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From the Editor

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Like many people in northern New England, I was caught in a time machine last month.

It began with a pelting, steady downpour at about 32 degrees. The rain crystallized, turning trees into glistening chandeliers that sagged and snapped and knocked out power lines. Goodbye electricity; hello 19th century.

For a couple of days, it was back to hauling water (from buckets positioned to catch runoff from the roof), loading woodstoves, carrying candles from room to room. No television, no Internet, no music beyond what could be created with an acoustic instrument or the human voice. It wasn’t so bad.

Then, just as we were settling into pioneer life, someone somewhere connected some wires and threw a switch and we were catapulted back to 2008. Lights and laptops. Leno and Lil Wayne. Hours later, here at Colby, I was staring into 2009 and beyond. Talk about whiplash.

I say this having just come from a meeting where the communications staff was talking about what you really want to read in Colby. And how you’ll be doing it in the future.

What sort of stories are you most likely to read in Colby online or in print? How should the content of the two differ? Will you check out Colby online on your laptop or your PDA? When it comes to stories, how long is too long? How short is too short? Should we be offering stories and information more precisely tailored to the different formats or in print? How should the content of the two differ? Will you check out Colby online or in print? How should the content of the two differ? Will you check out Colby online on your laptop or your PDA? When it comes to stories, how long is too long? How short is too short? Should we be offering stories and information more precisely tailored to the different formats that are growing in popularity? Should the online magazine mirror print or complement it?

Of course, we aren’t alone. Newspapers are struggling to keep up with changing technology—and some are losing. Magazines are trying to sort it all out, balancing print and online editions and features, trying to predict where the technology tornado will drop us next.

In coming months we’ll be asking you to consider these questions, too. Colby is your magazine just as Colby is—or perhaps soon will be—your college. We want and need you to help us chart our course for the future. It’s coming faster than we think, despite the occasional (at least in these parts) detour into the past.

JOHN FLEMING: (“A Political Remix,” P. 20) Before joining the Anniston Star in 1998, John Fleming was West Africa correspondent for the Reuters News Agency. He covered the wars in Congo-Brazzaville and the former Zaire as well as the resumption of the conflict in Angola. He has written extensively on state government, the power of special interests, and the legacy of the civil rights movement in the Deep South.

BARRABA A. WALSH (“Double Duty,” P. 14) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who has worked for newspapers in Massachusetts, Florida, Maine, and Ireland. A frequent contributor to Colby, Walsh also works with visiting journalist fellows at Colby’s Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement.
Colby students are always producing photos and multimedia content for insideColby.com. Recent photo essays, videos, and podcasts explore everything from a downtown festival to dining halls and plans for Jan Plan. Some highlights:

**Video Is King**

*Whatever Floats Your Boat*
Remember the Johnson Pond Regatta? It’s one of Colby students’ favorite traditions. Olivia Sterling ’09 captured the fun.

*Climate Change Reality Check*
Tamer Hassan ’11 followed students in Oak Fellow Afsan Chowdhury’s course as they worked to raise awareness about how climate change is a present danger in South Asia.

*Iraqi Refugee Awareness Movement*
Students working to create awareness about Iraqi refugees sponsor various events and look forward to a conference about the issue in February. Tarini Manchanda ’09 talked to students and the professor involved.

**Podcasts Rule**

*Why the Widow?*
Emily Fleming ’12 talks with author of *The Widow Clicquot*, English Professor Tilar Mazzeo, about why she wrote a book about a champagne empress, her writing process, and the most exciting part of the story. (see related story, page 32)

*Behind the Scenes*
Fritz Freudenerberger ’09 talks with Geographic Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis Specialist Manuel Gimond about being a self-proclaimed computer geek, watching students’ eureka moments, and his previous job with NASA.

*Mooncake Festival*
Emily Fleming ’12 talks with Tammi Choi ’11 about the history and customs of the Mooncake Festival, which dates back to the Shang Dynasty and includes ancestor worship.

**A Photo Essay Is Worth 1,000 Vids Or Pods**

*Night and Day* By Brian DiMento ’10

*Colby Outing Club* By Beth Cole ’09

*On and Off the Field* By Rob Kievit ’09