

UConn

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2020



35 YEARS:
A Legacy of Champions

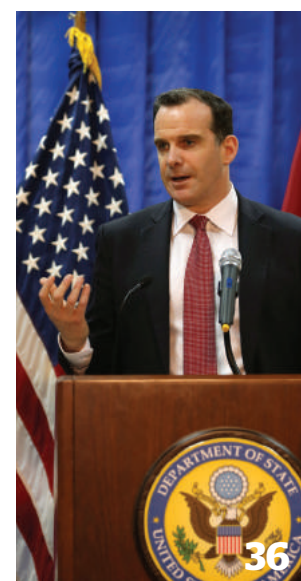
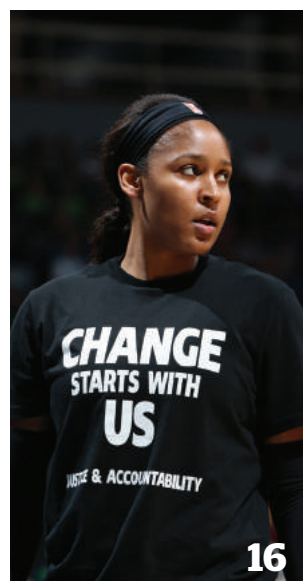
On and Off the Court

SNAP!

Craned

How do you move a one-ton sculpture from Torrington to Storrs? Very carefully, of course. Also, with the help of a very large crane. Which is how “The Arc” made it to its new home behind The Benton on Dec. 6. The steel sculpture by Alexander Liberman (1912–1999) was gifted to the University in 1982 by prominent collector Robert C. Scull. When UConn Torrington closed in 2016, plans were made to bring it to Storrs. Watching it lowered to its new home, President Thomas Katsouleas noted the importance of great art to a university experience, quoting Plato: “The contemplation of beauty causes the soul to grow wings.”





FEATURES

16 THE MAKING OF CHAMPIONS – ON AND OFF THE COURT

Thirty-five years ago Geno Auriemma and Chris Dailey '99 MA created a legacy of UConn players who continue to make an unmatched impact not just on the world of basketball but on the world at large. *By Kevin Markey*

24 GENETICS FOR JUSTICE

Anthropology professor Deborah Bolnick analyzes ancient DNA in a state-of-the-art Clean Lab in Storrs where her work is, among other things, helping to shed light on Native American histories. *By Christine Buckley*

30 GREENER GREENS

“We did all of this without rocket science,” says Richard Piacentini '84 MS, of turning Phipps Conservatory into a model of green building. “It was all done with off-the-shelf technology. That’s what we need to show people, that it’s possible to do this.” *By Amy Sutherland*

36 THE ISIS TERMINATOR

“The intellectual rigor at UConn, in the political science program, really prepared me for everything from the Supreme Court to the White House to building up one of the largest counterterrorism coalitions in the world,” says Brett McGurk '96 (CLAS). *By Peter Nelson*

SECTIONS

1 UCONN NOW

UConn’s first Rhodes Scholar; mice in space and books on space; soda flavors you thought were long gone; one student’s good work across continents; how UConn blue means green throughout the state; a mean pulled-pork sandwich; and more.

42 UCONN NATION

Alums who are climbing mountains, finding new homes for old stuff, sweetening your morning routine, exploring the Antarctic, acting in the Marvelverse, and taming Tinder. Plus Class Notes, Tom’s Trivia, and more.



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- Tom's Trivia** University Archives

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FROM THE EDITOR



CHAMPS

This issue of UConn Magazine is not just a tribute to Geno Auriemma and Chris Dailey '99 MA in their 35th year coaching at UConn – though it is assuredly that. It’s also a gift to all of you who write or call to ask why we don’t cover the amazing UConn women’s basketball program more than we do. In addition to the cover story that begins on page 16, please see a profile of current Husky Batouly Camara '19 (ED) '20 MA on page 10 and a quick visit with former player and current CEO of The Sugar Association, Courtney Gaine '00 (CAHNR) '05 Ph.D., on page 44.

The short, but not at all flippant, answer to why we don’t cover the decidedly amazing UConn Women’s Basketball program more is: too many stories, too few pages. It’s not just women’s basketball. I wish I could share every story – or almost every story – that crosses my desk about UConn faculty, staff, students, athletes, and alums. Instead, my colleagues and I do our best to make sure every issue has a little something for each of you, no matter what your degree is in or what year you graduated, whether you attend every Husky game or never have, never will.

To be sure, an embarrassment of riches in the realm of potential storytelling is a good problem to have. And it is helpful to hear from readers about topics you’d like to see more or less of. So please let us know, by writing me at lisa.stiepock@uconn.edu or by posting comments on our website at magazine.uconn.edu. We are always happy to get feedback – good, bad, even ugly (just keep it civil please). In particular, on this issue’s website, we’d love to hear about all the former players of Coach and CD you think we should have covered who we did not have room to include this time. We know those stories could easily fill a book.

And, to be sure, in just the realm of all of UConn Athletics we could find enough worthy stories to fill our pages. An obvious example is the field hockey team. Even as we were trying to narrow down the number of women’s basketball players we could cover in this issue, UConn’s other Hall of Fame coach and the winningest NCAA Division 1 field hockey coach of all time Nancy Stevens (above, center in photo collage with Auriemma and Dailey) and her 2019 field hockey team had just captured its eighth consecutive Big East tournament title.

Too many stories, too few pages indeed.

Lisa T. Stiepock



Bryan Stevenson, civil rights lawyer and author of "Just Mercy." Michael B. Jordan played him in the film of the same name.

Peter Morenus

ON CAMPUS

Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, was on campus in November to accept the 2019 Thomas J. Dodd Prize in International Justice and Human Rights. Stevenson has represented individuals on death row since the 1980s, winning the release, relief, or reversal of conviction for more than 145 people. Senator Christopher Dodd and other Dodd family members attended. Said Stevenson on accepting the prize: "Like the Dodds, I want to believe that we can truly honor what it means to be people who change the world, people who believe in human rights, people who are about justice."



LETTERS

Last issue's stories struck nerves and strummed heartstrings for so many. We were not at all surprised at the love and intrigue expressed for the Horsebarn Hill story and video (if you haven't seen that, go online now) nor the colorful memories shared of North Campus — some too colorful to print. A less harmonic chord ran through the responses on the Connecticut DMV and social media features. There were far too many letters to print, but here's a smattering, edited for length; find the rest online. And please add your own:

Email me at lisa.stiepock@uconn.edu or post on our website at magazine.uconn.edu.

The Shape of Storrs

➔ It was January senior year, near midnight, as we watched the snow fall outside my Buckley Hall dorm room. I glanced to the corner where stood my '86 Bing surfboard, then to my girlfriend Janet. "You know what we need to do, right?" "Let's go!" she exclaimed. The incline of Horsebarn Hill was perfect for a good fast ride, and we went back to the top for more until our legs were so tired we couldn't continue. Of my experiences at UConn, it stands out as one of the most memorable and certainly the most romantic. **Rob Downey '72 (BUS), Melbourne Village, Florida, via our website**

➔ We used to slide down Horsebarn Hill on trays from the cafeteria. There were many romantic moments. **John Belter '69 (CAHNR), Burlington, Vermont, via our website**

➔ How do you make the correlation of *husbandry* and *bigamy*? My etymological research shows that the word *husband* comes from the old Norse: "keeper or tiller of the house." **Joe Barile '84 (CLAS), Windsor Locks, Connecticut, via our website**

I. Am. Outraged.

➔ I always knew there was a problem with all the reposting people do, but I never could explain it. Thank you, Michael Lynch! **Josephine D. Ball '64 MS, Santa Fe, New Mexico, via our website**

➔ If I share this article, what does it say about me? **Ruth Sandin, via our website**

The Wait Is Over

➔ God bless you, Bongsi Magubane! I look forward to seeing our DMV become the best in the nation — all thanks to a UConn grad — and we read about her first in *UConn Magazine*. **Anita Bologna '69 (Home Economics), Waterbury, Connecticut, via our website**

North Campus

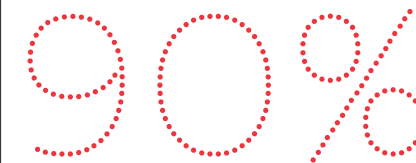
➔ I loved every minute of my time in the Jungle. I may have even driven my blue Chevy Vega up and down the quad between the dorm wings one night, but that was a long time ago and really, who can remember that far back? **Jerry Yedlin '79 (BUS), North Branford, Connecticut, via our website**

➔ It wasn't rowdy in the early '90s, but it was definitely still the Jungle. I remember Around the World parties, the vast cafeteria, and watching crazies in the courtyard when UConn won

(or lost). And we loved our mellower neighbors to the west in Frats. **Angela Velon '95 (CLAS), Canton, Connecticut, via our website**

➔ I fondly remember 1967 in the Jungle. Between the entire male freshman class in one centralized location and the Frats next door, there was never a dull moment. When we all returned for second semester, the dorms at the bottom of The Hill had new residents. Both were now inhabited with female students — what just happened? The crazy, unforgiving, wild Jungle had been transformed to a degree of civility overnight. The guys were dressing a little nicer (or dressing at all); language transformed to words with more than four letters; food was not flying in the cafeteria (as often); and "The Letter" only played on the jukebox five times every meal (not ten). **Alan Srebnick '71 (BUS), Weston, Florida, via our website**

New figures show that:



of UConn graduates report being established in jobs, postgraduate academic programs, or other pursuits of their choosing within six months of graduating.

FUN FACT

In a Facebook post July 12, 2016, Elizabeth Warren describes how 36 years ago to the day she proposed to her husband Bruce Mann after watching him teach a UConn Law class. He was a law professor here for two years before following her to Houston.



CHECKING IN WITH

OLD-SCHOOL SODA

At a time when the average life span of an American S&P 500 company is 20 years, **Bill Potvin '69 (CAHNR), '75 MS** likes to remind people that his Hosmer Mountain Soda Company “launched in 1912, the same year as the *Titanic* — and one of us is still afloat.”

The gray and white storefront on Mountain Street in Willimantic harkens back to the days when blocks of ice and glass bottles of milk and soda were delivered to a homeowner’s doorstep by horse-drawn wagons. Potvin and his co-owner brothers upgraded that means of delivery, but little else.

“There used to be 5,000 small soda companies in America,” Potvin says. “Now there are maybe 20. We still deliver to about 2,000 customers.”

Potvin is tall and lean, with a close-cropped beard and a broad, friendly smile, happy to talk to customers. When a woman from a local theater company brings in three cases of empties to exchange for fresh sodas, the 73-year-old Potvin springs up to help her unload her minivan.

The bottle exchange system is part of Potvin’s old-fashioned anti-corporate way of doing business, along with his personal approach to customer service. Where the big soda companies offer a five-cent refund, Potvin offers fifteen cents, which is about what he would pay for a new bottle.

“We incentivize people to bring back their empties,” Potvin says. The current system makes no sense to him.

“You take a glass bottle, drink the soda in it, throw it in a bin, crush the glass down into little pieces, and then make those pieces back into a new glass bottle. That’s not really being green.”

Potvin at Hosmer Mountain Soda’s Willimantic, Connecticut, bottling plant, where he was filling — and refilling — cases of his glass-bottled soda for local customers.

Potvin’s father bought the business in 1958 and had a Great Depression-era mentality.

“My dad had a couple of white step vans, and they said on the side, ‘Delivered to Your Door for Less Than at a Store.’ People said, ‘Are you kidding me — you’re going to bring it to me and I’m going to save money instead of going to the market?’ But he could do it because he had his kids helping him. We were getting paid peanuts. And every time we talked about raising the price, my dad would say, ‘No, don’t raise the price — we’re going to go out of business.’ You can never quite shake that.”

Mad Chemist

Potvin got his agronomy degree from UConn in 1969, served in Vietnam, and came home to get his masters on the G.I. Bill. As the company flavorist, he sometimes uses his chemistry skills to reverse-engineer other popular sodas, to improve the quality of the Hosmer product line, which he vowed would be second to none, or to invent new flavors, sometimes failing.

“We tried strawberry-rhubarb, but it was too tart. You also have to watch out for over-flavoring, because if the aftertaste is too strong, people find it annoying and won’t come back to it.”

One area in which Hosmer Mountain was ahead of the curve was their flagship antique flavors, including their best seller, root beer, as well as birch beer, sarsaparilla, and cream soda. Other soda companies might describe their hip new throwback products as “artisanal curated hand-crafted bespoke” sodas. All Hosmer had to do was not change anything. Potvin shows me the antique label on a bottle of root beer.

“That was probably a state-of-the-art design in 1916, when we first used it,” he says. They’ve tweaked it a little

and added color, but it’s essentially the same design.

“The beverage industry is constantly changing. First, they thought everybody would switch to diet sodas, but that didn’t really happen. The original single serving of Coke was six-and-a-half ounces, which went to eight, then 10, then 12, and now it’s 20 ounces. At the same time, sales for Coke and Diet Coke are way down, so they’re buying into health drinks and vitamin waters and such. Hosmer has a really great pomegranate-flavored energy drink, but with less caffeine than drinks like Red Bull and Monster have. I’m not interested in hearing a Hosmer product put someone in the emergency room.”



2020 and Beyond

Hosmer could easily rest on its laurels. Its root beer won fourth place in a national root beer taste-off, ahead of 84 other brands, including best sellers like A&W or Barqs or Mug.

“The next thing is probably going to be CBD oil,” Potvin says. “We’re looking into that. We’re not totally sitting on our hands. But we’re also selling the company to a new owner, so we’ll see.”

Potvin hopes to have time in retirement to pursue his second greatest passion: social activism. He wants to spend more time working with a group called Veterans for Peace, demonstrating against America’s seemingly permanent state of war and for things like gun control and, in effect, a return to the country he believed in when he was delivering soda from his father’s step van, the country he fought for in Vietnam.

“My brother John worked right up to the day he died,” Potvin says, shaking his head. “While I’m still healthy, I want to be able to take some time.”

—PETER NELSON

UConn Talks

On gender-reveal parties:

“It makes sense that a new ritual devised for pregnancy would be full of balloons and cake, rather than prayers and blessings. As society becomes more secular, we do turn to more nonreligious rituals.”

Dimitris Xygalatas, anthropology assistant professor, *The Atlantic*, Oct. 2, 2019

On fake news:

“Even our attempts to distinguish truth from falsity turn into screams of outrage.”

Michael Patrick Lynch, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and director of UConn’s Humanities Institute, *The New York Times*, Sep. 23, 2019

On rapidly declining bird populations:

“If you came out of your house one morning and noticed that a third of all the houses in your neighborhood were empty, you’d rightly conclude that something threatening was going on.”

Margaret Rubega, ornithology professor, *Associated Press*, Sept. 19, 2019

On the ominous rise of toddler milk:

“I don’t think it’s a coincidence that infant-formula sales and advertising decreased at the same time that toddler-milk sales increased.”

Yoon Choi, UConn’s Rudd Center for Food Policy & Obesity, *The Atlantic*, Feb. 4, 2020

On Henry “Box” Brown, the slave who mailed himself to freedom:

“Brown was a good-sized man and the box was about 3 feet long by 2 feet wide. The journey took roughly 36 hours.”

Martha Cutter, English and Africana Studies professor, *BYU Radio*, Jan. 23, 2020

On why cars are killing more pedestrians:

“We know something radically new is going on. But I don’t think we have an exact answer yet.”

Norman Garrick, engineering professor, *The Guardian*, Oct. 4, 2019

On why preservationists must be greener:

“Historic places will only exist if we have a planet left.”

Sara Bronin, law professor and director of UConn’s Center for Energy and Environmental Law, *The Hill*, Oct. 25, 2019

On dwindling numbers at protest marches:

“Burnout is real.”

Jeremy Pressman, political science associate professor, *The Washington Post*, Jan. 12, 2020

In Development

“MIGHTY MICE” RETURN FROM SPACE

The moustronauts are back. A crew of mighty mice launched into space in early December have returned, bringing in their muscles and bones clues that could help humans back here on Earth and throughout the solar system.

The spaceflight of the mighty mice was the brainchild of married UConn Health researchers Se-Jin Lee and Emily Germain-Lee. Lee gained fame in the 1990s for discovering myostatin, a protein that limits muscle growth. Through genetic engineering, he created an ultra-muscled mouse that derived its outstanding physique from a lack of myostatin. These mighty mice look like the Incredible Hulks of the

rodent world.

Germain-Lee, a pediatric endocrinologist who also holds an appointment at Connecticut Children’s, has treated children with muscular dystrophy, bone disorders, and other complex conditions for many years. She noticed that muscle diseases can lead to weakened bones and vice versa.

The pair has been working on a drug that affects both myostatin and activin, a protein that affects bone growth. They wanted to do a controlled experiment that would look at how the drug affected bone and muscle loss. It’s well known that because of the low gravity,



astronauts lose bone and muscle mass in space. Mice do, too.

This December, the pair had their chance. A crew of mice (some mighty, some not) bred at Jackson Laboratories for Genomic Medicine, where Lee holds a joint appointment, flew on the International Space Station for 30 days to test Lee and Germain-Lee’s hypotheses about bone and muscle loss. The secrets revealed by the moustronauts hopefully will help the weak of both our species become mighty. —KIM KRIEGER

Kudos

GATHERU IS UCONN’S FIRST RHODES SCHOLAR

Wanjiku Gatheru ’20 (CAHNR), known as “Wawa,” is one of 32 U.S. students chosen as Rhodes Scholars. She was honored at the State Capitol in December and is shown with her parents and UConn President Thomas Katsouleas. We wrote about Wawa in Summer 2019. Find more about her and the Rhodes at s.uconn.edu/wawa.



