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Mitchell Perseveres for Peace

Stressing the role of hope and persistence in peace negotiations, U.S. special envoy to the Middle East, former Senator George J. Mitchell, told a standing-room crowd in Lorimer Chapel Oct. 22, that chances for peace in the Mideast have changed. “For the first time in my adult lifetime we have a president who placed this high on the agenda right at the beginning of his term, not at the end,” he said. “That’s a huge factor.”

Following a speech that recapped his successful efforts to forge peace in Northern Ireland against enormous odds, as well as a broad overview of what needs to be achieved between Israelis and Palestinians, Mitchell answered questions from students and community members.

Asked “What is different this time?” in the familiar scenario where a president seeks peace in the Middle East only to have it fall through, Mitchell suggested his answer holds a life lesson for students: “If you take the position that you tried something that you believed in and it didn’t work once, twice, or three times—

“In Northern Ireland I had seven-hundred days of failure and one day of success.”

George Mitchell, special envoy to the Middle East

that you’re going to give up—you’re going to find that you will go through life without solving a lot of problems that you could have solved,” he said.

“In Northern Ireland I had seven-hundred days of failure and one day of success,” he said.

Early Diagnosis: Fit for Med School

Two Colby students received acceptances to Tufts University School of Medicine when they were sophomores, part of a new program for pre-med students interested in practicing medicine in Maine.

Kevin Baier ’11 and Samuel Levine ’11 are two of six students accepted into the Maine Track Early Assurance Program at Tufts. Both demonstrated academic excellence, particularly in the sciences, had strong ties to Maine, and had completed their prerequisites by the end of their sophomore year—prerequisites that typically take students four years to complete. “All of the things that we would like our students to show in a regular [medical school] application, these students showed by the end of their sophomore year,” said Associate Director of the Career Center Cate Talbot Ashton ’80.

Baier and Levine will be part of the first class in this new program, which is available to students from Colby, Bates, Bowdoin, and the University of Maine. The Early Assurance Program is part of the larger Maine Track program, which addresses a shortage of physicians in the state.

Maine Track students split their time between Tufts and Maine Medical Center during their first two years, then complete their clinical rotations in Maine. They are not required to practice in Maine, though that is the goal of the program, said Ashton.

—Ruth Jacobs
New Dean of Faculty Announced

Following a nationwide search, Colby announced the hiring of Lori G. Kletzer, a professor of economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty. Her appointment takes effect July 1. Kletzer, who joined the Santa Cruz faculty in 1993 following seven years on the Williams College faculty, is a widely published labor economist whose research focuses on the way global competition affects U.S. workers.

At Santa Cruz Kletzer has served as chair of the economics department and is currently chair of the campus’s academic senate. She is also a nonresident senior fellow with the Peter G. Peterson Institute for International Economics, has been a resident scholar at the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution, and a visiting assistant professor at the University of Washington.

Her teaching and scholarship, along with her liberal arts background and her leadership on Santa Cruz’s academic senate were factors in the decision, according to President William D. Adams “Lori understands what we are up to at Colby, and I know that she will provide strong leadership and support to all parts of the academic program,” he said.

Kletzer graduated from Vassar in 1979 and earned her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley. Given her experience at Vassar and on the Williams faculty, she says the Colby appointment represents “a transition back” to the environment that nurtured her academic pursuits.

She succeeds Edward H. Yeterian, who will return to Colby’s psychology faculty full time following 12 years as dean.

Corrado in McCain Floor Statement


McCain objected to a statement by Justice Antonin Scalia, who said “I doubt that one can expect a body of incumbents to draw election restrictions that do not favor incumbents. Now is that excessively cynical of me? I don’t think so.” Before citing Corrado, McCain discussed times when Congress has “risen above its own self-interest and enacted the necessary reforms to address the scandals and corruption that have plagued our democratic institutions over time.” He cited the 1907 Tillman Act, which “prohibited nationally chartered banks and corporations from contributing to campaigns.”

McCain continued: “Although the Tillman Act constituted a landmark in federal law, according to campaign finance expert Anthony Corrado, ‘its adoption did not quell the cries for reform. Eliminating corporate influence was only one of the ideas being advanced at this time to clean up political finance.’”

Oak Fellow Advocates for Marginalized Residents in Israel

It was 1967. Hadas Ziv was 4 when the Six-Day War between Israel and Jordan, Syria, and Egypt broke out. “I remember going through an old market in Palestine and seeing the Palestinians,” Ziv said. “I told my mom, ‘They don’t want to see me. We are not wanted.’” But her mother dismissed Ziv’s worries and told her that the Israelis helped the Palestinian economy. Ziv didn’t buy it.

