

Colby



Colby Magazine

Volume 98
Issue 4 *Winter 2010*

Article 4

January 2010

Letters

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine>

Recommended Citation

(2010) "Letters," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 98 : Iss. 4 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol98/iss4/4>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the Colby College Archives at Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colby Magazine by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Colby.



Jeronimo Maradiaga's Journey

BY GERRY BOYLE '10

More on Maradiaga's Journey

We at the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship are proud to number Jeronimo Maradiaga ("Jeronimo Maradiaga's Journey," summer 2009 *Colby*) among our 2009/10 fellowship class. As this article expresses with such excellent nuance, the Watson Fellowship invests in people, not projects. We also funded this year a student whose difficult childhood forced her to scavenge for recyclables after school to help her family make ends meet. The focus of her year is "The Faces Behind Informal Waste Management" in Egypt, Australia, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Brazil. Our other 38 fellows of this year can be read about at www.watsonfellowship.org.

As with all our Fellows, we firmly believe that Jeronimo's year, rather than being a detour from his life goals, will be broadening and transformative. Just imagine the global perspective, empathy, and understanding he will be able to bring into his future medical career (or into any other career or advocacy work he chooses to pursue)! Already now, after his first weeks of Watson-funded independence in Mumbai, India, Jeronimo is beginning to answer the questions he brought along from his own personal experiences, while learning to ask a completely new set of questions he may never previously have thought to ask.

Thank you for telling Jeronimo's story. If nothing else, it gives powerful testimony why working for socioeconomic diversity in the student bodies of small colleges is so important.

Cleveland Johnson, director
Thomas J. Watson Fellowship
New York, N.Y.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Jeronimo Maradiaga but never knew his story. He is an inspiration to us all. And the people around him, who supported him when things were tough, also inspire me. I wish Jeronimo all the best in his quest to collect the stories of others and look forward to reading them. I also wish him the best in his future studies. What an amazing doctor he will be.

Maggie Goodes
Castlemaine, Australia

I read this article by accident after filling out a survey. It is the best article I've ever read in this magazine since my graduation and I was moved beyond belief. I'm forwarding it to my daughter and her husband at Penn State as inspiration while they struggle through their own academic and life difficulties.

Mike Wolk '75
Charleston, S.C.

Jeronimo, what you have accomplished and what you are doing with your Watson Fellowship is so very important, because socioeconomic class continues to divide the world, and young people with backgrounds similar to yours need to know that it is possible for them to achieve their dreams. They also need to know that there is pain involved in learning to navigate a different culture. Thank you for sharing your story! I look forward to reading the stories you find on your travels. Thanks to *Colby* magazine for sharing this story. It's one of the best I've ever read in the 30 years since I graduated.

Kathy Quimby Johnson '79
Cambridge, Vermont

What an inspiring story. I wish Jeronimo the best and give his mother kudos for inspiring her sons. My husband was raised in a tenement in Scotland and his mother inspired her three children to get an education and succeed in life.

Georgia Fisher Kearney '52
Birmingham, Ala.

We're Not in Kansas

Regarding the essay, "Magnetic North," by Melanie Brown '13 (fall 2009 *Colby*), when I walk through little Green Mountain Falls, Colo., wearing my Colby sweatshirt, people ask me if I'm from Colby, Kansas. When people ask me where my daughter went to college, I always have to say "Colby College in Maine." Perhaps the college should market clothing which has "Colby College—that's in Maine" stenciled on it, at least for those of us who reside outside of New England. I'm fond of telling inquisitive people that Colby is sort of like our local Colorado College: small, private, liberal arts, expensive, but far superior.

John Morgan '68
Green Mountain Falls, Colo.
(elev. 7,800 feet)



Gillespie Was a Memorable Mentor

Regarding "More than Mentors," (fall 2009 *Colby*), no professor was appreciated more than Jim Gillespie (psychology) as he mentored so many Colby athletes. Those of us who played at Colby in the 1950s and 1960s will never forget him.

John C. Edes '58
East Greenwich, R.I.

Letters Welcome

Colby welcomes your letters. Send them to Gerry Boyle, editor; *Colby* magazine; Office of Communications; 4350 Mayflower Hill; Waterville, ME 04901, or by e-mail to mag@colby.edu. Length should be limited to 300 words. *Colby* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.