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From the Hill

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A Step Ahead

NEW PROGRAM GIVES STUDENTS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS AN EDGE IN THE SCIENCES

RUTH JACOBS STORY JEFF POULAND PHOTOS

It was one of the hottest summers in recent memory in Maine, but for most students in a new program at Colby that included six weeks of summer instruction, the weather was one of the things that felt like home. “Everybody’s like, ‘It’s so hot,’” said Shamika Murray ’14, of Philadelphia, Pa. “I love it. It’s comfortable.”

Now the goal is to make sure these students feel just as comfortable in the lab.

This group, 13 members of the Class of 2014, came to Colby to get a jump-start on their undergraduate careers. They were the first to participate in a new program addressing the underrepresentation of students of color in the sciences. “The sciences are not very diverse,” said J. Warren Merrill Associate Professor of Biology Andrea Tilden, “and African Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanics are particularly underrepresented in the sciences—and not just at Colby but nationwide.”

Tilden, along with Associate Professor of Chemistry Jeffrey Katz and other members of the science faculty, began looking at ways to address minority retention in the sciences almost a decade ago—first with understanding why many students of color were leaving the sciences after their first year at Colby. “We determined that much of the problem was just identifying with the sciences—feeling as though they are actually a part of the sciences,” said Tilden.

With that knowledge and a \$1 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), Colby rolled out the CAPS (Colby Achievement Program in the Sciences) program this summer with students from underrepresented groups interested in science who had been admitted to Colby through the standard process.



The program has two primary goals: to get students comfortable working with faculty and “to fortify students academically and prepare them for their first-year science courses,” Tilden said. “This is something that would benefit any student who comes to Colby regardless of preparation. It’s just a matter of knowing the things that we do in labs at Colby that are different from what anybody does in high school.”

Students spent every morning in the lab with Biology Teaching Associate Tina Beachy ’93 learning how to use equipment and work with data in Excel. Depending on the student, some was review or much was new. Murray, who felt she needed the additional preparation, saw the benefit. “That class is going to be so much



Courtney McIntosh-Peters ’14, left, of Washington, D.C., and Shamika Murray ’14, of Philadelphia, Pa., prepare fiddler crabs for dissection.

“This is something that would benefit any student who comes to Colby regardless of preparation. It’s just a matter of knowing the things that we do in labs at Colby... .”

Merrill Associate Professor of Biology Andrea Tilden



In Professor Andrea Tilden’s biology lab, Shamika Murray ’14 and Courtney McIntosh-Peters ’14 look at crabs’ brain cells to see how fast the neurites grow.

help,” she said. “There’s just so much stuff that I didn’t learn in my high school that she’s teaching us now. Some people in the CAPS program know it, but I never learned it, so it’s like prep for when I get there. This is exactly what I needed.”

Even for those who learned some of the material in high school, the course was worthwhile, they said. “It’s a good refresher from what I learned,” said Courtney McIntosh-Peters ’14, who plans to become a pediatrician.

McIntosh-Peters and Murray teamed up in the afternoon lab section, which addressed the second goal of CAPS: establishing mentoring relationships. “That’s why you come to a small place like this—because you can interact with faculty,” Tilden said. “And many students come here very comfortable doing that, right from the outset, and many don’t. We wanted this group of students in particular to be absolutely comfortable talking to us and talking to any of their professors.”

In Tilden’s lab, McIntosh-Peters and Murray worked with brain cells in crabs. But at times they could also be found at the Waterville Farmers’ Market or the nearby Dairy Cone ice-cream stand with their professor.

For the students, relationships with professors weren’t the only important ones. The first-years quickly formed a bond. “We just became like a family in a sense,” said Alaba Sotayo ’14, who plans to become a neurosurgeon. “We all have problems, we get along—it’s just like a little family and we’re like, ‘We have to stay together during the fall.’”

With a group of friends already set before starting their first year, CAPS students had one less thing to worry about as they returned to campus in late August. Kimara Nzamubona ’14, who recently moved from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Portland, Maine, saw this as one of many reasons to participate in the program. “I thought it was a good advantage for me to be just ahead of other incoming students,” he said, “to learn more about the campus life, to know the professors better.”

CAPS has given students an edge, say participating students and faculty members—but this is just the beginning. Provided they choose to continue with the four-year program, they will be given a \$4,000 stipend for research work either at Colby or in another lab for the next three summers. The HHMI grant also provides funding for speakers and social programming throughout the year.

All CAPS students are also invited to become part of an established program at Colby for students of color in the sciences: Colby Research Scholars (CRS). A separate but related initiative, CRS has students work in professors’ labs during the school year to gain experience and develop relationships with faculty.

Sotayo, the aspiring neurosurgeon, took advanced-placement biology in high school, spent three weeks every summer from seventh grade to sophomore year with the Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University, and last summer did an internship at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. But for her, working in the lab with Assistant Professor of Biology Josh Kavalier was a highlight.

