

Colby



Colby Magazine

Volume 99
Issue 2 *Summer 2010*

Article 5

July 2010

Colby News

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Recommended Citation

(2010) "Colby News," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 99 : Iss. 2 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol99/iss2/5>

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Class of 2010 Ready to Fly

"What unites us as humans is far more powerful and important than what divides us," Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Judith A. McHale told graduates at Colby's 189th Commencement, May 23. "From Waterville to Moscow to Islamabad, people everywhere share the same aspirations for their families and communities."

The former CEO of Discovery Communications, now in the Obama administration, urged students "to focus on the ways to tap into the potential of partnerships based on human commonality and to avoid becoming blinded by the superficial differences between people, the man-made barriers that impede mutually beneficial relationships."

Four members of previous classes marched before the 477 members of the senior class accepted bachelor's degrees from President William D. Adams. Class speaker Steven A. Tatko of Willimantic, Maine, told his classmates, "Be true to who you are." He quoted his father, who told him to be proud and that people would respect "the goodness inside of you." Tatko then said, "I hope, Dad, that I've been able to live up to your example."

Leading the procession were the top academic graduates: valedictorian Alexandra E. Wesnousky of Davis, Calif., and class



PHOTO BY FRED FIELD

Carter Professor of Mathematics Fernando Gouvêa with seniors Aicha Fall, left, and Fiona Braslau. Fall and Braslau are international students whose parents couldn't attend commencement, so Gouvêa "went out of his way to give them a hug."

More, including audio, video, transcripts, and photos, at:
www.colby.edu/commencement

marshal Brian P. DiMento of Rowley, Mass. Sameera Anwar of Bahrain won the Condon Medal for constructive citizenship.

McHale and four others received honorary degrees: Professor Kwame Anthony Appiah of Princeton; Helene Gayle, president and CEO of CARE; Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Rhodes; and Professor Joshua Silver of Oxford University, who is director of the Centre for Vision in the Developing World.

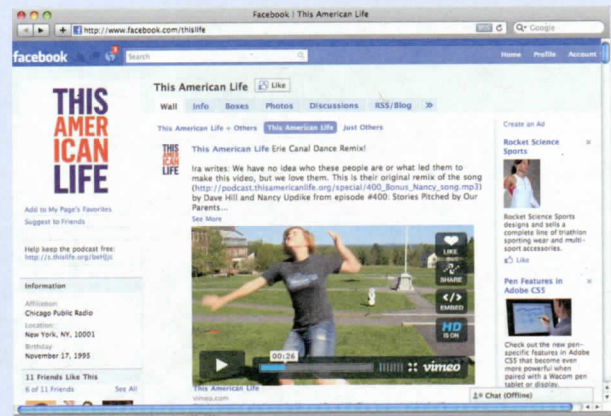
—Stephen B. Collins '74

Life-Altering Video?

An original remix of a song used in an episode of Public Radio International's *This American Life*, along with a free-spirited dance on Miller Library lawn, caught the attention of Ira Glass after a video was posted to Vimeo by Jeff Carpenter '12. Glass posted it on his Facebook page (earning more than 100 comments and 450 "likes") and to *This American Life*'s blog, with this introduction. "Okay America. Prepare to have your life changed—for the better." Check it out at www.colby.edu/mag, keyword iraglass.



Want to find out about this kind of news as it happens?
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Most Diverse Class

The Class of 2014 will be the most diverse in Colby's history, with 24 percent being students of color—six percentage points higher than the previous record, set with the Class of 2010. This comes after steady efforts on the part of an interdepartmental task force that worked on recruiting students of color and a year of intensive recruiting by the Office of Admissions in response to a priority set by President Bro Adams, said Director of Admissions Steve Thomas.

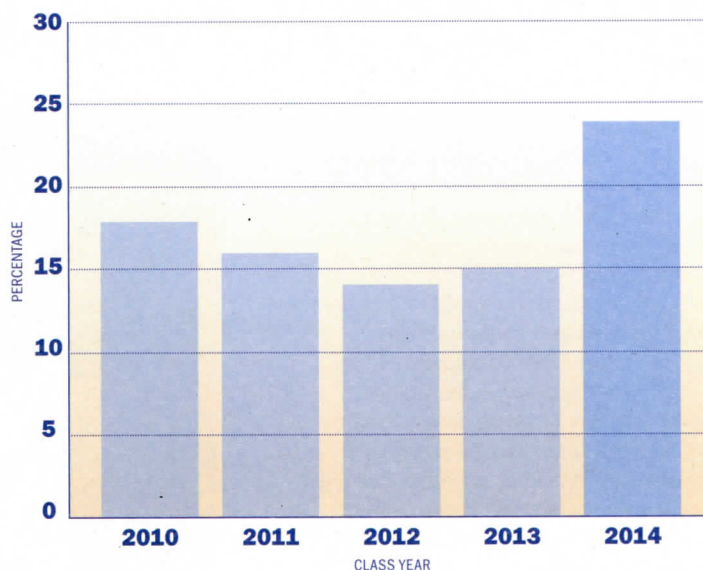
"Because this was very clearly explained to us as the top priority, we diverted some of our resources to the recruitment of students of color," Thomas said.

