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From the Hill

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From the Hill

Authors

Alexandra Desaulniers, Lauren Pongan, Emily Fleming, Stephen Collins, Barbara Walsh, and Ruth Jacobs

Q&A

NIKKY-GUNINDER K. SINGH, PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND EAST ASIAN STUDIES, ON THE AMONG WOMEN PROGRAM, REVISITING INDIA, AND WHY WOMEN ARE PLAYING AN ESSENTIAL ROLE AS WE SEEK GLOBAL STABILITY

ALEXANDRA DESAULNIERS '11 INTERVIEW JASON MCKIBBEN PHOTO

Nikky-Guninder K. Singh, Colby's Crawford Family Professor of Religion, was academic leader for a recent scholars' tour, "Bangladesh and India: Beyond Caste and Poverty," part of the Among Women tour series. She spoke with Colby about the Among Women tours and her group's experiences in South Asia.

What is Among Women, and how did you become involved?

Among Women is an international dialogue that developed out of the Seven Sister colleges: Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley. Betsy Byrd at Smith College had this vision that if women from different parts of the world got together, just sat around a table, you could think together and bring a change in the world. The Among Women program started two or three years ago, and this latest tour to India and Bangladesh was the third; the first was to Jordan and the second to South Africa. I became involved because I graduated from Wellesley, the host of the program this year. I acted as the academic leader for the tour, organizing the combination of visiting the country with discussions with women in leadership positions in politics, economics, education, the arts. We were a group of thirty-four women—graduates from these Seven Sister colleges, from twenty-five to eighty years old—getting together to see another part of the world and learn how we might help make a difference there.

You grew up in India? How has the country changed since you left to pursue your education in the U.S.?

I did grow up in India, in a tiny area there. We were so disconnected from everything. Coming to the United States for college was like bringing in a whole new world. Now every place has the Internet and e-mail and cell phones. It changed so fast and has really brought the world so close. Globalism is a reality and it's changing that part of the world so quickly.

How is the Among Women program working to make the world a more globalized society?

These were women meeting women and thinking together how we can learn from one another, creating conversations across the world. One of our first meetings was with a Smith alum who had returned to India after another Among Women tour and is now starting a university [the Asian University for Women], the first of its kind for women, just women. It's bringing women from all different parts of the world—Israel, Palestine, Cambodia, Pakistan—... together so they can be educated and learn to live with one another. It's really wonderful. They're learning science, too. We are becoming a global society, and that part of the world is changing

drastically, so to make sure these women know about computers and science as well as giving them ethical, moral values is important so that they can become good leaders in the future.

What other type of work does the Among Women program promote?

We are making interactions and relationships to make a difference. We all returned to our own homes and universities with our memories and stories from the tour, and we're taking what we've seen there and incorporating it here. Our group learned about the situations women face every day over there, and now we're learning how we can help from here. We visited a sort of home for acid-burn victims, still a traditional punishment, and our group is now working to bring a victim of acid violence to the United States and help them go to college here.

Why is the program so important?

It inspires us. We sometimes think it's only big things that one could or should do, but even the small things help, especially when you come back and continue to converse with one another. The memories, the experiences we made through the tour are very important. I think it was one of the feminist scholars who coined "the future of memory." It's all about women making memories and experiences together and building our own stronger future.

Why women?

If you want global stability, you need women. I witnessed on the tour that idea becoming a reality. Women getting involved, becoming a part of the globalizing world. Talking, sharing, learning, and making the world stable, better. You see history; you see the results of promoting and including women. Women from all over the world are coming together, exchanging ideas, and inspiring one another. It's really dynamic.

Will you stay connected with the Among Women program and particularly with this group of 34 women?

Absolutely! We're constantly e-mailing. We're all really together. There's a whole pool of photographs, thousands, and we relive every moment we had there. We are all sharing how we're working now, too. If anyone reads a good book or sees a good movie or has thoughts about the project, we e-mail. It's been really wonderful.



Nikky Singh, Colby's Crawford Family Professor of Religion and a Wellesley alumna, with students following her return from a tour of India on which she led other alumnae from the Seven Sister colleges. The international program encourages empowerment of women and solutions to global problems.

How have you incorporated your experience in your work at Colby this spring?

The tour changed me so much. It really opened my eyes. I teach a course on South Asian women writers, and I talk about authors and film directors who've made films about the slums in Mumbai or the red light district there. Going to see that had a profound impression on me. To hear the women there tell their stories, firsthand. It was so sad to hear how they've lost their womanhood; they've lost their lives. But there's hope, too. They are fighting for a better life, and there are groups like the Among Women tours going and learning from and about these women, learning how to help. That's what I'm bringing back to my classrooms. The hope. You can read about women in these slums, in the red light district, about how they've lost their identity, but to go and see how people are changing and the hope and the smiles that exist, it's really reassuring. You see the worst, but also the best.

Would you suggest your students travel in order to have these first-hand experiences?

