels!” She works as a school psychologist in Beacon Falls, Conn., but many students



Class of 1989 holiday get-together



A pandemic birthday toast for the Class of 1990: Katherine Cheek Mast. From bottom left: Katherine Cheek Mast, Sylvia Marina McClelland-Neal, Susan Lee, Kahla Thompson Nelson, Leslie Pelton



Kristin Lofblad Sullivan '90 and family



Anne Traer '90

attend remotely, so it can be tricky. Her son is doing his freshman year remotely, and it has been hard to keep in touch with friends and family. **Tom Hutton** lives in Honolulu while serving as the remote, contractual executive director of two nonprofits, the Education Law Association and the California Charter Authorizing Professionals. He had a fun Zoom reunion with **Neal Brandes**, **Jonathan Godrich** and **John Keyser**, and he gets together with **Kendall McCreary** (also in Honolulu).

90 *Toria Brett, Class Correspondent, 30 Washington Ave., Northampton, MA 01060 victoriabrett@comcast.net* **Chris O'Hara** still lives in Lloyd Harbor, N.Y., with his wife and three kids, including Holland O'Hara '24, a proud Camel. Chris works at Salesforce and published another book on data, *Customer Data Platforms* (Wiley). He chats frequently with Lorenzo Levinger '92, Joe Cioni '91, Anton Malko '91 and Nick Dumitriu '92, among others. In Thailand, **Kahla Thompson Nelson** and family are in their third year living and teaching at an international school. They've been unable to leave due to the government's non-negotiable two-week quarantine to reenter. "There are definitely worse places to be stuck, but only two of our four kids are with us (the others are in university and beyond) so that has been hard!" Kahla's year has been more bearable with the friendship and regular Zoom calls with CC girlfriends **Susan Lee**, **Leslie Pelton Nichol**, **Katherine Cheek Mast**, **Alicia Hesse Cleary** and **Marina McClelland-Neal**. "Looking forward to (hopefully!) returning this summer and reconnecting with family and these special friends!" **Ann Traer** reports a satisfying "hard pivot" in her life and career. After a 25-year career in technology, Anne started Garden and Roads, a florist and small-scale flower farm, with the goal of creating floral art and joyful experiences using methods gentle to the environment. "Four years later, the business is growing; I enjoy working with my hands and heart to bring the

joy of flowers to my community. I'm happy to speak with CC alums, especially women, thinking about transitioning from corporate life to start a business." **Nick Brown** has been living in East Hampton, N.Y., for the past year. He misses NYC but is happy to help his parents and avoid COVID. Working in real estate and financial advisory keeps him busy. He looks forward to seeing his Conn friends when we can celebrate a more normal world! In Cambridge, Mass., **Kristin Lofblad Sullivan** has much to be grateful for: "Our son's school does weekly testing; he has done in-person learning the whole year. My work is in educational technology and online learning, so this has been an exciting time professionally. We are grateful none of our family has gotten COVID. Every drawer, closet, bookshelf and basket in our house has been thinned out, reorganized, reimaged or redecorated. After a 12-week online course, I consider myself a craft cocktail professional. We've got this, people. Love and miss everyone (even strangers!)." **Joseph Motta** left his job of 23 years in the mailroom at Brandeis to work for Panera three years ago. He is leaving the New England cold, moving from Waltham, Mass., to Fort Myers, Fla., where he will continue at Panera. As for me, **Toria Brett**, I was fortunate to spend much of the summer and fall in Maine with my family. My vigorous 80-year-old mother was there, and we lived our pandemic lives as if protecting a precious jewel. My two daughters took the year off from college and cobbled together COVID-safe adventures and jobs. Meanwhile, I sit at my desk—surrounded by too many pandemic-propagated succulents—with hope for normalcy ahead. Take good care!

94 *Correspondent: Daniella Garran, dgarran@gmail.com* **Jennifer Claire Scott** has taken the exciting job of special events manager for the Office of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo. She is based out of the Executive Chamber offices in Manhattan but will spend lots of time in Albany

too. Clearly, Jen got her start in event planning at Conn as our SAC president extraordinaire! **Renee Letendre Edge** is a teacher in a variety of urban settings in Connecticut. Most significantly, she and her husband have been therapeutic foster parents for 16 years, which has brought them great joy. They have sustained relationships with most of the children they fostered and watched them grow their own families, blessing Renee and her husband with little people who call them Grandma and Grandpa (scary as that is!). They have three children still at home: Bryce (14), Nicolet (11) and Denver (10). A perpetual learner, Renee has earned certifications in nutrition and mindfulness. She studies the links between malnutrition and trauma, aiming to collaborate with foster and adoptive families to use nutrition and mindfulness to address challenging behaviors.

04 *Correspondent: Nora Guerrero, noranguerrera@gmail.com* **Katie Coffin Sparks** welcomed her second child, Henry Jackson Sparks, in October. **Dan Cayer** writes *The In-Between*, a newsletter about health and spirituality, and lives in the Hudson Valley with his wife and two daughters. He keeps in touch with friends from the Scuds and CC through Zoom. **Joseph Sayre**, **Alex Waxman**, **Rich Kappler**, **Ben Johnson** and some other alums joined Dan on Zoom to promote *Coin Your Face*, a startup by Craig Rowin '06. **Olivia Janus Ide** and husband welcomed a baby girl, Kittering Christopher Ide, on Oct. 15. Kittering joins big sister Ottoline (3). **Shahzad Zaveer** lives in the U.K. She moved there in 2017 after eight years in Canada. She's married with three kids: two girls and a boy. She would love to connect with other CC alums in the U.K. **Jeff Wang** and wife Elsa Anderson Wang '03 decamped as "COVID migrants" to her native state of Vermont after a dozen years in NYC. Happily nestled in a Monroe-era farmhouse in Essex, they are welcoming their third little Camel while busily writing *The Little Mandarin*, a series of bilingual storybooks; building *iCanMandarin*, an online language school; and launching *Project Agora*, which brings liberal arts education to teenagers of Chinese background from around the world. They en-



Big sister Charlotte, Evan Sparks, baby Henry and Katie Coffin Sparks '04



Helen Egan Martin '06 and family enjoying Disney

joy a few connections with professors and staff in New London and look forward to seeing everyone soon!

