



July 2011

## From the Hill

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# Q&A

DESIREE SHAYER '12, STUDYING IN AMMAN, JORDAN, TALKS ABOUT PRESENTING HER RESEARCH, JAN PLAN IN ISRAEL, AND WITNESSING ONE PART OF THE MIDDLE EAST REVOLUTION.

STEPHEN COLLINS '74 INTERVIEW    ZACHARY RUCHMAN PHOTO

*Desiree Shayer '12, from St. Louis, Mo., is a government and an independent Middle Eastern studies major. In December she left for a Jan Plan in Israel and a semester in Jordan. She spoke to Colby via Skype from Amman in April.*

**Remind me about the research you presented with Professor David Freidenreich at the Association for Jewish Studies annual conference in Boston.**

I was Professor Freidenreich's research assistant over the summer, and we looked at the lack of Jewish quotas at Colby during that time [between World Wars I and II]. Colby was pretty much the only school of the New England liberal arts colleges and of the Ivy League that didn't have a quota limiting Jewish students.

**Is it typical for an undergraduate to present at this annual Jewish studies conference?**

As far as I know I'm the only one to have done it. It was a great experience. Professor Freidenreich really went out of his way to give me that opportunity.

**Any stagefright?**

I was definitely very nervous, but ... the people there were all really supportive, really excited there was an undergraduate student presenting.

**And then to the Middle East.**

I drove to the conference from my last final, and then I got on the plane four days later. I left December 25th, actually.

**Tell me about the Jan Plan in Israel.**

Over January I was part of a volunteer program in Israel and doing some traveling. It's a program call Sar-El, and it brings people from around the world to see what life is like for people in the

army, so I was living on an army base. The actual volunteer work isn't very interesting, but it was a really great experience. Israel and Israel's military is such a hot-button topic today that I think it's really important to understand and to see who these people are and what they do and how they feel about it.

**Then you were off for Jordan?**

Yes. I spent about a week travelling through Israel and then I crossed the land border between Jerusalem and Amman and joined my program. It's through CIEE [Council on International Educational Exchange], a U.S. based—it's actually based in Portland, Maine—study-abroad program. We are on the University of Jordan campus.

**What are you studying?**

It is an intensive Arabic program, so I'm in Arabic classes two or three hours every morning, five days a week. Just for Arabic. I study both standard Arabic and also Jordanian colloquial Arabic, which is what everyone here uses in everyday life.

**Any experience with the language beforehand?**

Last semester. It's a relatively new program—we have a two-credit tutorial where students, if they want to study a language not offered at Colby, they can study with another student, a tutor who's paid by the College. ... [The tutors] had both studied in the Middle East, both, I think, in Jordan. They taught twice a week, and so I was able to learn all the letters and a lot of basic vocabulary and basic grammar. It was fantastic. When I did arrive in Jordan I was able to test into the second semester of Arabic here.

**And how is it you're staying through the fall?**

First, I chose to extend my study abroad for a

second semester in the fall. I want to be a competent Arabic speaker. That will be important to the jobs I'm looking at when I graduate, and this was really the best way to achieve that. A second part is that I'm interning with an international development consulting firm here, and the opportunity to continue working with them was part of the decision, since that's what I think I want to do.

**But there's more, right?**

For the summer I received a Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. State Department. It's a program they run to support American students learning critical-need languages. It's not just a scholarship of money, it's for their own program. I had applied before and didn't get it, so I was very excited. It's extremely competitive. ... I requested to be placed back in Jordan, mainly because the colloquial forms of Arabic are so different and I really wanted to master one. They also have sites in Tunisia and Morocco.

**You mention Tunisia. You picked an interesting time to be in the Middle East, didn't you?**

I think it's made it even more interesting to be here now. To be able to see what's happening and to be able to get so many firsthand views and opinions.

**Have you witnessed protests?**

As an American I could go and be perfectly safe, but any Jordanian I talk to, it could cast suspicion on them. So we're asked to stay away from the protests. There was one that saw some violence, so there is a safety issue. But even yesterday, on the university campus, you walk by the main courtyard and there are people chanting. And I've walked by a couple of protests, one in Aqaba a few weeks ago. Most of these pro-



Desiree Shayer '12 in Amman, Jordan, where she is supplementing two semesters abroad with a State Department program in Arabic.

tests are pretty straightforward—people standing around peacefully holding signs, chanting things. They stay for a while, they go home. Particularly in Jordan, people have been protesting a lot of these same issues for a lot longer than in Egypt. So these are the same issues that have been around for years.

#### **So it's not such a big deal?**

Jordan is a totally different situation than you had in Egypt or Tunisia, because [here] everyone is very loyal to the king. [At the one violent protest] the group that everyone seems to think caused the violence, they are very pro-monarchy and want the king to have complete power. The other group, the pro-reform group, they were having this protest to show support for reforms the king talks about in his speeches.