“Surprisingly a lot is new, because in AP bio you get a little bit of everything,” she said, but “in the lab, it’s specific.”

She spent her afternoons sequencing specific DNA of mutated *Drosophila* flies. “Even though I’ve heard of some stuff before, like working with DNA,” she said, “I know about it. But then going to [the] PAX2 [gene]—different, specific genes—this is all new to me.”

And for now, Sotayo said there’s no question that she’ll stick with her scientific focus. “I love it, actually. It’s weird. What most people would find boring, I actually kind of enjoy—I don’t know why. It just works that way.”

Q&A

LORI G. KLETZER, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND DEAN OF FACULTY, ON THE PERSPECTIVE OF A LABOR ECONOMIST, THE ROAD BACK TO THE LIBERAL ARTS, AND CHEERING FOR MULES (INSTEAD OF BANANA SLUGS)

STEPHEN COLLINS '74 INTERVIEW CHRIS BENNETT PHOTO

Lori G. Kletzer, the new vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, arrived at Colby this summer and sat down with College Editor Stephen Collins '74 in August to field questions about her pre-Colby career, early impressions, and her interests.

Where were you before Colby?

For me, coming to Colby is a wandering journey back to the liberal arts college. I was an undergraduate at Vassar, and my first academic job was at Williams. So this is not a transition to, this is a transition back. ... Within the University of California [system], Santa Cruz [where she taught 1992-2010] is the campus most oriented—or at least Santa Cruz likes to think—most oriented toward undergraduates. So, throughout both my studies and my professional career, teaching undergraduates and doing research in an environment that is focused on undergraduates has been just what I've done.

Did you discover economics in college?

I wandered into economics as a freshman. I needed another class, and I liked it. It was serendipitous, and I liked the policy relevance. I liked the aspect of understanding a problem, having a theoretical framework, trying to do the empirical work, and all of that with an eye toward, "Can policy help mitigate this problem?". ... The kind of questions that pulled me in were about permanent job loss and what happens to people when the world structurally moves in a direction different from their set of skills. ... I was in college in 1975-76, in that very deep recession, but '79 through '81 was another very deep one. So it was the nature of structural unemployment in my first years of graduate school that pulled me in.

And it's remained so relevant.

I often say, "When things are bad, that's when my ship comes in." Especially over the last thirty years.

Tell me about the transition from the classroom to the dean's office.

From econ professor to administrator started with a stint as economics department chair at Santa Cruz for three and a half years. I was lucky; it was a time when the campus had resources. Over those three and a half years we hired eight people. So I was involved in finding good people, bringing them into the department, attaching them to mentors, and really working at that early-career faculty development. And I discovered I really liked it. I liked that engagement with people at the start of their careers.

And how does your economics background fit with that?

Economists are schooled to think about resource allocation. "If I put resources here, the cost is I don't get an activity somewhere else." ... Economics department chairs, in some senses, have it easier, because the people you're dealing with—your colleagues—are schooled in the same ways.

But what really planted the seeds that became me as a full-time administrator/dean were at the end of being department chair. I knew there were aspects of administration I liked, but it's kind of hard to figure out, "What do you do next?". ... I became vice chair [of the Santa Cruz faculty senate], a two-year commitment, which led to another two-year commitment as chair. I only did one year because I came here. That brought me out of the economics department and it had me interacting with faculty and colleagues across all disciplines on the campus and also with faculty on the other campuses, because there's this system-wide senate as well. That's where I realized I really like this administration piece. I interacted with administrators on committees on planning and budget, on appointments and personnel, on admissions policy; I interacted with college relations too. ... It was really a great introduction to being a faculty administrator.

Do you have any plans to teach at Colby?

I do. When I feel I have a really steady grasp of the issues that come across my desk, then I will talk with my economics colleagues about what I'd like to teach and what they'd like me to teach, and my hope is that maybe in my third year here ... ?

What attracted you to come from what's perceived by some as a paradise back to northern New England?

There certainly is a paradise nature to coastal California. Except for maybe this summer it has the most perfect weather one can imagine. But even though I've spent 25 years more or less living in California, I've never really said I'm a Californian. I grew up in Oregon. I grew up with more space and green and trees. Having spent six years at Williams, I really liked New England. The look of it is comfortable and very familiar, and after the years in California I like the sense of space here.

Was there anything particular to Waterville or Central Maine? The way it feels. And, as a labor economist ... there's no question that the issues about education and employment opportunities for Maine are really interesting, really critical. But I will admit, Colby was the clear draw. To be able to come back to the liberal arts college setting was the clear draw.



Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Lori G. Kletzer

What are your early impressions?