06 *Correspondent: Julia Jacobson, julia.jacobson@gmail.com* **Hel-en Egan Martin** lives in North Windham, Conn., and teaches third grade in Columbia, Conn. Her four kiddos enjoy the homeschooled life, as well as hiking at Mansfield Hollow and plotting escapes to Disney. **Christina Koerte** is still in quarantine ... is not loving quarantine ... is loving the commute to her couch. **Christi Milum-Lott** is the director at Early Years Learning Center in Freedom, Pa. **Yasemin Özümerzifon** married Efe Karanci on Jan. 22 in a small, chilly (but full of warmth) ceremony in the backyard of a NYC restaurant. The ceremony was livestreamed to their families and loved ones in Turkey. Efe went with Yasemin to CC in 2019 for the first time to experience the campus that has such a special place in Yasemin's heart. **Lauren Burke** started a new venture, Camp Equity (www.campequity.com), a virtual camp where kids learn about social justice from grassroots leaders with lived experience while building community among youth from around the U.S. **Meg Gibson Wheeler** ran for



Meagan Gibson Wheeler '06 ran for State Senate in Massachusetts.



A group of Camels from Class of 2006 got together for a socially distant/masked meet-up at Alcove in Boston. Left to right: Katherine McCord, Marisa Olsen, Shayna Crowell Lambrechts, Ginny Fuller Marinaro, Erin Schoen Riley and Hillary Rose (wife of Graham Lincoln)

State Senate in Massachusetts and although she was not successful, she was honored to receive the endorsements of Senators Elizabeth Warren, Ed Markey and Bernie Sanders, as well as Planned Parenthood, Sierra Club and NARAL, among others. She received more than 45% of the vote. Along with her clinical research at the Red Cross Children's Hospital, **Cynthia Whitman Baard** is enrolled at the U. of Cape Town in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, where she is completing a master's degree in environment, sustainability and society. Her thesis research focuses on biodiversity, livelihoods, and access and benefit sharing. On Sept. 9, Cynthia and husband Derrick welcomed son Findlay Whitman Baard. They have been sharing their love of nature near their home in South Africa. Some Camels from the Class of 2006 got together for a socially distant/masked meet-up at Alcove, in Boston: **Katherine McCord**, **Marisa Olsen**, **Shayna Crowell Lambrechts**, **Ginny Fuller Marinaro**, **Erin Schoen Riley** and **Hillary Rose** (wife of **Graham Lincoln**).

07 *Neil Patrick McGowan, JD, MBA, and his wife, Danielle McGowan, FNP-C, welcomed their first child, Reagan Elizabeth McGowan, on Dec. 1.*

08 *Correspondent: Areti Sakellaris, asakellaris@gmail.com* **Jonathan McLean** and wife Leslee welcomed their second child, Ethan, on March 18, 2020. Technically a COVID baby, Ethan hasn't traveled as much as big brother Arthur, who had visited four countries by his first birthday. **Jake Stolar** and wife Kaila welcomed daughter Rosie on July 24, 2020. The happy parents are pretty sure she's ready for her first day of class in New London, but for now the family lives in NYC. **Lindsey Rothe Huckins** and husband Nathan welcomed Evelyn Marie Huckins on Oct. 30. She was 6 lbs., 8 oz., and 18 inches long. **Scott Borchert's** book about the WPA Federal Writers' Project, *Republic of Detours: How the New Deal Paid Broke Writers to Rediscover America*, will be published in June by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

10 *Correspondent: Grace Astrove, gca1223@gmail.com* **Rich Abate** and Elyse Goveia '08 welcomed daughter Eleanor Mae Abate-Goveia on May 6, 2020. **Charles Cochran** married Sarah Rhodes '12 on Oct. 17 in Great Barrington, Mass. **Michael Meade** teaches with Wild Roots Forest School in Santa Barbara, Calif. He is also an instructor with InterAct Theatre School and continues to develop a multimedia curriculum in environmental sustainability through his family organization, All Aboard Earth.

19 *Correspondent: Victoria Slater, victoriaslater28@gmail.com* **Natalie Dumart** and Matthew Hyszcak '16 moved to Boston; adopted a puppy, Stella; and started new jobs: Natalie at Ellis Memorial and Matt at U. of Louisville. Freelance journalist **Annabelle Allen** published "The Day His Journal Went Blank" in the Modern Love column of the New York Times. I encourage everyone to read this very personal and beautiful piece about her father, which was also published in the Winter 2021 issue of this magazine. A woman of many talents, New York-based Annabelle started a new job as a broadcast associate at CBS News. **Jermaine Doris** and Ivan Tatis '10 led the virtual "Welcome to the City" NYC event last fall. They both work at Prep for Prep, along with other alums. Jermaine relocated to Bed-Stuy in Brooklyn for his new job as an admissions officer at Prep for Prep. He enjoys exploring Bed-Stuy and singing at virtual open mics. **Jillian Edwards** moved to NYC in 2020, and due to the nature of her job and small size of her firm, she has gone to the office every day! Jillian works as a junior designer at high-end residential interior design firm Elizabeth Bauer Design. She loves exploring NYC, one of the constant perks of living there.