#### **So, not quite as revolutionary as elsewhere?**

Exactly.

#### **Why are you staying in Amman?**

I really wanted to stay for another semester but, because I'll only have one semester back at Colby before I graduate, I was having some close calls being able to finish my requirements. So the program in Jordan agreed to create an independent study for me to meet my art requirement.

#### **And Colby approved it all?**

The whole process was surprisingly easy. ... Being able to get that kind of support from people is one of the things over my entire time at Colby that I've really appreciated.

#### **How have you been received as an American in Jordan?**

It really depends on how you act. If you come here and you're clearly more than just another tourist going to Petra, you're received really well. I try to dress respectfully and modestly, and I

really try to use Arabic, and people just get so excited that there's an American girl here and she's using Arabic.

#### **Has it been an issue in Jordan that you are Jewish?**

It's not an issue, though it's not something I really talk about with people I don't know. ... A significant number of my friends here on the program or here through Fulbright are Jewish. ... It's not something I feel unsafe about. It's something I can be proud of—that there's a whole community of Jews here trying to learn and trying to understand and trying to see the other side.

#### **It all sounds good. But you are coming back, right?**

I'm having a great time, but I'll be back in January and get some snow again. We almost had a snow day here. There were flurries. They almost canceled everything.







# A Natural Writer

WITH CAREFULLY CHOSEN WORDS, BLAIR BRAVERMAN '11 SETS OUT TO RAISE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

GERRY BOYLE '78 STORY    JEFF POULAND PHOTO

Serious science was presented at the Colby Undergraduate Research Symposium in April. The health effects of wood smoke. Zooplankton in the Belgrade Lakes. The potential of biomass energy at Colby.

And then there was Blair Braverman '11 presenting her environmental studies thesis: a collection of essays. "Everyone else will have all their data," Braverman said beforehand, with a chuckle, "I'll go up there and read."

But these weren't just any essays, and the soft-spoken, self-deprecating Braverman isn't just any writer. An environmental policy major who has worked as a sled-dog musher on an Alaskan glacier and chased rhinos in Namibia, she has spent much of the past few years amassing experiences, contemplating them, and turning them into nonfiction that has won her national acclaim.

In April she won the top prize for nonfiction in *The Atlantic* magazine student writing contest. In 2010 one of her essays won the Joseph Conrad Essay Contest sponsored by the Williams-Mystic maritime studies program. And this spring she was admitted to the highly competitive M.F.A. writing program at the University of Iowa and was awarded the Iowa Arts Fellowship, a stipend over and above tuition, which will allow Braverman to devote herself exclusively to environmental writing.

Only three such fellowships were awarded university wide.

"I'm still kind of stunned about it," Braverman said. "It seems a little crazy that someone is going to pay me to just to go there and study with the best teachers and write a lot."

She may be the only one stunned. At Colby her professors have watched her develop rapidly as a writer. Adrian Blevins, associate professor of creative writing, says something clicked when Braverman was writing poetry as a junior, and now that poetic instinct has given her nonfiction a special metaphorical quality. Elisabeth Stokes, a visiting assistant professor of English who worked with Braverman from English 115 to a senior independent study, said Braverman's work has a musicality not often seen in nonfiction. Philip Nyhus, associate professor of environmental studies and Braverman's advisor on her thesis, said he reads and enjoys her writing "like I paid for it on Amazon."

All three professors predict Braverman will make significant contributions to environmental writing. And they point out that her voice is unlike others in the field. "There are a lot of influential writers with a science basis. That's not Blair," Nyhus said.

Who is she? Stokes recalls a student who presented as a gentle and soft-spoken young woman but in reality was "made of steel." (The sled dog team Braverman ran in Alaska once came in second in the Iditarod.) Blevins said Braverman found the content for her writing early on, and then she found the form to express her ideas and observations. Nyhus said

"If it's good writing, people will read it, which is ultimately the goal, to try and spread these ideas."

Blair Braverman '11

Braverman was a strong researcher (on projects ranging from mountain lions to biomass) but unlike other students in the lab would sometimes just disappear. "She's a writer," he said. "She had to be alone."

Said Stokes, "She's very authentic about who she is. That radiates."

Braverman said environmental issues are most important to her, so her writing will have that focus. "There's a lot of environmental writing that actually isn't good writing, I don't think," she said. "There are people who are really passionate and trying to communicate these issues, but the writing itself isn't really compelling. I think that's why people don't read it. For me the focus would be, in general, trying to write as well as I can. ... If it's good writing, people will read it, which is ultimately the goal, to try and spread these ideas."