Overwhelmingly positive. To me, personally, people couldn't be more welcoming. I've gotten this really enveloping, warm welcome to the place and confirmation of the feeling that, "We're here because we're dedicated to this undergraduate intellectual experience." I've felt that from the outset. I also have a sense that's still forming of palpable potential and opportunities to move forward and build something. A sense of commitment and strength and desire to see Colby advance. Very aspirational.

How about your life outside of academe?

I like winter sports—downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing. None of that in Santa Cruz; you have to drive five hours east to Lake Tahoe with everyone else from the Bay Area. So I'm looking forward to being closer to the mountains. I'm also a water person, so the idea of being on lakes and canoeing and kayaking and all that active outdoor stuff is very appealing to me. Also, to me, being three hours from Boston is really a positive. And I like to read and go to movies and museums. I've discovered Railroad Square [Cinema]. What a fabulous jewel. ...

My son is in his junior year at UC Santa Barbara and he is spending that year in China—half in Shanghai and half in Hong Kong. And my 17-year-old daughter is going to be a senior in high school and, by her choice, and it's a choice that makes sense, she's [spending] it in California. It's her last year.

What about sports? Are you any more inclined to root for a mule than a banana slug?

Yeah. Talk about two mascots where you just go, "What?"

Yes, I can cheer for the mules. I am a sports fan from childhood. Football games, basketball games. I'm a swimmer, so I will go to every swim meet. I would travel to go to a swim meet. So I'm going to take in all of it.



Dean Kletzer's professional profile is online at www.colby.edu/directory_cs/1kletzer/

Jess Minty Runs for Her Life

NCAA ALL-AMERICAN ADDS DISTANCE—AND AN OLYMPIC MARATHON GOAL

GERRY BOYLE '78 STORY

A couple of years ago, this was Colby All-American runner Jessica Minty's routine:

Minty '06, an economics major who graduated magna cum laude, was working 60 to 100 hours a week for a consulting firm in Boston, Analysis Group. Her day started at 4:45 a.m. "I'd get out along the Charles to try to get in anywhere from four to ten to fourteen miles before I went to the office," she said. "I ended up moving within a two-minute walk of the office so that I wouldn't have to spend any more time commuting to work."

And if the morning run didn't fit in? Minty, who was running for the New Balance-Boston team at the time, would squeeze in a run on her lunch break. "Or nine o'clock at night," she said, "excusing myself to go down and run ten miles on the treadmill in the gym downstairs before coming back to continue to work until two in the morning."

Run, shower, work, sleep. "It had me questioning," Minty said. "What's gonna give?"

(A hint: it wasn't going to be her running.)

The training and coaching from New Balance began to pay off, even as Minty's grueling regimen continued. Competing nationally, she was lowering her times, and she eventually caught the attention of Peter Rea, who coaches Team ZAP, a Reebok-sponsored nonprofit professional team based in North Carolina.

"Frankly, I'd never heard of Jess Minty," Rea said. "But I saw her name springing up and she was banging heads with and beating many of the women from D-I schools. It piqued my interest."

And when Rea saw Minty run, he liked what he saw. "She had very good biomechanics," he said. "In the big picture, she hadn't run a lot of miles. She was young in running years."

This despite the fact that Minty has been running for a long time, for increasingly long distances.

In high school in Massachusetts she first was a sprinter, moving to the 800-meter event. At Colby Minty was successful in the 800- and 1,500-meter events, placing eighth nationally in D-III in the 800 her senior year. After Colby she focused on 5,000-meter races, the most common post-collegiate events. Rea said her speed for that distance was good but not outstanding. The better event for her, in his opinion? The marathon.



PHOTO BY WICHAH SAUER

NCAA All-American Jess Minty '06 put her finance consulting career on hold to run professionally and train full-time in hopes of winning a spot on the 2012 U.S. Olympic team as a marathoner.

Minty had watched the Boston Marathon as a child but had never run one. But she was intrigued enough to visit the ZAP Fitness training center in the mountains of western North Carolina. ZAP Fitness financially supports (at \$25,000 per runner per year, plus benefits) about 10 post-

SPORTS SHORTS

college distance runners, prepping them for a run at the U.S. Olympic team. Minty checked out the facilities, met the rest of the team (seven men, three women, most from D-I programs), and went back to Boston to give her notice.

"Everyone understood it was the opportunity of a lifetime," she said, "that consulting and the business and finance world would continue to be there but there's really only a short window when you can realize your potential as a competitive distance runner."

And just like that, Minty traded her cubicle and computer for running trails and the gym.

She's been running for ZAP Fitness for two years—halfway into a four-year plan laid out by Rea. The objective: a place on the U.S. Olympic team for 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

The plan included her marathon debut in Boston last March. "My coach and I put together a really good twelve-week buildup leading up to the marathon," Minty said. "I was feeling fantastic. Some key workouts ... suggested that I would be ready to run my first marathon in a very competitive time. And, given the field for Boston this year, I fully intended to be the top American finisher."