OUR STUDENTS

BATOULY CAMARA: “MY ULTIMATE PURPOSE IS TO CREATE SPACES FOR WOMEN TO DREAM.”

“Growing up, how many of you felt the possibilities were endless?” asks Batouly Camara ’19 (ED), ’20 MA of her UConn TEDx audience. The 6’2” Huskies WBB forward then tells the sea of raised hands to “imagine a girl being told she could be one of two things: a married wife or a domesticated worker.”

When Camara’s parents moved from Guinea, West Africa, to New York City, they brought their culture and its values with them. It wasn’t until she convinced her mom to let her play basketball at age 12 that Camara says the world opened up to her. And now she wants to spark the imaginations of girls like her, to help them “live beyond the scope of their realities.”

What was it like going to your parents’ homeland for the first time in 2017 as a 21-year-old? It was an incredibly meaningful experience. I grew up hearing my mom’s stories about living in Guinea. Going there gave me a better understanding of my mom and her adjusting when she came to America.

I was there for two and a half months. I wanted to host basketball camps for young girls. There was only one indoor court, so I also decided to offer workshops surrounding self-image and other things, like yoga and dancing.

Is that what motivated you to start your nonprofit Women and Kids Empowerment (WAKE)? Yes, I saw a need based on the lack of focus on girls in Guinea, in terms of structure and consistency and attention to sport and development. I asked the girls what they wanted and came up with training programs for them, focusing on sisterhood and positive self-image.

WAKE has been part of my college path, doing research on and studying girls and sport in classes through my

major (sport management).

In places where limited resources often mean limited dreams, I see sport as freedom to empower young girls to attend school, gain physical literacy, and build community.

How has being a first-generation college student impacted you and your outlook on higher education? I feel very fortunate, and that’s what parents want. They want their children to do better. Mine are very excited for me. My dad would say, “Education is the vehicle for change.” I’m starting my master’s in the Neag School of Education, and it’s an incredible feeling. Going to Guinea, I can tell kids about their options, including continuing their education. And I can show them: This is what I do.

You did similar work in India during the summer of 2014, as a facilitator for Dribble Academy. That was one of the first trips I took focused on youth and sports. I worked alongside community leaders at basketball clinics and brought in volunteers to teach cooking, arts and crafts, and English communication skills. By learning English, the kids could go from earning \$3 per week to \$10 per week. Seeing it happening, right in front of me, was incredibly inspiring.

OK, now to what everyone wants to know: What is it like being coached by Hall of Famers Geno Auriemma and Chris Dailey? It’s like watching someone create art. You have the easel and materials. You don’t know what’s going to happen. But you know: This is going to be good. They love what they do and are so passionate. Every day I’m blown away by them because these two people are arguably the best coaches to have ever coached the game. It’s a blessing, and it’s inspiring.

I was so proud of something Coach Auriemma said about me. One year we were going to the White House; there was a news article that quoted him as saying, “I have a player on my team who is first generation, a woman of color, and a Muslim. All the identities that some people may not support. We support her.” That was huge in so many ways.

You’ve gone to three NCAA Final Four tournaments. What’s that like? I’ve made some great connections to incredible women, many of whom are in the WNBA and on larger platforms.

But being a black female athlete on the world stage isn’t always positive — you’re on the biggest stage of your life and you get comments like, “Make me a sandwich.” How do you deal with that? I’m learning to. Through my coaches and professors, I’ve been able to navigate the bumps along the road.

How has being a Muslim impacted your college experience at UConn? I see practicing my religion as being sacred, and I feel fortunate to have connected with the UConn Muslim Student Association. I’ve even educated friends and fellow teammates about traditions, such as fasting and deep prayer during the Ramadan. It’s been fun.

What’s your favorite food on campus? I like the plantains at McMahan. Oh my gosh, I could eat them every day!

How do you fit it all in? I start my day at 5 a.m., and every second of every day is put to use. I have to do that.

How do you plan on incorporating basketball into your life after graduation? The first is to play professionally — that’s my biggest dream. The second is working with larger organizations on the grassroots level, focusing on youth and sports and the community. The third is continuing WAKE.

Is there anything else we should know about you? Yeah, follow me on Twitter @BatoulyCamara! —SHAWN KORNEGAY



Husky forward Camara is a first-generation college student whose parents moved to NYC from Guinea, West Africa.

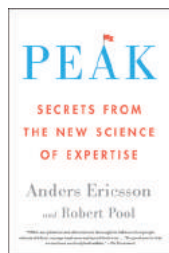


3 BOOKS

ALEX MERKULOV

Alex Merkulov is a radiologist and head of women's imaging at UConn Health. He reads for an hour every day, keeping his current book with him so that he can read whenever he has a window of time. He focuses on great books, he says, written in what he calls "noble language." He says he seeks those he will learn something from and that will be uplifting but occasionally makes an exception for classics like Elie Wiesel's "Night" or Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's "Gulag Archipelago." Those he feels are worth reading even if they can be the opposite of uplifting.

Just Finished:



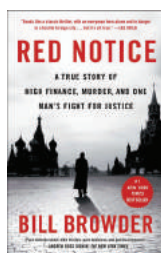
Peak: Secrets from the New Science of Expertise by Anders Ericsson and Robert Pool

I typically only finish books when I find value in

the reading material. The last book I finished, which I highly recommend, is "Peak: Secrets from the New Science of Expertise" by Anders Ericsson and Robert Pool.

Simply put, this book provides a data-driven road map on how to continually improve performance in any type of activity (for instance, medical practice, chess, tennis). It also explains what it takes to be the best in the world at whatever you do. The book is based on 30 years of research into acquisition of expertise and is very uplifting because it debunks the concept of "talent." This book will teach you about "deliberate practice" and is a must read for anyone with a strong interest in personal or professional development.

Currently Reading:



Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice by Bill Browder

"Red Notice" is a riveting memoir of the

challenges Bill Browder encountered while doing business in Russia that came highly recommended by a friend.

I had some personal interest in this book because my family is Russian. But it's also fascinating because it makes you aware of all the opportunities you have at different stages of your life. After getting a business degree from Stanford, Browder went on to build the biggest hedge fund in Russia while exposing widespread government corruption, which ultimately resulted in his expulsion from the country.

The story is all true. When you're in your thirties, you often get opportunities to do something unusual professionally, but how often do you take those opportunities?

On Deck:



Spaceman: An Astronaut's Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe by Mike Massimino

"Spaceman" transports the reader to the excitement and wonder of realizing a dream.

I have never wanted to be an astronaut. Going to space and dying in an accident would be a stupid death. But I am fascinated with the space genre. It's a unique type of person who wants to go into space these days, when there are so few missions and it takes so much training. What you learn from them is how they approach challenges.

For example, Massimino was nearsighted. But you can't be an astronaut if you're nearsighted. So he looked up exercises and did them and improved his eyesight enough to qualify! We limit ourselves. Reading how other people approach problems can motivate you, inspire you to pass your artificial limits.

UPDATE

"I CAN DO ANYTHING I WANT NOW"

One year into the clinical trial of the world's first gene therapy for GSD, or glycogen storage disease ("Free to be Imperfect," Summer 2017), patients are describing the results as transformative. "I can now sleep through the night without worrying about dying in the middle of the night," says Jerrod Watts, one of the three participants. "I'm a completely different person now than I was a year ago. I feel like I can live a normal life and I can do anything I want to do now." Dr. David Weinstein of UConn School of Medicine and Connecticut Children's called the results from his trial "remarkable." Find more at s.uconn.edu/gsd.



TASTE OF STORRS

HAWAIIAN BBQ PULLED PORK SANDWICH WITH RED CABBAGE MANGO SLAW

Serves 12

This is a sandwich you'd expect to find at a food truck in Austin or Honolulu. In fact, it's at the Market Cafe at the Student Union in Storrs. We found that using a 3.5-pound pork shoulder or loin, but keeping the rest of the pulled pork ingredients the same, and cooking for eight hours in a slow cooker on low, worked well, too. You then need only half the amount of buns, sauce, and slaw, and it will serve six.

For the pulled pork:

- 3 Tablespoons paprika
- 1 Tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 Tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 Tablespoon dry mustard
- 3 Tablespoons Kosher salt
- 1 (7 pound) pork shoulder
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice

Mix paprika, garlic powder, brown sugar, dry mustard, and salt together in a small bowl. Rub all over pork shoulder, wrap in plastic wrap, and refrigerate overnight. Heat oven to 300 degrees. Unwrap pork and place in a roasting pan with the pineapple juice. Cook for 6 to 7 hours until the internal temperature is 170 degrees and pork begins to fall apart. Allow to rest 20 minutes, then shred pork using two forks and set aside.

For the red cabbage mango slaw:

- 3 cups shredded red cabbage
- 1 large fresh mango, peeled and diced
- 1/4 cup red onion, finely diced
- 1/4 cup red bell pepper, deseeded and finely chopped
- 1 serrano pepper, deseeded and finely

chopped

- 1/2 cup cilantro, chopped
- 1/4 cup pineapple juice
- 1 Tablespoon cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Kosher salt, to taste

Place shredded cabbage in a large bowl and add mango, onion, red pepper, serrano pepper, and cilantro. In a small bowl, whisk together pineapple juice, cider vinegar, and sugar. Add to cabbage mixture and mix until coated. Season to taste with salt. Refrigerate until needed.

For the sandwiches:

- 12 pineapple brioche rolls
- 3 pounds pulled pork
- 1 1/2 cups smoky barbecue sauce (store bought)
- 1 1/2 pounds red cabbage slaw

Place opened brioche buns on a flat surface. Place 4 ounces of the pulled pork on each of the bottom slices of brioche buns, followed by 2 tablespoons of barbecue sauce and 2 ounces of the mango slaw. Place tops on sandwiches and serve.

THIS JUST IN

BY THE BILLIONS

The UConn brand is one of the strongest and most visible in the state of Connecticut. A drive on a major highway or a walk on a sandy beach will offer proof that UConn car decals, sweatshirts, and other gear are a must in most state homes.

But what is the real economic value of UConn to the state in terms of dollars and cents?

The answers are impressive. UConn generated about \$5.3 billion worth of economic activity for the state in 2018, including nearly 26,000 jobs and \$277.5 million in state and local tax revenue through industries that benefit from UConn's enterprise, according to a report released in January.

"UConn provides social mobility for students of all ages and expertise for state and local government, including everything from urban planning to quality of life enhancements to research on addiction," says UConn President Thomas Katsouleas. "And of course the health care and performing arts and athletics that all help to lift the human spirit."

"To quote the old commercial," he added, "UConn's economic impact: \$5.3 billion. UConn's impact on human lives: priceless."

Find more on the report, including an interactive map that will tell you, among other things, how many other alums live in your hometown, go to s.uconn.edu/impact.

Litchfield County

North Canaan Elementary School took part in Multiply Your Options, a one-day conference in Storrs to introduce eighth-grade girls to female role models in STEM fields. Norfolk's Holly Durstin, a nurse anesthetist at UConn Health and a breast cancer survivor, has run over a dozen ultramarathons since her recovery to raise money to fight the disease.

Fairfield County

UConn Stamford features all the benefits of a research university in a small college setting, with a quick train ride to New York City. New campus housing has boosted enrollment. The Stamford campus has a total economic impact of \$72 million, and the county features four of the largest cities in the state — Stamford (almost 1,000 UConn students), Bridgeport (415), Norwalk (463), and Danbury (268).

"To quote the old commercial," he added, "UConn's economic impact: \$5.3 billion. UConn's impact on human lives: priceless."

Hartford County

It's the home of UConn's new Hartford campus, the School of Law (also in Hartford), and the UConn Health campus in Farmington. The capital city of Hartford has 585 UConn students among its residents and over 88,000 visits to UConn Health facilities. Husky fans from all over flock to basketball and hockey games at the XL Center in Hartford and to football games at Pratt & Whitney Stadium in East Hartford.

Tolland County

It's where the story began. UConn's hometown of Mansfield tops the county with over 900 faculty and staff members living there with their families. The Ghost Fawn Homestead Farm in Willington is one of many that takes advantage of UConn services. "New farmers don't know what resources are available, and UConn Extension has been really good at bridging that gap for us," says Cari Donaldson of Ghost Fawn.

Windham County

Pomfret is the hometown of Wawa Gatheru '20 (CAHNR), our first-ever Rhodes Scholar. When the first selectman of Canterbury needed help with his town's gypsy moth problem, he turned to the UConn Extension. Professor Tom Worthley of the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment met with homeowners and leaders throughout the county to offer advice before and during an outbreak.

New London County

UConn Avery Point, our ocean-side campus in Groton, has an economic impact of \$49 million per year. A new cognitive garden at Avery Point provides a place for children to learn through thought, senses, and experience. The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the UConn Extension have been collaborating to enhance agricultural production, food security, and health of tribal community members.

Middlesex County

The Connecticut River winds to its end here, and Middletown, the county's largest city, sends about 275 students to UConn. East Haddam's Christian Connors '20 (CLAS) is majoring in ecology and evolutionary biology and spent last summer researching caterpillar parasites and their effect on other animal populations as part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF) program.

New Haven County

Allied Health Sciences, one of the nation's fastest-growing career fields, will soon be available as a bachelor's degree program at UConn Waterbury. The Brass City has over 400 residents as UConn students, while over 300 are from New Haven. Anna Zarra Aldrich '20 (CLAS) is a Wallingford native and serves as the editor-in-chief of *The Daily Campus* this year.



Campuses (clockwise): Waterbury, UConn Health, Law, Hartford, Storrs, Avery Point, Stamford.



The Making of Champions On and Off the Court

35 years ago, Geno Auriemma and Chris Dailey came to UConn, where they continue to grow an unmatched list of coaching statistics. Their most impressive stat may just be the number of current and former players making a difference not just in the world of basketball, but in the world at large.

By Kevin Markey

When debating excellence, the old GOAT argument, sports fans love to toss around numbers. This many titles won, that many points scored. Well, here's a statistic to consider: Student athletes from the UConn women's basketball team have been named the Academic All-American of the Year four times. No school can claim more. Eight Huskies have been named Academic All-Americans a total of 14 times since 1985, when head coach Geno Auriemma and associate head coach Chris Dailey '99 MA arrived together in Storrs and began to build something truly special. The pair also has consistently achieved a graduation rate on par with the best in the country.

Which is not to discount all those other numbers. For the record, they include 49 conference



regular season and tournament championships; 20 Final Four appearances (including 12 in a row); 13 National Player of the Year honorees; 11 national championships; six perfect seasons; six Women's Basketball Hall of Fame inductions (Auriemma in 2006, Rebecca Lobo in 2010, Jennifer Rizzotti in 2013, Kara Wolters in 2017, Dailey in 2018, and Swin Cash in 2020); and two enshrinements in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame (Auriemma and Lobo).

Amid their unprecedented run, college basketball's dynamic duo quietly reached another milestone this season: 35 years of coaching together. In that time they've brought distinctly different styles to the sidelines. She's the calm master of detail; he's the emotionally intense motivator. He's the one rushing the court after a perceived bad call; she's the one restraining him. "He was annoying then," Dailey says with affection, "and he's annoying now." Dailey has turned down numerous head coaching job offers acknowledging that partnership magic and "happiness" here. Auriemma often notes he could not have won any national championships without her. Players and other coaches sing both CD and Geno's praises as masters of strategy and game basics. But both Husky coaches deeply believe young players need to learn more than Xs and Os.

"They still need you to guide them. They still need you to push them. They still need you to look out for them," says Auriemma. "They want to learn how to be successful in the real world, and the people that can teach them is us."

In tribute, at year 35, we look back — and ahead — at just some of the Huskies who have helped define what's at the heart of UConn women's basketball through their achievements on the court and, perhaps more importantly, on the world stage.



We know we've barely scratched the hardwood. Share your favorite former players/good citizens at s.uconn.edu/35.

Rebecca Lobo '95 (CLAS) ESPN Broadcaster

Once upon a time, the women's basketball team had never won a national championship. The year was 1995, and Rebecca Lobo was about to change all that. As a junior she'd led her team to the NCAA Elite Eight. As a senior, she refused to be denied. The consensus all everything — Big East player of the year, college player of the year, first team All-American, Academic All-American, Associated Press Athlete of the Year — dominated both ends of the court, and the Huskies outscored tournament opponents by an average of 24 points. In Minneapolis on April 2, they edged Tennessee by six, securing UConn's first NCAA title and first undefeated season. The team's

35 wins set a season record for an NCAA basketball team — men's or women's. After graduation, Lobo won Olympic gold in Atlanta, then in 1997 entered the WNBA, where her popularity helped drive the new league's growth. Among the most widely recognized female athletes in the world, she appeared on "The Daily Show," "The Late Show with David Letterman," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," hit 1990s sitcoms "Mad About You" and "Martin," and, of course, "Sesame Street." When her playing career ended, she became a basketball analyst for ESPN. "I only cover women's basketball," she once told The UConn Blog in wonderment, noting that such a thing would have been impossible when she started playing. "There weren't enough women's basketball games on TV." Among other things, Lobo is an active spokesperson for women's health. She and her late mother RuthAnn Lobo wrote "The Home Team: Of Mothers, Daughter, and American Champions," about RuthAnn's battle with breast cancer and created UConn's RuthAnn and Rebecca Lobo Scholarship in Allied Health. Since 2004 Lobo has served on the University's Board of Trustees. Stating emphatically and emotionally that he would not be here without her, Auriemma said upon her 2017 induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame, "No one in all the years has had the impact on the court and off the court that Rebecca has had."



Nykesha Sales

'98 (BUS)

After helping UConn win its first national championship as a freshman in 1995, Sales went on to average 20.9 points a game her senior year and became UConn's career scoring leader. She made the WNBA All-Star team seven times and is now an assistant coach at University of Central Florida.