Natalie Dumart '19 and Matthew Hyszcak '16 at Boston Winery with their puppy, Stella

In Memoriam

1940's

Elizabeth Pfeiffer Wilburn '40 died November 11, 2020
Winifred Fischer Hubbard-Parrot '45 died November 27, 2020
Mary Eastburn Biggin '46 died December 12, 2020
Evelyn Black Weibel '46 died January 15, 2018
Ada Maislen Goldstein '47 died December 29, 2020
Dorothy Hickey Gudefin '47 died January 14, 2021
Bessie Veleas George '48 died January 18, 2021
Rhoda Meltzer Gilinsky '49 died May 8, 2020
Sandra Strotz Keiser '49 died January 9, 2021
Catharine Wilder Pope '49 died January 9, 2021

1950's

Patricia Grable Burke '50 died December 5, 2020
Dorothy Hyman Roberts '50 died June 11, 2020
Jane Lent Baldau '51 died December 15, 2020
Eleanor Tuttle Wade '51 died February 14, 2021
Emilie Starke Piper '52 died February 15, 2021
Elizabeth Blaustein Roswell '52 died December 30, 2020
Elizabeth Jane Stillwell Winters '52 died January 17, 2021
Elizabeth Franch Baud '53 died February 5, 2021
Susan Brown Goldsmith '53 died January 23, 2021
Beverly Sandbach Heminway '53 died February 15, 2021
Marguerite Lewis Moore '53 died October 5, 2020
Mary Bovard Sensenbrenner '53 died June 7, 2020
Suzanne Wilson Cramer '54 died November 9, 2019
Sara Shaffer King '54 died February 10, 2021
Nancy Hubbard Benton '55 died January 16, 2021
Maida Alexander Rahn '55 died January 30, 2021
Jane Dornan Smith '55 died February 3, 2021
Joan Sprecher Cushman '56 died December 1, 2020
Joan Stevens Bingham '57 died October 31, 2020
Penelope Howland Cambier '57 died May 12, 2020
Meg Weller Harkins '57 died October 1, 2020

Anne Detarando Hartman '57 died August 8, 2020
Nancy Tuttle Ivers '57 died December 31, 2020
Sabra Grant Kennington '57 died January 22, 2021
Jackie Markun Weisenberg '57 died October 25, 2020
Diane Miller Bessell '59 died September 11, 2020
Judith Petrequin Rice '59 died January 4, 2021
Judith Pratt '59 died December 22, 2020

1960's

Sally Glanville Train '60 died November 21, 2020
Nancy Glassman Walters '62 died January 1, 2019
Martha Williams '65 died December 28, 2020
Helen Chmela Kent '66 died December 2, 2020
Joan Redmund Platt '67 died November 23, 2020
John Fix '68 died November 20, 2020
Erika Lehninger Whitmore-Aretz '69 died February 7, 2021

1970's

Katherine Maxim Greenleaf '70 died December 3, 2020
Patricia Smith Henriques '71 died May 17, 2020
Linda Podnek Cohan '72 died February 11, 2021
Daniel Gaynor '72 died January 4, 2021
Marjorie Sussman Love '72 died November 22, 2020
Ann Blanchard DeRosa '75 died January 10, 2021
Julie Crofoot Simons '75 died October 17, 2020
Mimi Lasker Ginott '77 died December 8, 2020

1980's

Evelyn Nardone '80 died January 22, 2021
Margie Whipple '81 died November 27, 2020

1990's

Douglas Pierce '99 died December 5, 2020



COMMENCEMENT 2021

Thanks to campus-wide efforts to minimize impact of COVID-19 at Conn, our 103rd Commencement was held in person on Thursday, May 20, 2021. The Class of 2021 was addressed by President Katherine Bergeron; renowned entrepreneur and environmentalist Ethan Brown '94, founder, president and CEO of Beyond Meat; and the 2021 Senior Class Speaker, Emir Kulluk. For full coverage, visit www.conncoll.edu/commencement

The Wisdom of Trees

President Katherine Bergeron's remarks at Conn's 103rd Commencement.

Members of the Board of Trustees; distinguished guests; faculty, staff, and alumni colleagues; family members and friends; all who are joining in person and from afar; and most especially, every one of you who make up the incomparable Class of 2021: I cannot tell you how meaningful it is to stand here before you and to be able to declare today's exercises—the 103rd Commencement of Connecticut College—officially open.

What an honor—what a gift!—it is to be with you. Every graduation is momentous, but this year, honestly, it feels like a miracle. And so I just have to pause and acknowledge the gratitude I feel right now. Gratitude for parents and guardians who entrusted us with loved ones during a very uncertain time; gratitude for stunning faculty and staff who worked harder than ever in a pandemic to fulfill our educational mission; gratitude for students who showed strength and resilience and compassion as you pursued your goals while managing to keep a virus off our campus; gratitude for every single person who, through months of planning and replanning, made it possible for us to gather safely today on this beautiful spot.