But then Minty was tripped up (not literally). Two weeks before the race she strained a tendon in her ankle and, instead of running Boston, she ended up in a walking cast. She had to take five weeks off and in June was still working her way back to her training pace: "Last week I ended up running seventy miles. I'd like to be running a hundred or a hundred and ten." By July she was there.

Despite that setback, Rea says Minty still is on track and showing good progress. "I'm very pleased," he said. "Not content, but very pleased."

Minty has already qualified for the Olympic trials, by running a 1:14.20 half-marathon in Houston in February. The plan now is for the Colby alumna to make her marathon debut in California in December at the California International Marathon in Sacramento.

With the Olympic trials still two years away, Minty, 26, said she knows she has a long way to go ("I'm an infant when it comes to the marathon," she said). But she has her sights on one of those three slots. "I don't think I would be at ZAP if I didn't think that I could make the team. So the goal is to make it to London. If, at the end of all this, I fall short and finish fifth, I'll still be ecstatic. I'll likely still pursue running professionally for another Olympic cycle or more.

"I want to know what's the best my body can be," she said. "How fast can I go? How high can I place? I think it's just the pursuit of wanting to know one's limits. That's always been the goal."



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH HATHAWAY '11



PHOTO BY CHARLIE SPATZ '13

Ball handlers

Above, goalkeeper Jayde Bennett '13 moves the ball downfield en route to a 2-2 tie with Wesleyan Sept. 18. Bennett recorded three shutouts in her first three games. Left, tailback Conor Tidgwell '11 grinds out a few more yards in Colby's 38-27 win over Middlebury Oct. 2. Tidgwell rushed for 91 yards as the Mules avenged a 45-0 loss to the Panthers in 2009. Also coming up big Oct. 2 was the men's soccer team. The Mules beat 19th-ranked and previously undefeated Middlebury 2-1 in a dramatic overtime win. Nick Aubin '11 scored the winning goal with just 35 seconds left in overtime.



What Monsters Can Teach Us

JENNIFER BOYLAN TAKES KIDS TO ANOTHER WORLD TO HELP THEM BETTER NEGOTIATE THEIR OWN

SARAH BRAUNSTEIN STORY HEATHER PERRY '93 PHOTO

Colby English Professor Jennifer Boylan isn't afraid of ghosts. Or monsters. Or, for that matter, metaphors. When it comes down to it, Boylan doesn't seem afraid of much at all—and she has written a bold new book asking young readers (and adults, for that matter) to think again about the scary things in their own lives.

In *Falcon Quinn and the Black Mirror*, Boylan takes us on a wild ride, daring readers to share an adventure story, explore the possibilities of identity, and figure out just what it means to “be yourself.”

At 13 we all feel like monsters. Our bodies and voices aren't our own. Our parents have become strangers. We're forced to decode a new and complex social order. Adolescence is brutal—for Falcon Quinn, it's doubly challenging. One day this plucky, kind-hearted kid from Cold River, Maine, boards what appears to be a regular school bus and is shuttled at harrowing speed to a supernatural boarding school on a mysterious island. There he is greeted by Mrs. Redflint, a no-nonsense administrator who happens to breathe fire. Contrary to what he's always believed, Falcon is not human, Mrs. Redflint announces.

Welcome, friends, to the Academy for Monsters.

Here Falcon meets a dazzling array of monstrous tweens/teens: zombies, vampires, Frankensteins, enchanted slugs, warebears, sasquatch, and one zippy creature called La Chupakabra, “the famous goatsucker of Peru.” It's the dubious mission of the Academy of Monsters to teach its pupils to adapt to the human world, to reject the quirks and oddities (and perhaps gifts) that constitute their monster natures. All new students undergo a battery of tests at the “Wellness Center,” are briskly labeled with a monstrous diagnosis, and are sent off to classes to learn how to pass as “normal” in the human world.

All except poor Falcon, for no one knows quite what he is. (Is the kid human? Monster? What kind of monster?) It's up to Falcon and his gang of howling, oozing, shape-shifting misfits to unravel the mysteries of this curious school. What Falcon discovers bonds him to his new friends—and threatens the group to its core.

Boylan can relate to Falcon's trials, and she feels compassion for the book's monsters, even the most grotesque and pitiful. As a professor, a novelist, memoirist, parent, and transgender woman, Boylan knows that identity is a slippery concept, that one's search for oneself is a dangerous but necessary game. “We always tell kids: ‘Be yourself.’ It's the moral of so many kids' books,” Boylan said. “But almost never do we accept how truly difficult that can be. ...The book looks at the questions: What does it mean to be different? What is the price we pay?”

To explore these questions, Boylan turned to the supernatural. Monsters and ghosts have always appealed to her—for years she and Profes-

sor Emeritus Charles Bassett have spent Halloween night reading ghost stories to Colby students. “Ghosts provide a good way of thinking about alternative selves,” Boylan said. “Monsters, on the other hand, are a good way of thinking about what it's like to be different in the world.”