Shea Ralph

'02 (ED)

A USA Today national high school player of the year, guard Ralph came to Storrs amid high expectations. In 2000, she won a national championship and was named Final Four MVP and Sports Illustrated for Women Player of the Year. Since 2008, she has been a key member of the Huskies coaching staff.

ESPN's Lobo during the 2019 WNBA championship series at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut.



Renee Montgomery
'09 (CLAS)

Thirteen years after debuting at UConn, Montgomery pre-empted a new talent when she starred in the 2018 Amazon Prime movie "Not My Favorite Christmas." After 11 WNBA seasons, currently with the Atlanta Dream, she's involved with multiple off-season acting projects as she looks ahead to life after hoops. A few career highlights:

- 2009 NCAA national championship
- 2009 Nancy Lieberman Award as nation's top point guard
- 2009 first team All-American
- Graduated as career leader in games played (150), third in assists (632), fourth in 3-point field goals (254), fifth in steals (272), sixth in points (1,990), ninth in free throws (330)
- Named a Husky of Honor senior year
- Two WNBA championships



Jennifer Rizzotti '96 (CLAS)

Head Coach, George Washington University

Starting point guard for UConn's first national championship team, Rizzotti will always be remembered for her length-of-the-court drive that catapulted the Huskies into the lead with under two minutes to play in the 1995 title game. After collecting virtually every player collegiate accolade — Big East player of the year, Big East scholar-athlete of the year, AP player of the year, Collegiate Woman athlete of the year, Academic All-American of the Year — and winning a couple WNBA titles, she embarked on a distinguished coaching career. Taking the reins at University of Hartford as the youngest D1 coach in the country in 1999, she led the school to five America East championships and six NCAA appearances in 17 seasons, earning Coach of the Year honors three times and compiling the most wins in conference history. In her fourth season at GW, she continues to shape the lives of young women as a teacher, mentor, and role model. When the American women go for Olympic gold in Japan this summer, she'll be right there with them, serving her seventh stint on the Team USA coaching staff.

Diana Taurasi '04 (CLAS)

Phoenix Mercury Point Guard

Asked to sum up her team's top playmaker, Mercury exec Annie Myers once said, "Diana Taurasi changed the game of basketball. When her playing days are done, no player will ever compare." Late NBA legend Kobe Bryant was even more succinct: He called her the White Mamba. After leading the Huskies to three consecutive NCAA championships and twice being named Naismith College Player of the Year, "D" was selected first overall by Phoenix in the 2004 WNBA draft. She proceeded to rewrite league record books: Rookie of the Year, three-time champion, First Team All-WNBA nine times, two-time finals MVP, five scoring titles, most 30-point games, highest scoring average for a season, and all-time leading scorer. In the midst of that, she also won six EuroLeague championships with Russian and Turkish teams, three FIBA World Cups, and four Olympic golds with Team USA. Less heralded is work she has done with organizations like KaBoom!, a nonprofit that builds playgrounds in underserved communities. "I just thought if you had the resources, and you really want to do it and have the influence to do it, it's a good thing," Taurasi says. "Something to be unselfish about and to give kids something to smile about."

Sue Bird '02 (CLAS)

Seattle Storm Point Guard

UConn's victory over Notre Dame in the final of the 2001 Big East championship has been called the greatest women's basketball game ever played. Which would make Bird's buzzer beater for the win the greatest shot ever made. For all her hardwood heroics — two NCAA championships, three consecutive Nancy Lieberman Awards as the country's top point guard, three WNBA titles with Seattle, most games played in WNBA history, four Olympic gold medals (alongside UConn friend and teammate Diana Taurasi) — some of her strongest work has come off the court. A tireless volunteer, she mentors kids through partnerships with organizations like Z Girls, which uses sports to teach girls life skills and build self esteem. After a 2015 shooting at Washington State's Marysville-Pilchuck High School, she and then-Storm coaches Jenny Boucek and Brian Agler reached out to the girls' basketball team. "As soon as Sue walked into the gym, the girls were speechless and smiling and giddy," Boucek said. "She cares deeply about people." Since coming out as a lesbian in 2017, Bird also has been an outspoken advocate for LGBTQ rights. Last year she took aim at another gender barrier when she joined the front office of the Denver Nuggets, becoming one of a small but growing contingent of women working high profile jobs in the NBA. "As athletes, we have a unique position because we have a platform," she says. "People can literally and figuratively look up to us."

"How good do you want to be as an individual? Coach challenges you with that, with every play." Taurasi on Auriemma to Sporting News at the Rio Olympics



Swin Cash '02 (CLAS)

VP, New Orleans Pelicans

Reflecting on her playing days, WNBA All-Star and Husky of Honor Cash once told ABC News, "When I first started playing — baseball, basketball — everything was against the guys. Seventh, eighth grade, that's when the institutionalized stuff — this is girls' basketball, this is boys' basketball — that's when it kicked in." She spent much of her subsequent career breaking down such barriers. Prior to joining the NBA's Pelicans as VP of operations and team development, Cash was director of franchise development for the WNBA's New York Liberty. She also has compiled a daunting broadcasting resume, working as a studio analyst for ESPN, providing in-game commentary for NBC during the 2008 Olympic games, and covering the New York Knicks for the MSG Network as TV's first female analyst for an NBA team. "If it were a guy, no one would discuss this," said legendary New York Yankees color commentator Suzyn Waldman at the time. "As long as we are, Swin is perfect, and I hope that she does this for the next 20 years. All you need is credibility. She's a champion. So there's your credibility." Among Cash's personal projects are Swin Cash Enterprises, which runs youth basketball camps; the Cash for Kids Foundation, dedicated to providing children with health, education, and mentoring programs; and Cash Building Blocks, a real estate development company focused on affordable urban housing.

Preceding all this, of course, was the player. Winner of two national championships and a Final Four Most Outstanding Player award with the Huskies, Cash went on to become a three-time WNBA champion, five-time All-Star, and three-time Olympic gold medalist. She was just named a 2020 Women's Basketball Hall of Fame inductee. There's your credibility.



Tina Charles
'10 (CLAS)
New York Liberty Center



In high school Tina Charles was always the best player on the floor. She made dominance look easy. But when her first two seasons in Storrs ended in NCAA tournament disappointment, she realized she still had room to improve. “I didn’t know what hard work was until I got to UConn,” she would later confess. “I still remember those first practices and that steep learning curve — what it took to work hard, not to take any possession off, taking the game seriously with every shot, every rebound, every sprint. There were so many things I hadn’t put together.” With a fully committed Charles patrolling the paint, the Huskies went on a historic tear. The team did not lose a single game during her junior and senior seasons, going a ridiculous 78-0 and winning back-to-back national championships. Along the way, she became the program’s all-time leading rebounder and scorer. Professional success arrived more quickly. Top pick in the 2010 WNBA draft, she was rookie of the year and has been a perennial all star ever since, even earning the WNBA MVP award in 2012.

Her off-court exploits set an even higher standard. Over the years she has outfitted entire youth sports programs in Jamaica, birthplace of her mother; singlehandedly underwritten construction of a school in Mali; and created Hopey’s Heart Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to fighting sudden cardiac arrest. Beginning in 2013, she has donated every penny of her WNBA salary to the cause,

and to date has placed 350 defibrillators in schools and rec centers around the United States. “Tina Charles is the personification of the WNBA’s mission to inspire others both on and off the basketball court,” said then-league president Laurel Richie in 2012, when Charles was honored with the Dawn Staley Community Leadership Award.

Lately she has found yet another outlet for her restless urge to make a difference in life: documentary filmmaking. Her movie “Charlie’s Records” premiered last May at the Tribeca Film Festival. It tells the story of her father, Rawlston Charles (pictured above), noted Caribbean music producer and owner of the legendary Brooklyn record store Charlie’s Calypso City. Nostalgic for the culture and rhythms of his native Tobago after immigrating to New York in 1967, Charles started looking for ways to celebrate soca and calypso music and the artists who make it. His label and store put the genres on the map in the city and around the world, and became an important touchstone for the Caribbean community. His success, Tina feels, is a uniquely American story of immigration, hard work, and the pursuit of dreams. “I believe that immigrants are the reason why America is where it is today,” she says. Regarding her own career and those of her teammates, she wants people to know that basketball “is just what we do. It’s not who we are . . . it’s about using your platform to be able to inspire others and advocate for what you believe.”



Jamelle Elliott
'96 (BUS), '98 MA

“I’ve coached a lot of bright players,” Auriemma has said, “but Jamelle is the smartest and the toughest.” A dual UConn degree holder, Elliott spent 12 years as an assistant coach here before taking the head women’s coaching job at Cincinnati. The player who famously never missed a game or practice returned to her alma mater in 2018 as associate athletic director for the UConn National C Club, connecting alumni athletes with one another and current students for mentorship, networking, internships, and jobs. She also oversees the Office of Student-Athlete Development and chairs the Athletic Department’s diversity and inclusion committee.



Heather Buck
'13 (NUR)

An honors Nursing graduate, Buck exchanged her Huskies uniform for scrubs. First in the ER, and now in the pediatric ICU at Connecticut Children’s Hospital, she notes an overlap in skills required for medicine and UConn basketball. “Playing in big situations prepares you to be calm under pressure. My heart might be racing, but I’m keeping cool, processing and reacting at high speed to moving situations.”



Svetlana Abrosimova
'01 (BUS)

Arriving from St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1997, Abrosimova electrified American fans with an array of pull-up threes and slashing drives. One of the original Huskies of Honor inductees, she went on to a distinguished 11-year career in the WNBA and international play before settling back in Russia, where the business administration major is now general manager of the women’s national team.



Tierney Lawlor
'17 (CAHNR)

In a program noted for recruiting reach, Lawlor was the rarest of things: a walk-on player. The sustainable farm and ranch management major from nearby Ansonia hustled her way onto the team during open tryouts and in two years earned a full scholarship. “There aren’t any words to describe how grateful I am,” says Lawlor, whose next dream is owning a fully sustainable dairy farm.



Kara Wolters
'97 (CLAS)

Being the first Husky to win an NCAA championship, a WNBA championship, and an Olympic gold gives Wolters a certain stature. For 20 years she has used it to advance special causes as a motivational speaker, operator of the Dream Big basketball camp for girls, and, since her father’s 2018 diagnosis, as an advocate for Alzheimer’s awareness and research. And, yes, you’ve seen her announcing WBB games on SNY.

“She wants every single player to come out of UConn as not only a great basketball player but a great woman ... it’s not only about the game of basketball but the game of life and having discipline, commitment, a respect level, accountability.”

Tina Charles to the New Haven Register for Dailey’s Hall of Fame induction

- 6**
CD/Geno
at 35:
Perfect Seasons
- 11**
National Championships
- 4**
Academic All-Americans of the Year
- 20**
Final Fours
- 49**
Conference Championships



Maya Moore '11 (CLAS)

Criminal Justice Reform Advocate

Sports Illustrated once called Maya Moore the greatest winner in the history of women's basketball. A strong case can be made. The high school Gatorade National Player of the Year led her team to three straight Georgia state championships and a four-year 125-3 record. During this same period, her elite club travel team took home four national championship trophies. At UConn her four-year record was 150-4. She captained the group that won back-to-back NCAA championships in the midst of an historic 90-game win streak. Top pick of the 2011 WNBA draft, Moore became rookie of the year while guiding the Minnesota Lynx to its first league championship. She then went to Europe, swapped uniforms, and captured Spanish league and EuroLeague titles before changing again and propelling Team USA to gold in the 2012 London Olympics. Subsequently, she added three more WNBA rings, three Chinese League championships, a second EuroLeague title, another Olympic gold, and every MVP award invented, including 2014 WNBA MVP.

She knows winning. Which made her announcement after the 2018 season (EuroLeague champion, WNBA All-Star game MVP) all the more shocking: She would be taking the year off from basketball to concentrate on criminal justice reform. The news stunned. Athletes at the apex of their games don't just walk away. Even Auriemma, who always encourages players to think beyond sports, admitted he was taken aback. This January, Moore announced her sabbatical would last another year.

The star's engagement with a growing movement to overhaul American jurisprudence began in 2007, the summer before UConn. In Jefferson City, Missouri, her godparents introduced her to a person they'd met through an outreach program at their church. His name was Jonathon Irons, a maximum-security prisoner. Convicted of shooting a man during a burglary at age 16, Irons was 21 years into a 50-year sentence. Moore's godparents and many others familiar with his case believed he was innocent. Moore says the more she learned, the more she agreed. None

of the physical evidence collected from the crime scene belonged to Irons. The victim told investigators he couldn't identify the shooter and twice picked out suspects other than Irons in photo lineups. Witnesses who placed Irons elsewhere at the time of the robbery never testified at trial.

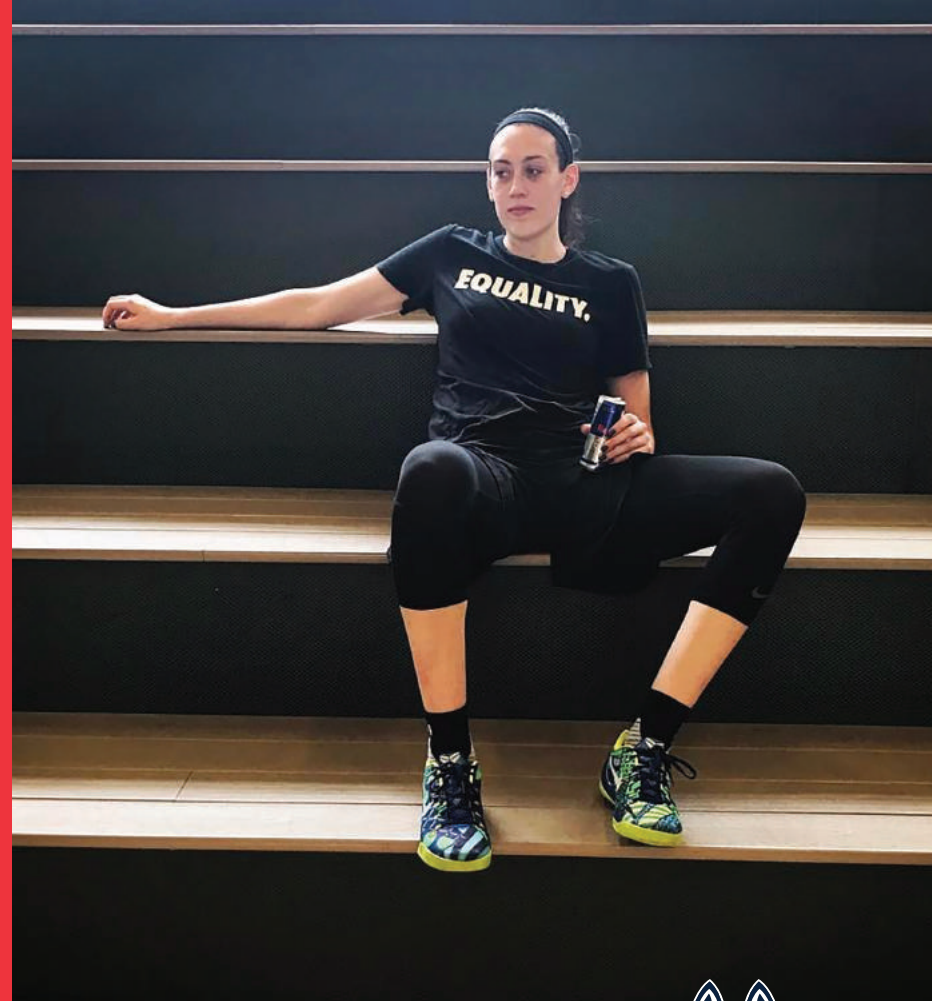
"That began a journey for me," Moore told NBC News, "of having my eyes opened to — oh my gosh, people are in prison who shouldn't be there." In 2017 she joined Mark A. Dupree Sr., a Kansas district attorney, and former federal prosecutor Miriam Aroni Krinsky to launch Win With Justice, a social action campaign dedicated to overhauling a U.S. system that incarcerates more of its citizens by far than any country in the world. "Over 10,000 people may be wrongfully convicted of serious crimes. Every year. And I know one of them," Moore said. "There are seasons of life when you run harder after certain things than others. And so, I felt like the season was coming for me to run harder after criminal justice reform."

A win in this arena would be the biggest of her career.



Kerry Bascom
'91 (CLAS)

As Geno's first major recruit, Bascom led UConn to a pair of Big East championships, its first-ever Final Four, and an era of excellence that continues today. Her unrelenting work ethic set the standard for every player who followed. "Other schools were promising me the world," Bascom said. "Coach Auriemma never promised me anything. He told me I'd have to work hard." Back home in New Hampshire, she brings the passion that helped make her an All-American to social service, working as a case manager for adults with developmental disabilities and training athletes for the Special Olympics.



Breanna Stewart '16 (CLAS)

Seattle Storm Forward

Breanna Stewart has always embraced a challenge. Before she won anything at UConn, she went public with her goal: four years, four titles. Then she laced 'em up and made it happen. To go with the clean sweep of national championships, she collected four straight NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player awards. No player — female or male — had ever done that before. To exactly no one's surprise, she did not miss a beat at the next level. At the end of her first professional campaign, Stewie was named the best rookie in the WNBA. After her second, she was recognized as the best player, period: WNBA regular season MVP, WNBA finals MVP,



FIBA World Cup MVP, and EuroLeague MVP.

