

## Tkach, Colleen

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**From:** Inform  
**Subject:** EM: NEW CMC Conversations Podcast: Celebrating Priya Junnar's Legacy at the Athenaeum

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**From:** CMC Social Media



### **Some people leave a mark on a place that can't quite be measured.**

For Priya Junnar, that mark is woven into the fabric of the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum — in the speakers she invited, the students she mentored, the conversations she helped make possible, and the dinners where something unexpected and significant happened.

***"Speakers come and go, and topics come and go...but the community really stays fixed. I think that's the most brilliant thing about my experience."***

As Priya closes her tenure as the Ath's fifth director and after 13 years of extraordinary leadership, we sat down with her for the latest episode of CMC Conversations. Host Natalie Chen '26 guided a wide-ranging conversation about what it's like to curate one of higher education's most distinctive speaker series — the joys, the discoveries, and the unforgettable moments.

In this episode, Priya reflects on:

- How the Ath grew to reflect CMC's expanding intellectual life across disciplines
- Why breaking bread together matters more than ever in a distracted, divided world
- The "Suggest a Speaker" form that changed how the community engages with programming
- Surprising, memorable speakers and the stories behind them
- Her philosophy on leadership, serendipity, and always leaving room to grow
- And of course — Theo, and what this transition will mean for everyone's favorite campus companion 🐾

Priya, we are so grateful for everything you have brought to this community. Thank you for 13 wonderful years!

 **Listen to the full episode on Spotify and Apple Podcasts:**

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4FzsBhjE1JMKj6tjh54xEQ?si=d4oolOjITT-OlpRwou6cpg>

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