Learning to accept those aspects of self that don't fit neatly within the social order has been Boylan's life work. She is perhaps most well known for her best-selling memoir *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, an account of her experience transitioning from male to female. She writes with unflinching candor about the sorrows and joys of embracing a life of difference, accepting its price.

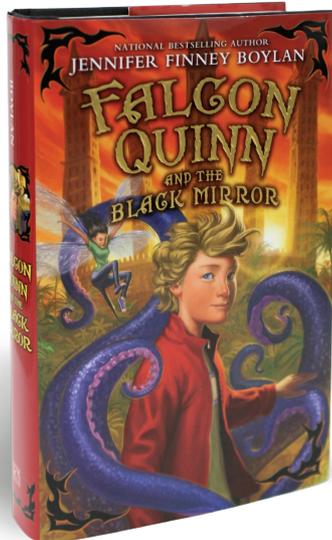
You don't have to be a Colby English major to see the thread connecting *She's Not There* and this most recent volume. Said Boylan, “Yes, *Falcon Quinn* is a goofy book about monsters. And kids can engage with it this way. But on a fundamental level it's not a change of subject for me. I'm taking on the same issues [as the memoir] in a much more subtle and playful way.”

We all must change—and so must our families. But the changes the Boylan family has undergone have been more public, and perhaps more unusual, than most. Boylan reports that many readers of *She's Not There* ask how the family is doing now: How have the boys handled the change? What's their home life like? The 10th anniversary edition of the memoir, due out in 2013, will address some of these questions. *Falcon Quinn* is another answer.

Boylan says her family's inspiration and support made the book possible. Boylan's wife, Deirdre Finney, instilled a love of reading in the boys and exposed Boylan to the fantasy/middle-grades-reader genre. Zach, now 16, was the model for the character of Max, the lovable sasquatch. (“He's a heart on legs,” Boylan said.) Sean, 14, who bears a striking resemblance to the bright-eyed Falcon on the book cover (a bit of serendipity, for the art designers never met Sean), became a merciless fact-checker and wizard of plot turns. “He's the logician of the family,” Boylan said.

The family lived together with the book, and while Boylan made final editorial decisions, her sons have a sense of ownership and pride in the final product. As the family explored these characters and their adventures, they had conversations about their own lives, about the sociology of middle school, about difference, change, transition.

Perhaps most critically, they had fun. The book became a thing they made together—emblematic of one family's open-hearted adventure. Yes, this is a novel about otherness, about feeling alone in the world, but it owes its existence to one family's togetherness.



Falcon Quinn and the Black Mirror
Jennifer Boylan (English)
HarperCollins (2010)

Jennifer Boylan (English) and sons Zach, left, and Sean, who served as “consultants” for Boylan's new novel, *Falcon Quinn and the Black Mirror*

Down to the Sea

LINDA GREENLAW RETURNS TO HER TRUE CALLING

LAURA MEADER STORY

Linda Greenlaw '83 became a well-known fisherman in 1997 when Sebastian Junger lauded her abilities as a swordboat captain in his book *The Perfect Storm*, a chronicle of the "Halloween Storm" of 1991, in which six men were lost at sea. In 1999 Greenlaw published *The Hungry Ocean*, which became a bestseller. She's been busy ever since—publishing five other books, from a mystery novel to a cookbook.

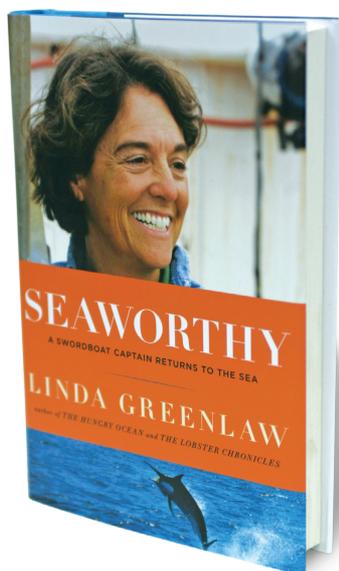
So who is Linda Greenlaw—fisherman or author?

In *Seaworthy*, her latest book, Greenlaw is back fishing the Grand Banks after a 10-year absence from swordfishing. *Seaworthy* captures the grueling thrill of long-line fishing from the 63-foot *Seahawk* while detailing life for a month a thousand miles offshore.



PHOTOS BY ARCHIE JOST

Author Linda Greenlaw '83, at the helm of the *Seahawk*, a swordfishing boat. Greenlaw, a longtime swordboat captain, chronicles her return to fishing in a new book, *Seaworthy*.



Seaworthy: A Swordboat Captain Returns to the Sea
Linda Greenlaw '83
Viking (2010)

Greenlaw's fluid narrative shows the complexity of managing crew and boat while navigating unforeseen variables, for the *Seahawk* voyage was anything but smooth sailing. Serious engine trouble, a hold filling with water, and Greenlaw's well-publicized arrest for fishing in Canadian waters were just some of the hurdles Greenlaw faced with tenacity, maturity, and single-minded perseverance.