Coupled with her desire to write for the environment is a fascination with the subjects of her essays. She once followed Colby's trash to a landfill in Norridgewock, and she talks about how much fun it was to get a tour of the facility from an ex-Marine. In an essay excerpt included in this issue of *Colby* (see P. 64), Braverman recalls her encounter with a girl at an abandoned quarry in a remote part of Namibia who was confounded by the fact that the American's sandals had not been made with recycled materials. Yet the conversation is a revelation to Braverman as well.

"I looked at the girl beside me," she writes, "now tracing lines on the marble with the tip of her painted finger, and felt as if I had been kept from something my whole life."

It's a sentence that, like the rest of the essay, is carefully crafted, the environmental issue explored through the power of observation and reflection, each word considered and reconsidered. Stokes said Braverman continues to scrutinize her own work, each word, each sentence, each puzzle that the writing presents. Recently, Stokes said, she and Braverman were on the phone discussing an essay with a passage that wasn't quite right.

"She said, 'There's nothing I'd rather be doing on a Friday night than this, curled up working this out.'"

Blair Braverman '11, whose essays on environmental themes have garnered national awards and a prestigious graduate fellowship.

# Sixty Years, One Musical Language

COLBYETTES FROM ACROSS GENERATIONS COMPARE NOTES, SING AGAIN

PAT SIMS STORY    JEFF POULAND PHOTOS

Fifty Colbyettes, hailing from the group's founders in 1952 to current student singers, gathered on campus in April for the 60th anniversary of Colby's oldest women's a cappella group. Their musical tastes embraced everything from traditional barbershop to the gritty sounds of beatboxing, showcased at a concert featuring the Colbyettes' trademark polished harmonies—linking decades and generations, in just a few hours' time.

"Oh my gosh, we had three hours to pull together three songs," said Savina Balasubramanian '10, after the concert. "All of us hadn't sung with each other in a long time, but it was stressful in a good way." As one of the soloists, Balasubramanian had an extra challenge: "I lost my voice [a couple of nights before]," she said, "and I was thinking, 'Am I really going to be able to sing 'Candyman'? But the voice came back."

Working with the entire group of Colbyettes was tremendously satisfying, the singers said. Said Balasubramanian, "We had a common language."

And a common experience.

At a table of members from the '70s and '80s, the consensus was that being a Colbyette was a major part of their Colby experience—great fun, but also hard work. "You had to be able to blend four-part barbershop, doo-wop barbershop," said Dorcas Benner Riley '80.

The Colbyettes of 2011 can thank their sisters from the '80s for breaking through with music selections that were more au courant than the traditional material that had been performed up until then. Folk songs gave way to ABBA, the alumnae recalled. Barbara Leonard '83's recollection of singing "Summer Love" with the male-counterpart Colby Eight elicited an appreciative collective sigh.

Carolyn "Muffin" English Caci '53 was the senior Colbyette in attendance and an original member. (Janice "Sandy" Pearson Anderson '52, the longest-term member of the Colbyettes, could not attend.) "I helped the two people who founded the group" (in 1951, Anderson and Virginia "Ginnie" Falkenbury Aronson '53), Caci said. She showed a photo of that earliest company—clad in skirts, vests, and white blouses, their hair uniformly short—and a copy of the 1952 *Colby Ora-*



Then-current Colbyettes perform in the latest version of the 60-year-old a cappella group. From left are Cat Gallagher '12, Susannah Hatch '11, and Savvy Lodge-Scharff '11.



"All of us hadn't sung with each other in a long time, but it was stressful in a good way."

Savina Balasubramanian '10

Before the concert in Lorimer Chapel, Kathie Flynn Carrigan '55 related her tale of Colbyettes past. The group had grown tired of its outfits—strapless gowns "with this incredible netting"—and Dottie Forster Olson '54, one of the original Colbyettes, had a suggestion. She had a friend who sang with the Skidmore Sonneteers, who looked classy when they performed in their black tops and pants, pearls and white blazers. Why not, reasoned the Colbyettes, take a page from their book? That was fine until the group was invited by the Sonneteers to Skidmore's Spring Singspiration, along with singing groups from a variety of New England colleges. Carrigan, then the president of the Colbyettes, panicked. Her quick fix to distinguish the Colby outfits from those of the Sonneteers was to add hastily purchased red carnations. As fate would have it, the Sonneteers had had the same floral inspiration.

At the April 2 concert this year, the songs reflected the zeitgeist of each group: Pink's "Raise Your Glass" for the present Colbyettes (accompanied by the beatboxing of Melanie Brown '13); the old folk song "I Love Little Willie" from the '50s and '60s group; "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do" from the '70s and '80s group (who donned sunglasses), and Christina Aguilera's "Candyman" from the aughts.