Dean McKnight acknowledged the land as we began this ceremony. And I have to say, the green we are now sitting on, and the trees that surround us, truly deserve our thanks. This generous expanse of open space is, after all, what sustained us through a year when being outside was the safest way to come

together. The old oaks and maples and beeches and larches were welcome companions, providing shade, and solace, and, yes, wisdom.

I've been reflecting a lot lately on the wisdom of trees. That's probably because I just finished reading an amazing book, *Finding the Mother Tree*, by the Canadian ecologist Suzanne Simard, about the wisdom of the forest. And it has got me thinking in new ways about those elders who are right here in our midst. If you look at archival photos, you can see that our College was essentially built on a pasture. A photo from 1930, 15 years after the College opened, reveals the southern area of the campus, where we are now, as a huge open space with virtually no vegetation and just four buildings: Blaustein to the north; Knowlton to the west, and New London Hall and Fanning Hall to the east. Cows are grazing in the field where we now play Ultimate Frisbee. The larches at the Ad Astra garden are specks. The giant copper beech at the north corner of Knowlton barely reaches the roof. That means those spectacular specimens have been rooted here since before my own mother was born. It's hard *not* to think of them now as mother trees.

We have a mother tree, too, at the center of the seal you see on the cover of your program, modeled, perhaps, on the gorgeous tulip poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, that greets you as you drive through the front entrance. The encircling line of Latin is from the first psalm: *Tamquam lignum quod plantatum est*, and

it refers to a tree planted by a river, one that will “bring forth fruit in its season.”

The reference certainly resonates as a metaphor for education and growth. But we could also probably take it more literally. Because if you pay closer attention to our history, you will see that one of the important things this College was doing in its early years was, in fact, planting trees—lots of them—in order to return land once cleared for farming to a thriving habitat for native species.

That project started exactly 90 years ago, in 1931, with the establishment of the Connecticut College Arboretum. You may know that I often like giving one last history lesson on this last day of your Connecticut College education. So, today I'm going to take a moment to tell the story of our Arboretum before returning to Suzanne Simard, in order to reflect on the wisdom of trees and what that means for you and your life beyond Connecticut College.

It was President Katharine Blunt who had the idea in 1931 to transform a 64-acre tract of donated land west of Williams Street into an Arboretum. She hired an inaugural director and retained a prominent New York landscape architect to design the space. The topography included granite outcroppings, sloping valleys, a pine plantation, a small man-made pond, and, as a centerpiece, a magnificent grove of century-old hemlocks. By 1936, the College had raised funds to create a new front entrance; turn the pond into a lake; landscape an amphitheater; and build a

“Full participation: giving individuals the means to reach their potential and flourish, so they, in turn, can contribute to the flourishing of others. It’s this reciprocity that defines the wisdom of the forest.”

— PRESIDENT KATHERINE BERGERON

lodge—largely with labor supplied by the Works Progress Administration. Most important, the new director established a plant collection to fulfill the Arboretum’s mission of preserving and propagating native species in Connecticut. Within a few years, the nurseries boasted thousands of specimens.

This gets us to 1938, the year of the surprise hurricane that destroyed so much of southern New England. Palmer Auditorium, under construction at the time, took a beating along with much of the campus landscape. But the storm was death to that noble grove of hemlocks, with over 120 trees uprooted or killed from salt damage. Students and faculty spent the next years studying the fallen giants, some with roots tracing back to the 18th century.

Then in 1944, the first director departed, and a Harvard-trained plant morphologist named Richard Goodwin was hired as successor. Goodwin became the ultimate steward, elevating the stature of the Arboretum while also using his position—and the land—as a bulwark against urban encroachment. During his impressive 30-year tenure, he expanded the landholdings to 450 acres; brought on William Niering as an ambitious research partner; created the first liberal arts environmental studies program in the country; and helped found the Nature Conservancy.

One of Goodwin’s first jobs, though, was to *plant trees*. Shortly after he arrived, he started an eight-year reforestation project, maybe to make up for the loss of those forsaken hemlocks but mostly to rehabilitate the cultivated land. Ten thousand evergreen seedlings were planted between 1945-1953. And you all know what happened next: In the

decades that followed, a mature, diverse, mixed-wood forest has grown up.

There is so much wisdom in that reforestation. And I don’t just mean the more than 60 years of longitudinal research that has been undertaken by students and faculty, or the more than 12,000 tons of CO² that have by now been removed from the atmosphere. I’m thinking of the wisdom shared by the trees themselves. And here’s where I want to return to Suzanne Simard. Her remarkable book, *Finding the Mother Tree*, reads like a whodunit of the forest, chronicling more than 30 years of her own research focused on the mystery of how trees, especially elders, exchange knowledge to heal, nourish, and sustain their community.

The mystery, it turns out, lies just beneath our feet: in a vast communication network of mycorrhizal fungi, entwining roots and connecting trees in a mutually beneficial exchange. But Simard’s decades of experimental data also show something more. The same mycorrhizae that can help a Douglas fir thrive can also support the flourishing of paper birch—the two sharing resources on the same network. Flourishing requires diversity. And that’s why, she says, policies focused on clear-cutting and monoculture replanting are doomed to fail. The tree species aren’t competing. They are collaborating—older helping younger, hardwood helping evergreen—through an underground network that allows them to take and give what they need. “The roots didn’t thrive when they grew alone,” she wrote, speaking of her research. “The trees needed one another.”