Admissions' efforts were leveraged by a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute establishing a program in the sciences for promising students who could benefit from summer instruction. These students, often from underrepresented groups, show interest in the sciences, but they come from secondary schools where the quality of instruction may have resulted in them entering Colby less prepared for the core science curriculum.

In order to find students eligible for this CAPS program (Colby Achievement Program in the Sciences), faculty members in the sciences got involved. "We put our [science] faculty on the road," said Janice Kassman, special assistant to the president, who worked closely with Merrill Associate Professor of Biology Andrea Tilden on CAPS recruiting.

Though CAPS was just a part of overall diversity recruiting, it gave structure to the efforts and an absolute goal—at least 10 science students—to reach for. "Even though not all the students came in under the HHMI, it got us through the door," said Kassman. "It gave us something to talk about."

Students of color in incoming classes:



The overall profile of the Class of 2014 is, as always, strong. Colby accepted 34 percent of applicants, and 91 percent were in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating class. Students will come from 33 states, districts, and territories and 34 countries, and 14 percent of the class is international. —Ruth Jacobs

Students Issue Consumer Alert

Baby shampoo laced with formaldehyde? Lipstick containing lead? These are just two examples brought forth by Colby students who are pushing lawmakers to create legislation regulating chemicals in personal care products.

Many everyday products, from nail polish to sunscreen, contain chemicals that build up in the human body and have been linked to things like cancer and infertility, say Michelle Russell '11, Blair Braverman '11, and Sarah Hart '10. The United States, they say, lags behind other countries and the European Union when it comes to restricting use of certain chemicals.

This spring, along with the Maine



Students mail personal care products to a lab to obtain ingredient information, raise awareness, and lobby for legislation.

Women's Policy Center, local high school students, and other college students, the trio aimed to raise awareness through staging press events, testifying at public hearings,

and creating a website (web.colby.edu/cleanmakeup). Their efforts resulted in public radio, television, and newspaper exposure.

In a *Morning Sentinel* oped, Braverman wrote: "I am 21 years old, and I hope to have children someday. I should not have to worry that ingredients in my shampoo will put me at risk for infertility, or that my sunscreen is linked to increased rates of birth defects. But I, like all Americans, am an involuntary lab rat in chemical experiments that put our health and our future at risk. ... Our health, and the health of our families, is the most important thing we have. It needs to be protected." —R.J.

Professors, Chaplains, and a VP Depart

Two long-serving members of the faculty, Clara C. Piper Professor of Environmental Studies David Firmage and Adjunct Professor of Theater and Dance Christine (Tina) Wentzel, retired from teaching this year. Also retiring are two Colby chaplains, Rabbi Raymond Krinsky and Rev. Ronald Morrell, and a vice president announced his resignation.

Wentzel started at Colby in 1973, Firmage in 1975.

President William D. Adams credited Firmage as one of the founders of Colby's nationally recognized Environmental Studies Program and as a cofounder of the successful Colby Undergraduate Research Symposium, begun in 2000. Firmage studies plant reproductive biology and plant ecology, and he has worked with students for many years on watershed analysis aimed at improving water quality in central Maine lakes.

Wentzel was feted with an elaborate farewell celebration in Strider Theater in April, with the program including video from her dance and creative movement



PHOTO BY FRED FIELD



PHOTO BY FRED FIELD

David Firmage (biology and environmental studies), left, and Tina Wentzel (theater and dance), right, work with students. Both retired at the end of the academic year after a combined 72 years of service.

performances through the decades and a live performance by former student Heidi Henderson '83. At the retirement dinner in May, Adams said, "Tina has taught students how to dance and how to think about dance," adding that she often tested their limits.

Rev. Morrell, the Protestant chaplain, and Rabbi Krinsky, the Jewish chaplain, both started official roles on campus in 1984. The Rabbi will continue to teach

Hebrew in the coming academic year.

