Why I Give

Beverley Benenson Gasner ’51

You transferred from George Washington University. How was your time at Connecticut College? I loved it. It’s a beautiful campus. It was perfect for me.

What made it perfect? I’m a reader and a writer, and my professors — especially Bob Strider and Dorothy Bethurum — were so encouraging. And nobody told me to stop reading!

What’s your favorite place on campus? Standing at the top of the steps at Palmer Library (now the Blaustein Humanities Center). The view looking out over Long Island Sound can’t be beat. I was just visiting campus with my granddaughter — she’s looking at colleges — and it’s still beautiful.

Did your education influence how you write or what you choose to write about? It’s hard to say. I can tell you that at Connecticut College, the reading and discussion and the teaching about great writers was superior. I’m sure that had an influence on me. I know it helped.

What book would you recommend as a good summer read? *The Dive from Clausen’s Pier* by Ann Packer. Great writing and character development. It was hard to put the book down.

Your most recent gift was to endow the Dorothy Benenson & Dorothy Gasner Scholarship. It struck me as the best thing to do — to give someone else the opportunity I had. I named it for my mother and my mother-in-law, the two Dorothys. They were both incredible women.

Why do you give to Connecticut College? I had a great time there. I want to support the school because I love it. Did you know it has a wonderful reputation as a happy place?

Beverley gasner, an English major, has worked in advertising, editing and freelance writing. She is the author of six novels, three of which were published: *Nina Upstairs*, *Girls Rule* and *The Girls at Lighthouse Point*.