The finale was all of the generations of the Colbyettes singing Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young's "Helplessly Hoping" ("They are one person / They are two alone / They are three together / They are four for each other.")

Even after the concert, the music continued, at least for some of the former Colbyettes. Carrigan sings with the midcoast Maine choral group the Down East Singers. Caitlin Coit '08, now at nursing school in Boston, Mass., wants to form a singing group called the Post-Ette Notes. And, said Caci, "I sing to myself. I put on Tony Bennett in my car and we are fabulous."



To view more photos from the Colbyettes reunion, go to [colbymag.com](http://colbymag.com), keyword: **colbyettes11**



**Singing and socializing in Lorimer Chapel were Colbyettes from different eras in the group's history. Left, Savina Balasubramanian '10 takes a solo; top, from left, Julia Crouter '13, Rebecca Hushing McCole '76, Liz Yanagihara Horwitz '80, and Maureen Hagerty Polimeno '84 P'14 enjoy the show; right, Judith Kolligian '67 gets in the spirit with Polimeno and McCole.**

cle, which reported on the newly formed group:

"Ten gals and a song were all that were needed (with a few rehearsals in Mary Low, of course) to start the Colbyettes on their way. Beginning with a meager two songs, the repertoire has grown constantly and the consensus is that the group will become a Colby tradition. Already they have chalked up such appearances at the Senior Banquet, the Glee Club Monsanto Broadcast, and a three-day trip through Aroostook County in April. Whether it's 'Santa Claus Is Coming to Town' or the 'Colby Night Song,' the

Colbyettes manage close harmony that makes you just want to sit back and listen."

At the reunion those close harmonies were in the air. After a welcome from Susannah Hatch '11, president of the 2010-11 Colbyettes, women divided into groups by decade—'50s and '60s, '70s and '80s, and a group referred to as "the aughts"—and set off for the Bixler Art and Music Center to practice, strains of "Java Jive" ("A cuppa cuppa cuppa . . .") drifting from their midst. For the next few hours, groups of Colbyettes, sheet music in hand, roamed Bixler, harmonizing on the fly.

# The Whole Truth

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT GERRY HADDEN TELLS THE STORIES BEHIND HIS RADIO REPORTS FROM LATIN AMERICA AND HAITI

GERRY BOYLE '78 REVIEW

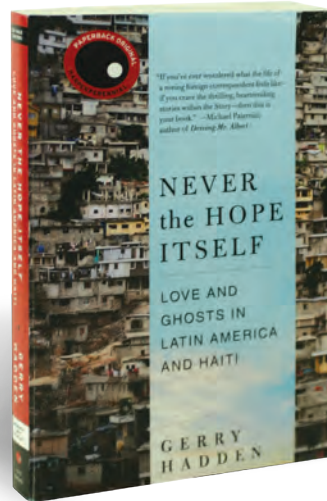
National Public Radio listeners will recall correspondent Gerry Hadden's reports from Latin America and Haiti, Hadden's beat for four years. Dispatched from his home in Mexico City, Hadden '89 covered unrest in Port-au-Prince, illegal immigration to the United States, revolt in Venezuela.

But the reports, compelling as they were, turn out to be just part of the story. Hadden, in this simultaneously gripping and reflective memoir, reveals the on-the-ground maneuvering, negotiation, and downright dangerous forays into riotous and menacing places that made those reports possible.

Recruited from a public radio job in Seattle, Hadden underwent "hostile environment training" meant to lessen the odds that he would be shot, taken captive, or executed by his captors. The training turned out to be little protection in the situations into which Hadden, often alone, inserted himself, from the labyrinth of a Port-au-Prince slum to the dark banks of the Suchiate River, which separates Guatemala from southern Mexico and is a formidable obstacle for migrants trying to reach the United States.

"Its banks are all muck and mangrove and contraband, human or otherwise," Hadden writes. "When I first visited that place I knew that never in human history had a single written norm, regulation, or law ever been enforced there. There was simply no possibility of it."

It is there that, in search of migrants heading north, he inadvertently stumbles into the clutches of those who prey upon them. Members of the notorious Salvatrucha gang, they are ready to rob Hadden or worse when their Salvadoran leader, who once lived in the Bronx, learns that Hadden grew up in Pelham, N.Y., and takes sympathy on the blundering gringo. "No one's going to touch my boy," he warns,



***Never the Hope Itself: Love and Ghosts in Latin America and Haiti***  
Gerry Hadden '89  
Harper Perennial (2011)

before escorting the fellow New Yorker to safety.

It's a close call, one of many that are recounted in the book but went unreported on NPR. In fact listeners know little about Hadden, who nearly became a Buddhist monk and who broods over the lives of the people he encounters, both professionally and personally.

