



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Conversations

with the OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING

SPRING 2022

welcome

This issue of *Conversations* features stories of Connecticut College alumni who have made a great impact on the College through planned gifts. Each of these extraordinary women has approached her philanthropy in a different way. I invite you to ask yourself—what would you like your legacy to be at Conn? Through creative gift strategies, you can find your best way to make a difference in the lives of Connecticut College students.



With gratitude,

Laura Becker
Director of Gift Planning
Connecticut College
Office of Advancement

WHY I AM LEAVING A LEGACY AT CONN

BY CAROL RAMSEY '74

CAROL'S EXPERIENCE AS A STUDENT

at Connecticut College and her long and successful career embody the concept of "full participation." A central priority of Conn's strategic plan, full participation envisions a community where all people can thrive, reach their greatest potential and contribute to the flourishing of others. Here, Carol shares experiences from her time at Conn and what they mean to her understanding of herself.



Carol Ramsey '74

"My years at Connecticut (1970-1974) were transformative years for the college: These were the post-Kent State, post-Kennedy and King years. They were also the early years of coeducation at Connecticut. There was an emerging spirit that we could do anything. The strategy employed by the school to achieve coeducation was bold, innovative and highly effective. Admissions Dean Jeanette Hersey urged men who had been wait-listed at oversubscribed and highly selective colleges to come to Connecticut College. They arrived on campus and joined women who realized that Conn could really make something new, fresh and, yes, transformative happen.

Continued ►

"And yet, as a first-year student, I struggled to find my place at Connecticut. And, in truly typical Conn College fashion, unexpected solutions emerged. Freshman Dean Joan King invented a special project, assigning me the responsibility of producing a first-year student handbook that would guide others through the foibles of the introduction to college life. She was asking me to find my way by guiding future 'others.' Botany Professor Sally Taylor sensed my confusion and opened her home—and the college greenhouse—as refuges and places of warmth, color and calm in my adolescent storm. I also loved the lessons of perseverance and adaptability that plants teach. Ever notice how plants crack concrete to find the sun?

"I wound up taking a degree in Botany for that and one other reason: Wrongfully considered undemanding, Sociology, my original major, would be considered the 'appropriate choice' for a young, black, affirmative action woman from whom little should be wanted or expected. People who looked at me and thought I was 'less than' would believe I was a sociologist, but not a botanist. So, I took the Botany degree.

"This toss-up of majors taught me that it was not necessary to define myself by a subject or label. It was not my major that defined me. It was how I used my brain and resources that would open doors and define my life. I learned that if I could think it, I could do it, or be it.

"At this point, I had no idea what 'it' would be for me. And, again, Conn's preternatural confidence in me, and its own ability to expect more and do more with 'not as much,' presented itself.

"Senior year, during exams, Dean of the College Jewel Cobb, a zoologist and someone who understood me better than I understood myself, waved me down as I made my procrastinating fifth trip of the day to the post office. She said, 'Bowdoin College is looking for an assistant dean of students and I think you should apply for the job.' Remember, I was a Botany major, in the middle of final exams, with no time and warning or transportation. Really? She wanted me to get myself to Maine for an interview in the middle of all this?

"Fast-forward: I got that job and others in the administration of education, moving from Bowdoin

to Vassar, then on to secondary school education, where I became the head of school of the Wilmington Friends School, in Delaware. My later career then turned to philanthropy at the Irvine Foundation and the Entertainment Industry Foundation. Now, I find myself trying to apply what I learned in those settings to my own giving.

"Throughout my life, I have been incredibly fortunate to encounter people who could see something in me worth encouraging. That is the hallmark of my Connecticut College experience, and I believe that trait, Conn's indomitable faith in its students and faculty, warrants my attention and financial support now, five decades later.

"I have made a bequest of unrestricted funding to the College. I believe that the College that could see the value of an investment in the young me will see the possibilities in the generations of young people who must now lead their families, professions, communities and country through another era of trying times. God knows, we again need to make the most of all we have."

Carol Ramsey '74 retired in 2014 as vice president of philanthropic services at the Entertainment Industry Foundation. Previously, she served as program director for children, youth and families at the James Irvine Foundation and as vice president for programming at A Better Chance. She has served on the boards of Northfield Mount Hermon, the Thacher School and the Buckley School. She is a former Connecticut College trustee and has volunteered on the alumni board and as an alumni admission representative.



DEFYING BOUNDARIES WITH BEQUESTS

IGNITING STUDENT LIFE THROUGH OUTDOOR EDUCATION

DOROTHY "DOT" HYMAN ROBERTS '50, who passed away in June 2020, was the charismatic matriarch of Echo Design Group, the company her parents founded as Echo Scarfs Inc. in the early 1920s in the heart of New York City. Under Dorothy's leadership, the company experienced unprecedented growth, establishing partnerships with Ralph Lauren and a variety of private label accounts including Coach, Talbots, J. Jill, Brooks Brothers and MoMA.

A lifelong New Yorker and longtime resident of the Upper East Side, Dot took advantage of everything the City had to offer; she was a lover of theater and New York's many museums. But she also believed strongly in the importance of spending time in nature. "Believe it or not, Dot was a Junior Maine guide when she was younger. While she loved New York City and all the cultural richness found there and throughout the world, she also believed in wellness and the joys of the outdoors. Part of her great strength was her unbelievable balance and comfort in so many situations, and knowing that she had the skills, confidence and fortitude to embrace what was known and unknown," says her son, Steven Roberts.