Seaworthy also gets us into Greenlaw's fisherman's head. The book dives deep into what it means to be a captain, which Greenlaw writes is a "total contradiction of burden and freedom. ... The freedom to make all decisions, unquestioned and without input, was something that I had missed during my sabbatical. To be held ultimately, although not solely, responsible ... was strangely exhilarating and empowering. ... But

high hopes and expectations were weighty loads. It's the willingness, and not the ability, to bear that burden that separates captains from their crew."

That willingness, however, was a long time coming. Before the *Seahawk* voyage Greenlaw hadn't caught a single swordfish in 10 years. Instead, she was lobstering and writing books on her adopted home of Isle au Haut, Maine, and doing book tours around the country. While she knew she had a good gig, the desire to catch swordfish never waned. And always in the back of her mind was the nagging question of her identity.

"I'm introduced every night on book tours as a best-selling author," she said in an interview in Bucksport, Maine, before yet another book signing. "How come they're not introducing me as a fisherman?"



Best-selling author Linda Greenlaw '83 with the crew of the *Seahawk* and a swordfish, part of the boat's catch.

After she agreed to captain the *Seahawk*, the fears set in. "I felt like my entire identity was at risk. What if I don't like it anymore? What if I'm totally disenchanted with what I say I am?" she recalled feeling. "I still feel like a fisherman. What if I'm not?"

In other words, was Linda Greenlaw still seaworthy?

Greenlaw, originally from Topsham, Maine, had been a summer kid on Isle Au Haut, six miles off the Maine coast, where her grandfather, Aubrey Greenlaw '20, lived. (Aubrey's three sons attended Colby as well: Charles '50, George '55, and James '57, Linda's father.) Greenlaw herself was 19 and a student at Colby when she made her first swordfishing trip.

At 5' 4", she may not appear capable of wrestling 100-pound swordfish, but her slight frame belies her grit. With more than 30 years experience fishing everything from lobster to crab to squid to tuna, Greenlaw says swordfish are the most exciting and challenging fish to catch. While there's money to be made, she "fishes sword" mostly because she loves it.

"I felt like my entire identity was at risk. What if I don't like it anymore? What if I'm totally disenchanted with what I say I am? ... I still feel like a fisherman, what if I'm not?"

Linda Greenlaw '83

The distance from shore, fishing with the lunar cycle, and managing the changing parameters of tide, temperature, and current add significantly to the adventure.

The Hungry Ocean chronicles this love and captures the essence of her 20 years swordfish-

ing. The hungry ocean "refers to the ocean's ability to totally consume," she said. "When I wrote that book, I felt as though my life had been consumed for twenty years by something I have loved to do."

"*Seaworthy* is so much more mature and totally different," she continued, referring to the book's exploration of the willingness to captain. "It was like all my life 'seaworthy' had been the most complimentary adjective that I could aspire to or attribute to anyone."

Although her voyage aboard the *Seahawk* wasn't the "noted comeback" she wanted, she proved to herself that her identity is intact. She is a fisherman, she knows, and seaworthy.

This fall Greenlaw is again swordfishing the Grand Banks. When she returns she'll begin another book, not about fishing but about how she became legal guardian of a young girl, now 18, who was a newcomer to Isle au Haut.

So who is Linda Greenlaw—fisherman or author?

"My checkbook says I'm an author," she said. "but my heart says I'm a fisherman."

Basketball as Barometer

BILL RUSSELL'S LIFE AND CAREER TRACK RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICA

GERRY BOYLE '78 REVIEW

Most biographers are skilled in bringing people to life, tracing the path from birth to grave, revealing the influences that shaped the life of the subject.

Aram Goudsouzian '94 is a skilled biographer, and his exploration of the life of basketball great Bill Russell, *King of the Court: Bill Russell and the Basketball Revolution*, does all of the above. The book recounts Russell's family leaving the Jim Crow South for Oakland, Calif., the death of his mother, Katie, when he was 12, and Russell's metamorphosis from a gangly, awkward teenager (he didn't make varsity in high school) to a professional star who singlehandedly changed the way the game was played.