The book chronicles his relationship with Lazaro, an assistant Hadden brings to Mexico City after they are threatened by shadowy militia members in Guatemala City. Lazaro's life spirals downward despite Hadden's assistance and support, and the young man with great promise ends up on the street. "Finally he lifted his rain-soaked head. He raised his hands to his temples and shook his head back and forth like someone receiving terrible news over a headset."

There is more behind the scenes, including Hadden's relationship with Anne, a young French woman who leaves her husband for (and eventually marries) the roving radio reporter. But Hadden's affair really is with the people of the countries in this magical and sometimes dismaying swath of the world. The book is filled with accounts that are sympathetic, empathetic, poignant—like the encounter that gave the memoir its title.

Hadden was in a town in northern Mexico sitting with a group of migrants about to set out on a nighttime border crossing. When Hadden follows, one man turns back and tells the American to stay behind, that the route is dangerous.

"We are only taking this path because we have no other choice," he says.

"But you ... ."

Hadden, a journalist to the bone, records as the man trudges away into the darkness. "Hope's footsteps diminishing," Hadden writes, "but never the hope itself."

## Writing the Final Chapter

Poet Ronald Moran's latest collection is the climactic chapter of a love story. It is not passages filled with youthful passion or the ease of midlife, it is the denouement of devotion in which he reveals the essence of a relationship that lasted a half century.

The poems are a tribute to Moran's wife, Jane, who died in 2009 after a decade of illness. Patient, funny, courageous, she is, even in her waning years and ebbing strength, the mooring to which Moran is tethered, venturing off for short sails but always returning to bob gently by her side.

*The Jane Poems*, though, is more reflection than homage, an eloquent acceptance of the line that couples repeat when marrying but are afraid to face straight on: 'Til death do us part.

Death did separate them, and Moran writes of the years, months, days that lead to that inevitability, capturing milestones disguised as moments. His observations are precise; his conclusions universal.

"If my right hip aches when I first lie down,/I turn to face Jane, who always faces me/since her left side is a corridor of pain,/and as she drifts into sedated sleep/both of her hands twitch, as if a spirit/of unknown origin entered her frail body."

The poems are poignant but wry, too, as Moran likens a surgical waiting room to a sports bar, compares Jane's lined-up pill bottles to depth charges, awakens to a thump and wonders if Jane has fallen or their neighbor has "blown up another stump."

Ultimately *The Jane Poems* is about the end of life, the time of looking back and realizing that the past is the most important element of the present. "... all I want/is to rerun my life with Jane, beginning in June, where/under an oak in Walnut Hill Park we both asked, Can it work?/Yes, it did."

—Gerry Boyle '78



***The Jane Poems***  
Ronald Moran '58  
Clemson University Digital Press (2011)





## Kennebec Highlands Vista

Maine landscape painter Matthew Russ '96 exhibits recent work from the Kennebec Highlands and other areas surrounding the Belgrade Lakes beginning July 23 at Maine Lakes Resource Center in Belgrade Lakes village. A portion of sales from the exhibit will benefit the resource center. Russ paints in the field year-round, often backpacking into remote areas to execute his paintings. More information about the artist and his work at [www.matthewruss.com](http://www.matthewruss.com).



Catherine Courtenaye, *Jabberwocky 25 (Swoon)*, 2010, oil on panel, 12 x 12 inches, courtesy of the artist.

## Handwriting on the Wall

Catherine Courtenaye's abstract paintings are grounded in the vernacular penmanship of 19th-century America and are the outcome of her interest in handwriting manuals, ledgers, and documents. Using a variety of printmaking techniques, Courtenaye transfers phrases, signatures, alphabets, and numbers from original manuscript sources onto painted surfaces, layering her compositions to create a metaphor for the passage of time. Her graphic quotations refer to the Victorian era, when proper penmanship was a requisite skill and the mastery of cursive was considered a path to self-improvement. Courtenaye's art becomes particularly relevant at a time when typing and texting have replaced the handwritten word.

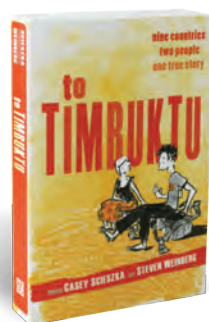


**Catherine Courtenaye: Paintings**  
**Catherine Courtenaye '79**  
 Boise Art Museum  
 (May 14–Oct. 16, 2011)

# To Timbuktu—and Back

STEVEN WEINBERG AND CASEY SCIESZKA TURN EXPLORATION INTO A CHARMING AND INFORMATIVE COLLABORATION

Burkina Faso—it's the coolest name ever for a country, according to Casey Scieszka, and just one of the nine countries she and Steven Weinberg '06 visited after their graduation from college. A meeting in Morocco during their junior year led to a connection so strong that they kept in touch once they returned to their respective campuses: Colby for Weinberg; Pitzer College in southern California for Scieszka.



