



# CONNECTICUT COLLEGE



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

**Fellow Alumni,**

What are the odds that someone who was originally placed on the wait list at Conn would become president of the Alumni Association? There I idled (impatiently) until another school offered me admission and a 24-hour deadline on a response. I dialed Admissions at Conn to explain the other acceptance and express my sincere preference to attend. After a brief hold, I was offered a spot and a promise to put the offer in writing. I would become a Camel after all!

From that moment forward, I considered Conn's gesture a debt I could never adequately repay. Yes, I would have generous grants, a campus job, loans that would take years to satisfy, and ultimately spend the maximum my parents and I

could afford. But to be at a school like Conn was a dream, and I would work two jobs every summer to make it reality.

As a sign of respect to my professors and my parents' investment, I missed only five or six classes over four years. Dean Hampton and Professors Ferrari, Kushigian, Zabel, Niering, McDowell, Juli, Zimmer, Rose, Vogel, Smalley, Frasure, Borrelli shaped my individual academic journey and, in turn, my future. They stimulated my critical thinking skills, polished my ability to express myself logically and directly, challenged and reordered my assumptions, cultivated my creativity, and pointedly nudged me outside of my academic comfort zone.

And thanks to Coach Bresnahan, I walked onto the sailing team after I lost the election for senior class president to a most worthy and qualified candidate (and perhaps also because I prioritized a weekend at Middlebury College to see the 10,000 Maniacs concert over campaigning at Conn). Above all, I loved working in the alumni office with Kris Stahlschmidt Lambert '69 and Martha Clampitt Merrill '84, foreshadowing my current service to alumni and the college. At a small school like Conn, you can always start something new... no matter how late in the game.

Who changed your world while you were at Conn? Take a few moments to remember your favorite faculty and staff, and [drop me a reply](#) to share. Yes, I hope to receive multiple shout-outs for The Marions at KB Deli.

Every future alum chooses to matriculate at Conn for their own reasons, and we must continue to provide them with an energetic alumni herd freely offering introductions and unlocking the power of our networks. Beyond that, our engagement with/support of the college must exceed our expectations for each future alum's quality of experience. [Please accept every invitation to attend a holiday event this year](#), round two of the various local Camels Connect events in the spring (and Camels Connect at the Stadium all year!), [Zoom sessions on myriad topics](#), and everything your alumni board can dream up for grads of all ages. [Nominate someone to join our board](#) (for consideration in a future

year) or a fellow alum worthy of [recognition at Reunion Weekend \(May 29-31, 2026\)](#). Thank you for every way you show up for Conn.

No matter whether you were a financial aid recipient as well, the generosity of others created the campus where we each experienced our Connecticut College education. To those alumni and friends of the college, I remain incredibly grateful. My time, expertise, and financial gifts will never fully repay the value of Conn's "yes," but I'll keep trying for decades to come.



Jennifer Lapan Mann '94



*Class of 1994 candidates seeking office senior year. Photo courtesy of The College Voice.*

L-R: J. Manning Weir, Lee Rawles, Neil Maniar, Joel Kress, Jen Lapan Mann, Chris McDaniel, and the late Raymond Flynn

**Office of Alumni and Family Engagement**

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