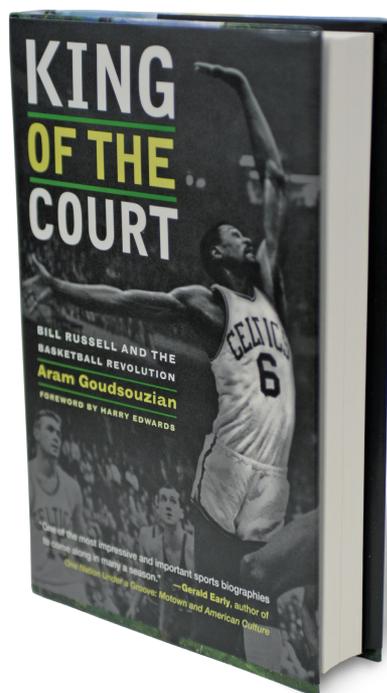
But Goudsouzian combines the biographer's eye for detail with the historian's broad view of time and place (he previously turned his spotlight on actor Sidney Poitier). *King of the Court* is a fascinating sports biography, but it is also a prism through which to view the dramatic changes in American society that took place during Russell's career.

Consider that in the 1950s organized basketball was a methodical, slow-moving game played by whites; the style of ball played today, with soaring drives and gravity-defying dunks, was then belittled as "Negro" basketball, Goudsouzian writes.

Goudsouzian reminds us that Russell grew up at a time when schools remained segregated, the National Basketball Association was "a white league," and the most talented African-American players were recruited for exhibition teams like the Harlem Globetrotters. Enter Russell, a college star (leading the University of San Francisco to national titles) but still the only black player on the Boston Celtics. Within months Russell had established himself as one of the most dominant, innovative basketball players in the league.

Yet the star center had to endure racial epithets from opposing fans and couldn't eat with the team in whites-only restaurants. "I was excluded from almost everything except practice and the games," he said.

Soon Russell had become one of the most well-known and highly regarded professional athletes in the world, yet he kept fandom at arm's



King of the Court: Bill Russell and the Basketball Revolution
Aram Goudsouzian '94
University of California Press (2010)

length, Goudsouzian recounts. Russell, whose pride was unflinching, rebuffed a country that would laud his athletic abilities while discriminating against him because of his race, seeing him one-dimensionally. "He fretted that people considered him 'a fine young animal,'" Goudsouzian writes, "rather than someone who considered 'social problems, philosophical concepts, deep thoughts of any kind.'"

And Russell considered all of those things. He refused to accept that the civil rights movement must be nonviolent and multiracial, espousing a philosophy closer to that of Malcolm X than Martin Luther King Jr. He traveled to and invested in Liberia, praising that country's safeguarding of human rights. He derided the conventional wisdom that "sport promoted black uplift," and refused to ignore Boston's

"[Bill Russell] fretted that people considered him 'a fine young animal' ... rather than someone who considered social problems, philosophical concepts, deep thoughts of any kind."

Aram Goudsouzian '94

own racism. He would not compromise his manhood and demanded that others recognize him as a complete and complex person.

The book isn't all about Russell's complexities off the court, however. Russell's rivalry with Wilt Chamberlain is revealingly explored, as are his close relationship with Celtics coach Red Auerbach and his own NBA coaching career, which broke down a racial barrier.

The championship series of the 1960s are dramatically recounted (in choosing academe, Goudsouzian, who teaches at the University of Memphis, cost the world a topnotch sportswriter), and in the end Russell emerges as a supremely talented athlete determined to win on the court and to find and maintain his place in the world around it.

It is a tale about, as Goudsouzian writes, "Russell's lifelong quest for meaning, a journey through sport and race and women and fame, a journey past childhood scars, past triumphs, past bitterness, past ego, past fears and frailties."

It's a story well told and worth reading.



See an essay by Aram Goudsouzian '94 on Colby soccer and Bill Russell, online at www.colby.edu/mag, Keyword: Russell

RECENT RELEASES

African American Politics

Kendra A. King '94

Polity (2010)

What better time to publish a comprehensive study of African-American politics than on the heels of the election of the nation's first African-American president? President Barack Obama's elevation to the country's highest elected office was a watershed moment

but also the latest development in a political journey that, as Kendra King demonstrates, is even more complex than most Americans realize.

King, associate professor of politics at Oglethorpe University, explores the challenges of the relationship between African Americans and politics, introduc-

ing readers to the reality and remnants of Jim Crow, forces at work in the post-civil rights era, the obstacles to African-American political participation, and the revelatory difference between symbolic and substantive politics. (The comparison of presidents Nixon and Clinton is particularly interesting).

The book plumbs polling and U.S. census data, the political stance of hip-hop culture, and the true power in Congress, among other sources, to provide a picture that is both compelling and sometimes startling. King, in the introduction, says her aim in the book is the same as her mission in the classroom: to provide "a laboratory of genuine dialogue, exchange, exposure, and uplift as I seek to take my students on a journey of intellectual empowerment and emancipation."

Readers can expect the same.

Brilliant: The Evolution of Artificial Light

Jane Brox '78

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (2010)

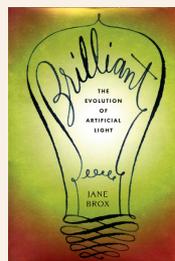
One-word review? "Illuminating."