**To Timbuktu**  
**Words by Casey Scieszka, Art by Steven Weinberg '06**  
Roaring Brook Press (2011)

The two hatched a plan to spend the two years immediately following their graduation exploring Asia and West Africa. Scieszka, awarded a Fulbright to study Islam in the schools, and Weinberg, an illustrator known around Colby for his political cartoons in the *Colby Echo*, planned to document their journeys with her words and his sketches and paintings. What resulted was the book *To Timbuktu*.

"It's about Casey and me coming together as a collaborative pair," explained Weinberg during a presentation at Colby's reunion in June. "It's a mixture of pictures and text for adults. I was going to make a Where's Waldo? book and Casey would do Virginia Woolf, so we came up with a balance."

It doesn't take too many pages to warm to Scieszka's chronicle of their journey through Beijing, Shanghai, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Mali, with a detour to Paris to rendezvous with both sets of parents.

Lively, personal, and enthusiastic, her voice is ideal for narration of this tale of the excitement of discovering new places and cultures, the thrill that comes from making friends in said places, and the challenges involved in assimilating some hard truths. For his part, Weinberg provides stylish, engaging drawings that capture the full range of experiences, from the electrifying chaos of busy streets to the pristine loveliness of a bird-filled tree in an otherwise empty landscape.

The two master (to different degrees) several languages, learn to deal with rowdy schoolchildren, discover the most effective ways to navigate unfamiliar protocols, and dive happily into local cuisine (a love affair with hand-pulled noodles is well detailed).



Steven Weinberg '06 did the illustrations for a collaborative book about his travels in Asia and Africa with writer and partner Casey Scieszka.

They discover such shortcuts as "you don't need clean hair or much of a lesson plan to wow a bunch of first graders" and find that calling students by their chosen English names (Super-Teeth, Dad, and Michael Jordan, for starters) makes teaching considerably easier.

Scieszka and Weinberg chart not only their travels but the evolution of their relationship, which is amazingly durable despite digestive difficulties in a multitude of environments, days on end of crushing heat, and anxieties about what they are doing and whether they are sufficiently giving back.

Now, several years later, Weinberg said, "We still work together—it's kind of the most fun you can have—why not work with the person you love?" He was also candid enough to add, "But we do want to kill each other sometimes."

— Pat Sims

## Turning Experience Into Success

John Cioffi '70 and Ken Willig, partners in a management consulting firm, have a wealth of business experience, from family business to entrepreneurial ventures to startups to work with a Fortune 100 company. They have distilled many decades of experience into six basic "habits" that they say form a commonsensical and effective way to become a successful business owner and/or manager. It all sounds simple, and the habits are demonstrated and explained through easily understood anecdotes. The six habits include "set goals all the time," "focus on the process, not the

plan," and "coach the right people." Cioffi, a veteran business coach with a Wharton M.B.A., and Willig, a longtime entrepreneur, say they learned everything they know from their experience and their clients. They've packaged that accumulated knowledge into what one company chairman calls "a pragmatic roadmap ... to improve effectiveness." Another lauds its emphasis on "the power of people with a clear strategic empowerment." The activities, the authors say, "are basic building blocks. They are neither faddish nor outdated, but enduring in their effectiveness."



**6 Habits of Highly Successful Managers**  
**John Cioffi '70 and Ken Willig**  
Career Press (2011)



# Ultimate Goes National

LAUREN PONGAN '09 STORY

With a spring-season record of 17-2, a win at sectionals, and a close second-place finish at regionals, Colby's Ultimate Frisbee team received its first invitation to the national USA Ultimate Division III College Championships this year.

In the pretournament rankings the Colby club team, nicknamed the Dazzlin' Asses, was seeded 12th among 16 teams at D-III nationals in the Buffalo, N.Y., area May 21-22. The team felt the absence of five experienced seniors who, as the team was competing, were busy graduating. "I personally would love to skip commencement and play, but my family is coming from Hawaii/California (and only for the weekend). I don't think they would take me skipping graduation very well," wrote co-captain Matt Smith '11 in an e-mail.

Colby was eliminated from the championship bracket on Saturday, losing to the top-seeded Claremont Braineaters (who went on to win the championship), Truman State, and the Swarthmore Earthworms. Still, the competitors had no regrets. "Nationals was fantastic," said rising senior and future co-captain Will Bloomhardt '12. "I think the end result was pretty impressive. Even though we didn't win any games we had a fun time and we're looking forward to next year now."