Yes, I would definitely suggest that my students go to India and really meet women there. Go experience that. No matter what you hear or read or learn, you'll see something different, you'll experience it differently. In our own world, everything is so familiar, and we really take what we know for granted. Unless we encounter the unfamiliar we really don't even think about our own lives. I mean, I grew up there, but it's only through going elsewhere, coming here to study and then returning with the tour, that we learn, make memories, and keep those alive in order to learn more.



Derby Dames

ALUMNAE JOIN THE ROLLING RANKS OF A HARD-HITTING, ALL-WOMEN'S SPORT

LAUREN PONGAN '09 STORY JASON MCKIBBEN PHOTOS

Inside the Portland Expo the emcee dons skates, a flowing skirt, fairy wings, and a cerulean wig as she introduces the two battling roller derby teams—Harrisburg Area Roller Derby (HARD) and Portland Maine's own Port Authorities. When the emcee summons "The Rehabiliskater," 37-year-old redhead Lisa DeHahn Jade '95 skates to the front of the pack and waves to the cheering home crowd. The back of her navy-and-white jersey reads "REHAB." Players choose derby names as a rite of passage, and "The Rehabiliskater" is a play on Jade's former job as a substance-abuse counselor. (She's now a mental health counselor in a Maine correctional center.)

What ensues is a fast-paced circling of the track, punctuated by whistles, resets—and hard hits. The gist of the sport is four blockers from each team circle in a pack as the jammer tries to catch up from behind and break through to the front, earning points by lapping an opposing player. As a jammer, "basically you're the quarterback of the team," explained Lena "Whiskey Ginger" Barouh '07, who skates with the Seattle Tilted Thunder Rail Birds.

By the end of two 30-minute halves, the Port Authorities have crushed HARD, 263-44, which doesn't dampen post-derby, inter-team camaraderie over beers.

So what draws these women to a sport that makes bruised bones and dislocated ribs (one of Jade's recurrent injuries) commonplace? "There's something primal about it," said Barouh. "Also, I get to hit people really really hard—as hard as I want." But, in addition to the adrenaline rush, she's drawn to the (ahem) gameswomanship, she says: "It's a game. It's teamwork. You have to employ strategy. You have to trust the people you're skating with."

Like other athletes, derby women attest to the fact that their sport increases their self-assuredness and fosters supportive and lasting friendships. Jade finds it rewarding to work together with other women. Plus, she said, "It's increased my confidence."

Added Amanda "Lady GayGay" Vickerson '07, of Portland's B team, the Calamity Janes, "I get to hit people. With finesse." After pausing, she continued, "I would say, really—this is such a typical girl answer—the friendships."

There are aspects of roller derby beyond female mayhem that set it apart from other team sports.

While some like Vickerson feel that the game itself is, "all about empowerment," Allison "Dee Stortion" Trela, whose derby shop, Bruised Boutique, in Nashua, N.H., supplies gear to derby women around the world, feels differently. "Empowerment in the kitschy sense is overplayed," she said.

But Trela does see female empowerment embodied by the leagues' independence. "Every single league across the country is self-run. That includes doing all of the taxes and legal pieces," Trela said. Jade echoed



Lisa Jade '95, left, a mental health counselor by day, is "Rehabiliskater" when she dons her skates for the Port Authorities roller derby team. The rough-and-tumble sport offers thrills, spills, and camaraderie, skaters say.

this sentiment in describing the derby ethos as "By the skater, for the skater. It's very much a grassroots organization." She added that, as skaters, "We do all our own marketing, all our own fundraisers, the whole nine yards."

But Vickerson, who laughed when acknowledging that she "outs herself" every time she tells someone her derby name (Lady GayGay), feels that derby, begun by men, now is rooted in feminism. Vickerson, a women's, gender, and sexuality studies major at Colby and an ice hockey player, feels derby should remain a predominantly female sport because it gives women the opportunity to gain recognition as skilled athletes in a domain free from male comparison.

These and similar insights led Vickerson, Jade, and their teammate Becky "Gunner Hands-Off" King to run a workshop for the Maine Civil Rights Team program that explained "the history of this sport and how today's roller derby athletes are redefining its image and shattering stereotypes on and off the track."

Whether individual derby athletes conceive of the sport as a feminist statement is somewhat irrelevant, participants say. Derby, they say, nonetheless brings women together, makes them stronger, and engenders confidence. As Barouh put it: "It's a sisterhood, but it's a really black-and-blue sisterhood. Sisterhood of the traveling whup-ass."

Amanda "Lady GayGay" Vickerson '07, left, and Lisa "Rehabiliskater" Jade '95, skate for Portland, Maine-based roller derby teams.

Gossip Girl Goes to College

NEW NOVEL FOLLOWS TEEN PREP-SCHOOL BOOK AND HIT TV SERIES

EMILY FLEMING '12 REVIEW

"College is for lovers. At least, this one was. Looming up out of the trees on its hilly pedestal, Dexter College looked so strikingly pretty and at the same time so quaintly academic, it was almost as out of place in its rural setting as some of its students. The campus was fortified on all sides by forests of ancient conifers, tall birches, and dense maples, so that only the proud white spire of the college chapel was visible from town."

