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Farewell, Charlie Bassett

Charles W. Bassett, the Lee Family Professor of American Studies and English, emeritus, died Oct. 19 in Waterville. News that he was ill brought a deluge of letters from alumni who wanted to make sure that their beloved “Bassett” knew he had changed their lives.

The Girls Are Alright

Since its inception a decade ago, Hardy Girls Healthy Women has helped hundreds of girls to overcome damaging stereotypes and realize their own potential. With Colby alumni and faculty charting its course, the Waterville-based organization has made it to the national stage.

Obama’s Right Hand

As White House chief of staff, Pete Rouse ’68 is President Obama’s go-to aide. Unlike his predecessor, Rahm Emanuel, Rouse works quietly behind the scenes, eschewing the spotlight in the complex world of Washington and global politics.
New blog posts appeared almost daily this semester. These excerpts give a sense of what was on students' minds.

“There have been many times during these first weeks of college that I have felt completely overwhelmed by the newness of everything, the lack of deeper connections with people and places, the new schedules and opportunities and pace of residential college life. ... But I’m getting there; I’m slowly mastering the ‘Colby lingo,’ I’ve learned to never wear a lanyard with a key around my neck, I know never to call Bob’s ‘Robert’s,’ and I am realizing that there are benefits to starting fresh.”  

Annalisa Tester ’14

“First of all, I have a working fireplace in my room. Coming from New York City, that’s unreal. But in Maine, its just another thing that makes the cold winters less of something to survive and more of something to enjoy. Now, when I feel like having a little fire going during the Sunday football games ..., I just need to call the school’s maintenance department and ask them to deliver wood to my door. For free. It’s free because Colby has a co-ed woodsmen’s team that chops wood competitively....”

Michael Yohai ’11

“For the past year or so, I’ve been involved with the Environmental Health Strategy Center (www.preventharm.org), an organization in Portland that tries to protect Maine’s people from environmental hazards. One thing I’ve been doing is writing short articles for their blog about topics that are relevant to young people, and recently they asked me to research a toxic chemical called nonylphenol. Nonylphenol? I couldn’t even pronounce it! But I was excited to learn about it. So for those of you who don’t know nonylphenol from nonahedron—but don’t want it in your body—here’s a quick primer. ...”

Blair Braverman ’11

“If you asked me what Diwali was a week ago, I would have only been able to stare back at you blankly. From what I learned from our Diwali celebration last night, Diwali is a five-day Hindu holiday celebrated by many countries in [South Asia], ... Our Diwali was really a small sampler of how different cultures celebrate Diwali. It was an informative and entertaining experience, with lots of singing and dancing. There was also a lot of good Indian [food] provided, always a plus. But the most impressive thing was the fire dance.”

Amanda Walujono ’14