And as Colby’s 2009 Oak Fellow for International Human Rights, she still doesn’t. Now 42, Ziv is executive director of the nonprofit Physicians for Human Rights-Israel. The organization provides health care to marginalized people in Israel, including Palestinian refugees and Arab Bedouins, under the organization’s founding principle that every resident of Israel has a fundamental right to health.

In a country with so much political history, the work Ziv does is inevitably political. When it comes to the Israeli occupation, the soft-spoken crusader is not one to mince words. “The Israeli occupation is unjust,” she said. “When we victimize someone it takes a toll on the victimizer. ... We are losing solidarity in Israel. ... We control, we oppress, and still we don’t have the society we want.”

The daughter of a Christian father and a Jewish mother, Ziv has worked for PHR-Israel for 14 years. Still, she’s not one to romanticize her work. “You can’t change the world,” she said. “You can only make the right choices personally. ... When you have hope and it’s taken away from you, you begin to despair.”

—Jenny Chen ’12
Ripples brush the water as a laundress dabbles her foot in a tranquil pool. Humming softly, she and her companions set about their task: narrating the opening scene of *Metamorphoses* in Strider Theater.

A pool? In Strider Theater?

Mary Zimmerman’s *Metamorphoses*, which ran for two sold-out weekends in November, showcased nine stories based on Greek and Roman mythology. This production, with a cast of 25, included a 12- by 28-foot, 2,500-gallon pool meant to “reflect and complement” the characters’ transformations. Director Lynne Conner, theater and dance professor and chair, aimed to link theater and dance in one production. The result included a corps de ballet, original music, video projection, and song.

“There is talent here at Colby,” Conner said, noting that only five cast members were theater and dance majors. “Lynne made it easy for us,” said Ahmed Asi ’13J, a government major with no prior theater experience. “She guided me, but she didn’t tell me what to do.”

*Metamorphoses* was well received beyond Colby. Cast members Alexandra Desaulniers ’11 and Michael Trottier ’12 were selected to participate in the prestigious Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in January.

Still, watching the student actors and managers grow was most rewarding for Conner. “It’s really about the way in which, over time, they take on confidence as collaborators.”

Abby Crocker ’13, who played Myrrha in an incest scene with her father, Cinyras, said the scene was daunting and even disturbing but ultimately rewarding. “It was the scariest thing I’ve ever done,” Crocker said. “But I’m so grateful for the opportunity.”

“Talk about metamorphoses,” Conner concluded. “These students have been transformed by the experience.” —Laura Meader

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**Alumni Ties Expose Tax Loophole**

A connection that started in The Heights freshman year and continued in the *Echo* newsroom led to national headlines, a *New York Times* editorial condemning tobacco companies for exploiting a tax loophole, and a senator’s call for action.

In the regular process of tracking numbers at Oregon Department of Health, Daniel Morris ’00 found a huge spike in pipe tobacco production following a tax increase on roll-your-own cigarette tobacco. “At first I thought it was a mistake,” he said.

After confirming the numbers, he called Associated Press reporter Matt Apuzzo ’00, a friend from Colby.

“Over the years I’ve pitched a couple different stories to Matt,” said Morris, who was managing editor at the *Echo* when Apuzzo was editor. “This is the first time that I actually got a good one to him.”

Good indeed. Apuzzo’s reporting revealed that, following an expansion of children’s health insurance this spring that increased the tax on roll-your-own tobacco from $1.10 to $24.78 a pound, tobacco companies relabeled roll-your-own tobacco as pipe tobacco, which is taxed at just $2.83 a pound.

The story ran in papers from Boston to Chapel Hill and inspired editorials nationwide. “Obviously the new law is in urgent need of a no-nonsense amendment to bring roll-your-own under proper federal controls and full taxation,” wrote the *New York Times*.

Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey issued a press release. “It is bad enough that they are exploiting this loophole, but to make matters worse, they are cheating the government out of tax dollars needed to keep America’s children healthy. If companies won’t do what is right, then we will—by working to close this loophole.”

Apuzzo’s reporting found companies circumventing as much as $32 million a month in taxes—revenue that may now be recovered, thanks in large part to this Colby connection.

—R.J.

**Fleming Testifies on Capitol Hill**

Testifying before the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology in November, Professor of Science, Technology, and Society James Fleming discussed the history of climate control and its governance. His prepared remarks state, “We simply cannot proceed without integrating the history of climate change and geoengineering with public policy. ... [T]his should be interdisciplinary in essence and international in emphasis, with intergenerational training and participation. In these ways I believe history can effectively inform public policy.”

Go to colby.edu/mag, keyword: Fleming.