So opens *Cum Laude*, a novel by *Gossip Girl* author Cecily von Ziegesar '92. If the setting sounds eerily familiar, it's probably because Dexter is a lot like Colby, right down to the blue light that shines atop the library, a beacon day and night—and rumored to go out only when a virgin graduates.

It's 1992 and Shipley Gilbert is about to embark on the life-changing journey of freshman year. She comes to college naïve and sheltered, without the slightest idea how to behave around boys. Shipley had "gone to the same girls' school—Greenwich Academy—since kindergarten. It had a brother school—Brunswick—and she'd sung in choir with boys and even had a male lab partner in AP chemistry. But because her father was of the mostly absent variety and her older brother was strange and remote and had been away at boarding school almost since she could remember, she remained unsure of herself around boys."

That all changes by the end of orientation, as Shipley becomes the object of every Dexter boy's desires. *Cum Laude* is a coming of age story, following Shipley and her friends as they navigate life, love, and the unpredictable weather at this school on a hill in rural Maine.

So, did this story about life at Dexter College circa 1992 appeal to a Colby student in 2010? I read *Cum*

Laude in three hours, savoring every moment and wishing it were longer. (Okay. I was procrastinating, with Karl Marx next in line.) No, *Cum Laude* isn't likely to win any literary awards, but the plot is full of drama and romance that will keep you guessing and the pages turning. And, while my experience at Colby has been very different from Shipley's at Dexter, I can still relate. I pass people like Shipley and her friends every day here at Colby. In fact, I'm good friends with some of them. The novel might be set in 1992, but the stereotypical Colby students that Shipley and her friends represent are still here.

This novel works because it's relevant, especially if you spent four years on Mayflower

Hill. *Cum Laude* is about trying to figure out who you are. It's about making connections and experiencing new and unexpected things. College is as much about the academics as it is about the experience, and, as Shipley soon realizes, "There would be more snow, more kisses, more sex, more gunshots, more fires. This is what she had come for—what they all had come for. This was college."

But this isn't just any college. This is a certain small school in rural Maine, a place for learning and discovering, a place where the blue light shines on long after you've left. This is Dexter, but it's also Colby—minus the Starbucks in the student center.

Cecily von Ziegesar taps Colby memories for new novel set at "Dexter College"

Cecily von Ziegesar '92, author of *Cum Laude*, is also the creator of the best-selling *Gossip Girl* series, about a group of elite high-schoolers living, playing, and occasionally studying on the Upper East Side of New York. *Gossip Girl* was so popular with teenage readers that the CW Television Network started a series based on the books in 2007. The TV series, the third season of which ended in May, is a prime-time soap opera, and in my freshman year of college my friends and I would all get together to see what sorts of drama, sex, drugs, and trouble our favorite fictional Upper East Siders got into each week.

With so much success writing about frivolous high schoolers, why did von Ziegesar make the fictional transition from high school to college?

College was the logical next step, von Ziegesar said in a phone interview from her home in Brooklyn, since the original readers of *Gossip Girl* are now in college or recently graduated. She wanted to give her original audience something they can relate to more closely at this stage of their lives, so *Cum Laude* is less plot driven, darker, and a little more thoughtful, von Ziegesar said.

"I was ready to move on to a more mature subject," she said. "At first I thought that I would write about being a mom, but then I felt like that was too much of a jump and I wasn't really ready for that. So I just made a small jump—to college."

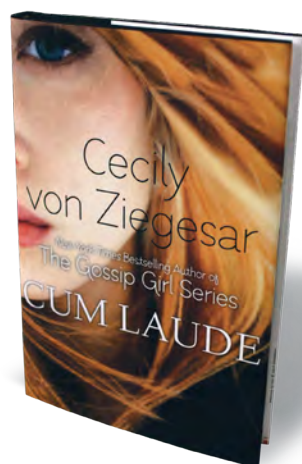
She set *Cum Laude* in 1992, the year she graduated from college and the period she knows best. Von Ziegesar said she feels comfortable writing about teens and young twenty-somethings because she sometimes feels like she is 22. But she hesitated to write about current college students because she didn't want to appear out of touch.

Von Ziegesar may have tried to recreate college life from nearly 20 years ago, but I can attest that life at a particular college in Maine now isn't all that different from Shipley's experience at Dexter. The same type of kids still go to school here—preppy boarding school kids, crunchy granola types, edgy artists, and the small part of the population not so easily categorized.

That said, von Ziegesar is quick to note that Dexter is not Colby, but it is "a fictionalized Colby." She did draw on her experiences on Mayflower Hill for inspiration. "I didn't feel like I could write a book set at say NYU or Princeton, because I didn't go to NYU or Princeton..." she said. "I feel like I can only use my experience, and Colby was my experience."

She recalled a particular instance on COOT where she stole the trip van and started doing 360-degree turns (just like Shipley), much to the chagrin of her COOT leader. Von Ziegesar may be adamant that Dexter College is not Colby, but *Cum Laude* it is a lot less fictionalized than she thinks.