In other departures, Richard A. Ammons, vice president for college relations, announced that he was leaving Colby to become associate dean for development and alumni relations at the Fuqua School of Business at Duke. Noel James, director of the Pugh Center and associate dean of students for multicultural affairs, married to Ammons, also is leaving. —S.B.C.

Fulbright and Udall Scholars in Unprecedented Numbers

Two rising seniors scored prestigious Udall Scholarships this spring, while three graduating seniors and three recent grads won Fulbright grants for study or teaching abroad next year.

J. Sarah Sorenson '11 and Blair Braverman '11, both environmental policy majors, were named 2010 Udall Scholars in April. They are among 80 students nationwide selected from 537 candidates on the basis of their commitment to careers in the environment, health care, or tribal public policy. Leadership potential and academic achievement also are criteria.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Philip Nyhus said the awards are validation that "the Colby Environmental



Sarah Sorenson '11



Blair Braverman '11

Studies Program is attracting and nurturing some of the nation's most talented, passionate, and ambitious students."

Colby's newest Fulbrights include: Holly Battelle '08, grant for research in Bangladesh; Sarajane Blair '10, English

Teaching Assistantship (ETA) for research and teaching in Kosovo; Antonio Mendez '06, ETA in Andorra; Katherine A. Peterson '10, ETA in South Korea; Zachary Rich '10, grant for research in the People's Republic of China; Julia Stuebing '08, grant for research in Israel.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers fellowships to study abroad for one academic year, and the program includes the English Teaching Assistant positions. Ziskind Associate Professor of East Asian Studies Kimberly Besio, who coordinates applications from seniors and recent graduates, called it "a very good year." —S.B.C.

More about the awards at
www.colby.edu/mag, keyword: 2010awards

Robotics On (and Off) the Hill

This summer some of the world's most important computer programmers visited the Colby College Museum of Art. Sort of.

As a part of Associate Professor of Computer Science Bruce Maxwell's museum robot project, which allows people to virtually browse the museum via their computers, Bogumil Giertler '12 designed a way to control a robot

through iPhones and iPads. His programming won him a scholarship to Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference in San Francisco. After examining Giertler's scholarship-winning interface, Apple asked him to demonstrate the technology at the conference.

On June 7 Giertler presented his interface, allowing programmers at the conference to drive the robot from 3,000 miles away and virtually wander around the Colby museum. "I met tons of people, among them people who developed Skype or Google Mail—people whose software or hardware we use every day," said Giertler. "[My interface] was really, really well received," he continued. "Most of the people understood the importance of it, and one of the leading Apple engineers told me, 'You impressed the hell out of a lot of people today.'"

—Jennifer Sibert '13

Watch a video of robotics project at insidecolby.com/video

Bogumil Giertler '12 of Mikolow, Poland, presented his interface for this robot at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference.

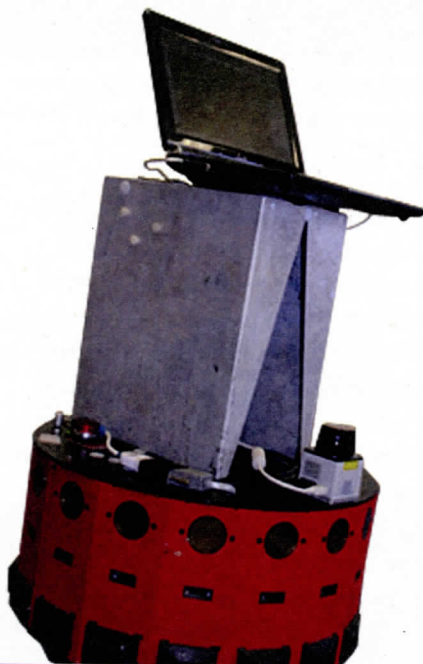


PHOTO BY JENNIFER SIBERT '13

Green Power Champion Three-peat

For the third year the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named Colby its Green Power Challenge conference champion in NESAC. Colby makes 10 percent of its electricity through cogeneration and buys only green power—electricity from 100-percent renewable sources.

Colby's move to 100-percent renewable electricity sources, in 2003, helped establish a market for green power in Maine and led to national recognition for green power use. Purchased electricity has come from hydro, wind, and biomass. The on-campus cogeneration turbine uses steam-plant exhaust, and the College buys Green-E certified renewable energy credits for specific projects. Taking those credits into account, the EPA reports that 103 percent of Colby's electricity is green power.

In the EPA's Green Power Challenge, Colby had the highest percentage among participating colleges and universities nationwide in the first two years and the second-highest percentage in 2009-10.