That research eventually led Simard toward the concept of the “mother tree,” the elder at the center of the network,

helping to ensure the growth of seedlings below, creating the condition for the sustainability of the whole forest. To me, it sounds like the ideal we sometimes like to call *full participation*: giving individuals the means to reach their potential and flourish, so they, in turn, can contribute to the flourishing of others. It’s *this* reciprocity that defines the wisdom of the forest. And I have to admit, knowing what I know now about the underground network, I can no longer look at our Arboretum or our campus in the same way.

Of course, I did not have to read a book by an ecologist from western Canada to learn all this. Our own Rachel Spicer, chair of the Botany department, is an internationally known specialist in woody plants; Chad Jones has done compelling longitudinal research on forest regeneration and invasive species; Manuel Lizzaralde has thought deeply about the human ecology of rainforests. And I’m certain that Esteban Melendez, from your great Class of 2021, would be more than happy, if given half a chance, to spend whatever time necessary to unpack with me the secrets of mycorrhizae.

There is one more person, too, who I believe could have explained it all: Hans Horst-Martz, to whom we will award a posthumous degree at this commencement. And it’s not just because of the years of research he did here with Professor Jones in our Arboretum. It’s also because, as so many people know, Hans was uncannily sensitive to the ecology of communities and the connectedness of things. A beautiful thing happened, in fact, on Arbor Day, April 30, when we gathered in the Arboretum to remember his spirit. Teachers and friends invoked him in touching tributes, and a mischievous wind kicked up, not exactly



disrupting the proceedings but injecting a puckish energy that was pure Hans, as if to remind us that the trees had other work to do. They were having their moment on his behalf.

I will admit that I wanted to talk about trees today because of Hans. But there are at least two other lessons about the wisdom of trees that I believe valuable for all you soon-to-be graduates. The first relates to Suzanne Simard herself. She was your age, after all, just out of college, when she had an important insight about why reforestation projects were failing. The trees were telling her something about collaboration and she felt compelled to follow it through. And while she did the research and presented the data, the policy makers scoffed. But she didn't quit. She just worked harder. And eventually, she ended up changing the way the government managed the land. So, that's lesson number one: Don't be afraid to speak what you believe. And don't stop when people push back. Just push harder. Keep doing your research and building your allies, because your

seed of an idea could just be the next breakthrough. And there can be no breakthrough if you're not willing to plant something.

The second lesson has to do with *what* the trees were telling her. And this is ultimately a lesson about community. As Simard reminds us, "ecosystems are so similar to human societies. They're built on relationships. The stronger those relationships are, the more resilient the system." If there is one thing we learned from the past 15 months, it is the power of the complex ecosystem that is the residential experience, the strength we draw from living and working together *in community*. So that's lesson number two: Don't ever take that wisdom for granted. Your job now is not to make it on your own but to *build a new forest*, by remembering and reproducing the same network of connections that have sustained you here. Like a mother tree.

The 10,000 evergreen seedlings planted by Richard Goodwin in the 1940s and '50s are now the elders, sustaining the wisdom of our Arboretum. Here is Simard again: "Seedlings are

intermediate nodes between distant Mother trees [that] eventually become mothers themselves. This unbroken line between the old and the young, the links between generations, as with all living things, is the legacy of the forest, the roots of our survival."

On each of your chairs today is a white pine seedling, a gift given to every graduating class by a generous alumna in a tradition that goes back three decades—by now, equivalent to 10,000 evergreens. It is given as a physical reminder of both the wisdom taken from this place and the roots of your resilience: a way for you, like a mother tree, to build a new forest. Class of 2021, we love you, we are proud of you, we know you will carry the wisdom of this place into the world to promote the flourishing of others. Thank you for planting your talent, your passion, and your conviction inside this very special community to make it a better place. We wish you much happiness and success in your life after Connecticut College, and we look forward to seeing you here often and welcoming you home.

Ethan Brown '94

The founder, president and CEO of Beyond Meat addressed the Class of 2021.

Thank you, Katherine, and thank you Board of Trustees, for the opportunity to address the Connecticut College community today. Congratulations to the Class of 2021. You adapted and stayed focused during a very difficult period, my hat's off to you.

You've received a truly first-rate liberal arts education at Connecticut College. I remember my courses here, from history to philosophy to economics, biology, and ecology ... and that nagging feeling that I should actually be attending them ... and how quickly that went away on a beautiful spring day like today (I'm kidding). There are so many qualities that recommend Connecticut College, including that if you graduated from here and live in California, as I do, and tell folks you played basketball at Conn College, at least half of them will think you are talking about Big East powerhouse UConn.

So much of what I work on today I was able to explore here given the school's unwavering belief in a broad and deep liberal arts education. The words, teachings, and readings of Vogel, Burlingame, Green, Forster, Frasure, Niering, Kirmse and other professors stay with me today. It's *great* to be back at our college on the hill.

I am going to first tell you how I wrestled with a question that would come to define my life and then my work. I do so not to convince you of my answer, rather to ask you to seek your own personal truth as a foundation for your life.

Second, I'll offer some key learnings that have helped me in life. Some came easier to me than others. In this advice, I hope to give you the benefit of my struggles and fulfillment so you might have

more fulfillment and less struggle.

I grew up, like a lot of you and your parents, in a world where hierarchy and separateness explain the relationship to and among life on earth. The separation and ranking of life is so pervasive that our indoctrination in it as the natural order of things is hardly noticeable.