—Emily Fleming '12



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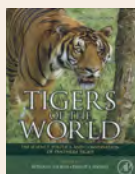


Border Crossings
Carl Dimow (music) and Nathan Kolosko
 (2010)

It was five years ago that Carl Dimow (music) heard that another classical guitarist, Nathan Kolosko, had moved to Portland. Dimow, who also plays flute, called Kolosko, offering his services. “We got together to play,” Dimow said, “and just immediately hit it off.”

Two CDs later that musical and creative fit is beautifully apparent. *Border Crossings*, the second CD by the internationally acclaimed duo, is another exploration that blurs musical boundaries. Dimow, playing flute and bass flute, and Kolosko classical guitar, include three offerings: Kolosko’s “Nayarit,” inspired by Steinbeck’s *The Pearl*; Dimow’s *Klezmer Suite*, inspired by his years playing with the Casco Bay Tumblers; and their own arrangements of portions of *Afro Sambas* by Baden Powell.

The music is beguiling and energetic, with Kolosko’s precise and powerful guitar punctuating Dimow’s warmly enveloping bass flute (an instrument that has to be heard). No surprise then that *Border Crossings* is a collaboration that is more than the sum of its parts, with much to offer fans of classical, jazz, and world music. —Gerry Boyle ’78



Tigers of the World: The Science, Politics, and Conservation of Panthera Tigris, Second Edition
Edited by Ronald Tilson and Philip Nyhus
 Elsevier, 2010

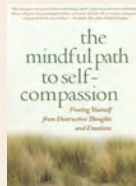
Tapping the expertise of some of the world’s foremost tiger scholars, editors Philip Nyhus (environmental studies) and Ronald Tilson have deliberately created a textbook suitable for the general reader or for use in the classroom.

“Our goal for this book was to provide a useful and accessible document that would compel readers of all kinds, worldwide, to take action,” Nyhus and Tilson, director of conservation at the Minnesota Zoo, write in the preface of *Tigers of the World: The Science, Politics, and Conservation of Panthera Tigris*. The authors include their own experiences with and perspectives about the future of the world’s largest cat.

This second edition (the first edition, from 1987, was edited by Tilson and Ulysses S. Seal and includes essays by some of the same contributors) looks at the plight of the wild tiger with the insight afforded by modern technology: infrared cameras, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and genetic analysis, to name a few.

Colby’s recently tenured Nyhus, the first faculty member dedicated solely to environmental studies, combines environmental science, technology (namely GIS), and policy in his study of tigers. He also taps the potential of Colby student researchers, six of whom he names in the book’s acknowledgments. For more about Nyhus’s research and his efforts to reintroduce tigers into the wild in China, go to www.colby.edu/mag, keyword tigers.

—Ruth Jacobs



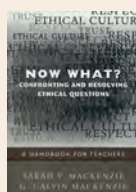
The Mindful Path to Self-Compassion
Christopher K. Germer ’74, Ph.D.
 The Guilford Press (2009)

Life can be hard—and it doesn’t always go according to plan. Accepting this reality is tough, too, but Germer offers a simple solution: self-compassion.

The Mindful Path to Self-Compassion is an easy-to-read guide that illustrates the importance of self-compassion and shows how to achieve it. With a gentle and experienced voice, Germer explains how to deal with emotional pain using skills such as mindfulness—noting sensations or thoughts and then directing attention to them—and self-acceptance—making a conscious choice to experience those sensations and feelings just as they are. Facing emotional pain, rather than turning away from it, is key in this process.

“Pain is inevitable,” writes Germer. “Suffering is optional.” Psychologist and founding member of the Institute for Meditation and Psychotherapy, he combines real-life examples from his patients with scientific research and educational theory in this accessible and important book. Germer offers simple exercises to help readers move from destructive thoughts and emotions (suffering) toward self-compassion. Begin by practicing techniques such as conscious breathing, simple meditation, and self-nurturing, he says, before employing more challenging techniques such as forgiveness, acceptance, and opening to pain.

The Mindful Path to Self-Compassion offers sound advice. Practicing self-compassion won’t make your problems go away, but it can make them easier to bear. —Laura Meader



Now What? Confronting and Resolving Ethical Questions: A Handbook for Teachers
Sarah V. Mackenzie and G. Calvin Mackenzie (government)
 Corwin (2010)

Sarah Mackenzie, associate professor of educational leadership at the University of Maine, and G. Calvin Mackenzie, the Goldfarb Family Distinguished Professor of American Government at Colby, could have written an academic treatise on ethics and education. They didn’t.

The Mackenzies, who are married, have drawn on their own experience and that of scores of educators who have shared their own ethical quandaries and questions. The situations are real, as are the discussions that follow. The book doesn’t offer simple answers, but guidance that will help teachers negotiate situations likely to test them in the course of a career.

A teacher asked by a troubled and disadvantaged student to give a passing grade that would keep him on the basketball team. A media specialist who sees a teacher making multiple copies of a copyrighted workbook. This handbook offers a framework for discussion (internal or public) that allows teachers to develop their own guidelines. It is a chart that makes these ethical waters, while still murky, at least navigable. —G.B.