But for sheer degree of difficulty, nothing can top the feat she performed in the fall of 2017. "I wish it was as simple as saying that it's just something that happened to me," she wrote on the Players' Tribune website. "Part of it is just that simple — it literally is something that happened. But I don't know why it happened. I don't know why this happens. Or why sexual abuse keeps happening." As a child she had been serially abused by an adult acquaintance. She eventually mustered the courage to tell her parents. The man was arrested and the abuse ended. For years afterward, she tried to bury the memories. Basketball became a refuge. Then came #MeToo, and she was inspired to share her story. Having gone public, Stewie wrote, "I now assume a certain responsibility. So I'll start by saying this: If you are being abused, tell somebody. If that person doesn't believe you, tell somebody else. A parent, a family member, a teacher, a coach, a friend's parent. Help is there." Bearing witness, she has provided hope to countless victims. If she stopped right now, her legacy would be complete. Hall of Fame player, Hall of Fame person. Coach Auriemma, for one, believes she'll keep moving forward. "Knowing Stewie," he recently said, "there's probably the same motivation" today as on her first day of college. ☺



Kia Nurse '18 (CLAS)

One of the best high school players in Canadian history, Nurse was recruited by every top college team. Where she'd end up was never really in doubt: She had dreamed of being a Husky since seventh grade. Now a WNBA All-Star and member of the defending champs in two different women's professional basketball leagues, she recently formed Kia Nurse Elite, a Nike-backed, 7-team AAU program that is Canada's only girls' Elite Youth Basketball League member.

Genetics for Justice



Anthropology professor Deborah Bolnick analyzes ancient DNA in her Clean Lab where her work is, among other things, helping to shed light on Native American histories.

By Christine Buckley | Photos by Peter Morenus

To set foot in UConn's Ancient DNA Lab, your first stop is the antechamber.

You hear a *whoosh* of HEPA-filtered air as you open the shatterproof glass door that is flanked by square white flypaper-like sticky mats, which snatch dust from the soles of your shoes.

Step into the anteroom, instructs laboratory head Deborah Bolnick, and place your belongings in a drawer marked "Outside Stuff," next to the bottles of cleaning liquid labeled "DNA Away."

Don a Tyvek bodysuit, a surgeon's hat, sleeve covers, shoe covers, face mask, and one pair of latex gloves. Make sure you put on a second pair once you're inside. Because your DNA is on the first pair.

"Ancient DNA research is hard," says Bolnick, a professor of anthropology and member of UConn's Institute for Systems Genomics.

It's easy to forget that this shiny, four-room, white-and-chrome laboratory stacked with state-of-the-art equipment and designed to annihilate stray strands of modern DNA overlooks UConn's Great Lawn from 90-year-old Beach Hall. Or to forget that the Great Lawn itself — and the whole of UConn — is the historical territory of Indigenous peoples, including the Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, and Nipmuc tribal nations.

But tucked into a deep freezer in the DNA sample prep wing are the ancient remains of



Indigenous people — tiny extracts from teeth and bone — unearthed from burial sites across the Americas and entrusted to our stewardship. They're waiting to be sequenced, analyzed, and interpreted to help contemporary communities understand how their ancestors lived and moved across this land — and how the environment shaped their evolution.

In an age where DNA testing is rampant, Bolnick is striving to use science to understand the past experiences of Native Americans and, further, to empower Indigenous people to create and use such data themselves.

- The Accidental Anthropologist -

Bolnick grew up in Kansas City, near a starting point for the Santa Fe trail. She loved history in high school, especially American history, and happily set off to Yale looking forward to "never again taking another science class." But her first course in biological anthropology hooked her.

"It's a science that is situated historically," she describes. "It's drawing on history, literature, and culture and combining that information with human DNA to understand something about our histories."

While in graduate school at University of California, Davis, she learned how ancient DNA analysis works in the lab of David Glenn Smith.

It goes something like this: Being as sterile as possible, use specialized chemicals or minimally invasive drilling techniques to extract DNA material from an archaeological sample of human remains, most often tooth or bone, less often hair or even feces — Bolnick relays that thousand-year-old rehydrated coprolites smell just like modern poop.

The older the DNA is, the more it will have degraded into small pieces,

Bolnick is striving to use science to understand the past experiences of Native Americans

so prepare DNA "libraries" and use the polymerase chain reaction (PCR — a technique that revolutionized genomic science in the 1980s) to tag and replicate the DNA into thousands of copies.

Run that DNA on a next-generation sequencer, which determines the order of A's, T's, C's, and G's on each strand.

Finally, using bioinformatic techniques, compare the sequence output, reported as long strings of these four letters, to genome banks containing data from people around the world. Any similarities or differences can suggest that individuals or groups may be related or may have evolved over time.

"When you combine it with oral histories, historical documents, or archaeological evidence, ancient DNA can be another data point for us to learn about the experiences people have had in the past," she says. "That historical angle is what makes it interesting and exciting for me."

- Why It Matters -

At graduate school for anthropological genetics at the University of California, Davis, Bolnick also became interested in a

population of ancient Native Americans who had been interred in burial grounds in Illinois and Ohio. She wanted to determine if patterns in the archaeological record and genetic record both suggested the same history of interactions for those groups.

Many archaeologists at the time claimed that these Indigenous peoples had no living descendants, a fact that, even while she was collecting data, began to bother Bolnick.

"It was interesting, but I struggled with the question of: Who cares? I thought, 'These are people who lived a long time ago. They don't give a damn what I'm doing. Why does this matter?'"

She and Kim TallBear (Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Dakota), who was then a Ph.D. student at the University of California, Santa Cruz, began work on a project advocating for science policy surrounding the implications of genetic ancestry testing for Native Americans.

Membership in tribal nations is a cultural, political, and legal question that can't be determined by genetics alone — it involves tradition and lineage that have nothing to do with genetics. Just ask Elizabeth Warren, whose decision to undergo DNA testing for Native American heritage would dog her in the leadup to the 2020 presidential election.

But, if abused, could DNA testing force communities to recognize new members based solely on those results? In cases of adoptions or marriages outside of Indigenous communities, could it sever traditional ties of cultural kinship?

Bolnick, TallBear, and their colleagues published an often-cited policy article in the journal *Science*. It was a cautionary note for the scientific community: Be careful of the promises made related to genetic testing, and be sure to consider all pieces of evidence, not just scientific ones, to draw

conclusions about community groups.

"We must weigh the risks and benefits of genetic ancestry testing, and as we do so, the scientific community must break its silence and make clear the limitations and potential dangers," she and her coauthors concluded.

- Unintended Consequences -

After moving to a faculty position at the University of Texas at Austin, Bolnick developed ancient and modern human DNA projects across the Americas. She honed nondestructive practices to extract DNA from ancient bones and teeth so the remains could be repatriated intact to native groups. With graduate students, she conducted analyses showing that Aztec and Spanish conquests altered the genetic makeup of inhabitants of Xaltocan, Mexico. She published genetic evidence suggesting common ancestry for all living and ancient Native Americans. Her work was gaining renown in the scientific community.

Then, in 2010, she got a call from an annoyed person. Marcus Briggs-Cloud (Maskoke), then a graduate student in divinity studies at Harvard, remembers being approached on campus by a man with a fistful of cotton swabs who asked if Briggs-Cloud would collect DNA samples of his community members for *National Geographic*.

Definitely not, Briggs-Cloud snapped.

Weeks later, his friend Ana Sylestine (Coushatta tribe of Louisiana), told him she had had her DNA sampled. He was not happy.

"I started chastising her, saying that genetic research is so problematic, such a colonial project," he remembers. "She said that maybe I should have a conversation with the researcher. I said, 'Yes, I think I will.'"

Briggs-Cloud called Bolnick, and they had a two-hour conversation in which a defensive Briggs-Cloud voiced his distrust of Western scientists who disregard Indigenous culture.

She listened and agreed.

"Deborah was totally open to my scrutiny of academia," says Briggs-Cloud.

Soon they had another two-hour conversation. Over the next two years they spoke at intervals, each learning the other's perspective. Briggs-Cloud began to think that there was something different about this scientist.

Meanwhile, another former UC Davis lab-mate of Bolnick's, anthropological geneticist Ripan Malhi, had been working to establish a

program to address these issues. The summer internship for Indigenous peoples in genomics (SING) is a week-long immersion in scientific training and ethics discussions at the University of Illinois, designed to empower Indigenous people to get involved in human genetics research.

At SING 2013 Briggs-Cloud, Bolnick, Sylestine, and the 22 other participants and faculty performed DNA extraction and analysis, discussed scientist-Indigenous community relationships, and learned from one another.

Briggs-Cloud says he came out with a revolutionized understanding of the scientific process and filled with feelings of solidarity with other Indigenous people struggling with genetics and their identity. But he still had questions.

“I was feeling like, this is all lovely, but how is it benefiting Indigenous communities at a localized level?” So Bolnick asked him: What would you propose?

- Matchmakers -

Briggs-Cloud wondered about helping certain Indigenous people rediscover their clan identities — likely lost through forcible displacement from ancestral homelands. Bigger than families but smaller than tribes, clans are central to tribal identity, determining the family you belong to and your place in the community.

Clan membership in some communities is passed down through an individual’s mother, so Bolnick wondered if analyzing mitochondrial DNA, which is inherited from the mother, might be able to trace that information. A new project emerged. Take wide-ranging samples of living Indigenous people who know their clan membership. Look for similarities in the genomes of groups identifying with those clans. Then compare the DNA of people who don’t know their clan identity to this library.

Today, Briggs-Cloud, Bolnick, and their collaborators have established frameworks for understanding the genetic variation in and among clans in several communities in the southern U.S. Briggs-Cloud has collected the samples, and they analyzed the data together.

Bolnick does not name the communities she works with to protect their anonymity. But Briggs-Cloud says he has watched an individual who previously did not know where to sit in an arbor during a tribal ceremony cry tears of joy when, after learning his likely clan identity,



he walked to his place in the ceremony.

It is a healing moment, says Briggs-Cloud, that he never thought he would see. “If not for Deborah, I would have remained an enemy to the academic enterprise. She was willing to take me on without knowing anything about genetics. After more than a decade of working together, I can confidently say she is one of a kind.”

Briggs-Cloud, Sylestine, and one of Bolnick’s first graduate students, Austin Reynolds, along with other colleagues, released another decade-long analysis last year. That article showed that influxes of diseases like smallpox, measles, influenza, and cholera after European contact likely influenced genes associated with immune function in Native American populations — in the same way that Alaskan Natives have developed genetic variants adapted to cold climates.

In each case, Indigenous partners orchestrated the collections, and the data set took almost 10 years to create and analyze. Reynolds chalks this up to Deborah’s unending but dogged patience.

“Deborah is a humble listener,” says Reynolds, who is now a post-doctoral researcher at UC Davis. “She listened even when I was an overexcited undergraduate with lots of wild ideas. She really showed me that you could use scientific methods to learn something about human culture.”

- Justice For All -

Over the years, word of Bolnick’s passion for genetics for social justice has spread, garnering her a reputation as a person who wants to do work to

Bolnick leads a workshop at the 2019 summer internship for Indigenous peoples in genomics, known as SING.

“Racism and discrimination have material consequences on the bodies of marginalized people, which in turn influences their genetics.”

- “Reorient How We Do Science” -

empower underrepresented populations. There are only about a dozen ancient DNA labs in North America, she says. So she regularly gets requests for DNA analysis.

In November 2014, excavation of a parking lot for a new wing on the Baldwin Hall building at the University of Georgia turned up human remains, which when completely unearthed totaled 105 unmarked graves adjacent to a known historic cemetery site.

While the university asserted that the bodies were likely of European descent, the Athens, Georgia, community cried out.

“The Athens African American community said from the beginning, ‘We think this is where our enslaved ancestors were buried,’” notes Bolnick. “They were ignored, forgotten, erased.”

So when Bolnick’s colleagues in the University of Georgia anthropology department asked for her help, she accepted.

Her lab’s analysis of mitochondrial DNA from about 40 individuals revealed that nearly all had West African maternal ancestors, and since they were buried around 1830, it’s very likely they were enslaved.

In a similar incident, in February 2018, the remains of 95 individuals were unearthed in a project to build a new school in the town of Sugar Land, Fort Bend County, Texas.

The “Sugar Land 95” raised controversy, with the local African American community protesting as the bodies were re-interred at a nearby cemetery in 2019, before DNA testing was completed.

Bolnick is currently working under an agreement with the University of Texas at Austin’s Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, which curated the remains, to analyze DNA from the Sugar Land 95.

Graduate student Samantha Archer is hard at work analyzing these remains of post-Civil War convict laborers to gain greater insight into their identities, their lived experiences, and their relationships to one another and present-day members of the local community.

Human genetic data is easily accessible and often discussed in the 21st century. People think about their DNA as a fixed, inherited part of their ancestry that doesn’t change and is a be-all, end-all. They think it can tell you everything about where you have come from, who you are, and who you will become.

But Bolnick hopes that her work shows people that nongenetic factors matter — that historical events and social processes and lived experiences shape our biology and our DNA too.

“We think in terms of genetic determinism, that our biology determines our behavior, features, physical attributes, personality, identity . . . That’s B.S.,” Bolnick declares. “More often the genetic makeup is being shaped by the worlds we experience and that our ancestors experienced.”

She notes that in the modern world, lived experiences like racism and discrimination have material consequences on the bodies of marginalized people, which in turn influences their biology and how their genes are expressed.

If there is one metric that Bolnick uses to determine her success, it’s helping to, as she puts it, “reorient how humans do science.”

Science has had a long history of being closely tied to racism and oppression and discrimination, she says, and bolstering the institutions in our society that harm marginalized people.

We need to work hard to undo those connections, she says.

“We should strive to do a different kind of science,” says Bolnick. “We need to take tools we have and apply them to questions of interest to people who have been historically marginalized by this discipline. If I can help to facilitate making those shifts across science, to me, that’s a success.” ☺

Greener Greens

Most people visit Pittsburgh's Phipps Conservatory to immerse themselves in nature.

They wander in the butterfly forest and amble through the lush fern room. But some come solely to contemplate the manmade world. Amid the thousands of plants is an even rarer sight than the conservatory's oversized slipper orchids: three of the world's greenest buildings all in one location.

The Conservatory's Center for Sustainable Landscapes is the only structure in the world to have been awarded all the top certifications for green architecture. The Nature Lab, a modular classroom, was constructed from nontoxic materials and is mostly illuminated by daylight to reduce electricity use. And a windowless cinder block building on a badly polluted site was revamped into a model of sustainability with geothermal wells that pull energy from the earth and a manmade lagoon to catch rainwater.

"We did all of this without rocket science," says Phipps president and CEO **Richard Piacentini '84 MS**. "It was all done with off-the-shelf technology. That's what we need to show people, that it's possible to do this."

A botanical garden, between its vast energy-guzzling greenhouses and its contrived vision of nature made from exotic plants from far-flung corners of the globe, isn't a likely leader on sustainability. Grand conservatories were the brainchild of the Victorians, who were certain that they could conquer the plant and animal kingdoms, Piacentini says. "When Phipps opened in 1893 people thought there were no limits to the amount of energy we could use or pollution we could produce."

By the time Piacentini arrived at Phipps in 1994 there was plenty of evidence to the contrary. But saving

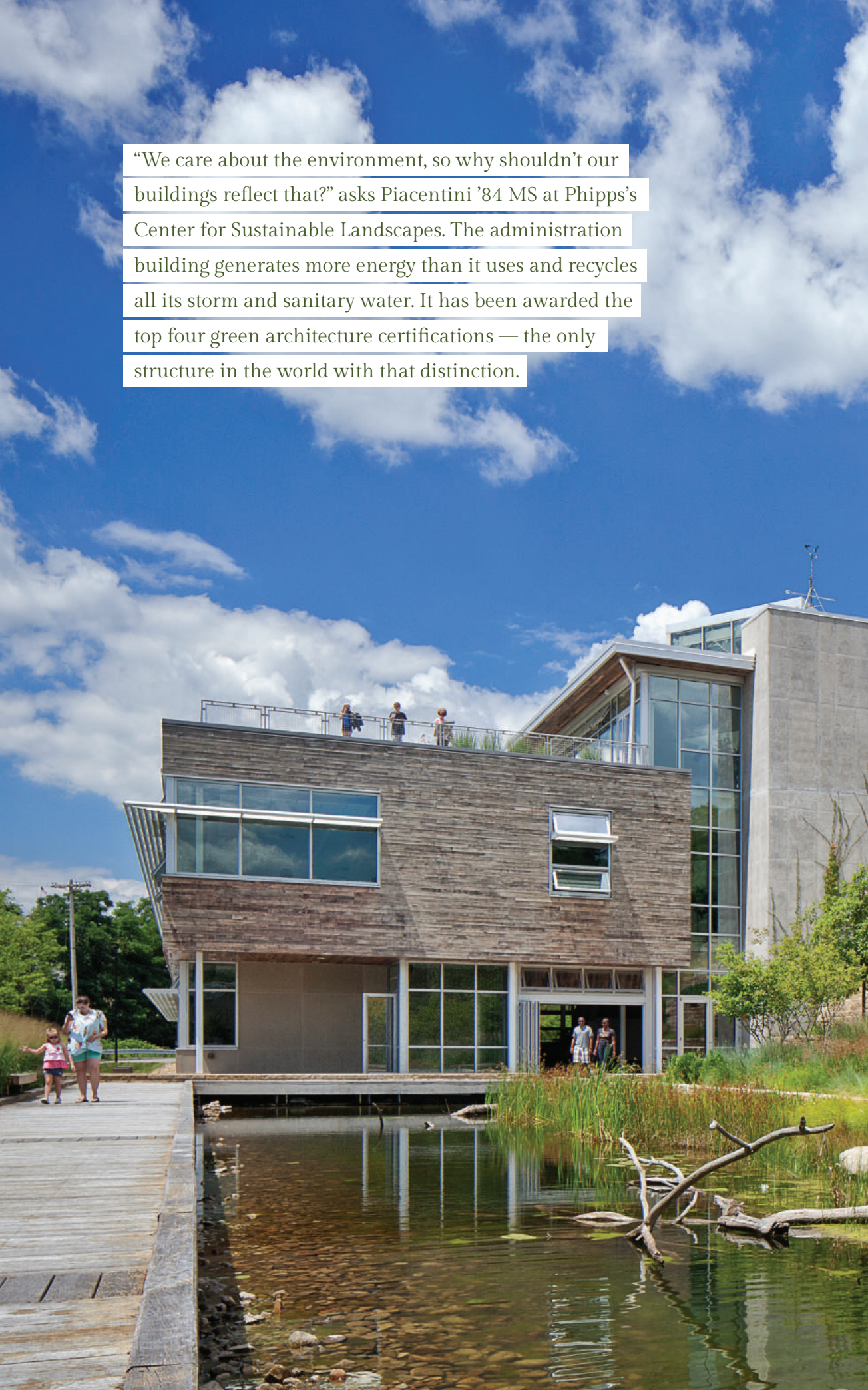
By Amy Sutherland

Photos by Paul G. Wiegman, Denmarsh Photography, Inc., and David Aschkenas



"I remember walking around a corner and seeing the 1893 conservatory, and I fell in love."

