

# Colby



## Colby Magazine

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Volume 97  
Issue 1 *Spring 2008*

Article 3

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April 2008

## Letters

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### Recommended Citation

(2008) "Letters," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 97 : Iss. 1 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol97/iss1/3>

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### Afghanistan-Gould Connection

Regarding Qiamuddin Amiry '09 partnering with Gould Academy to bring Afghani students to Maine ("Editor's Desk," winter 2008 *Colby*), I am very proud of my daughter, Lesley Fowler Nesbitt, associate admissions director at Gould, and Qiam, who are both determined, intelligent, altruistic persons. What powerful examples they set! Because of them and so many other committed people how can this effort not go forward and prosper?

*Betsy Fowler*  
Madison, N.H.

Way to go Colby and Gould. I am an alumna of both, '99 and '03, and it is great to see the two Maine schools working together. Nice job Qiam and Lesley!

*Caroline Riss '03*  
Polson, Montana

### Buy Local—in Finland

Regarding "Local Salad Year Round" (winter 2008 *Colby*), I'm using this initiative (and the *Morning Sentinel* article about it) as good examples in my university teaching this month in Finland: Destination Marketing & Local Development. Perhaps buying local can be emulated there!

*Bruce Henry Lambert '80*  
Stockholm, Sweden

### Mixed View on Students, Plum Creek

Emmie Theberge '08 ("Proposed Development Piques Interest," winter 2008 *Colby*) should be complimented for her efforts to become educated about both sides of Plum Creek's proposal.

In contrast, Andrew Smith, a freshman Colby College student from Pennsylvania, assumes that he already knows everything necessary to make land use and economic development policy for Greenville and the Moosehead Lake region, and that those of us who live in the area, including Greenville's town manager, do not know what we are talking about.

*Erik Stumpf*  
Sangerville, Maine

### Praise for Colby Eight Reunion

A fun concert that took this alum back to his undergrad days. Elixir of youth!

*Ted Lockhart '61*  
New London, N.H.

The video sampler of the Colby Eight concert was wonderful! What a range through all the represented "eras"! Nothing easy, everything entertaining—and poignant for this former Eight. Thanks!

*Peter Vogt '63*  
Cabin John, Maryland

What pure fun—and great memories! Thanks for a very special addition to the [Out of the Blue] newsletter.

*Susan Fenn '63*  
Pinole, Calif.

Thanks for the video sampling of what I missed. Had my business travel commitments been a bit lighter, I would have been there. Perhaps the 65th Reunion?

*Brad Kelly '69*  
Dana Point, Calif.

Great addition to your magazine. I would have carried a cane into the presentation of the older group, but my 12th grandchild was born on Saturday morning of that weekend, and I stayed with the family. Right thing to do, but I obviously missed a great show.

*John Philbrook '55*  
Marblehead, Mass.

What a treat. It's been a long time since I have heard "The Eight." It is a joy to see that, despite the changes in musical styles, the talent and camaraderie have lasted through 60 years. Congratulations to all the participants.

*Jane Alexander Haines '70*  
East Bridgewater, Mass.

Makes me very nostalgic, and the Colby Eight still make me wish I could sing!

*Mary Federle Porter '88*  
Cumberland, Maine

### A Friendship Born at Colby

Betty Wilkinson Ryan '37 was my roommate at Colby for four years, and in that time I came to realize what an exceptional person she was. She was a happy person, with a ready smile for all of her friends. She was good fun, but at the same time she was very smart, as her scholastic record surely showed.

She majored in biology and did so well in her subjects that she not only was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in her senior year, but she was also honored to be chosen to be a member of the senior honorary society, Cap and Gown. Moreover, she was popular among her classmates, and at the Saturday night Gym Dances, she was often the first to be asked to dance by one of her admiring swains. And in the spring of 1937, she was chosen to be queen of the Holiday Prom!

As was the custom, the Dean of Women, once a student had been accepted, notified the applicant of the good news, and if she was soon to be in a dorm, then she was given the name of another student who would be her roommate. Thus, Betty and I were each notified that we would be roommates in Dutton House. Letters were exchanged, and two eager girls began counting the days when we would meet.

Betty went on to study biology at Columbia University, while I enrolled in a teaching apprenticeship in English at a progressive, private school in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. Betty met a brilliant graduate student, who also was studying biology. Six months later, she wrote he had asked her to marry him.

This past February, I sent a birthday card to Betty. The card was returned to me with the somber news that my beloved roommate Betty had died in October of 2006. I was overwhelmed.

Now, I have all the good memories to sort out. Betty was not only a joy in my life, but she was a good friend, an exceptional student, and someone I shall always remember as a true inspiration to all who knew her!

*Marjorie G. M. Shuman '37*  
Penney Farms, Fla.

*Editor's note: This is an excerpt from a longer tribute that appears online, [www.colby.edu/mag](http://www.colby.edu/mag).*