A Career in Sails

AMERICA'S CUP LEGEND TOM WHIDDEN, WHO ONCE RACED DINGHIES AT COLBY, HAS REACHED THE PINNACLE OF SAILING AND THE SAIL BUSINESS

STEPHEN COLLINS '74 STORY

After the 223-foot tall sailing behemoth BMW-Oracle squeezed inside defending Alinghi 5 at the first buoy to take the lead for good in February's America's Cup final, Tom Whidden '70 had nothing but kudos for the U.S. boat's tactician. "John Kosteki did a very nice job calling something called the lay line," said Whidden, who attended the races in Spain. "He did a great job with that. He made the decision for the other boat very difficult. ... The nuances of it are more subtle than most people realize."

He should know. One of the most experienced America's Cup sailors ever, Whidden is the veteran of eight America's Cup campaigns including three victorious turns as tactician on Dennis Conner's boats. And his company, North Marine, makes most of the high-tech sails for these races.

Inducted into the America's Cup Hall of Fame in 2004 for "his brilliance as a tactical advisor, his soundness as a crew organizer, and his mastery of winning in difficult boats under the most demanding conditions," Whidden's profile as a businessman is equally imposing. He's taken sailmaker North Sails sailing through the ceiling as president and CEO of North's parent company, North Marine.

Not surprising, perhaps, he finds some of the same skills that took him to the pinnacle of competitive sailing helped build his company into the world's leader, by far. Knowing how to exploit innovative technology, how to assemble good people, and how to lead a team paid off in both arenas, he said. And finding a balance between confidence and hubris is as important in the front office as it is on deck.

So how successful does North Sails have to be to match three America's Cup victories? How about a 70-percent market share. That's where Forbes put North six years ago. "If you take our six or seven or eight next biggest competitors and you add them together, they're probably about our size," Whidden said this spring. With its subsidiaries, the North empire has about \$325 million in annual sales now, he said.

North sails were used on both boats in this



DANIEL FORSTER

Tom Whidden '70, America's Cup Hall of Fame sailor and head of North Marine. North makes sails and rigging used on the world's most sophisticated racing yachts and items for NASA and Boeing.

"It all sort of snowballed and turned into something pretty cool."

Tom Whidden '70

year's match between BMW-Oracle and Alinghi. The previous America's Cup saw North sails on 11 of 12 boats, and in 2003 all nine teams raced under North sails. Given the level of competition, servicing competing teams requires sworn secrecy and impervious firewalls between

different in-house design teams, Whidden said.

The downside to such market dominance? "You have to make sure that you don't become complacent," said Whidden.

Whidden started sailing in Long Island Sound as a 10-year-old, and by high school he had three goals: "To get to be a sailmaker, to try for the Olympics, and try for the America's Cup."

He maintained that focus while earning a degree in psychology at Colby—and learning valuable organizational skills, he says—and he spent summers and Jan Plans working for Alcott, the company that made Sunfish sailboats. He raced a Finn dinghy while at Colby and made it to the final pre-Olympic trial race before being beaten.



DANIEL FORSTER

Tom Whidden '70, third from left, aboard *Stars & Stripes*, in the 2002 Louis Vuitton Cup race. At left is the Italian boat, *Mascalzone Latino*. Whidden was tactician for Dennis Conner in six different America's Cup campaigns. In the photo the boats are maneuvering for position before the start of the race.

His subsequent career as a sailmaker, a vocation chosen in part to allow him to sail competitively back before one could make a career out of sailing alone, exceeded his wildest expectations. "It all sort of snowballed and turned into something pretty cool," he said of his business success. "I used to think doing a million dollars would have been the greatest thing I could ever accomplish in my life."

North Sails had \$25 million in sales when he took over the company in 1987, he said, and now it's doing 13 times that volume. "We make sails all around the world. We make masts in Auckland, New Zealand; Cape Town, South Africa; and Sri Lanka. And we make rigging in Sri Lanka and in Newport, Rhode Island."

The rigging that North sells is state-of-the-art carbon, as high-tech as the company's patented one-piece composite membrane sails. "We don't stitch 'em, any more," Whidden said. "Sailmaking's changed a lot."

And the technology has applications beyond sailing. North built all the soft storage for the Space Shuttle and the prototype of the machine that lays down carbon fiber for the fuselage of the Boeing 787. "We're working with NASA right now on a balloon that they're planning on trying to land on Mars," Whidden said, noting that North also had a hand in surveillance balloons used by the Department of Homeland Security.

"You know the artist Christo? We did the umbrella project with him."

Big-time stuff. But for all of his accolades, bestowed at the White House, the America's Cup Hall of Fame, and beyond, Whidden says one of the most meaningful was an honor handed down at Colby. First among Whidden's Colby mentors was athletic trainer Carl Nelson, now retired, who cared for Colby students and, in 1972 and 1976, for U.S. Winter Olympians. In 1989 Whidden received the first-ever Carl Nelson Award, for achievement in the world of athletics.

