



Conversations

with the OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING

SPRING 2021

welcome

In this issue of *Conversations*, you'll discover stories from two alumnae who planned their legacy at Connecticut College, Diane Bessell '59 and Sherryl Goodman '72. Both of these extraordinary women will make a large impact on the institution they love through careful bequest planning. In Sherryl's case, she understands the importance of giving back and celebrating an impressive milestone reunion. At Connecticut College, we want to hear your story! Each of us has a unique role to play in building a successful, secure future for Connecticut College. I look forward to hearing from you.



With gratitude,

Laura Becker
Director of Gift Planning
Connecticut College
Office of Advancement

A LIFE TRANSFORMED

SHERRYL GOODMAN'S love of learning was ignited and she discovered her life's work during her time at Connecticut College, so it is fitting that her introduction to Conn had a storybook quality to it—a harbinger of the transformative experience to come. As she and her parents drove onto the campus to visit on the first day of May, they encountered a group of students dancing around a Maypole holding gorgeous banners. For Sherryl, that was it. As she says, "I fell in love with the school."



Sherryl Goodman '72

Growing up in southeastern New Hampshire, the daughter of parents who had not had the opportunity to attend college, Sherryl did not enjoy school during her high school years and was uninterested in "doing work for the sake of doing it." All that changed during college. She had intended to major in math, a strength in high school. But when she lacked a necessary course, she considered the lab sciences. Although she did not know much about psychology, a lab science at the time, she took a course and was immediately fascinated by the discipline.

Taught by "masterful teachers" over the next four years, Sherryl found her true calling. Her professors, who were also researchers, brought what she was learning to life and she was able to see her role in what she was studying and how she could contribute to the field. During her time at Conn, she had the opportunity to design her own research studies, work at the child development center on campus, as well as a child mental health clinic off campus and completed a fellowship during the summer where she interviewed children and collected data at the local Head Start Center.

Continued ►

➤ *Continued from front*

Through these experiences, Sherryl was able to envision what she wanted to do professionally and shared that idea of becoming a developmental clinical psychologist with her advisor, John Mackinnon, now Professor Emeritus of Psychology. Professor Mackinnon explained that she needed to get a Ph.D. Sherryl recalls now, with a sense of amusement, that she answered, "What's that?" Professor Mackinnon recognized Sherryl's ability and commitment and guided her through the process of applying to the University of Waterloo where a new clinical psychology program had recently been established—a situation he felt was a perfect fit for Sherryl. She was accepted and finished her Ph.D. after four years at Waterloo and a one-year internship at Duke University. After graduation, Sherryl accepted a position at Emory University in Atlanta where she has been a professor for the past 45 years. She says of Professor Mackinnon, "I owe him my career."

For a while now, Sherryl has had Connecticut College in her estate plans. She shared her plans with the College and learned about a way to help students who, like her, were the first in their family to attend college. In honor of her upcoming 50th Reunion and her seminal experience at

Connecticut College, Sherryl decided to direct her bequest to establish a named endowed scholarship fund with a preference for first-generation students. Reflecting on her own success, Sherryl understands the critical importance of providing opportunities for talented students who may be unfamiliar with the college process or don't have the means to attend, and wants to help ensure that all deserving students have the chance to realize their full potential. Sherryl hopes that her gift will inspire her classmates and others to make gifts during their reunion year.



CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES - AN EASY WAY TO GIVE AND RECEIVE!

Do you want to support Connecticut College in a significant way? Make a gift of \$10,000 or more in cash or appreciated securities, and establish a CGA. *You will receive a fixed annuity rate for yourself or a loved one for life.*

They're easy! Through a very simple process, with an **immediate payment CGA**, you start to receive reliable payments for life right away. There is also a **deferred payment option** - the more years you defer the gift, the higher the annuity rate you will receive. Or, with a **flexible deferred CGA**, you can choose when you want to start receiving the annuity payments. The longer you wait, the higher the rate.

A significant percentage of the payments are tax-free for many years. You will also receive a substantial charitable deduction for your gift.

CONN'S CURRENT ONE-LIFE CGA RATES

Age	Immediate Payment	3 Year Deferred	5 Year Deferred
70	4.7%	5.2%	5.6%
75	5.4%	6.2%	6.7%
80	6.5%	7.4%	7.8%
85	7.6%	8.4%	8.6%

Two-life rates are also available.

“ Last March, when the virus forced us to shut down, nothing was certain. Three months earlier, I had sold my house and was looking for a safe place to put some money. I read that Connecticut had a gift called a Charitable Gift Annuity that guaranteed me a 6% annuity rate for life, and would also support the College. I called to find out more information, and was happy to invest in both the College and my own stability. ” —Lois Larkey '65

A CLEAR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

On September 11, 2020, Connecticut College lost a devoted alumna. During her lifetime, **Diane Bessell '59** was a very loyal, consistent donor to the College. She made her annual fund gift every year and was an active participant in her class. Diane strategically planned the gifts that would come to the College through her estate, and we are now realizing the efforts of that careful planning.

Diane had a vision to establish a fund at Connecticut College that would link the College's international efforts to the Office of Sustainability and the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment. Through bequest gifts, the newly established *Diane Bessell '59 Endowed Fund for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development* was established this year. In a partnership between the Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement and the Toor Cummings Center for International Study and the Liberal Arts, Diane's fund will immediately increase the number of student internships, engage inspiring practitioners from our alumni community and our global partners in Asia, Africa and Latin America and develop robust programming for participants and the campus about international cooperation and sustainable development.