Not just the fascinating and thorough history of how, over millennia, the lives of men and women were transformed by tallow and oil lamps, then gaslights, and finally electric bulbs. It is also an illuminating glimpse into the mind of a writer steeped in the liberal arts, curious about every aspect, open to a serendipity that launches delightful digressions.

Brox established herself as a writer of lyrical nonfiction grounded in New England farm and family life. *Brilliant* shifts to the social history of the technology of artificial lighting. She begins in the caves of Lascaux, in southern France, and draws a convincing portrait of primitive humans drawing cave art by the light of tallow lamps.

She describes ominous nights in cities before outdoor lighting, noting that the word "nightlife" did not

exist until the mid-19th century. She introduces Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla, churns through the development of hydropower at Niagara Falls, and shows her agrarian



roots discussing rural U.S. electrification in the mid-20th century. "Electricity changed the country way of living," said a Pennsylvania farmer whom she quotes. "It put the country people more on a par with the city people."

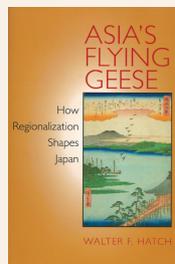
In her serpentine narrative, Brox winds from Lascaux to Conakry, Guinea, where kids nightly flock from their dark homes to the international airport to study in bright parking lots. And in America two thirds of the people can no longer see the Milky Way because of light pollution. Is it possible, she asks, that "we are hampered more by brilliance than our ancestors ever were by the dark"? —S.B.C.

Asia's Flying Geese: How Regionalization Shapes Japan

Walter F. Hatch (government)

Cornell University Press (2010)

The title of Associate Professor Walter Hatch's new book refers to a metaphor applied in Japan to Asia's flock of national economies. As the "lead goose" during the region's economic boom of the 1990s, Japan and its highly developed economy supplied capital, technology,



and know-how to lesser geese: Singapore and South Korea. Making up the rest of the flock's V-shaped formation were Thailand, Malaysia, and other less developed economies.

From an interdisciplinary perspective, Hatch shows how Japan's political and economic elites benefited from their country's lead status, sharing Japan's model of capitalism. The flock was disrupted by the economic decline in Japan in the late 1990s, the associated disruption of East Asia's dependent economies, and the rise of the People's Republic of China. Now, Hatch demonstrates, Japan, like the rest of Asia, is a very different place. There are lessons here for anyone interested in the effect of globalization on national economies.

The Sea Before Us

Mark Radcliffe '93

2009 (CD)

While Mark Radcliffe '93 busily went about his life—travel writing and teaching English—he also made music. He eventually focused on songwriting and began playing clubs in Atlanta, Boston, New York, and

Los Angeles. In 2009 he teamed up with Rob Giles of The Rescues to create *The Sea Before Us*, Radcliffe's first studio release.

A lush blend of 11 songs, *The Sea Before Us* is an acoustic pop-rock collection with echoes of Jack Johnson, Duncan Shiek, and Chris Isaak. But Radcliffe has his own distinct sound with a soothing voice, heartfelt lyrics, and solid instrumentation that fuse into melodic songs that stay with you.

From the opening song, "In The Sun," a bright, romantic piece, to "Tumbleweed," with a gorgeous piano opening and a powerful chorus, to the breezy "Santa Monica Daze," *The Sea Before Us* confirms Radcliffe as a talented singer songwriter and supple musician. This is a CD you'll reach for often, and before long you will know the songs by heart.

Radcliffe, from Auburn, Maine, launched a fall tour in September. True to his roots, he opened in Portland and shared the stage with singer songwriter Jason Spooner '95. Radcliffe may be a self-described late bloomer but *The Sea Before Us* is a welcome addition to folk and pop-rock collections everywhere. —L.M.

Sand and Gravel

Sam Otis Hill & Co. (Sam [Otis] Hainer '96)

2010 (CD)

In the liner notes of *Sand and Gravel*, Sam Hainer '96 thanks Colby voice instructor Elizabeth Patches, with whom he studied classical voice for four years. An odd notation, perhaps, as *Sand and Gravel* sits squarely in the country music genre.

From Patches, Hainer learned technique and stage presence. He also studied music theory and sang with the Colby Chorale and Collegium. Back in his dorm room, however, he soaked up the music his Texan roommate played: Jerry Jeff Walker and Steve Earle.

Named after Sam Cooke and Otis Redding (he adopted "Hill" as a stage name) Hainer once fronted The Billies and hosted the Boston City Limits Festival. His latest project, *Sand and Gravel*, contains 10 outlaw country songs with titles like "Ballad of the Kirkland Cafe," "Conman," and "My Texan Friend." Hainer's polished, steady voice leads

a four-man band that includes a versatile fiddle player and commanding lead guitarist. Together they produce toe-tapping, beer-drinking music infused with '60s soul and folk music. Join their CD release party at Johnny D's in Somerville, Mass., November 20.

Thank you, Elizabeth Patches. —L.M.