"That just stuck with me, because he had always been a role model for me and he was a good guy and competent and cared about everybody," Whidden said. "Of all the things I got over the years, that was one of the nicest."

Sports As Privilege

TENNIS COACH DOANH WANG, A FORMER REFUGEE, TELLS PLAYERS THEY'RE FORTUNATE TO BE ON THE COURT

BARBARA WALSH STORY JASON McKIBBEN PHOTO

In the photograph Doanh Wang is 5 years old. He and his older sister, Khiết, stand on a roughly hewn wooden bench, their parents next to them. Boxes of food and tin cans are piled on a table. The roof is bamboo poles and palm fronds.

Thirty years later, as Colby's head tennis coach, Wang would pull this snapshot from a photo album. Frustrated by his players' lack of motivation at practice, their coach showed them the refugee camp where his family lived after fleeing South Vietnam.

"My parents sacrificed a lot for me to be here to coach you," Wang recalled telling them. "And I'm sure your parents sacrificed a lot for you, too. So when you go out and play, I want you to think about how privileged you are to be on this campus, to be a part of this team."

He got the players' attention. "It left an embedded memory on all of his athletes as to where Coach gets his drive and determination," recalled Nick Rosen-Wachs '09.

Privilege, Wang told his players, can come in many forms—in a new country that offers opportunities for a good education, good jobs, and chances to excel on sports fields and tennis courts, for example. For one South Vietnamese boy, those privileges began Feb. 19, 1979, the day his family landed on American soil. "That day," Wang said, "was a whole new world."

Wang's family had a comfortable life in a large apartment in Saigon—until 1975, when North Vietnam forces overran the city. Wang's father, Phan Vuong, worked for an airline that flew Americans in and out of the country. After South Vietnam surrendered, Vuong worried about his family's safety.

"We've got to leave," Vuong recalled telling his wife, Quach. Then, in 1978, Vuong learned he was under investigation for his loyalties to the South Vietnamese army and the Americans. Two days later he bribed security officials so his family could flee.

With a bag filled with sugar, water, and a couple of changes of clothing, Vuong's family slipped away. Wang recalls his mother hushing her 5-year-old son and 9-year-old daughter. "Just be quiet and follow Mom and Dad."

They huddled in a small boat that sailed from South Vietnam's coast. Later they were picked



Tennis coach Doanh Wang, whose family fled Vietnam in 1978, remembers his parents' sacrifice and tells his players that to be a Colby student and athlete is a privilege to be repaid with hard work. Left, Wang and his family in their hut on the island of Pulau Tengah, where they lived after fleeing South Vietnam in 1978.

swelled, conditions deteriorated. At one point the boy grew so sick his father carried him over the mountain to a clinic.

Vuong and Quach prayed it would soon be their turn to leave for Los Angeles, the city Vuong had requested. But months passed. Desperate, Quach begged her husband: "Tell them we will take anywhere in the United States."

Finally, after eight months, Wang's family heard their names over the public address system. "You are going to America!" other refugee children shouted to Wang.

But not to Los Angeles.

In February 1979 the family arrived in Binghamton, N.Y., where Vuong's brother lived. Wang had never before seen his breath and remembers being awed by the sight. With help from

the local Catholic church, the family received food, furniture, and rent money while the parents searched for jobs.

On his first day at St. Thomas Aquinas School, Wang did not understand a word but took comfort that Korean twins in his class looked like him. While his father worked at a wholesale tool company and his mother cleaned hotels and houses, Wang and his sister studied. "You must try hard," Wang remembers his parents telling them. "We leave Vietnam so you can have better opportunity."

To keep himself occupied, Wang played soccer and tennis. His athletic ability and competitive spirit impressed teammates and coaches. On the fields and courts, Wang finally felt accepted. "Here," he realized, "I am equal."

Later, as he attended Binghamton University, majoring in psychobiology, Wang played varsity tennis. Coach Mike Starke recognized something special in the lefthander.

"He had a deep competitive fire and respect for the game," Starke said. "For a lot of American kids, they view sports and their education as a right. But Doanh has always believed that life, college, and playing sports are privileges."

Wang's senior year, his singles record of 17-4 helped lead Binghamton to the Division III nationals—a first in the university's history. Doanh won two out of three matches.

Years later, after earning a master's in social work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and teaching urban youth about HIV, tennis remained

his passion. While assistant coach for women's tennis at Wisconsin-Madison, Wang learned Colby had an opening. In 2007 he was hired as head coach for the men's and women's tennis teams.

Wang sat in his office in the Alford Athletic Center. Dressed in khakis, a black Colby Mules T-shirt, and sneakers, he spoke about his love for tennis. Testaments to his teaching skills hang on the walls: a half-dozen NESCAC certificates honoring his teams.

Though he appreciates the awards, Wang believes there is more to coaching than winning matches. He expects his players to excel off the court—in their studies and the community. Team members are required to meet with their coach to discuss athletic and academic goals; they also know that Wang's office door is always open if they need to talk.