“We care about the environment, so why shouldn’t our buildings reflect that?” asks Piacentini ’84 MS at Phipps’s Center for Sustainable Landscapes. The administration building generates more energy than it uses and recycles all its storm and sanitary water. It has been awarded the top four green architecture certifications — the only structure in the world with that distinction.



the environment wasn’t what weighed heaviest on Piacentini’s mind. What kept him up at night was how to shore up Phipps. He inherited an institution well past its glory days. The greenhouses were falling apart. The gift shop was teeny, there was no food service, and often there wasn’t that much on exhibit to see. “I once heard a visitor ask for his money back,” he recalls.

A Long Island native, Piacentini discovered his love of plants early on, but he found his career late, after a false start in pharmacy. Working in that field in Washington, D.C., he came to realize what he liked most was growing Japanese bonsai and visiting the National Arboretum. On one such visit he surprised himself by asking a staff botanist there what degrees he needed to run a place like the Arboretum.

Piacentini started with an MBA from Virginia Commonwealth, then brought his bonsai collection north for a doctoral program in botany from UConn, drawn by the work of Distinguished Professor Gregory Anderson. He worked in Anderson’s lab, helped with the horticultural department’s dwarf conifer collection, and to get practical experience drove to Long Island two days a week to volunteer at the Planting Fields Arboretum. He also worked as a pharmacist on the weekend. There was no time for Husky games. “Afraid not,” he says.

The Ph.D. became a masters when Piacentini got an offer he couldn’t refuse and headed west to become director of the Rhododendron Species Foundation and Botanical Garden in the Seattle area. He later moved to Michigan to run the sprawling Leila Arboretum in Battle Creek. He wasn’t that interested when a recruiter for Phipps Conservatory called him about the director’s job there. But why not just go see the place? “I remember walking around a corner and seeing the 1893 conservatory, and I fell in love. Then I wanted the job.”

Piacentini and his board embarked on an ambitious plan to expand the Conservatory, starting with the visitors center. They began talking to design teams, one of which happened to include Bill McDonough, the leading



Pittsburgh residents who switch their home electricity to renewable energy receive free one-year memberships to the Conservatory and need never miss an orchid bloom.

green architect in the country then. He urged Piacentini and his board to make their buildings sustainable. Going green hadn't even occurred to them, Piacentini says, but "we care about the environment, so why shouldn't our buildings reflect that?"

Starting with the visitors center, which opened in 2005, Phipps began erecting some of the greenest structures in any U.S. botanical garden. The Tropical Forest Conservatory, as tall as a six-story building, is one of the most energy-efficient structures of its kind in the world. Three Phipps buildings have earned the top LEED certification, the country's most recognized seal of approval for green architecture. Two have also met Living Building Challenge and Petal Certifications, the most rigorous rating that, unlike LEED, monitors actual energy and water use.

Piacentini thought, *Why stop with the buildings?* Phipps eliminated plastic silverware, bottled water and soda, and junk food in its cafe and began composting every speck of food waste. It also searched for ways to have an effect beyond its gates, from developing research projects with area academics to forming an in-house design group that can advise commercial clients. The Conservatory began to offer a free one-year membership to anyone who switched their home electricity to renewable energy (more than 5,000 households have to date). In his own home, Piacentini installed solar panels and geothermal heating.

None of this surprises his former professor: "Not only was — is — Richard one of the most pleasant persons to work with, but he was also imbued with the vision, creativity, motivation, and leadership to make such a positive contribution to our world," says Anderson.

These days the Phipps CEO is working with execs at other botanical gardens around the country to create a joint statement on how they will address climate change, such as agreeing to make their buildings use zero energy.

"Something aggressive like that to show we aren't going to be followers in our community," says Piacentini. "We are going to be leaders." ☺



McGurk with George W. Bush 2008

On September 10, 2001, **Brett McGurk '96 (CLAS)** was a handsome, well-connected young lawyer whose life seemed to be unfolding in a straight line. Five years earlier, he'd graduated from UConn with a BA in political science. He'd gone on to law school at Columbia University, where he had



McGurk with Barack Obama 2016

distinguished himself editing the *Law Review* and winning an award for the best written brief in the school's Moot Court Honors Competition (his father was an English professor, after all). Young McGurk had every reason to think he was destined for a successful life in the law. And then everything changed.

THE ISIS TERMINATOR

The next day, on a crisp, clear morning under bright blue skies, two airplanes hijacked by a strange new group calling itself “Al Qaeda” crashed into the World Trade Center.

“I’d been fortunate enough to get clerkships on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan and then on the U.S. Supreme Court. I was at the Supreme Court on 9/11 with Chief Justice Rehnquist. He told me a plane had just hit one of the Twin Towers. We thought, like everybody at the time did, that it was a tragic accident. There was no internet at the Supreme Court in those days. Justice Souter’s chambers were right next to my office, and his secretary came in looking anguished. They had a little black and white television, so that’s where I saw the towers fall. I went back into the chambers with Rehnquist, and the marshals were in there by that point encouraging him to leave. He didn’t want to leave because we had a lot of work to do that day, but eventually they ordered all of us out. We were told, as we were leaving the building, that a plane was coming to the Capitol, which was right across the street.”

American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon, killing 125 people. McGurk, a mere three miles to the east, had more reason than most of us to think, *That could have been me*. Another plane, United 93, thought to be headed for the Capitol, crashed in Pennsylvania, brought down by ordinary citizens who stormed the cockpit once it was clear what was happening.

Like so many Americans that day, McGurk felt called to action, felt a need to do something about it, but so many questions had to be answered first. Who and where was the enemy? What did they want? And later: How do we fight them effectively? McGurk didn’t realize then that he would spend the next 17 years trying to answer those questions, eventually becoming arguably the foremost expert on the subject and the man who would help formulate and execute the plan to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, aka ISIS.

He knew then, however, that military service was out. A high school injury had left him with plates and screws

in his leg that foiled his hopes to play hockey at UConn and then caused him to leave the University’s Army ROTC program too. But his work in the field of constitutional law as a clerk at the Supreme Court led to an invitation to join the American team in Baghdad shortly after the invasion of Iraq.

“I went to Iraq in January 2004. I spent a year on the ground there. I saw the whole thing, up close, in Baghdad, the constitutional process of forming a new government, setting up a U.S. embassy, and working with Coalition Provisional Authority, led by Paul Bremer, until it dissolved. I saw, up close, the gap between our objectives and our resource base, what I call the gap between our ends and means. We were orders of magnitude off the target in terms of the resources required to achieve what our country had set out to do in a country

“The intellectual rigor at UConn . . . prepared me for everything from the Supreme Court to the White House to building up one of the largest coalitions in the world and working with three very different presidents.”

we barely understood.”

The objective was to build a democracy to replace the strongman dictatorship that had ruled Iraq for 35 years, while sorting out who we could work with and who we couldn’t. It meant identifying, locating, capturing, or eliminating the enemy, the Ba-ath Party members on the famous deck of cards, including Saddam Hussein at the top of the deck, but it also meant building hospitals and schools and replacing the infrastructure damaged during the war. It meant being able to make promises and keep them. It meant understanding all the different sources of conflict in the Middle East (see sidebar) and finding common ground. Finally, it meant putting in place suitable leadership. For McGurk, it was the application of political science at the most basic level.

“I was in the honors program in political science at UConn, reading multiple books a week and writing all the time, and taking graduate level courses,” McGurk recalls. “I had a professor named Bob Gilmour, who was very de-

manding, but he also encouraged me to set my sights high. He pushed me quite a bit. The intellectual rigor at UConn, in the political science program, really prepared me for everything from the Supreme Court to the White House to building up one of the largest coalitions in the world and working with three very different presidents.”

McGurk went to the White House in 2005 to serve President Bush for his second term. “I was with him when we did the surge. Finally, in 2006, we dramatically changed the strategy, which was long overdue, and sent 30,000 troops to Iraq. We reversed what had been an underlying assumption, believing political progress would lead to security; in fact, security was the precondition to everything else — and that required more resources and personnel. I worked closely with President

Bush through that decision and its execution. It was a difficult period.”

2006 was also the year ISIS began to coalesce. It began as a notion that a Sunni homeland was possible, as conceived by a group of prisoners at the Camp Bucca U.S. detention facility in southern Iraq. The camp held 20,000 Iraqi prisoners, including former Ba-ath Party members and Sunni ex-military officers under Saddam. That population also included a man named Awwad Ibrahim Ali al-Badri al-Sammari, a preacher from Douala province, born in Samarra in 1971, with degrees in Islamic studies from the University of Baghdad. When the Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the head of AQI (Al-Qaeda in Iraq), was killed by drone strike in 2006, al-Sammari changed his name to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and declared himself caliph, the messianic head of a new group calling itself ISIS.

“Radical groups fill vacuums,” McGurk observes. “We may want to believe or hope the collapse of state authority will be replaced by moderates, but in

fact, as we’ve seen from Iraq to Libya to Syria, collapse of state structures creates conditions for extremist groups to thrive. ISIS had a very clear plan, to use ruthless violence to carve out its own state from chaos. It took advantage of Iraq and later the civil war in Syria to do just that.”

COUNTERTERROR

Where some make meaningful distinctions between Al Qaeda and ISIS, McGurk sees it as a continuum and a difference of degree.

“It’s a pretty symbiotic relationship,” he says. “They had some disagreements. Whether to form a caliphate, or government under this Messianic leader, was one. And who could be targeted for death. ISIS takes a much more expansive view of that, of who is an infidel, than Al Qaeda would. But in terms of threats to us and our partners around the world, it’s not that different.”

McGurk was one of the first officials to raise the alarm, testifying in the fall of 2013 about the rising threat, which was then still known as al Qaeda in Iraq and Syria.

ISIS gained international attention in 2014 with videos showing prisoners being beheaded, including American journalists James Foley and Daniel Pearl. The videos were for shock value, to get attention. But, says McGurk, ISIS grew its ranks mostly with propaganda that pushed a positive message.

“They said they were creating an Islamic homeland which would be paradise on earth, run the way the prophet Muhammad said it should be run. They had a very deformed interpretation of Islam, but it found a broad appeal. Their message was, ‘We’re creating an Islamic homeland, as it was supposed to be created, a true caliphate.’ And every Muslim around the world had a duty to come and live in the caliphate. And they wanted to expand. Their bumper sticker was, ‘Remain and Expand.’ And it attracted people from all around the world. Forty-thousand people poured into Syria to join these extremist groups.”

ISIS promised power to the powerless, a voice to the voiceless, honor and dignity to victims of an Arab diaspora



that had left people feeling alienated and persecuted and disenfranchised. A new golden age.

“And from [the caliphate],” McGurk says, “they had a sanctuary to plan and plot and implement major terrorist attacks.” McGurk cites the attacks in Paris, where bombs at a soccer game, at the airport, and at a heavy metal concert killed 130 and injured over 400 in November of 2015. “That was planned in Syria. The people who set off suicide bombs at the airport in Brussels trained in Syria. There were a number of attacks in Turkey. They were busy trying to inspire people to commit other terrorist attacks.”

ISIS also spouted an extreme theology that was explicitly eschatological, an end-times strategy where the more enemies they made, the better. The violence depicted in the videos was, in part, intended to bait the United States into a direct confrontation that would bring about armageddon in a place called Dabiq. They hoped it would spur the return of the Mahdi, the last of twelve sacred Imams, who would emerge from 1,400 years of occultation to defeat Satan and rule over Earth with Islam as the single unifying world religion.

The Western powers declined to take the bait, but the brutal imagery

was nevertheless effective in that it scared and intimidated anybody who found themselves in the path of ISIS fighters — including tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers in Mosul who, confronted by ISIS combatants in June of 2014, took off their uniforms, laid down their weapons, and disappeared. ISIS fighters saw victory after victory during a remarkably effective campaign in the summer of 2014 that eventually seized an area the size of Great Britain and controlled 8 million people. This was a thugocracy fueled with revenues from extortion, kidnapping, and stolen oil exceeding a billion dollars a year. They might indeed have been able to “remain and expand” were it not for a coalition McGurk helped put together and sustain. By 2014, of course, U.S. presidents had changed, but McGurk remained.

COALITION BUILDING

“I was in Iraq when Mosul fell,” McGurk recalls, “and I was working very closely with President Obama, and the chairman of the joint chiefs, with our generals and Vice President Biden and John Kerry, when we developed a campaign to push back. The plan was to have a very large international coalition for burden sharing. We had to get the regional countries involved. We were not going to put U.S. combat brigades in

place to do the direct fighting.”

ISIS suffered its first defeat in August of 2014 in a town called Kobani, on the Turkish border. ISIS was about to overrun it when the United States entered the battle, providing radar-equipped air support and a small number of Special Forces advisors on the ground.

“There were Kurdish fighters in the town, who were surrounded. It was through our relationships, and working in Iraq for so long, that we were able to get in contact with those fighters in Kobani.” The Kurds were led by General Mazloum Kobani Abdi, whom the *New Yorker* dubbed “The General Who Defeated ISIS.” General Kobani headed the Syrian Democratic Forces, but, says McGurk, he could not have done it without coalition support.

“I went to Turkey to negotiate with the Turks and the Iraqi Kurds to get the Peshmerga, the Kurdish fighters, into the town. That was the turning point. The battle went on for about four to five months, but that was the first real significant battle that ISIS lost. They lost about 6,000 fighters in that battle. That gave us a foothold in Syria. We then were able to build from there and gradually start to claw back territory. The campaign plan was very carefully drawn, but the real credit goes to the Iraqis and the Syrians who did the fighting and took thousands of casualties. What we were able to do in northeast Syria, we did because we had U.S. people on the ground.

“We were able to build a force of

60,000 fighters, with Kurds and Arabs and Christians, very effectively. We coordinated with the different leaders, Arab sheiks or Peshmerga leaders, to build alliances. We recruited trainees. We set up training camps where our Special Forces trained thousands of recruits who would be put into the Syrian Democratic Forces fighting against ISIS. Our message to them was, ‘You can go home again. We’ll help you take back your home.’ It was very effective.”

McGurk made sure there were humanitarian resources available for the refugees liberated from ISIS-held towns and territories, including Mosul.

“The humanitarian experts at the time told me there hadn’t been a refugee crisis like that since World War II,” McGurk says. “Every I.D.P. (internally displaced person) who came out of Mosul during the battle to retake it received shelter, food, and basic necessities.”

In the midst of leading the successful campaign to defeat ISIS, McGurk was asked by President Obama to lead other troubleshooting assignments across the Middle East, from negotiating with the Russians over Syria (“those are bare-knuckle talks,” he says) to a secret channel with Iran to secure the release of seven Americans from Evin Prison (“probably the most difficult thing I’ve done,” he recalls).

Not only was McGurk one of the first to sound the alarm about ISIS, he also was one of the first to warn of the consequences if the U.S. reneged on its

promise to support the Kurdish fighters who’d put themselves in harm’s way. McGurk resigned his position on December 22, 2018, when the administration first announced its intention to draw down troops from Syria.

So what now? In the fight against ISIS, the killing of Abu

Bakr al-Baghdadi is “great news for the civilized world.” But, he cautions, “One hard lesson we learned over the years is you cannot just declare victory, pick up stakes, and leave. That’s a huge mistake. We designed the campaign against ISIS to avoid over-investment, ensure that battlefield victories would be sustainable, and support diplomacy against other major powers in both Iraq and Syria. It was working fairly well until the decision was made nearly overnight to give nearly all the ground ISIS had lost over five difficult years.”

In addition, as many as 18,000 ISIS fighters may be reorganizing in Syria while spreading their influence to Afghanistan and Africa. McGurk is worried that we could be making the same mistake all over again.

“At Camp Bucca, we learned a lesson. You can’t just let these guys sit in a prison facility. Right now, there’s a detention camp at a place called al-Hol, in northeast Syria, where there are 70,000 prisoners, including some pretty hardened ISIS fighters.” With only 400 Kurdish guards, a September 3, 2019, *New York Times* article calls al-Hol a “disaster in the making.” The *Washington Post* calls it a “cauldron of radicalization.” Others call it an “ISIS academy.”

“I don’t want to wake up 10 years from now,” McGurk says, “and read that somebody, some future Baghdadi, came out of al-Hol. It’s a problem the United States can’t deal with on its own. It’s something that requires the attention of the whole international community.”