Like that rug in your parents' home, it's just there as we grow up, and we give little thought to its origin. The Great Chain of Being, rooted in ancient Greek philosophy and furthered throughout the Middle Ages, is as good a place to start as any. Placing humans over other animal life, this general idea makes an enduring appearance as dominion in the Book of Genesis. Not content with an elevated and ruling status over the rest of life on earth, throughout history we've sought to further segment human life itself, whether in the concepts of "chosen-ness" within religions of the world, including the Christian (my faith), and Jewish, and Muslim religions, or on the basis of race, gender, sexual preference, class, and so on and suchlike.

The Otherness Project, a description I use to describe this history of hierarchy and separation, our history, stands in stark contrast to the biological footing of life. Growing up and even now, I struggled with the sense of brotherhood I feel with life surrounding me and the conveniences and practices of my daily life. I grew up in a city divided by the color of skin and distribution of income, and live in one now. I cherished the animals in my home but ate those I didn't know or see or hear, perhaps hoping that by some mysterious difference, say hoof to paw or mere distance, the latter didn't feel pain or have an emotional life.

My efforts to address inconsistencies between inner thoughts and feelings, and my external actions, were themselves inconsistent. As a child, I was part of a generation that, as Dr. King dreamed of, played hand-in-hand across race as if it had always been that way, this through the conscious work of progressive educators and parents. Yet I actively benefited from the educational opportunities afforded to me, while these same opportunities were in the main not made available to my brothers and sisters of a different complexion.

As I got older I stopped eating certain types of animals, namely farmed animals, intermittently before doing so for good. My interaction with the animals on our farm outside the city made it clear what science would later reveal to me. Made from the same elemental material as us (that is, carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, and so forth), using sensory and nervous systems that we once shared, and with the same DNA coding systems, animals were not machines but sentient beings, simultaneously an earlier and contemporary variation of me. Yet I still wore their skin. And I enjoyed fishing, hoping that somehow the nervous systems of the pickerel, trout, and mackerel that I caught were sufficiently different from the ancient aquatic life who broke the waterline and crawled to shore, becoming the terrestrial animals I had decided not to eat.

The lines were blurry in my mind. It turns out that the lines are blurred, and this is the main point. Later, the philosopher James Rachels helped me see why this is, noting that Darwin correctly observed that there are not absolute—but rather degrees—of difference among spe-

cies, including us. Rachels summarized that Darwin stressed of animals “that in an important sense, their nervous systems, their behaviors, their cries, are *our* nervous systems, *our* behaviors, and *our* cries, with only a little modification.”

This takes me to a pickerel and a still summer morning. My father and I used to take the canoe early to a pond near our farm and watch the mist clear, beavers retire for the morning, and throw lines in. The entrance to the pond is an unmarked dirt road, and I rarely saw another person. This particular summer, I was in the middle of a teenage growth spurt. Long and bony like the pickerel I pulled from the water, I was short on confidence in many regards. I was mostly releasing the fish I caught at this point, but not always. On this day, I was fishing from a small wooden bridge at the pond’s modest dam, and a couple happened to be embarking in a boat. Seeing that I was releasing the fish, the man said they’d take him if I didn’t.

Anxiety set in. Not yet a man myself and fearing that I would be viewed as soft or sentimental, I agreed and handed the fish over. As is done, he ran a stick through the gill to carry the pickerel and walked toward his truck. I didn’t know at the time the fish had A-delta and C fibers in his cranial nerves that, like ours, signal pain. Nor did I know that he had the genetic underpinnings to sprout fingers but instead expressed fins for obvious reasons, or that hosting more cell cones in his optical system meant he could see colors more vividly than I could. But as I watched him struggle, twist, and fight I did know one thing with certainty: I would do the same to preserve my life.

My discomfort must have become obvious. The man said if I’d rather have the pickerel back, I could have him. I nervously said yes. After freeing him from the stick, I quickly returned his exhausted body to the warm surface water, where he tried to find balance as he filled his circulation with oxygen, gathered himself and darted away. I won’t tell you that this experience changed me on the spot. It didn’t. As with innovation and claims of sudden insight, the story of the

sudden revelation is often oversold. I was troubled by the experience but tumbled forward with ambiguity, a sense that what I’d learned thus far about the world in my 15 years was not how I felt about the world.

As I matured, including on this campus, I became less convinced that the world is simply as it is, and more committed to the idea that the world is as we make it, for better or worse. If the Otherness Project insisted on a narrow slice of life when deciding who matters, I searched for a vastly broader border. Ultimately, I found resonance in the writings of Albert Schweitzer. The physician, theologian, and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize was admired by my grandfather, a Congregational minister who lived and practiced here in Connecticut, as well as being of great interest to my father. So I was familiar with him. In fact, a few years ago, in my father’s office in our house in the Maine woods, I was thumbing through my grandfather’s copy of Schweitzer’s *Out of My Life and Thought*.

I found, underlined, the very phrase that I had finally come to, earlier in my life, as I searched for answers: *Reverence for Life*. There, bookmarked and penciled by his hand, my grandfather—long since passed—was sharing it with me, in the event I had missed Schweitzer’s words:

I am life that wills to live in the midst of life that wills to live. ... Ethics thus consists in this, that I experience the necessity of practicing the same Reverence for Life toward all will-to-live, as toward my own.

In this broadening of the Golden Rule, Schweitzer saw a universal ethic: Seek to cherish, not check, maintain, not destroy, life. These thoughts came to him on the Ogowe River in West Africa and reached back into my childhood heart and gave it a coherent path of expression. Here was an ethic the boundaries of which traced the biological, not cultural, circumference of life. It is of course a truly impossible ethic to adhere fully to in a practical sense. It is, however, a powerful North Star to tilt your sail toward as you live among one another and the rest of the life on earth.

