



# CONNECTICUT COLLEGE



## **Alumni Insights: A Note from Jennifer Lapan Mann '94, *Alumni Board President***

**Fellow Alumni,**

It is my great pleasure to say hello as I begin my three-year term as president of The Connecticut College Alumni Association.

By way of introduction, I'd like to share a story about my favorite tree on campus. It's not the iconic elm tree in the College seal. It's a Bonfire Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum* 'Bonfire') that greets you as you reach the top of the winding Mohegan Avenue entrance to the College, just south of the campus safety shack. This magnificent maple was planted in 2000 in memory of Virginia Bergquist Landry '70, just a few months after her passing.

Ginny was an absolute force of nature, and served on the Alumni Board while I was a student working in the alumni office in Becker House. I don't remember the details of our introduction, just that we became fast friends back in the days of phone calls and making plans. When I studied in Washington, DC during my

junior year, Ginny hosted me for family dinner. And after I graduated and we were both invited to meetings as alumni volunteers, we had a reason to roadtrip to campus. As Ginny and I only shared post-Conn life together for a couple of years, her tree is where I sit and spend a few minutes every time I'm on campus.

I'm about the age Ginny was when cancer took her, so I serve on the Alumni Board for the two of us. I'm ensuring that the vibrant alumnae of Ginny's CoCofoWo era—and ALL 30,000 alumni represented in the generations since—can honor our own memories and relationship with the College, and celebrate our shared experiences. While we each only reside on campus for about four years, we're alumni with roots at Connecticut College.

Your Alumni Board keeps engagement at the core of our work. We invite everyone to gather at meaningful events held in homes, at restaurants, museums, performances, at sporting events, and more. Do you wish to explore a new topic by listening to alumni presenters from the comfort of your computer? We offer several each year on a wide range of topics. Want to recognize a classmate for an incredible achievement at your upcoming reunion? The Alumni Board makes that happen. Obviously, we hope every alum will make the effort to come to campus. Choose fall weekend (the best time to see a Bonfire Sugar Maple is with vivid red and orange leaves!), reunion, commencement, or detour whenever you're taking a roadtrip of your own through southeastern Connecticut. But if you can't make that happen, we'd love to help you organize something for alumni in your area.

Your relationship with Connecticut College is like Ginny's maple; started as a sapling and continually reaching for what you need to grow stronger and thrive.

I'd love to start a conversation. Drop me a line ([alumniboard@conncoll.edu](mailto:alumniboard@conncoll.edu)) to request a topic for a future event, to offer to host a gathering of fellow alums, share one of your own memories of Ginny, or just to tell me about your favorite spot on campus.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jen", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jennifer Lapan Mann '94

**Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement**

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