TRAINING A NEW GUARD

As for McGurk himself, for starters he’s taking his shade under the palm trees on the campus of Stanford University, where he is the Frank E. and Arthur W. Payne Distinguished Lecturer at Stanford’s Freeman Spogli Institute. The Stanford campus, with its red brick buildings, Spanish tiled roofs, and green expanses, is far from the hue and cry of the Middle East, the bombed-out shells of wrecked buildings in Kobani or Raqqa, where McGurk worked to counter terrorism.

But educating the leaders of tomorrow is important too, he says.

He teaches a master’s program course called Presidential Decision Making in Wartime about wartime strategy from Truman all the way up to Trump. And he’s writing a book about the last three presidencies, three approaches to war, and “how they navigated these difficult issues and what lessons to take from them in the future.”

His coalition is still together; it was carried forward from Obama. “I

worked on that transition from Obama to Trump and served two years in the Trump administration,” says McGurk. “I’m proud of that. Even with everything going on in Washington, we had a pretty smooth transition, which was important, because we were in the middle of a war. And it was a very hot war when Trump took over. We had a pretty good transition. I think it was very professionally done. And that’s important.”

McGurk speaks with humility about the experience over the last 15 years

strewn between the Oval Office and the battlefields of the Middle East. “I’m hopeful our country can return to basic principles in foreign affairs, meaning alignment of ends and means and resisting the temptation to set objectives we are simply unable or unprepared to meet. We also need friends. ISIS is a global problem; that’s why it took American leadership to build a global coalition to defeat it. We could not have done it ourselves.”

It certainly could not have been done without McGurk. ☺

HISTORICAL CAUSES OF CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN 500 WORDS

THE ISLAMIC SCHISM

In the year 632 AD, the death of the prophet Muhammad was followed by a dispute as to who Muhammad’s rightful successors were; Shia Muslims (about 10% of the current world population of 1.6 billion Muslims) believe the prophet named his cousin and son-in-law, Ali, while Sunnis believe Muhammad’s father-in-law, Abu Bakr, was the proper leader of the faith, generating a permanent split between the two branches.

ARTIFICIAL BORDERS

The Ottoman Empire, est. 1299, brought order to greater Arabia (not including Persia); that stability collapsed after the Ottoman Empire was defeated in World War I. The Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 divided the conquered Ottoman Arab provinces into regions of British and French influence, creating artificial countries in the hope of

unifying various ethnic/linguistic/sectarian groups that in turn rejected the illegitimate governments imposed on them.

OIL KINGDOMS

Eight years before Sykes-Picot, oil was discovered in the Middle East; the oil-dependent economies (and political interests) of the Middle East and the Western powers became forever entangled, major powers vying for dominance to secure the oil supply, leading to proxy wars and the arms shipments that make them possible, if not inevitable.

WAHHABISM

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, est. 1932, produced a paradigm shift when the House of Saud adopted Wahhabism as the state religion, based on the teachings of a Sunni cleric named Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab (1703-1792), who advocated a return to the original

ultraconservative (and anti-modernist) practices described in the Koran (Salafism/Sharia) that shunned outsiders, restricted women’s rights, and punished as infidels or apostates (takfirism) anyone departing from Wahhabism.

SECULAR STRONGMEN

The declension of the British Empire in Arabia following World War II created a power vacuum filled by dictators, sheiks, and military leaders who established rule-or-be-killed despotic governments, led by men like Muammar Gaddafi in Libya, Saddam Hussein in Iraq, or Hafez al-Assad and his son Bashar in Syria.

RELIGIOUS STRONGMEN

The fall of the Shah of Iran in 1979, overthrown by forces loyal to the Ayatollah Khomeini, threatened secular governments with sectarian/theocratic opposition.

DEMOCRATIC POPULISM

Opposition by moderates (mobilized by social media) to oppressive regimes began in Tunisia in 2010 (the “Arab

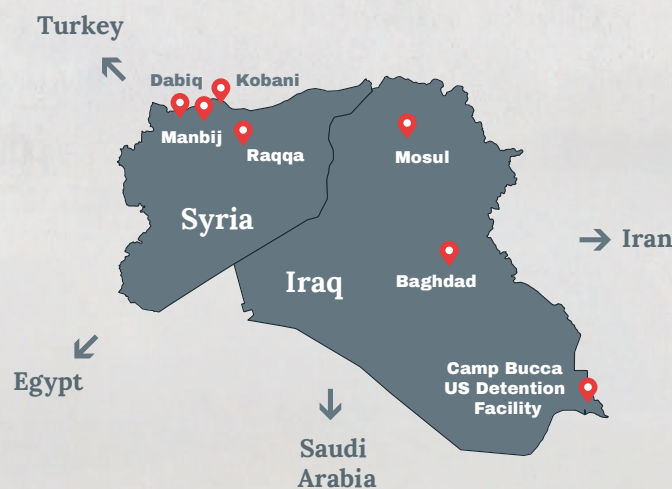
Spring”) and spread to Libya, Yemen, Egypt, Syria, and elsewhere, formed by people who agree with Martin Luther King that the moral arc of the universe bends toward freedom.

TRIBALISM

Conflict at the most local level, smaller groups unified by ethnicity, kinship, language, custom, territory, or religious subdivisions, led by chieftains or warlords contending with each other because, for one hypothetical example, the leader of one village sent the leader of another a lousy wedding gift three hundred years ago.

CLIMATE CHANGE

A drought from 2006 to 2010 desertified 60% of Syria’s arable land and drove 1.3 million internally displaced people from rural areas into the cities looking for work, food, and shelter, creating conditions ripe for political upheaval; climate-driven pressures are likely to worsen in Africa and the Sahel, in the Middle East, in Central America, and in territories rendered unlivable by rising temperatures. —P.N.





Read Milewski's journal of all seven summits at s.uconn.edu/seven.

The Magnificent Seven

Mark Milewski '96 MA shared this picture of himself on Geneva Spur on his way to the peak of Mt. Everest on May 18, 2016. Everest was number five in Milewski's quest to climb the Seven Summits, the highest mountain on each continent, which he completed last year. The lack of oxygen made Everest the most dangerous of the climbs, says Milewski. "Each mountain has its charm and story," he says. He climbed the first of the seven, Mt. Elbrus, in July of 2007. "I felt the weight of history climbing Elbrus in Russia, the country where my father lived involuntarily during World War II and miraculously survived."

CLASS NOTES



➔ **P. Sydney Herbert '48 (CLAS)** lives in Portland, where she is VP of Oregon's Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs and says she would very much like to hear from classmates. She passed along the news that **Marcia Mernstein '49 (CLAS)** is living in Houston, Texas.



➔ Congratulations to **Daniel Leone '53 (PHR)**, who was named a fellow of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association at its awards banquet in September. ➔ Poet and writer **Lois Greene Stone '55 (ED)** was nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Prize in writing, recognizing the best poetry, short fiction, and essays published by small presses during the year.



➔ Kudos to **Robert Bagg '61 MA, '65 Ph.D.**, professor emeritus of English at the University of Massachusetts, who published a translation from ancient Greek, "Four by Euripides: Medea, Bakkhai, Hippolytos & Cyclops." He has published several volumes of poetry and written studies of Sappho and Catullus. ➔ **Frank Boskello '64 (PHR)** of The Villages, Florida, was featured in *The Villages Magazine* for his work on medication safety for older adults. ➔ Local author **Arno B. Zimmer '68 (CLAS)**, of Fairfield, Connecticut, published his

fifth novel, "The Severed Finger: A Thimble Islands Mystery." ➔ **Kevin Kane '68 JD** retired in November after 13 years as Connecticut's chief state's attorney. He worked as a legal aid lawyer before becoming a prosecutor in 1972. ➔ **Mark Rich '68 (CLAS), '74 MS** was elected president of the 400-member Richmond, Virginia, chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. He's a retired U.S. Army colonel and lives with his wife, **Kathleen Rich '70 MA**, in Chester, Virginia. ➔ Congratulations to **Joseph Paul Bouffard '68 (PHR)** and **Barbara Ann Randall Bouffard '69 (NUR)**, of St. Albans, Vermont, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July.



➔ Master gardener **Larry Cipolla '70 (CLAS)** published "Hydroponic Gardening the Very Easy Way." ➔ The Connecticut Pharmacists Association named **John Parisi '71 (PHR), Mary Ann Petrucci '71 (PHR), Richard Carbray Jr. '75 (PHR), Margherita Giuliano '75 (PHR), Peter Tyczkowski '78 (PHR), '85 MBA, and Cynthia Huge '75 (PHR)** as fellows. ➔ **Jeffrey Judson '71 (PHR)** reports that he is playing golf and going to the beach now that he is retired and living in a 55-plus golf community in Waretown on the Jersey shore. He's married and has two daughters and four grandchildren. He retired after a long career as director of pharmacy at two New Jersey hospitals. An interesting side note: He has been collecting Howdy Doody memorabilia for 50 years. ➔ Speaking of golf, **James J. Harrison '71 (CLAS)**

published his first book, "Golf Ball Cover Story: What Every Golfer Should Know," about the science and technology of golf balls, from aerodynamics to dimple patterns. ➔ And **Ed Byman '73 (CLAS)**, who was captain of the golf team while in Storrs, is now CEO of Global Value Commerce (GVC) in Raleigh, North Carolina, an e-commerce platform for pre-owned and new golf gear. ➔ Loving life in the woods: **Timothy E. Gillane '73 (CLAS)** and his wife, Pat, retired from their careers as lawyers in New York and now live in the woods of Pomfret, Connecticut, where he was recently elected to the board of trustees of the town's public library. ➔ More alumni authors: **Nancy Palker '73 (NUR)** published "Magic and Tragic Rosebud," about her experience working at the Rosebud Public Health Service Indian Hospital in South Dakota. ➔ And **Laurence H. Freiheit '74 JD** published his second book, "Major General Joseph King Fenno Mansfield: A Soldier from Beginning to End." ➔ In other news, **Robert Farfaglia '76 (CAHNR)** retired in October as environmental health supervisor after 30 years with the Greenwich Department of Health. ➔ **Vicki A. (Wollkind) Tesoro '77 (CLAS)** was reelected as first selectman of Trumbull, Connecticut, winning approximately 62% of the vote in one of the largest margins of victory in the modern history of the town. ➔ **Jacqueline M. Murphy '78 (PHR)** was honored with the Daniel C. Leone Pharmacist of the Year Award, given by the Connecticut Pharmacists Association, at a recent awards banquet. ➔ This just in: **Nadine D. McBride '78 MBA** was appointed chief financial officer of *The Day* newspaper in New London, Connecticut, where she directs the paper's



KUDOS

Arizona Diamondbacks shortstop and co-captain of superstar-packed 2010–11 UConn baseball team **Nick Ahmed** earned the 2019 Gold Glove award, which is presented annually to the best fielder at each position in each of the National and American leagues. He won the honor last season too.

distribution, circulation, and information technology divisions. Previously, she was president and publisher of *The Bulletin* newspaper in Norwich, Connecticut.



➔ **Benita Rose '80 (SFA)** became an applied piano instructor at Yavapai College and an organist-pianist at American Lutheran Church in Prescott, Arizona. She is an active solo piano recitalist and performs in a duo with her saxophonist husband, **Tony Gibbs '03 MM**. ➔ In other career news, **Kenneth F. Martino, Jr. '80 (BUS), '82 MBA** was promoted to president of MedRisk. ➔ Also, **Paula B. Woodhouse '82 (BUS)** joined the Savings Bank of Danbury as vice president commercial lender. ➔ **Suzanne Smith '82 (CLAS)** writes that she

LIFE LESSONS

CANDY FOR BREAKFAST

Nancy Pelosi famously eats dark chocolate ice cream for breakfast. **Courtney Gaine '00 (CAHNR), '05 Ph.D.** has no quibble with that; she sometimes breaks her fast with a candy bar. "It's always been okay to enjoy sugar in moderation," she says.

She should know. The former co-captain of the UConn women's basketball team got her degree in dietetics and went on to do postdoctoral work at UConn in nutrition, biochemistry, and exercise. She's now president and CEO of The Sugar Association, which describes itself as "the scientific voice of the sugar industry."

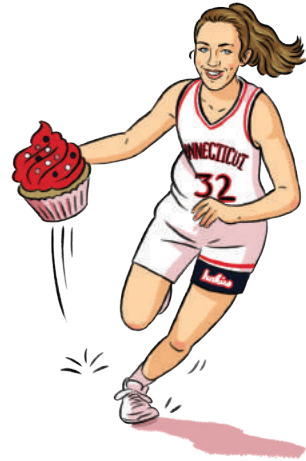
Speaking anecdotally not scientifically, Gaine finds when she eats candy early in the day, she doesn't crave it later. "I'm not a psychologist, but you say someone can't have something and you want it more . . . It takes away that restriction. If you have a normal relationship with it, consuming things moderately is easier."

People confuse what's just soda research and what's added sugar research. Since the turn of the cen-

tury, Gaine says, obesity rates have continued to rise while added sugar consumption has actually gone down by 15%. Her role is to keep the record straight and make sure people understand the role of sugar in a healthy diet, such as adding it to whole grains or yogurt to sweeten the pot. But it really is all about moderation, she says.

Gaine partly credits her nutritional analysis path to her work on protein research in endurance athletes in Nancy Rodriguez's lab. "She had such a collaborative atmosphere in the lab. She gave us that creative intellectual freedom to investigate questions we were interested in. That doesn't always happen. The world of protein and exercise research is a really male-dominated field, and another valuable thing she taught me is how you can be a female in a male-dominated industry."

Gaine knows there are people who have a certain attitude about sugar in their heads, but she will keep on challenging what she considers incorrect analysis and assures me she will keep on enjoying her sugar.



That persistence was honed in the day to day with coaches Geno Auriemma and Chris Dailey.

"Every day you come and he is seeking perfection," she says. "He'll admit we'll never get there, but that's the goal of every day. I don't know if I could have done it for more than four years. I don't know how he's been doing it for all these years — every day is filled with disappointment because perfect's impossible. But that's your goal every day. Don't cut corners, don't settle, every single day. That mindset training has been unbelievable." —ERIC BUTTERMAN

has retired from the city and county of Broomfield, Colorado, after 25 years as human resources director. She, her husband, Steve Costello, and their blue heeler rescue dog, Roxie, packed it up and moved to Oregon, where they will focus on growing grapes, gardening, volunteering, and travel.

➔ **R. Robert Berube '82 (CLAS)**, a practicing oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Augusta, Maine, for more than 25 years, founded 5th Port, a cloud-based, informed consent company that helps doctors and patients advance their understanding of surgical procedures.

➔ Another founder, **Frances J. Trelease '83 (CLAS)**, '96 MBA, started Boomr Den, an organization to help midlife adults navigate new and ongoing careers (see our "Future of Everything" story in Spring '18 for more on Trelease). ➔ **Brian P. Reilly '85 (BUS)** was appointed to the board of directors of Chimera Investment Corp., Inc. ➔ Also, **George D. Morton III '85 (BUS)** was named regional human resources director for Pelican Products, Inc., in South Deerfield, Massachusetts.

➔ Worried that age was catching up with him, **Corey A. Bronstein '85 (CLAS)** decided it was time to start ticking off items on his bucket list. So, on October 7, he and a friend ran the coveted Rim to

Rim challenge across the Grand Canyon. They started at 4 a.m. and, nearly 13 hours later, finished on the south rim just before dark. In all, he said, he "descended 12,000 feet, climbed 12,000 feet, and ran 44.5 miles, which made for a very tired UConn alumnus with a huge smile!" ➔ And here are a few more accomplishments for the class of '85. **Laurie Anne Pearlman '85 MA, '87 Ph.D.**, a clinical psychologist and independent trauma consultant, was awarded the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from Division 56, the Trauma Division of the American Psychological Association.

➔ **Angelo DeFazio**

'85 (PHR) was named a fellow of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association at its annual awards banquet in September. ➔ And **David B. Oestreicher '85 (CLAS)**, '88 MBA, a chemistry and physical science teacher and Civil Air Patrol squadron commander at Bridgeport Military Academy, received his doctorate in educational leadership from Southern Connecticut State University. ➔ **Andrew M. Klos '87 (CLAS)** was promoted to senior contract officer in the business services department in the city of Tucson, Arizona. This is a second career in public procurement for Klos, who worked for more than 25 years as an analytical chemist

in the environmental field. ➔ **John E. Delaney '87 (CLAS)**, '96 MBA has been appointed to vice president of sales at Boral Building Products. ➔ Congratulations to **Miriamne Ara Krummel '88 (CLAS)**, who co-edited "Jews in Medieval England: Teaching Representations of the Other" with Tison Pugh. The book just won the 2019 Teaching Literature Book Award, an international, juried prize for the best book on teaching literature at the post-secondary level. ➔ Another author, **Ramani Durvasula, Ph.D., '88 (CLAS)**, reports that her third book, "Don't You Know Who I Am: How to Stay Sane in an Era of Narcissism, Entitlement, and Incivility," is being released.



➔ **Paul Valenti '90 (CLAS)**, director of Pinellas County's Office of Human Rights in Florida, was reelected to the board of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, representing state and local civil and human rights agencies across 19 southern states.