For years, I sought to apply this ethic—with messy imprecision and inconsistency that it requires—in its most direct sense only to my personal choices. As a professional, I felt safer in the world of clean technology, working to address climate change.

I was advancing in this career, had gotten married, and had small children. The life I had set up made sense. I was ambitious and could see myself leading a major enterprise in the energy sector. And truth be told, there was a strong element of needing to prove myself.

And there was fear. Not of failure, but of something stronger—how I might be perceived. At this point, the pioneers who blazed a path before me in the food world were chefs or hippies or both. I was neither, had put a lot of work into a conventional career path, and was sensitive to somehow “bailing.” And, you see, I like people and enjoy making them feel comfortable around me, and feared being seen as judgmental of those I love, and that my career would suddenly be about questioning something so deeply ingrained in so many good things in our culture.

Yet the passage of finite time has a way of summoning our truth. I believed—and believe—in a world where the diversity of life—of course ethnicity, gender, orientation, but also species—is to be maintained and cherished, not checked and destroyed. I was seeing way too much checking and destroying. As a child my discomfort at the pond was with speaking my truth. As an adult, as time moved on, it became the opposite. I was not letting my life speak.

I began to look at how to apply big science and technology, and robust budgets—what I had seen in my career—to something different altogether than solar or fuel cells: the challenge of delivering meat to a growing global population without the animal.

It turns out that the very feature that caused my childhood discomfort—the broad unity of life across species—was also the solution. I only needed to marinate long enough in the problem to see it. Reflecting the origin of life itself, basic

materials and genetic code are shared not just among animals but also between plants and animals. Once you see this fact, it's hard to unsee it. Just the other day, I was hiking above the Pacific coastline outside Los Angeles before work. From a distance, 10 or so feet ahead I see what I think is an unremarkable collection of gray leaves scattered across the path. As I get closer, I realize it is in fact feathers of a bird, who had likely been taken down as prey.

Why did my mind mislead me? In the dim light of dawn, I saw a familiar pattern—bilateral symmetry. The design and size of the left side of the object matched that of the right, as leaves can do. This is of course the same as a feather, and hence my mistake. One of plant origin, the other of animal origin—same coding system, and common elemental materials.

It is this unity, even across plants and animals, that makes Beyond Meat possible. Animal muscle is, at a high-level a collection of amino acids, lipids, trace minerals, vitamins, combined with water. All of these are also in plants. With technology, we no longer need to use the animal to consume plants and turn them into the meat that we love to eat.

As I explored the ideas that ultimately became Beyond Meat, something happened.

I came across research that made a compelling case that emissions from livestock was a greater contributor to greenhouse gases than fossil fuels for automotive use, the area where I had spent much of my career. With this, the animal meats served at various clean energy and climate conferences I attended with colleagues started to take on new significance for me. So you see, by bringing my whole self to my professional world, far from leaving the field of climate, I came anew to it with an even more powerful solution.

This was my journey; it need not be yours. I share it with you to reinforce the importance of the first of my three pieces of advice.

1. You decide who to be. Then go be it.¹

¹ A modification of a line in "Head Full of Doubt" by the Avett Brothers.

Believe endlessly in yourself. If you let them, people, even entire institutions, can assign limiting beliefs, or sometimes equally debilitating, graft expectations onto your life. By your age, you are likely carrying a mix of both around with you.

It can be heavy freight to carry forward with you, and with time will only become heavier.

How do you shed this weight? Do the difficult and probing work of finding what is in your heart, and then allow your mind and life to serve it. Doing so connects you to the life force that is within you and can give you remarkable strength to overcome obstacles.

2. Face your fears early and often.

Study and fight them. If you are anything like me, you will defeat some, and others you won't. But at least you will know them as fears, where they come from, what motivates and feeds them, and in doing battle versus letting them unconsciously influence you, you've made progress.

Most of all, do not fear failure. And when you fail, do two things. One, look inward with that middle-of-the-night-in-the-bathroom-mirror honesty and ask: what could I have done differently? Your nervous system is ready to listen, and the answers can inform habits and judgment for years to follow. Two, stay in forward motion. I have failed multiple times in my life, including on this campus. I came here so excited to play in the NESCAC. I never visited the campus, and the only staff or faculty I had spoken to was the basketball coach. Yet almost upon arrival, I experienced a cascading series of injuries, mostly to my knee, that had me on crutches for long stretches each season, and ultimately forced me to the sideline for good. But I stayed in forward motion, and I can't help but think that this challenge had something to do with me finding the corner desk in the Chapel basement library, leaving here a far more serious student than when I arrived.

3. Pitch a big tent. Despite my own journey, I count among my close friends and advisers avid anglers and hunters. The

vast majority of my friends and family consume animal meat. I love, cherish, and respect them deeply. Celebrate your friends and loved ones for who they are, not how similar or conforming they are to you.

In closing, I want to share a quote that my father, to whom I am indebted for a lifetime of encouraging me to peer behind the curtain and seek to understand the world for myself, shared from a gift he gave me for my 21st birthday, before I returned here to New London in the fall.

The light which puts out our eyes is darkness to us. Only that day dawns to which we are awake. There is more day to dawn. The sun is but a morning star.

In Thoreau's words, I find a plea that we awaken to the potential of our own being, that we seek truth versus blind acceptance of dogma and tradition, and that we always, *always*, live with a sense of forward possibility.