The Dazzlin' Asses (a name that plays off Colby's mascot and the original "Dazzlin' Polyester" jerseys) were formed in 2002 by Chelsea Pawlek '05 and Steve Luke '06. In the past the women's and men's teams have made it as far as regionals, and an influx of strong first-years made Colby even more competitive this season. "We had a pretty strong group of seniors who had played for four years, and we combined that with a lot of youth. A lot of people who played in high school came in as freshman," said co-captain Chase Baker '11. "It was the combination of youth and experience that really pushed us through."

Ultimate Frisbee may conjure images of a relaxed, barefoot game for hippies, but ultimate (as it's commonly referred to among players) has evolved into an athletic and intensely competitive sport, today's players say.



The Dazzlin' Asses, Colby's Ultimate Frisbee team, at the D-III national championships in Buffalo, N.Y., in May. It was the team's first appearance at the event, which followed a 17-2 season.

The game is played seven-on-seven on a large field with two end zones, much like football. To score, a player must catch the disc in the opposite end zone. The team on offense works the disc down the field through throws and cuts. There's no running with a disc in hand. Turnovers offer an opportunity for the defense to score. Games are usually to 13, 15, or a time cap.

USA Ultimate, the national governing body, claims more than 30,000 players in the United States, but the sport has become a global phenomenon, with a sanctioned World Flying Disc Federation Championship.

Despite the sport's popularity it remains self-officiated. Even at the national and world championships there are only observers, to

whom players may appeal if they can't settle disputes. Players call fouls or violations, and opponents can contest. USA Ultimate calls it "a spirit of sportsmanship that places the responsibility for fair play on the player. Highly competitive play is encouraged, but never at the expense of mutual respect among competitors, adherence to the agreed-upon rules, or the basic joy of play."

Joy of the game was enhanced when Colby won a D-III flag at nationals by reenacting a scene from *Top Gun*. Their feat? Said Bloomhardt: "The highlight of the tournament was when they made our entire team walk up to a random single girl in the stands and serenade her with 'You've Lost That Loving Feeling.'"

# Family Matters

WOMEN'S LACROSSE COACH KAREN MACCRATE HENNING TIES SUCCESS TO TEAM UNITY, UNSELFISHNESS

TRAVIS LAZARCZYK STORY CHARLIE SPATZ '13 PHOTO

When Lexi Crook '11 looks back on her first meeting with then-new women's lacrosse coach Karen MacCrate Henning, in the fall of 2007, she remembers one thing: that the conversation had less to do with lacrosse than with establishing the team's identity.

"That was the first thing she said, that she got this feeling of family from us," Crook said. "That's what Colby women's lacrosse is about. Before she saw us play, that's what she was about."

That attitude has been the common element in each of Henning's teams at Colby, and Henning and her players, including All-American Crook, say it's a big reason for their success.

Their unselfishness "is just remarkable," Henning said. "We had four seniors starting and four seniors not starting, and all of them were integral to our success. If they weren't all onboard, we wouldn't have been able to do what we were going to do."

And she and the team have done a lot.

In her four years at Colby, Henning has built the Mules into a perennial contender for the NESCAC title, with a 59-18 record and four trips to the NCAA Division III tournament.

Colby won the NESCAC title in 2008 and 2009 and finished runner-up in 2010 and 2011. In 2011 the team went 15-5, reaching the final eight in the national tournament.

For Henning it's another in a string of lacrosse successes. As an All-American player at the University of Maryland, she helped the Terrapins win national titles in 1995 and 1996. As an assistant coach at Dartmouth, Henning played a role in the Big Green's Ivy League titles in 1998 and 1999.

Henning coached the C.W. Post University women's lacrosse team for eight years, winning NCAA D-II national championships in 2001 and 2007.

"I always was thinking of teaching in some way. An opportunity presented itself at Dartmouth my senior year of college, and I took it," Henning said of her career path. "It was probably the best decision I've made, because I've enjoyed pretty much every minute since."

Henning's record of success and her demeanor helped her earn the faith of the Mules.

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"She's unlike any coach I've ever had. She's always calm and poised, and that air of confidence permeates the team."

Lexi Crook '11

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"She's unlike any coach I've ever had. She's always calm and poised, and that air of confidence permeates the team. She never freaks out, and that affects the team," said Crook, who, along with teammate Kate Pistel '13, earned second team All-America honors from the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association. "Everybody trusts her. Nobody questions her decisions."



Women's lacrosse coach Karen MacCrate Henning, center, instructs her players during halftime in the NCAA first-round game against Norwich. At left is assistant coach Mark Serdjjenian '73.

Those decisions are backed with knowledge. The bookshelf in Henning's office is filled with volumes on coaching theory. There are works about coaches as diverse as John Wooden, Jerry Lynch, and Bill Parcells. Sun Tsu's *The Art of War* is there as well.