➔ Meanwhile, **Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas '90 JD** was appointed probate court administrator in Connecticut. ➔ **Karen DeMeola '91 (CLAS)**, '96 JD, assistant dean for finance, administration, and enrollment at the UConn School of Law, was keynote speaker at the Equity Symposium at Goodwin College in East Hartford in October. ➔ Forging new paths in sports law, attorney **Josef Volman '91 JD** was named a sports trailblazer by *The National Law Journal* for his work in sports law. Volman has represented Sportvision and led the purchase and sale of six

minor league baseball teams. ➔ Congratulations to **Susan (Lindsay) Irvine '93 (ED)**, '94 MA, an enrichment specialist at Southeast Elementary School, who was named Mansfield, Connecticut's 2020 Teacher of the Year. ➔ And kudos to **Kate Robinson '93 (SFA)**, who became a principal at Gallo & Robinson Government Relations, a Hartford-based lobbying firm, in 2019. She lives in West Hartford, Connecticut, with her husband **Rob Vietzke '93 (CLAS)** and two sons, Alex and Theo. ➔ **Ronald O. Rosenberg '93 MBA** was appointed group technical innovation director of Azelis, leading the group's strategy and direction for innovation and the Azelis lab community. ➔ **Sabrina Trocchi '94 (CLAS)**, '18 Ph.D. was appointed president and CEO of Wheeler Clinic, a nonprofit that provides behavioral health, addiction, and primary care services across Connecticut. ➔ In other sports news, **Rob Carolla '94 (CLAS)** was named director of communications and media relations for the Dallas Renegades of the XFL. The professional football league will begin play in eight cities around the country, including Dallas, in February 2020. ➔ **Heather (Heaton) Anderson '95 (CLAS)** was promoted to the rank of deputy fire marshal for the Danbury (Connecticut) Fire Department in November and recently attained all her state certifications. ➔ **Marianne (Linger) Roth '95 MA** was selected by Government Executive Media Group as an inaugural recipient of the Theodore Roosevelt Government Leadership Awards. Roth is chief risk officer for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. ➔ **Michael McPherson '95 (BUS)** joined the law firm Halloran Sage as a partner in the Hartford office. ➔ And **Kevin E. Burke '95 MBA**,

a senior vice president and market executive for Wells Fargo commercial banking, has been named to the Business Advisory Council for the School of Business at Southern Connecticut State University. ➔ **Jamelle Elliott '96 (BUS)**, '97 MA spoke at the UConn Sports Analytics Symposium in October at UConn Storrs. ➔ **Donna Sodipo '96 MA** was appointed Chief Program Officer of the YWCA Hartford Region. She formerly served as senior vice president of education at Connecticut State University. ➔ **Steve Nelson '96 Ph.D.**, a professor of educational leadership at Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, published a book, "John G. Kemeny and Dartmouth College: The Man, the Times, and the College Presidency."

➔ Congrats to **Peter Knight '96 JD**, who was honored in September by Lawyers for Children America for providing pro bono legal services to Connecticut children who are victims of abuse and neglect. ➔ Talk

about a tall order! **Mark Milewski '96 MA** summited Indonesia's 16,024-foot Mount Carstensz Pyramid in August, thereby completing his quest to summit the highest mountain on each of the seven continents, including Mount Everest in 2016. Congratulations! ➔ Long-time volunteer **Gary F. Borla '97 MPH** was recognized in August for 30 years of volunteer service for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He got started at Tanglewood, the symphony's summer home, by helping to develop the first computerized database for the thousands of symphony volunteers. ➔ **Lee Gold '97 JD**, a lawyer with Butler, Norris & Gold in Hartford, was elected to a first term on the West Hartford town council in November. ➔ Meanwhile, there were several promotions and job changes for the class of '98. **Elizabeth M. Smith '98 MBA**, '98 JD joined FordHarrison LLP as counsel. ➔ **Scott E. Szymanski '98 MBA** was named president of Theranica USA,



➔ **Stephen Balkaran '94 (CLAS)**, '96 MA and **Wanda Weeks '95 (BUS)** shared this picture from Standing Rock Reservation in Fort Yates, North Dakota, where they delivered school supplies and worked with the students.

of Montclair, New Jersey. ➔ And **Raul Villar, Jr. '98 MBA** was appointed chief executive officer of Paycor, a human capital management company. ➔ In addition, **Jon M. Adinolfi '99 (BUS)**, a hardware and home improvement veteran who served as president of U.S. retail for Stanley Black & Decker, Inc., was named Hillman U.S. divisional president. ➔ And **Gina Polley Cavallo '99 (CLAS), '05 MA** was appointed principal of the Lincoln Elementary School in the Consolidated School District of New Britain, Connecticut. ➔ **Chris Hemingway '99 (CLAS)**, a distant cousin of Ernest Hemingway, reports that he is circulation librarian at the Hagaman Memorial Library in East Haven, Connecticut, where he has worked for 25 years. He recently published "The Day The Bull Lived: And Other Poems." He and his wife, Sabrina, have a greenhouse where they grow fruits and vegetables year-round and enjoy traveling, antiques, and art.



➔ Wedding news! **Lucia Pang, MBA '00** married Michael Murren on Sept. 22 at Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle, New York. Guests included **Ashish Arora '00 MBA**, Tanvi Arora, Neel Arora, Shikha Arora, **Eugenia Aeschlimann '93 (CLAS), '00 MBA**,

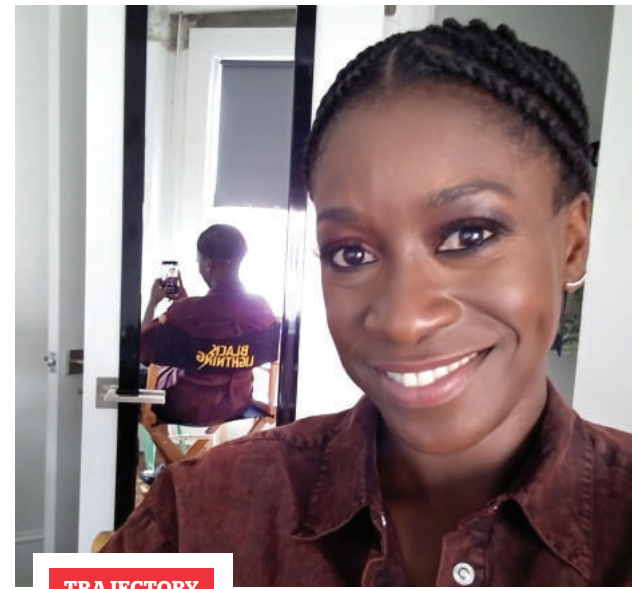
Jeffrey Aeschlimann '93 (PHR), Valerie Riesbeck (Bashura) '97 (CLAS), '00 MBA, Kaye Johnson '81 (CLAS), '99 MBA, and Scott Johnson '72 (CLAS). ➔ Meanwhile, **Colin Leonard '01 JD**, a management-side labor and employment law attorney, was named deputy managing member of the Syracuse office of Bond Schoenack & King. ➔ And **Desi Nesmith '01 (ED), '02 MA, '09 6th Year** was appointed one of two deputy commissioners for the Connecticut Department of Education, overseeing education and innovation. ➔ **Micah E. Brandt '02 (CLAS)** completed a documentary feature film about Kristallnacht and twenty-first century antisemitic attacks in a small German town while following a Connecticut Holocaust survivor and other Americans back to their hometown of Wetter in 2008. The film, a journey 10 years in the making, is about reconciliation, remembrance, and redemption and is showcasing in about 30 cities. ➔ Congratulations to **Diana L. Robins '02 Ph.D.**, who was named director of the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute at Drexel University in Philadelphia, where she is a professor and research program leader. A clinical neuropsychologist, she will continue her groundbreaking work on early screening in community settings, early diagnosis, and intensive evidence-based early intervention for autistic children. ➔ **Jennifer S. Collier '02 MBA**, a registered nurse with business management expertise, was named senior VP of Stop-Loss & Health at Sun Life in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Also, **Annik Carrier '02 (PHR), '04 Pharm.D** was named a fellow of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association at its 143rd Awards Banquet

and Installation Ceremony in September. ➔ In academic news, **Max Zubatsky '03 (CLAS)** received tenure and promotion in the School of Medicine at Saint Louis University. He is an associate professor and program director of the Medical Family Therapy Program. ➔ Also, **Bryan Blair '03 (CLAS)** earned a doctorate in applied behavior analysis from Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts, and is currently a tenure-track assistant professor at Long Island University in Brooklyn. ➔ Congratulations to **Sarah M. Thompson '04 (PHR), '06 Pharm.D.**, who was recently promoted to vice president of clinical operations and pharmacy at Coastal Medical in Providence, Rhode Island. Sarah also is a member of the School of Pharmacy's Advisory Board. ➔ And to **MaryAnn N. Haverstock '04 MBA**, who joined The Gunnery faculty as director of its Innovation, Design, Engineering, and Applied Scholarship (IDEAS) Lab.



➔ In baby news, **Phillip Yu '05 MS** reports that he and his wife, Kristina, are the proud parents of Austin James Yu, who arrived four days early in August at 6 pounds, 12 ounces and with a full head of hair. Auspiciously, his wife, during early labor at home, had eaten a fortune cookie with a fortune that read, "Big things are coming in the future. It's only a matter of time." In professional news, he reports that he earned the 3M Lean Six Sigma Green

Belt Excellence Award and the ESPRIT Team Award in 2018 while responsible for VHB tapes and primers as senior product engineer in the industrial adhesives and tapes division at 3M. ➔ **Jason Weida '05 JD** and **Kyley Weida**, of Hingham, Massachusetts, happily announce the birth of their fourth child and third daughter, Hollis Grey, in November. Hollis joins siblings Bowen, Alden, and Sailor. ➔ Also, **Michael Frakes '05 MS** and **Malisa Iannino Frakes** welcomed a son, Gabriele Ray, in July in Boston. He joins brother Charlie at their home in Mansfield, Massachusetts. Michael is chief quality officer and director of clinical care for Boston MedFlight. Malisa is a clinical nurse in the newborn intensive care unit at the UMass Medical Center. ➔ **David V. Mariano '06 (CLAS), '19 MBA** was promoted to assistant vice president, credit risk analyst in the consumer restructure and recovery department at Webster Bank. ➔ **Erin Sales '06 (BUS), '08 MA**, a former member of the women's cross country and track and field teams, has joined Baker & Hostetler as an associate in the labor and employment practice group in Orlando, Florida. She previously served as a law clerk for a federal magistrate judge and was an assistant U.S. attorney. ➔ **Matthew Rosen '07 (CLAS), '10 MA** married Danielle Rosadini at Preston Ridge Vineyard in Preston, Connecticut, on July 27. Fellow Huskies **Ashley Hultgren Dennis '08 CCS, Adam Kopelman '07 (CLAS), Julian Manaloto '07 ED, and Maximilian Ulanoff '08 (CLAS)** were all part of the wedding party. Other alumni in attendance included **Sean Helmes '08 (CLAS), Eric Simpson '05 (CLAS), Seth Blumenthal '05 (BUS and ENG),**



TRAJECTORY

ON THE CW

You might think moving from Los Angeles to Atlanta would be bad news for an aspiring actress. **Adetinpo Thomas '15 MA** would tell you otherwise.

"The industry is really booming in Atlanta because studios get tax credits," says Thomas. "A lot of the Marvel things are shot here. 'Walking Dead' is here. 'Watchmen' is here. The terrain is really interesting in Georgia. You have everything from mountains to rural communities to cities. Things are written and pitched and cast out in L.A., and then they come in and do local casting for day players here."

Thomas auditioned multiple times to be a day player before booking a recurring role on the hit CW network show "Black Lightning," which tells the story of the Pierces, a black family

headed by high school principal Jefferson Pierce (Cress Williams). Some family members have superpowers. Thomas plays Jamillah Olsen, crusading reporter and love interest of Jefferson's daughter Anissa (Nafessa Williams). Less is made of Anissa's gender preference than of how, if you date a person with superpowers and say something that makes them angry, they might throw a bus at you.

"Representation matters," Thomas says. "On 'Black Lightning,' you see this family that is fighting for justice together, in a way that is cathartic. Obviously, in this current climate, there are a lot of people in America who aren't getting justice. Anissa is a black female superhero who's a lesbian. In this show, people are just people, and making a character's entire personality revolve around their sexuality is not something we do. We don't do it to straight people, so why would we do it to people who identify on the LGBTQ spectrum? Anissa just so happens to date women, but that's not the only thing

that's interesting about her. In a way, that representation is groundbreaking."

The characters on "Black Lightning" draw strength not just from superpowers but from family. In a touching scene at the end of season two, Jefferson Pierce, who can shoot lightning bolts from his fingertips, breaks down and cries because he's so happy to know his family is safe. Superheroes who cry are rare.

Thomas's parents immigrated to Los Angeles from Nigeria and moved to Atlanta when Thomas was in high school. She credits her family with keeping her from that "struggling actor eating tuna out of a can" predicament. "If I said, 'Hey Mom, can I have some dinner?' she's going to say, 'Hey, you could move back.'"

"Having my family supportive and on board with everything I'm doing has been huge. Acting can be so variable, and this is probably the first time in my life where I am a full-time actor, and that's what it says on my taxes. That's my source of income." —PETER NELSON

BEST BUDS

Andy Young '80 (CLAS) wrote to us this summer to pay tribute to his friend **Jeff Huot '81 (BUS)**, who died in April. "Jeff Huot was the loyal, patient, true friend everyone wishes they had," says Young. The two former RAs went on a 4,000-mile road trip in July of 1982 that included stops in Madison, Wisconsin, and Chicago's Wrigley Field: Huot is on the right in each photo with their other UConn buddy, **Stan Scraba '80 (CAHNR)**. For an account of their epic voyage, including near-death experiences during Young's limited time at the wheel, see s.uconn.edu/huot.



Photo (top) courtesy of Adetinpo Thomas '15 MA; photos (bottom) courtesy of Andy Young '80 (CLAS)



MAKING GOOD

RECYCLE, REUSE, RE-EVERYTHING

Josh Cohen '05 (BUS) wants to make landfills obsolete. He's the founder and CEO of The Junkluggers, a junk-removal company that donates and recycles 80% of what it hauls away. Since Cohen, 37, started lugging junk in college, his business has not only grown exponentially from a one-man operation to 200 employees with 80 trucks and multiple franchises, but also has kept over 50 million pounds of unwanted items out of landfills. That's still not enough for Cohen. His goal is to recycle every last possible item his company picks up by 2025 — and to send absolutely nothing to a landfill.

What brought you to UConn? My dad basically said, "You are going to UConn." It was an in-state school, and he had gone there. But I didn't go just because I had to. I was excited to go, especially to get into the business school. I studied real estate and urban economics. I got obsessed with real estate because I was dating a fellow UConn student and her dad had made it big in real estate. That's what I thought I'd do.

How did you get the idea for The Junkluggers? I did a study abroad in Australia my junior year. An Australian student said he had made \$100 moving his neighbor's fridge. I thought I could do that. I went home the summer of 2004 and printed some flyers on my parents' computer and went door to door with them. I was picking stuff up with my mom's Dodge Durango SUV.

Did you include recycling from the start? Yes. I was always the guy separating the trash at the house and driving my parents crazy. I loved being outside and was a big hiker. My parents really never let me watch TV. I just grew up to appreciate the environment.

Who was your first customer that summer? I worked with an elderly woman who had just lost her husband. She was selling her house. So we cleared boxes and boxes of her memories: kids' toys, their drawings, schoolbooks, and the kitchen table that her family had sat around for 50 years. I realized this is not junk. These are real memories. It solidified for me not to just throw this stuff away but to find homes for it.

How did Junkluggers become a company? When I graduated I told my dad I wanted to pursue Junkluggers, and he looked at me like I was cross-eyed. So I got a job with a real estate developer

for six months and continued to do Junkluggers on the side, hauling loads before work and going back in the evening for more. I would sneak calls while I was in the bathroom. I was making good money in real estate, but it wasn't my passion. I decided to do Junkluggers full time. I was young and didn't have any expenses, which made this possible.

When you started this were there other companies like yours? No. I had to explain it all the time. I miss that problem. Now there's a lot of greenwashing, companies that say they recycle but don't.

Has it become easier or harder to recycle "junk" since you started 15 years ago? Harder. A lot of donation centers began to get picky. So a few years ago we opened our own recycling and repurposing center in Stamford called Remix Market. There we sort, clean, and refinish items we've hauled away, donate or sell them, and give part of the proceeds to local charities. We are also now paying the same rate to recycle as to dump trash since China now accepts only a limited amount of recyclable plastics from the U.S. I don't feel totally optimistic about the environment, but I'm just going to have my company do its part.

What is the hardest thing to recycle? Cheap furniture, which is a lot of what

we take. You can't burn it or recycle it because they treat it with toxic chemicals on the outside.

How has your work changed your thinking about belongings? I've become more of a minimalist. In our resell store we get all kinds of stuff. At first it was tempting to say I'll take this or that, but the house began to fill up. My kids don't need any more hockey sticks.

But do you have a treasure? We have a giant gumball machine that holds 10,000 gumballs that we hauled out of a candy store that was closing.

What are the central challenges to reaching 0% going to landfills? Finding places to bring things. For example, there is only one mattress recycler in Connecticut. We now store all our mattresses in a container and haul them there once a month.

If you were the king of the world, what is the one thing you'd make everyone stop buying? Any furniture you assemble yourself.

