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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.

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ON THE COVER Girl Scout Madison Boynton, 9, from China, Maine, takes part in an Adventure Girls program held at Colby by Teaching Associate in Chemistry Lisa Miller. The program is one of many run by Hardy Girls Healthy Women, a Waterville-based organization whose rise to national prominence is chronicled in “The Girls Are Alright,” P. 14.

insideColby

for students, by students

More than 30 students worked throughout the semester to post new stuff on insideColby.com so students considering Colby can see what life is really like. Curious?



Video highlights this semester include a peek into the life of Ramsey Meigs '11, a German studies and geoscience double major who lives off campus (by a lake) and chops wood for fun; a look at student freestylers who unite to make music in a laid-back, judgment-free zone; and a favorite student pastime—iPlay—and the ultimate favorite, broomball.



This fall Emily Fleming '12 filed eight podcasts during her semester studying in Kenya. Her experiences ranged from sleeping in a mud hut (with goats) to meeting an internationally renowned rapper in Nairobi.



Students wrote stories about the new Colby Entrepreneurial Alliance, the International Food Festival, and the potentially controversial theater production of *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, among other things.



Photos of events and much more are on the Student Lens—a weekly gallery of photos. In this shot by Sadie Robertson '11, Tucker Gorman '11 is shown at work in advanced sculpture class.



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, it's 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**