In building her coaching career, Henning looked to a number of firsthand coaching models. Henning names her high school coach, Patty Murphy, and Pam McDonough, the coach of a rival high school, as coaching influences, along with Cindy Timchal at Maryland and Dartmouth head coach Amy Patton.

Henning tells her team to focus on the present rather than the destination. In a conference as tough as the NESCAC, which had five teams reach the NCAA D-III tournament this season, you have to focus on the small details in the big picture, she says. "But it's fun. I mean, you can't take a break. ... You tend not to have any midseason lulls, because if you do, a team can sneak up on you,"

In building her team Henning looks for players she is confident will continue the team's close-knit style. "We don't want to bring someone in who will be destructive to that, who only thinks about themselves, who comes in with a lot of individual goals," Henning said. "It just won't work."

Henning expects that the Mules will again be one of the favorites in the conference in the 2012 season. "There's such a strong foundation from the group that's been here before that it's easy to build upon," she said.

"Our focus is always to be the best we can be. If that's winning a national championship [or] the NESCAC, if it's being five hundred in the NESCAC—whatever that might be, we're striving to be the best of ourselves, and the rest will take care of itself."



SPORTS SHORTS



PHOTO BY DIANE KELA YEIRAJ '13

Craig Bunker '11, Colby's three-time lacrosse All-American.

## Bunker: An All-America Hat Trick

Craig Bunker '11, Colby's first three-time lacrosse All-American, continued to rack up national honors as he was named the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association Division III specialty player of the year.

Only seven players in D-III in the country were recognized. Bunker, a short-stick midfielder, was selected for his career-long success with faceoffs and ground balls. He finished his senior season ranked fourth nationally in faceoff percentage and first in NESCAC. His play helped propel the Mules to the NESCAC playoffs for the third straight year. The team finished the season 9-7.

In **WOMEN'S LACROSSE**, **LEXI CROOK '11** and **KATE PISTEL '13** were named to the IWLCA All-American second team. Both also were All-America selections by Synapse Sports and were named to the All-NESCAC first team. Crook's career included four trips to the NESCAC title game and two NESCAC titles. ... High jumper **DANIELLE SHEPPARD '11** and pole vaulter **BRITTANY REARDON '14** represented Colby at the NCAA Division III Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Ohio. **BRITTNEY BELL '13** took fourth place in the 400-meter dash at the ECAC championships at Moravian College in May, where **KELLEY FOSTER '12** was sixth in the discus. ... Team MVP **JACK BRYANT '14** had a solid season for **MEN'S TENNIS**, going 11-2 at fourth singles, with a 10-match winning streak. The young team was 8-5 and beat Grinnell, a team that made it to the NCAA tournament. ... In **WOMEN'S CREW**, **LIS HENDERSON '11** was named to the 2011 NESCAC All-Conference team ... In **MEN'S CREW**, **JACK VIHSTADT '12** and **WILL BREWER '11** were named to the All-NESCAC team. The men's varsity eight



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH HATHAWAY '11

High jumper Danielle Sheppard '11 practices under the watchful eye of coach Deb Aitken.

finished in eighth place in the team standings at the National Invitational Collegiate Regatta in Worcester, Mass. ... **BASEBALL** outfielder **RICHARD NEWTON '11** batted .400 as he earned All-NESCAC and All-New England honors. The team ended its season with a 5-4 win over rival Bowdoin. ... **SOFTBALL** earned its first NESCAC win of the season with a 6-4 win over Bates April 30. **BARBARA SANTOS '11** homered and pitcher **LAUREN BECKER '13** earned the win with a complete game.

## One Fast Mule

All-American and Colby record holder Dominique Kone '13 sprinted his way to a second-place finish in the 100-meter dash at the ECAC Men's Track and Field Championships May 20 at Moravian College in Pennsylvania.

Kone's time of 10.85 seconds was bested only by Moravian's Eric Woodruff, who won with a 10.63 time. Kone is used to running at the front of the pack. He is a two-time NESCAC champion in the 100-meter dash, and he had the nation's fastest time for the 55-meter dash—6.34 seconds—in a preliminary heat at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in March in Columbus, Ohio. But Kone pulled his hamstring in the final, and the injury carried over to the outdoor season, he said.

At the ECACs Kone was sixth going into the meet but emerged as the second-fastest 100-meter sprinter. A headwind and rain slowed the times for the race, he said.

Kone, who played basketball at Colby as a first-year, said he is already training for next year's track season in addition to doing a biology research internship in Boston. "I'm hoping I can make something happen these next two years," he said.



PHOTO BY ROBERT P. HERNANDEZ

Dominique Kone '13, who ran the fastest time in the nation in the 55-meter dash.