**Making the Most of Being “Lost”**

Former *Echo* editor Suzanne Merkelson ’09 has become a spokesperson of sorts for Millennials, the Class of 2009—the “Lost Generation,” as *Business Week* called her cohort. Merkelson disagrees with the labels and the idea that she and others her age are doomed. She is getting her message out, first through NPR’s program *OnPoint*, where she is an intern, then through an op-ed in the *Chicago Tribune*. See www.colby.edu/mag, keyword: lostgen.
**Fulbrights in Germany, China**

Two Colby professors were named 2009-2010 Fulbright Scholars. Associate Professor of East Asian Studies Hong Zhang will spend the year in China studying the effects of urban migration on family structures and gender roles. Jennifer Yoder, the Robert E. Diamond Associate Professor of Government and International Studies, spent two weeks in Germany this summer examining how that country’s political party system has changed since unification.

During her 10 months of research in China, Hong will look at the migration of workers from rural to urban areas and whether that mobility has led to changes in courtship, marriage choices, “and to what extent the traditional gender roles and intergenerational relations in rural families have been transformed,” she wrote in an e-mail from Beijing.

Hong will also examine the conflict in young people “between their desire for urban mobility and autonomy on the one hand and their economic and moral ties to their rural kin and communities on the other,” she wrote. Hong will conduct her research primarily in Beijing and will take trips to rural villages with young migrants.

While in Beijing Hong will serve as a Fulbright panelist, interviewing Chinese candidates seeking Fulbrights in the United States in 2010-2011.

As one of 14 American scholars at a Fulbright seminar in Germany this summer, Yoder participated in an interdisciplinary examination of Germany’s political parties, particularly the smaller parties that are drawing support away from the larger, established ones. In Berlin, Frankfurt, and Erfurt, Yoder met with political leaders, journalists, pollsters, and others to explore the changing face of German politics. “It was very enlightening,” she said.

Yoder said she was intrigued by the way Germans, gearing up for a September election, seemed influenced by the 2008 U.S. election. “They’re so aware of Obama and the Obama phenomenon,” she said. “As an American you recognize the phrasing, the attempt to energize the base. They were using Twitter, Facebook.”

Yoder planned to draw on this experience in her Jan Plan course comparing the September German election—the campaign, the parties, the election, and the outcomes—to the 2008 U.S. election and the American system. –R.J.

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**You Can Dress a Mule Up**

Clothes don’t make the man or woman, but proper attire for formal occasions is key. Colby’s Student Government Association is launching the Colby Clothes Closet to help students get access to the clothes they need.

Recognizing a wide range of clothing needs among students as they interview for internships and jobs, or even attend formal social events, SGA President Jacob Fischer ’10 is organizing the effort. He’s soliciting donations of “fashionably recent” business suits, dresses, shirts, and shoes in good condition, and he plans to have the CCC open this spring.

Fischer explained that it may serve any student who didn’t come to campus with a business suit, or it could assist students facing what Echo writer Anna Kelemen ’10 called “interviewing fashion emergencies.”

“This is a way to make the idea, Fischer said after presenting it to trustees and publicizing it in the Echo. He imagines a clothes closet well-stocked with a range of sizes of men’s and women’s attire and a system where students make appointments and privately select needed items. Tutorials will be posted in the room about things like how to tie neckties and finding the proper fit for dress shirts. SGA will cover cleaning costs, working with student-operated Lazy Mule Laundry service, Fischer said. —S.B.C.

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**Museum Reaches Out**

As the Colby College Museum of Art celebrates its 50th anniversary, museum administrators are not just looking inward, but reaching out. “We want the museum to be more than a place for college students to go for art class,” said Lauren Lessing, the Mirken Curator of Education. “We want it to be more than an art museum.”

With Carolyn Muzzy Museum Director Sharon Corwin, Lessing is working to expand the museum’s campus and community outreach initiatives. This fall 48 courses in various disciplines used exhibits and artwork in the Colby collection. These ranged from the more obvious art courses that use the museum regularly to English and science courses exploring specific pieces and collections.
Covering the Developing World with Courage

Foreign correspondent Paul Salopek, who was imprisoned while reporting in Darfur and refused release until his African colleagues were granted freedom, emphasized the courage of local journalists in the developing world in his Lovejoy acceptance speech Oct. 18. “They put not only their careers but also their very lives and the lives of their families on the line to deliver the truth,” he said. “I work with them often and they humble me. They share our ideals. Elijah Parish Lovejoy would recognize them as kin.”

While working for the Chicago Tribune, Salopek won the Pulitzer Prize twice for individual work. Jailed in 2006 Salopek endured beatings and refused to eat until he was reunited with his Chadian driver and Sudanese translator. “As terrible as that experience was,” he said, “and never to downplay those fearsome days, I must be honest in saying that what happened to me pales in comparison to the travails of the reporters I’ve worked with throughout my career in the developing world.”

His 15 years as a foreign correspondent, he said, were the best preparation for his own internment. “After interview-