"Because he knows us so well off-court, it makes it easier for him to understand what is going on in our heads during a match," said Katie Muro '11. "His investment in us as people, as opposed to solely tennis players, is what makes him stand out as a coach and as a person."

Tennis, Wang tells Muro and other players, is a lot like life: You may win or lose, but it's perseverance that counts.

And, if the team has difficulty understanding that concept, there's a photograph tucked away in Wang's scrapbook.



For more, including other photos of Doanh Wang in a refugee settlement: www.colby.edu/mag, Keyword: privilege

Postseason Run for Women's Lacrosse

Women's lacrosse made it to the NCAA Division III national tournament quarterfinal game for the first time in the program's history, hanging with top-ranked Hamilton College before falling 14-9. The final poll of the year put Colby at sixth in the nation.

The game, at Hamilton May 16, capped another strong season for Colby, which made the NESCAC title game for the fourth straight year. Colby finished the season 15-5.

With the postseason finale, six seniors finished their Colby lacrosse careers, including two-time All-America standouts Amy Campbell and Caroline Duke, and veterans Carly Rapaport, Caroline Atwater, Keryn Meierdiercks, and Kathleen Kramer.

Leading the team into the future will be Kate Pistel '13, selected for the Womenslacrosse.com All-Rookie Team. Pistel had a strong first year, finishing fourth on the team in scoring with 28 goals and four assists for

32 points.

In their NCAA quarterfinal debut, the Mules gave up quick goals in the opening minutes of each half but stayed with Hamilton for most of the game.

That tenacity and teamwork served Colby well the previous day in its second-round matchup, in which the Mules, then ranked ninth, stopped fifth-ranked Cortland State in a thrilling 10-9 come-from-behind win.

Against Cortland Colby trailed 9-6 with 12 minutes left to play, but four goals from four different players—including the game-winner from Anne Geraghty '11 with just over four minutes left—sealed the victory.

"That's what was so exciting," said Colby head coach Karen MacCrate Henning. "They tried to check down our top scorers, and that meant different people had to step up—and they did. Our defense was a total team effort as well, really working together as a unit."

SPORTS SHORTS



JEFF EARICKSON

Emma Linhard '11, second from right, All-America in women's track and field.

Spring seasons at Colby produced five All-Americans and 30 members of NESCAC's All-Academic team among other honors ... **Emma Linhard '11** went to the **WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD** nationals in the 1500 meters, ran a personal best, and finished eighth, for her fourth All-America honors. High jumper **Danielle Sheppard '11** tied for 11th at nationals. **Katrina Gravel '10**, a three-sport captain as a senior, made ESPN Magazine's Academic All-District I Track and Field/Cross Country team ... **BASEBALL** closed a 13-16 season splitting a doubleheader with Plymouth State two weeks after sweeping a doubleheader at Bowdoin. **Devlin McConnell '12** led in batting average (.455) and slugging percentage (.727), while **Mike Mastrocola '12** had the most hits (33), RBIs (29) and doubles (11) ... In **SOFTBALL Alyssa Lepore '11** raked in New England honors including ECAC DIII All-New England after leading the Mules in hits (42), RBIs (26), doubles (9), and walks (12). She led NESCAC in on-base percentage (.519) and was second for batting average (.462) ... In **MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD Trent Wiseman '13** took fourth in pole vault (14' 8.75") at the Open New England championships, and **Mike Bienkowski '10** was 13th in the 5000 meters (15:55.15) at the ECAC Outdoor championships ... **WOMEN'S TENNIS** turned in a winning season, 8-7 overall with a 3-5 mark in conference play, and **MEN'S TENNIS** finished 6-7 overall and 3-5 in the conference. Both teams defeated Wesleyan, Hamilton, and Connecticut College in NESCAC matches ... All-Americans in **WOMEN'S LACROSSE** were **Amy Campbell '10** and **Caroline Duke '10** ... **MEN'S LACROSSE** All-Americans were **Craig Bunker '11** and **Whit McCarthy '10**, while **Ian Deveau '13** was NESCAC rookie of the year. Colby reached the NESCAC quarterfinals, losing to Bowdoin in overtime. Earlier, the Mules had come from behind to defeat previously unbeaten Connecticut College.



Above: Dan Opalacz '10 launches the Unpiloted Aerial Vehicle (UAV) he and Foster Huntington '10 designed and built this year as a science, technology and society senior capstone project. Below: The two speak about their project to enthusiastic students at an after-school program in Waterville.

Flight School

STUDENT-BUILT AIRPLANE TAKES HIGH-RESOLUTION PICTURES FROM THE SKY, OPENS RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

RUTH JACOBS STORY ROBERT P. HERNANDEZ PHOTOS

To call them the modern-day Wright brothers might be pushing it. But Foster Huntington '10 and Dan Opalacz '10 needed their brotherly friendship to make it through some challenging situations this year, as they ran into glitch after glitch—and trees and fences—with their homemade Unpiloted Aerial Vehicle (UAV). “This is mine and Dan’s baby. We’ve had, you know, screaming-at-each-other battles,” said Huntington, as Opalacz laughed. “We’ve gone to places, crashed the plane, and just haven’t talked on the car ride back, we’re just so pissed at each other.”