What's your advice for anyone who wants to start a mission-driven business? Choose something that has real meaning for you, not B.S. That's driven me. I think the world needs more of that. —AMY SUTHERLAND

Robert Yomtov '08 (BUS and ENG), and Roey Weiser '07 (CAHNR). ➔ **Matt Fleury '07 EMBA**, president and CEO of the Connecticut Center for Science and Exploration, was reappointed by Connecticut governor Ned Lamont to a second term as chairman of the Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education. ➔ More Husky weddings: **Rob Puff '08 (BUS and CLAS)** married **Lauren DiBari '10 MPS** on August 10 on Long Beach Island, New Jersey. A UConn Husky flag was flown proudly

on the dock mast at the reception. ➔ And **Adam Morrone '08 (CLAS)** and **Rachel Bolinsky '12 (CLAS)** tied the knot on October 27 in Brookfield, Connecticut. While at UConn, Adam was a member of Alpha Beta Epsilon and Rachel belonged to Psi Chi. They fell in love after meeting at an obstacle course race in 2016. They have shared many fond UConn stories with one another and plan to continue to do so into the future. ➔ Also, **Austin Keneshea '09 (CLAS)** and **Kyla**

Hickey '10 (CLAS) were married September 29, 2018, in Ojai, California, with several UConn alumni in attendance. They met at UCTV in 2008 and moved to California together at the end of 2011. Austin is a television producer and the co-founder of a golf organization in Los Angeles called Tiny Putters Golf. Kyla is an executive assistant in sports and entertainment, a registered yoga teacher, and is working on a creative coaching business. They live in Santa Monica, California, with their newly

adopted dog, Bogey. ➔ And more career moves: **Felicia Hunt '09 JD** joined the Hassett & George law firm in Simsbury, Connecticut. Hunt is a divorce and family lawyer with trial experience, including international child custody and kidnapping cases. ➔ Also, **Kristina Wallace '09 (CLAS), '12 MA, '17 6th Year** was appointed assistant principal of Avon Middle School in Avon, Connecticut. She most recently served as associate principal at Naugatuck High School.



➔ **Matthew Willett '10 (CLAS)** and **Jennifer (Falcigno) Willett '09**

(CAHNR), '12 DPT have lots of good news to report. They tied the knot in June 2018 with their favorite fellow Huskies by their side. Then, in August 2019, they welcomed a baby girl — and future Husky — to the family, Aria Michele. Class of '41, here she comes! ➔ Lots of career news to report. **Liz Connelly '10 (CLAS)** joined Capitol Consulting LLC as a government relations associate/lobbyist. Capitol Consulting was established in 2010 by **Michael Dugan '86 (CLAS)**. ➔ **Rebecca**



➔ Huskies also were well represented at the wedding of **Robert Quinn '12 (CLAS)** and **Caroline Rogi '12 (CLAS), '17 MD** on Sept. 7. Immediately after this photo was taken, they all joined in a UConn cheer.

M. Murphy '10 JD was promoted to partner at Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O'Gara LLC. She works in the firm's Johnston, Rhode Island, office. ➔ Also, **Shane Goodrich '10 (CLAS), '13 JD**, an associate at Morgan, Brown & Joy in Boston, was rated by Massachusetts Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star," a designation reserved for candidates who are age 40 or younger or have been in practice for 10 years or less. ➔ **Michael Truman Cavanaugh '10 MA** is the production stage manager for the San Jose Stage Company, which kicked off its 37th season with the "Rocky Horror Picture Show." Cavanaugh, who earned a master of puppet arts at UConn, is originally from Boise, Idaho, and now lives in San Jose, California. ➔ Speaking of little Huskies, **Justin Raymond '11 (CLAS)** and **Michelle Raymond '12 (CLAS)** recently had a baby boy, Anderson John Raymond. ➔ Congratulations to **R.J. Brogis II '12 (CLAS)**,

who completed his medical training and residency in osteopathic medicine at A.T. Still University in Kirksville, Missouri, and the University of Nebraska as chief resident. He married Dr. Lauren Weber in March 2019, and they currently reside in Spokane, Wash. He is a captain in the U.S. Air Force stationed at RE Fairchild AB, assigned to the 92nd medical group, attached to the 36th Helicopter Rescue Squadron. ➔ Kudos to **Ralph J. Riello III '12 (PHR), '14 Pharm.D.**, who was named the 2019 Pharmacists Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacist by the Connecticut Pharmacists Association at its awards banquet and installation ceremony in Hartford in September. ➔ Also, **Aaron D. Rosenberg '12 JD** joined Sheehan Phinney in the firm's business litigation department in Boston, Mass. ➔ Entrepreneurs **Gregory Kirber '13 MBA, JD** and **Erik B. St. Pierre '12 MBA, JD** created PartsTech, an automotive e-commerce platform where

professional technicians and auto-shop owners can order parts online. ➔ In Westport, Connecticut, **Andrew J. Colabella '13 (CLAS)** was reelected to the Representative Town Meeting for a second term. He was recently honored for passing the first single-use plastics ban on the Eastern Seaboard. ➔ In career news, **Kelly Wall '14 JD**, an attorney who practices insurance defense, joined Halloran Sage at the firm's Hartford office. ➔ **Conor Pescatello '14 (ED), '16 MS** became the travel operations coordinator at Education First in Boston, Massachusetts. ➔ In another Husky love story, **Emma Place '14 (ENG), '18 MS** and **Thomas Blackburn '16 (ENG)**, who met in the UConn marching band, married in New Hartford, Connecticut, on June 15. Emma is a senior design engineer at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford and Thomas is a project engineer at Collins Aerospace in Windsor Locks and is pursuing an MBA at UConn Hartford. ➔ For some people, one wedding just isn't enough. **Gina Getonga '14 (BUS)** got married to Tiedah Evans three times this year! Gina, who was born and raised in Kenya and moved to America 12 years ago, first tied the knot in May in Bolton, Connecticut, where her husband is from. In August, they traveled with his family to Kenya to have an African wedding with her Kikuyu tribe, followed by a Catholic wedding. They are now living happily ever after in Vernon, Connecticut, and she works at Cigna as an IT software engineer. ➔ **Krystle Breault '15 (NUR)** married her classmate and "love of her life," **Jamal Daniels '15 (NUR)**, on Valentine's Day 2019. Their blended family resides in Ashford, Connecticut. ➔ **Suzanne Updegrove '15 MA**, a gifted and talented



KUDOS

Congrats to **Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo '88 (CLAS)** on the publication this month of her second middle grade novel, "Galaxy of Sea Stars." Ferruolo is shown with her first, "Ruby in the Sky," which won a slew of awards, including the PEN-New England Susan Bloom Discovery Award, and was named a *Washington Post* 2018 Summer Read. A two-time cancer survivor, Ferruolo lives in Ellington with her husband, Paul, their two children, and "poorly behaved" golden retriever.

teacher in the Branchburg Central Middle School in Branchburg, New Jersey, was named Somerset County Teacher of the Year. Suzanne built the school's enrichment program from the ground up, started the Somerset County Spelling Bee, and coached 12 Odyssey of the Mind teams to regional, state, and world finals competitions. ➔ In recognition of his heroic efforts and inspiring service during Hurricane Florence, **Jordan DeAngelis '15 (PHR), '17 Pharm.D** was honored with the 2019 American Society of Health-System Pharmacist (ASHP) Chief Executive Officer's Award for Courageous



➔ And in another Husky love story, **Kerry (McCole) McDowell '11 (CLAS)** and **Andrew McDowell '11 (CAHNR)**, who met their freshman year at UConn, were happily married on May 26. The wedding included many fellow Huskies, including best man **Jimmy Miller '11 (BUS)**, groomsman **Jake Atkins '11 (BUS)**, and bridesmaids **Megan Duffy '11 (BUS), Michelle (Wahab) Angeloni '10 (CLAS), Rachel Brown '09 (CLAS),** and **Natalie (Judge) Kaufman '10 (CLAS)**. Kerry and Andy say they hope to have some little Huskies soon.



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Submissions may be edited for clarity or length.

TOM'S TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. B, 2. C, 3. B, 4. D.

Service. As the hurricane approached North Carolina, he helped set up a medical shelter in a former state psychiatric facility to treat patients who had been evacuated. They moved patients despite power and air conditioning outages and tornado warnings. DeAngelis is a pharmacy coordinator of procurement and emergency preparedness at Duke University Hospital. ➔ More career honors: **Daniel Crispino '15 6th Year**, principal of John Barry Elementary in Meriden, Connecticut, received the 2019 Terrel H. Bell Award for outstanding school leadership. ➔ **Gerallynn McGee '15 JD** joined the Connecticut Health Foundation as policy director, leading strategies for advocacy and policies designed to help eliminate

racial and ethnic health disparities and improve the health of Connecticut residents. ➔ And **Dan A. Brody '15 JD** has been elected president of the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association, which supports Asian Pacific American attorneys and communities. ➔ Best wishes to **Benjamin W. Burger '16 (ED), '17 MA**, a math teacher at Framingham High School in Framingham, Massachusetts, who got engaged to **Marie C. Hydro '16 (CLAS)**. ➔ **Jessie Rack '16 Ph.D.** was one of 125 U.S. women in STEM fields asked to share their stories with middle school girls as American Association for the Advancement of Science If/Then ambassadors. An ecologist and evolutionary biologist, Rack teaches in a Title I K-12 classroom as program coordinator for the University of Arizona's community and school garden program in Tucson. ➔ Here's some wild news: **Kimberly Grendzinski '16 (CAHNR)**, a keeper at the Prospect Park Zoo, studied desert and marine landscapes using ecological and social field methods last summer in Baja as a graduate student at Miami University. She lives in Brooklyn, New York. ➔ **Margaret Moscatti '16 JD** was named a deputy assistant state's attorney in Connecticut. She was previously a legal research clerk for the state's judicial branch and a special deputy assistant state's attorney. She began her new post in the Stamford-Norwalk judicial district in August. ➔ **Nico Piscopo '17 JD** joined Halloran Sage's litigation

and insurance practice in Hartford. ➔ **Harold Bentley III '17 MS** is now director of championships for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. ➔ **Chelsea R. Sousa '18 JD** joined Murtha Cullina LLP as an associate in the litigation department, representing clients in the areas of collections, foreclosures, evictions, and commercial and landlord-tenant matters. ➔ **Baoluo Xie '18 MS** is international coordinator at Guangdong Electronic Sport Association in China. He also serves as the international coordinator of Asia Pacific Forum on Youth Leadership Innovation and Entrepreneurship for UNDP China. ➔ In sports-related news, **Andrew Girard '19 MS** is stadium operations manager for the Hartford Yard Goats in Hartford, Conn. ➔ And **Ivy Kim '19 (ED)** is a production

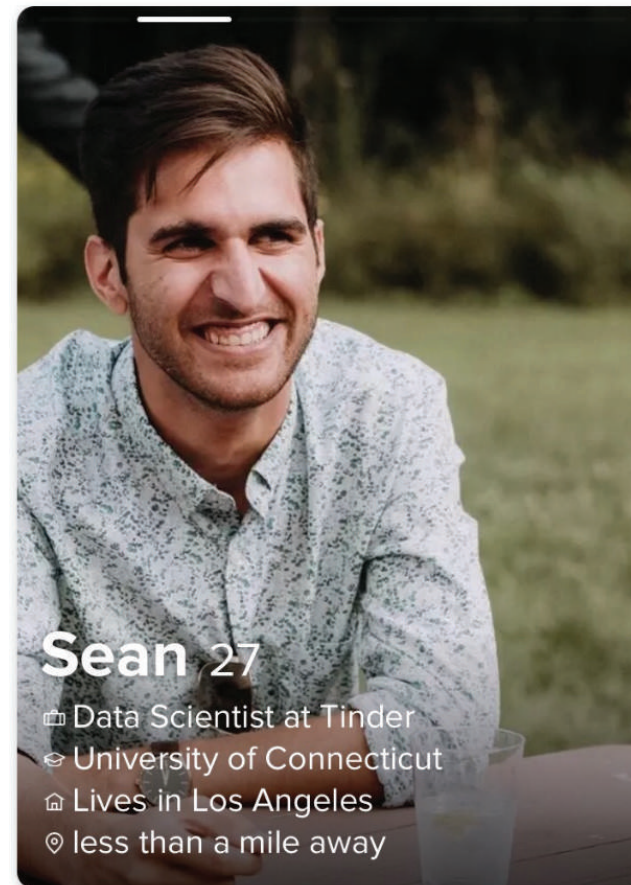
trainee at the National Basketball Association (NBA) in New York, New York. ➔ Safeguarding UConn's campuses, **Justin Pedneault '19 (NUR)**, along with UConn firefighter Benjamin Roper and members of UConn Rescue and the UConn Fire Department, spent countless hours installing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) around UConn's campuses and training students and staff in CPR and first aid. Now UConn has roughly 135 AEDs; there is one within a three-minute walk from anywhere on campus. ➔ **Alexandra Kirby Schneider '19 (ENG)** began work as an assistant geotechnical engineer at WSP in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in July. She is the fourth college-educated woman in her family, a claim only 5% of the world can make.



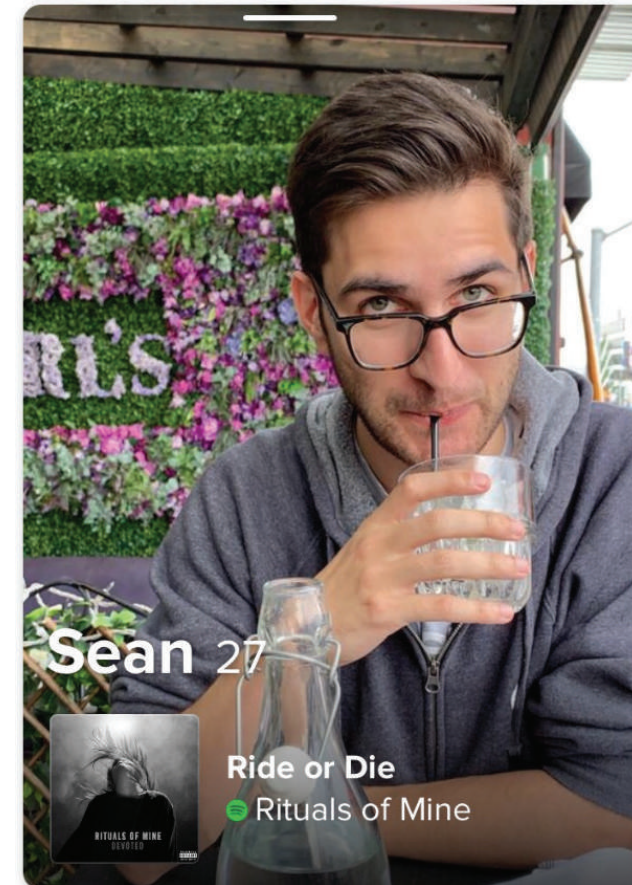
➔ **Krissa Skogen, '08 Ph.D.**, a conservation scientist at Chicago Botanic Garden and an adjunct professor at Northwestern, was part of a 100-women-in-STEMM (science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine) voyage to Antarctica last November. The largest such expedition in history, it was the culmination of Homeward Bound, a year-long global leadership program that aims to train 1,000 women in 10 years.

IN MEMORIAM

Please visit s.uconn.edu/febobits2020 to find obituaries for alumni and faculty. And please share news of alumni deaths and obituaries with *UConn Magazine* by sending an email to alumni-news@uconnalumni.com or writing to Alumni News & Notes, UConn Foundation, 2384 Alumni Drive Unit 3053, Storrs, CT 06269.



Sean '27
 Data Scientist at Tinder
 University of Connecticut
 Lives in Los Angeles
 less than a mile away



Sean '27
 Ride or Die
 Rituals of Mine

Courtesy of Sean Reddy '14 (CLAS)

JOB ENVY

Teaching the World to Swipe for Love

How does working for the country's most used dating app change your own Tinder profile? "I have more recent photos now — a lot more recent. I remember showing my profile to someone and she said, 'You look different in every photo!'" laughs Glastonbury native **Sean Reddy '14 (CLAS)**. "They spanned four years, and I had a different haircut in every picture." And his bio section? "It was pretty tame before," he acknowledges, "but now it says, 'I work for Tinder and I'm on here for research' with a winking face." Reddy is a data analyst on the international team, focused on overseas growth. "Right now, there's a big push with the Asia Pacific region and how dating trends are rapidly evolving," Reddy says. For example, in India the longheld practice of arranged marriage is becoming less common, which led to a skyrocketing rise of dating apps in a nation where the concept of "dating" is itself relatively new. His team also works on Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and Vietnam. What insights can Reddy teach about how to craft your own U.S. Tinder profile? "First impressions are important, so you want your best photo first," he suggests. How many photos? "We allow up to nine, but you don't need that many. But have at least three." And though bios can be up to 500 characters, he recommends tweet length. Reddy wasn't always the perfect Tinder match. "I'd always been an old soul, thinking I was going to meet someone in person," he reveals. "Seeing how many people are meeting on apps like these opened up my eyes." He notes his personal favorite example: In conversation with a random stranger while waiting at an airport, he mentioned that he worked for Tinder. The man replied that he met his wife on Tinder. And Reddy's own current status? "It's complicated." —*JESSE RIFKIN '14 (CLAS)*

➔ For much more of our interview with Reddy, go to s.uconn.edu/tinder.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO TOM'S TRIVIA!

Go to s.uconn.edu/spring20trivia or flip to p. 52 to see if you know as much as UConn Trivia King Tom Breen '00 (CLAS).

TOM'S TRIVIA

- 1.** What is the oldest UConn Storrs building to have been built specifically as classroom space?
A: Storrs Hall
B: Gulley Hall
C: Budds Building
D: Holcomb Hall
- 2.** In 1952, UConn issued a new policy that brought an end to a decades-old tradition. What was it?
A: Throwing the senior class president into Mirror Lake
B: Staging a bonfire made from lecture notes and textbooks at the end of final exams
C: Kidnapping the University of Rhode Island mascot
D: Snowball fights between North Campus and South Campus
- 3.** In the first decade of the 20th century, the horse and buggy was still the main means of travel to and from Storrs. There was naturally excitement when Prof. Frederic Putnam became the first automobile owner on campus, with the student newspaper celebrating his "record" journey of 3.5 hours from campus to what city?
A: Coventry
B: Willimantic
C: Hartford
D: New Haven
- 4.** In 1989, the Board of Trustees was told there would be "no academic loss" to closing what building on campus?
A: The Student Union
B: Greer Field House
C: The Planetarium
D: The Dairy Bar



In 1920, a team of horses pulls a sled over snow-covered Willowbrook Road, which was a main campus entrance at the time.