Bessell Fellows will participate in structured workshops focused on ethical approaches to sustainable development in the international arena and preparation for internships abroad. As a cohort, Bessell Fellows will leverage their internship experiences to raise awareness on campus, as well as in our extended local community about the social, environmental and economic causes and impacts of global challenges and holistic sustainable solutions to these challenges.

Many years ago, Diane had in-depth conversations with the College to outline the use of her named fund. She also strategically planned for gifts to arrive in a variety of ways:

1. Diane established **two charitable gift annuities** during her lifetime, with the designation directed to her endowed fund. She enjoyed the stable, secure payments the gift annuities afforded throughout her life. When the annuities terminated, a significant remainder came to the College.
2. Diane named Connecticut College as the beneficiary of two of her **retirement plans**. This is an incredibly easy way to make a bequest gift to a charity. The Office of Gift Planning knew that when these distributions arrived that they would be directed to her fund, as we had many conversations with Diane during her lifetime.
3. Diane named Connecticut College as a **percentage beneficiary of her estate**.

We are incredibly grateful to Diane and her family for her foresight and generosity that will strengthen international programs and sustainability education at Connecticut College.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHARITABLE GIVING IN RECENT CORONAVIRUS LEGISLATION

What is changing for 2021?

- **A charitable deduction for non-itemizers.** In 2021, a \$300 deduction for individuals or \$600 for couples filing jointly is allowed for charitable contributions.
- **CARES Act change:** A contribution from your IRA. Waived in 2020 but reinstated in 2021, if you are aged 70½ or older, you may authorize your IRA administrator to transfer up to \$100,000 per year (cumulatively) to one or more qualifying charities. The amount you transfer will not be added to your taxable income, and it will count towards your mandatory distribution requirement.

What is staying the same in 2021?

- **Higher deduction limit.** The new stimulus act has extended the 100% charitable deduction allowance for gifts of cash through 2021.



Students in Walter Commons



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Office of College Advancement
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New London, CT 06320-4196

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

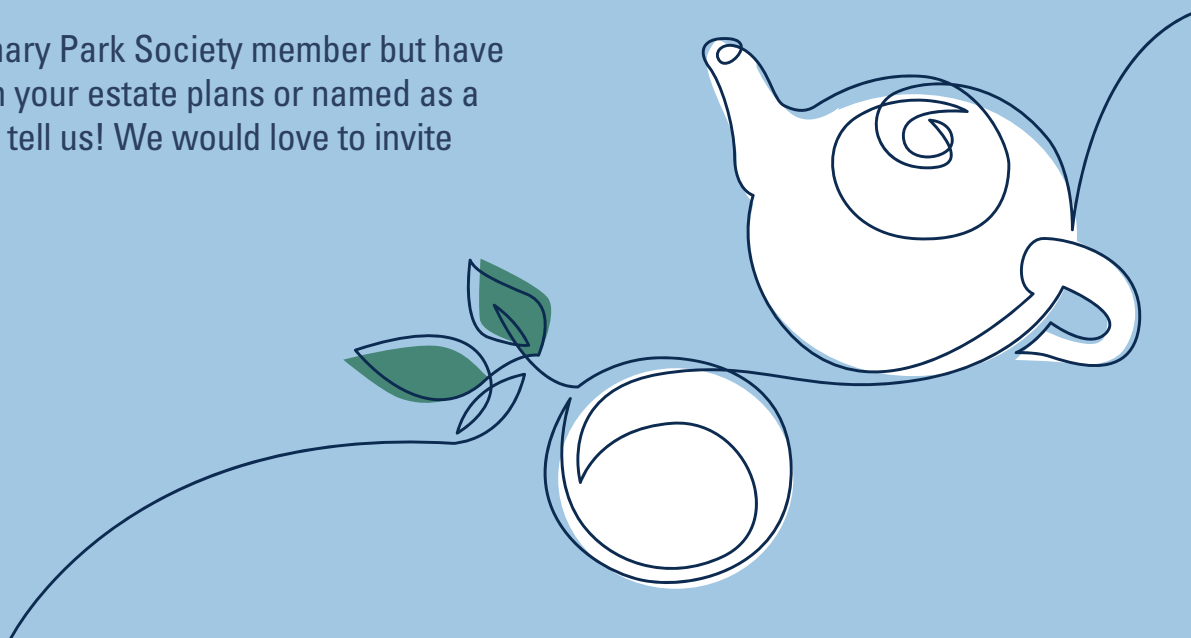
ROSEMARY PARK SOCIETY MEMBERS!

Look for an invitation coming to your mailbox and RSVP for our exclusive members-only event with President Katherine Bergeron, **Wednesday, April 28, 2021 3:00 p.m.** eastern via Zoom.

Details will be sent via email after registration.

If you are not a Rosemary Park Society member but have Connecticut College in your estate plans or named as a beneficiary of a trust - tell us! We would love to invite you to join.

Rosemary
Park
Society

The logo for the Rosemary Park Society, featuring the text "Rosemary Park Society" in a serif font, with a stylized green sprig of rosemary leaves to the right of the word "Society".



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Office of Gift Planning

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

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

how can we assist you?

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

I would like to learn more about the benefits of

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

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

I prefer to be contacted by

- Phone
- Email

Mail to:

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

Sincerely,

Laura J. Becker
Director of Gift Planning

Contact:

giftplanning@conncoll.edu
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