“There is so much to benefit from learning about nature, being with peers and trained leaders as they experience the outdoors, its challenges and beauty, its ecosystems, pushing one out of one's own comfort zones.”

Dot remembered Connecticut College in her estate plans, and her gift has been directed to establish the Dorothy Roberts '50 Outdoor Education and Leadership Fund. The fund is supporting Outdoor Adventures, a grassroots program founded by students more than four years ago that provides outdoor education and leadership



Dorothy Roberts '50

opportunities. Since its inception, the popularity of Outdoor Adventures' offerings has been overwhelming. When released, trip registrations fill up within one day. Geoff Norbert, assistant dean of student engagement and new programs, says the impact the program has had on the student experience "has been a privilege to watch." Dean Norbert guided the spring break 2022 Outdoor Adventures program held in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the Green Mountains of Vermont, with one week focusing on student leadership training and another with those leaders guiding student participants.

The fund will help develop student-leader wilderness training and purchase equipment to launch a sea kayaking program, as well as equipment for snowshoeing, winter hiking, backpacking and climbing. It will also help eliminate financial barriers that may prevent students from participating as they pursue opportunities for bonding, reflection, challenge and personal growth.

"There is so much to benefit from learning about nature, being with peers and trained leaders as they experience the outdoors, its challenges and beauty, its ecosystems, pushing one out of one's own comfort zones," says Steven Roberts. "We are pleased the Outdoor Adventure program will honor our mother and that the program will develop leadership training into an even more important part of students' experiences as they learn and grow."

USING YOUR LIFE INCOME GIFT TODAY

You may have heard the term “life income gift.” What does this mean? A life income gift such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust pays to one or more individuals for their lifetimes. When the gift arrangement terminates, a named charity like Connecticut College benefits and receives the remainder. In many instances the charity may not receive the gift to use for decades. However, there are creative gift strategies to consider that allow distributions from a life income gift to Conn now! Here are three examples of ways to use a life income gift today.



1 ASSIGN YOUR PARTIAL CRT INCOME INTEREST NOW

Deborah Dearborn '67 established a charitable remainder unitrust many years ago with a gift of real estate naming Connecticut College as the ultimate beneficiary. Debby has enjoyed receiving steady payments from her trust. When Debby heard about the Hale Scholarship Initiative, matching newly established endowed scholarship funds 1:1 with a gift from Rob '88 and Karen P'20 Hale, Debby asked if her trust could be used to fund a new named scholarship. The answer is yes! Debby assigned partial income interest in her trust to Conn, she received an additional charitable deduction for the assignment, her new fund has been doubled by the Hales and students will benefit today from Debby's generosity.

2 TERMINATE YOUR CGA AND SEE THE GIFT BEING USED DURING YOUR LIFETIME

If you have a charitable gift annuity with Conn but realize you do not need the income, you can make the decision to end the CGA and gift the remainder to the College today. **Joella Werlin '59** did just that last year, deciding to support the work and teaching of Karolin Machtans, associate professor of German Studies and chair of the Department of German, in honor of the legacy of the late Louise Holborn, a political scientist who taught at Connecticut College from 1947 until 1970 and whose work focused on the politics of refugees and migration. Professor Machtans is focusing on international refugee law and planning

several courses to teach in the near future, including a new Conn course called “Refugees: International Law, Political Thought and Representation” and a new global seminar titled “Trans(it) Berlin: Between Europe and the Middle East,” as well as courses focusing on the intellectual history of exile and on language and accent discrimination. Professor Machtans says, “In addition to students interested in refugee and forced migration studies, these courses will hopefully also attract students enrolled in our pre-law program, opening up exciting opportunities for me to collaborate with our wonderful staff members in the Office of Career and Professional Development. What makes this gift most special to me is that Joella and I have kept in touch. Our goal is to meet in person one day soon, to continue our discussions about issues of flight and migration—issues that are obviously as urgent today as they were when Louise Holborn wrote about them several decades ago.”

3 GIFT PAYMENTS BACK

A third way to use your life income gift today is to accept your annuity or beneficiary payments from any plan you may be enjoying, take the payments into income and then gift these payments back to Connecticut College to the area of your choice. These plans could be life insurance payments, annuity or trust payments, or even stock dividends. In most cases you will receive a charitable tax deduction for your gift. Most important, you will feel good knowing that you are supporting Connecticut College today.

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

For more information contact: Laura Becker, Director of Gift Planning, at (860) 439-2416 or giftplanning@conncoll.edu



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Join us for the second annual virtual event

TEA WITH KATHERINE



Exclusively for Rosemary Park Society members

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 AT 3:00 P.M. EASTERN

Look for your invitation in the mail

Not a Rosemary Park Society member yet, but have Conn in your estate plans? Tell us! We would love to welcome you.

Rosemary
Park
Society





CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Office of Gift Planning

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in supporting Connecticut College. Tell us how we can assist you with your plans by completing the information below and mailing it back to us.

- ☐ I am interested in making a bequest to Connecticut College.
- ☐ I have already created a bequest for Connecticut College through my will or as the beneficiary of my retirement account.

I would like to learn more about the benefits of

- ☐ Receiving income with my gift through a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust.
- ☐ Giving stock or real estate.

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

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Email Address _____

I prefer to be contacted by

- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Email

Mail to:

Office of Gift Planning
Connecticut College
Becker House
270 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320-4196

Sincerely,

Laura J. Becker
Director of Gift Planning

Contact:

giftplanning@conncoll.edu
(860) 439-2416
www.conncoll.giftplans.org

how can we assist you?