EPA Green Power Challenge 2009-10: www.epa.gov/greenpower/initiatives/cu_challenge.htm



Imperiled Reporter Who Covers Mexico Is 2010 Lovejoy Winner

A newspaper reporter covering one of the most dangerous beats in the world—Mexican drug cartels and associated mayhem—will receive Colby's Lovejoy Award for courageous journalism Sept. 26.

Alfredo Corchado, Mexico bureau chief for the *Dallas Morning News*, is regarded as the most intrepid reporter on that beat, according to Rebecca Corbett '74, a member of the Lovejoy Selection Committee and assistant Washington bureau chief for the *New York Times*. He has broken news about drug dealers and organized crime, disappearances and deaths of women in Juarez, police and government corruption, and the spillover of violence across the border into Dallas and other cities.

Corchado has endured threats to his life, has been forced to leave Mexico at times, and takes special precautions, but he continues to write about the conflict on the U.S.-Mexico border. Born in Durango, Mexico, he grew up in California and Texas.



Alfredo Corchado

It honors the memory of Elijah Parish Lovejoy, Colby's valedictorian in 1826 and a passionate abolitionist publisher who was killed in Alton, Ill., in 1837 for condemning slavery. Lovejoy is considered America's first martyr to freedom of the press. —S.B.C.

More at: www.colby.edu/lovejoy

A 2009 Neiman Fellow at Harvard and a 2010 Woodrow Wilson Scholar, Corchado won the Maria Moors Cabot Award from Columbia Journalism School in 2007 for bravery and enterprise. He will accept the Lovejoy award and an honorary doctoral degree Sept. 26 and will remain on campus for several days to interact with students.

The Lovejoy Award has been given annually since 1952 to honor courage in journalism.

TwitterFEED

A selection of tweets from @colbycollege.
To see more, plus links—or to sign up—click the
Twitter icon on the Colby homepage.

Tonight: Linda Greenlaw '83, famed swordfishing captain and bestselling author, on Fresh Air with Terry Gross.

June 8

Ph.D. marine toxicologist Riki Ott '76, authority on health effects of oil spills, on Rachel Maddow Show June 4.

June 8

RT @themules: 30 Colby College spring athletes named to all-academic team.

June 7

Ted Snyder '75, soon to lead Yale biz school, featured in Wall Street Journal: "Turnaround Specialist to Take On Yale."

June 7

Another sign that classes are over. Overheard title of a Facebook photo gallery: "Can I roast my marshmallow on your thesis?"

May 21

Andrea Fuwa '10 is 1 of 100 Taiwanese Americans profiled on "100 Passionate People."

May 17

Click the "10 Private Colleges With Strong Balance Sheets" link in this Forbes story. First slide? Miller Library.

May 5

Nothing as tweetable as sports scores, and now all Colby results come through @themules.

April 28

RT @YukiSNYC: I have to comment that Colby College has the best campus food. Isn't that part of college touring?

April 22



PHOTO BY SPENCER PHILLIPS '12

Foster Huntington '10 (right) and Dan Opalacz '10 (second right) show the Unpiloted Aerial Vehicle (UAV) that they built to collect high-resolution aerial images around Maine. Read more about the project on page 34.

Research Symposium Sets Another Record

Eleven years into the Colby Undergraduate Research Symposium and participation continues to rise. This year saw a record number of student authors and coauthors—395 mentored by 78 different faculty members, according to symposium organizers. At symposium-associated sessions—presentations of research as part of a class—305 authors and coauthors presented 219 projects. In total almost 700 students, or nearly 40 percent of the student body, participated this year.

As always, topics spanned the

For more information:
www.colby.edu/research

departments and all divisions of the College. Many students used Maine as their lab, looking at issues of energy efficiency and bacteria in frogs, for example, and others looked farther afield at topics like health care in the Dominican Republic and erotic art in France. Poster presentations ranged from analysis of asthma in the United States and China to Mozart's aria *Non Piu Andrai*. —R.J.

New Alcohol Policy

Effective this fall, Colby students 21 and over are no longer permitted to consume hard alcohol on campus, except in the pub and at licensed, catered events. The new alcohol policy, which includes disciplinary changes as well, came after two years of committee work.

Following a Champagne on the Steps celebration in 2008 that saw 14 students transported to local hospitals for alcohol-related issues, the Board of Trustees charged the administration with combating alcohol abuse on campus. Of primary concern was the number

of students being transported to the emergency room for alcohol poisoning and the fact that all of those cases involved hard alcohol.

Committees involved students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and student opinion on the new policy is mixed. Consequences for private possession and consumption of hard alcohol, for students of all ages, range from probation (first offense) to suspension. Repeated violations of the alcohol policy and providing hard alcohol to a minor can result in expulsion.