As you seek to awaken to your own potential and live a life of possibility, remember your starting point. We are a challenger institution. Our doors opened in 1911 to provide women with the rigorous higher education they were being denied elsewhere. *We broadened the circle of who and what matters.* When Professor of Botany Richard Goodwin, saw a threat to biodiversity in the 1940s and early 1950s, he helped found the Nature Conservancy and twice served as its president, an organization that has now set aside 125 million acres for life to live on its own terms. *We broadened the circle of who and what matters.* Countless graduates have gone on from Connecticut College not to accept the world as it is, but to strive toward *that* which we can make it.

You are part of this challenger institution, and part of a generation that is marching, pushing, and demanding change. Keep challenging, keep broadening the circle of who and what matters, and *free of limitation, reach deep into the beauty of your heart and fill the blank canvas that awaits you today with your own, special, story.*

Thank you.



Photos by Aaron Kacowski

On Living

Senior Speaker Emir Kulluk '21 spoke of the unique challenges and inspiring moments brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Emir Kulluk '21 first discovered the Turkish poet Nâzım Hikmet's piece, titled "On Living" when he was a teenager. Ever since, the poem has held tremendous meaning for him.

During Conn's 103rd Commencement ceremony in May, Kulluk, who grew up in Turkey, delivered this year's Senior Speech, addressing the audience both on campus and tuning in from around the world. A Film and Philosophy double major, CISLA Scholar, and Connecticut College Ambassador, Kulluk spoke of the unique challenges and inspiring moments brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and shared some of Hikmet's poem, which has long given him comfort during difficult times.

CC Magazine spoke with Kulluk about his experience at Conn and why Hikmet's poem continues to mean so much to him.

CC Magazine: What is it about this poem that still resonates with you today?

Emir Kulluk: When I first read it, the dichotomies presented in the poem really struck a chord, as it truly represented life as not all good, or all bad, but with ups and

downs. It argues the importance of valuing the very fact that we have life itself, regardless of what it entails. I think that message is more important now than ever.

In my Senior Speech, I also wanted to share something that was part of my culture; the Turkish heritage that I carry and represent on a daily basis. And after learning more about Hikmet's work and life, I realized he was the perfect individual to talk about. A poet, writer and philosopher, he was imprisoned and later exiled for his political beliefs, yet his love and appreciation for his culture, community and motherland never diminished.

CC Magazine: What initially drew you to Conn?

EK: I spoke to an alumnus of my high school who went to Conn, Anil Timbil '20, and he emphasized that Conn was a very tight-knit community with small class sizes, more time with professors, and a philosophy of encouraging exploration and combining interests. I was drawn to this.

CC Magazine: Throughout your time at Conn, is there an academic

achievement or experience that stands out more than others?

EK: Making a movie in my film class. Getting to experience every step of the process of filmmaking, from coming up with the idea to writing a script to preproduction, filming and then postproduction was thrilling. It allowed me to put everything that I had learned through various film classes into use, making the movie that I wanted to see. Making a movie is intimate, not just for you, but for everybody involved, and it is out of this intimacy that you make unforgettable memories and strong friendships.

CC Magazine: So, what's next for you?

EK: I've been interning for Team Basilisk, an Esports startup founded by a Conn alum, Christopher Bothur '07, and I'll be continuing to work there. Esports is an exciting new industry with a lot of potential, and I love what I do there. I help create content and visuals that we utilize both inside and outside the organization, but I also get to use a lot of the other skills I have picked up during my time at Conn for management and communication.



Adrien Kotowski

Eclipse 2021

Conn students participated in the multicultural dance show *Eclipse* on April 24, continuing a 46-year-old Connecticut College tradition. Choreographed, produced and performed entirely by students, the event featured hip hop, Afro-Caribbean and West African dance, contemporary dance, spoken word, music performance art and more.

“*Eclipse* is about community building with both past and current students of color,” said Royalti Richardson ’21, a

sociology and Africana studies double major who served on the executive board for this year’s *Eclipse*.

Richardson co-choreographed, with Darriana Greer ’21, who also served on the executive board, a “fusion of Afro-Caribbean and West African dance with some hip-hop elements.” The piece connected to this year’s theme of *Eclipse*, “(R) evolution,” because it showed that “throughout history, African culture has never truly disappeared,

it has only changed its form,” Richardson said.

Richardson also served as alumni coordinator for *Eclipse*, adding that four alumni participated: Adrienne Hawkins ’76, Jermaine Doris ’19, Kimberly Mitchell-Ince ’20 and Alexandra Bernardo ’20.

“I will look back on my time in *Eclipse*,” said Richardson, “with a sense of pride and accomplishment because I did my part to help students of color feel seen and heard.”

An aerial photograph of the Connecticut College campus, showing various buildings, green spaces, and a large body of water in the background. A large, stylized 'CC' logo is superimposed over the center of the image. The logo is dark blue with a white outline and is surrounded by white radiating lines. Above the logo is a white banner with the text 'FALL WEEKEND' in orange, and below it is another white banner with the text 'OCT. 1-3, 2021' in blue. A dark blue rectangular box is positioned below the second banner, containing white text about campus events and a URL. At the bottom of the image is an orange banner with the text 'CONNECTICUT COLLEGE' in white, and a final section with a green background and white text.

FALL WEEKEND

OCT. 1-3, 2021

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conncoll.edu/fall-weekend

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Fall Weekend is being planned as an in-person event. Stay tuned for details.

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@ameliarapphoto

Kathy Evans '14 patrols with the police to provide mental health assistance to those in crisis, and to help de-escalate police encounters. (page 28).