But after a year and, they say, thousands of hours of work, the science, technology and society (STS) majors are still friends and have nearly perfected a model airplane that flies on GPS (Global Positioning System) coordinates and takes high-resolution images of the land below—images that put Google Earth to shame. The two knew they weren’t the first to create this technology, but they had a specific



goal: to create something that other students could use in their research—and to do it on the cheap.

“There’s kind of two kinds of UAVs. There’s the military UAV,” said Opalacz—“which costs hundreds of thousands of dollars,” added Huntington—“and that’s like the only UAV the government really uses. And then there’s these UAVs, which we make out of foam. And ours costs fifteen hundred dollars.”

In fact it was a U.S. Air Force and Navy UAV that got Huntington looking at this technology in the first place. During the summer of 2009, he watched an RQ-4 Global Hawk Remotely Piloted Aircraft fly over Maine’s Brunswick Naval Air Station. He started digging around online and found that hobbyists were making miniature versions of drone planes. “I remember exactly where we were. We were in the Fireside Lounge [in Cotter Union] and I was just like watching all these videos online and I was like, ‘Dan you gotta see this, this is so

How does the UAV work?

Equipped with an autopilot, GPS navigation, and digital camera, the plane flies a predetermined path via GPS coordinates. It requires a human operator for take-off and landing through a remote control, and once it reaches altitude it can be switched to autopilot.

The UAV the students used this spring could fly for about 50 minutes at 70 miles per hour, but Huntington and Opalacz found this to be more than they needed for their purposes—their research “missions” tended to run around two and a half minutes. During that time they took ample photographs that they stitched together using computer software.



COURTESY OF DAN OPALACZ '10

A view of the Alfond Stadium and Seaverns Field taken by the student-built UAV.

cool,” recalled Huntington.

Opalacz, an STS and geoscience double major, remembers that day too. “Immediately I thought, ‘Wow, this could be really useful as a research tool for Colby professors and scientists and students,’” he said. And Opalacz had his own research goal: to use the plane to capture images of the tidal river at Popham Beach and, over time, document the erosion patterns there.

The two took the idea to Professor James Fleming, director of STS at Colby. “I asked them to cross their t’s and dot their i’s and explain the significance and provide a vision and measurable milestones,” he said. With the detailed proposal in hand, Fleming agreed to serve as their adviser for a yearlong capstone project. But in order to make it happen, they needed money. So Huntington and Opalacz applied for a Goldfarb Center research grant, which they received. They did lots of online research, bought parts, and had a plane in the air before the end of the fall semester. But that, the pair would learn, was just the beginning.

They encountered two major issues: technological glitches and crashes. “I’ve crashed a lot,” said Opalacz. “I’ve destroyed some planes.” But as long as the components aren’t damaged, a broken foam plane is an easy fix, they say. Troubleshooting can be more time

consuming. “We get to the field, everything’s working, and you’re like, ‘Oh, the motor’s not.’ ... Throughout this project in general we’ve just had to do tons of troubleshooting—going back to the drawing board.”

Since a major goal was to make a UAV that other students could use to take aerial pictures for research projects, graduating seniors Opalacz and Huntington needed to do everything they could to minimize glitches for students who would inherit the plane. They added a parachute to help dampen the impact, thereby protecting the electronic components, and they downsized—creating a new plane half the size—so the lighter plane wouldn’t land (or crash) as hard. All of their troubleshooting is documented on their blog (www.uav.blogspot.com) so that future students can learn from their experiences.

Throughout the year Tucker Gorman '11J worked with Huntington and Opalacz, and this spring he prepared to become the go-to person for students and faculty looking to use the plane in their research. Gorman will be available this fall to teach the next round of students to troubleshoot and to fly. Fleming expects demand. “There’s a general enthusiasm and a sense of brainstorming what’s next,” he said.

The first to jump on the opportunity, and

offer support in the form of additional grant money, was Associate Professor of Biology Catherine Bevier. She plans to use the plane to map and study a 15-acre wetland in Norridgewock, Maine. Bevier hopes to survey amphibians and other wildlife in the area. “The fly-over and aerial photography would also give a baseline for vegetation and landscape,” she said. “It’d be very cool to do a yearly survey and see exactly how this whole wetland area changes over time.” Beyond that, the owners of the land are considering building an educational trail that will be open to the public, and the aerial photography will be crucial in mapping the route.

Other professors and students are considering uses for the plane in their research. “We really think it will let kids sort of dream about what kind of research they want to do,” said Opalacz, “because they’re not going to be constricted by raising thousands of dollars to hire a conventional aerial photographer. They can just take our plane out.” Added Huntington: “Pretty much every professor we talk to in the sciences is really excited about applications of this for their students.”

Fleming is among them. He called the UAV project “the best student project I have ever seen.”