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From the Hill

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A New Beginning

Orientation moves in academic direction

STEPHEN COLLINS '74 STORY

ROBERT P. HERNANDEZ PHOTO

What is Colby? What distinguishes the Colby experience? Why are we here?

Tough questions with no simple answers. And never more germane than during orientation for new students.

When 468 members of the Class of 2011 arrived on campus August 28, the Office of the Dean of Students, faculty and student volunteers, and a handful of young alumni were ready with a whole new approach.

This year, rather than shipping students out on COOT trips first thing, a full day of discussions and activities set the table. "At the core of it," said Vice President for Student Affairs Jim Terhune, whose team overhauled the orientation program, "the primary purpose of orientation is to acclimate a new class into an *academic* environment."

Terhune's emphasis on "academic" reflected the deeply felt mood of the faculty and administration. As they grappled with how best to launch a new class into the Colby experience, officials were aware that the direction of that first push would help determine the path of the College community as well.

For more than 30 years COOT trips—four-day outdoor excursions with upper-class leaders and eight to 10 fellow freshmen—have been the central component of orientation. As the COOT program developed, though, faculty

and staff participation diminished and COOT trips evolved into a largely student-determined exchange of information.

College brochures suggested that the trips provided new students an opportunity to "get their bearings," to bond with an initial group of friends, and to get candid answers from upper-class trip leaders to all kinds of questions.

"COOT became more of a social activity than one able to reflect the intellectual component of the College," said Professor of Economics Michael Donihue '79, who over the past year chaired a subcommittee studying the transition from high school to Colby as part of the College's reaccreditation self-study.

Terhune and his staff worked with Donihue's committee and with Professor Sandy Maisel, director of the Goldfarb Center, on a day-long program that came before the trips and that engaged COOT leaders. They recruited the authoritative voices of young alumni and Colby professors for two panel discussions that addressed common apprehensions of new students. Those discussions were moderated by Peter Hart '64, a leading political pollster and an animated emcee.

Professors Phil Brown (economics), Andrea Tilden (biology), and Cedric Bryant (English) talked briefly about how they got to Colby, what they expect from students, and Colby "myths."

"It's the myth," Bryant said, "that there's an absolute correlation between your high school academic success and your academic success here at Colby. A very quick example. ... Students get their first essay back and it has a grade on it that is totally alien to you. ... The response in one way or another (and I think every professor here has experienced it) is something on the order of, 'I never got a grade like this in high school.' And my rather cryptic response is usually, 'That was then and this is now.' The point is ... we are all, as professors, invested in the same thing, and that's getting our students to the next level of intellectual and academic excellence."

If it's not going to be easy, what to do? Tilden said it's a myth that, "If you're struggling and need help, it's a sign of weakness." Seek help from professors, she said. Join study groups. "There are so many resources here. We really want you to succeed."

Brown questioned the notion that there is one "Colby Experience." He said, "I think the biggest myth is what you read in The Princeton Review about Colby." It may give one person's anecdotal experience, but everyone will have a unique experience at Colby. He urged students not to put too much stock in their peers' reviews of individual professors either. Sometimes it's worth taking a risk, he said,



From left, Peter Hart '64 (moderator), Traci Speed '03, Oliver Sabot '02, Joseph Okeyo '05, Gillian Morejon Gutierrez '00, and Chad Higgins '97 discuss their academic experiences at Colby as part of a new focus for orientation.

because, "Your experience may vary."

Earlier the panel of five accomplished young alumni also stressed the importance of faculty mentors. "Find a professor. Latch onto them like a leech, until they take a restraining order," said Oliver Sabot '02, director of malaria programs for The Clinton Foundation.

Gillian Morejon Gutierrez '00, daughter of a lobsterman and a nurse, recalled being so nervous on her first day of college that, "I was probably in the bathroom," rather than paying


attention during orientation. "I didn't believe I belonged here. Patrice [Franko, (economics and international studies)] made me believe I was worth it." Gutierrez proved Franko right. She won a prestigious Watson Fellowship and is now a high-ranking emergency manager for the U.S. Department of Labor in New York.

So, how did the new orientation work out? Students and professors gave it high marks. And on at least one COOT, there was anecdotal evidence that it may have elevated expectations

for academics and intellectual discourse.

In an Old Town canoe in the middle of Wyman Lake, two first-years paddling between islands were overheard having an intense discussion about which one was better. Not which *Simpsons* episode; not Sam Adams or Coors Light (conversations actually overheard in years past). These two argued *Hamlet* vs. *Twelfth Night*. "The soliloquy in *Twelfth Night* is so amazing," one said.

Coincidence? Time will tell.

Watch highlights or the entire orientation panels. Go to www.colby.edu/mag, keyword: orientation 



From top left: students arrive at the Hill 'n the 'Ville festival; a youngster in his wind-up at the dunk tank; Stephanie Calkins and her daughter Molly compete in the sack race; the Colby Volunteer Center sets up shop.



“HILL 'N THE 'VILLE”

Students and city business groups collaborate on groundbreaking downtown festival

PO YIN WONG '09 STORY

KENDYL SULLIVAN '11 PHOTOS

On a gray Saturday afternoon in September, Colby students boarded yellow school buses and headed downtown to Waterville for a day of music, fun—and relationship building.

Kicking off the academic year, the inaugural Hill 'n the 'Ville festival was designed to improve the student-town relationship as well as to help Colby students make a good first impression with area residents.

Town-gown relations have been strained at times in recent years (see “Good Neighbors?” spring 2007 *Colby*), largely over alcohol-related incidents. Efforts to bridge the divide are ongoing, with both Colby and Waterville seeing success through community service projects last year.

The newest Colby-Waterville event was the brainchild of Ryan Collins '08 and Adam Geringer-Dunn '08, who first conceived of the downtown festival when they were sophomores.

“There are lots of good people up here who do a lot of good things that people don't know about,” Collins said. “We want to put names and faces together and both sides [will benefit].”

He and Geringer-Dunn pitched the idea to Nick Cade '08, a friend who became president of the Student Government Association this year. Cade threw himself into the project, opting to stay at Colby over the summer, partly to help bring Hill 'n the 'Ville together. He coordinated with local businesses and worked with Erik Thomas, Main Street gallery owner and a member of Waterville Main Street, a downtown civic group, for the day-long festival at Head of Falls, between Front Street and the Kennebec River.

The result: Waterville families, couples, and Colby students visited food vendors, danced, and chatted in front of a stage on which different groups played music all day. Children watched the dunk tank as Cade and Jeffrey Coombs, assistant director of Colby security, obligingly got soaked.

Rain initially limited the size of the audience, but, as evening approached, clouds parted and the event ended under a beautiful sunset.

Shannon Haines, executive director of Waterville Main Street, said the festival was “a good test” for similar events that aim to bring the students and the community together. “In many ways Waterville doesn't seem like a college town because there are not many students [downtown],” she said. “But the turnout at Hill 'n the 'Ville was half students, half community. That was good.”

Thinking ahead to future Hill 'n the 'Ville festivals, Cade said the long-

term goal is to make the event better and with more revenue so that it can become a self-sustaining activity, enduring long after current organizers have graduated.

The goal of Hill 'n the 'Ville is to have a family-friendly event that shows students are interested in and care for the Waterville community, Cade said. He pointed out that the event involved more than the SGA; it happened thanks to the collaboration of many different groups, organizers said. Colby athletic teams set up and ran games for young children, for example, and residents of Colby's first Dialogue House, the Green House (with a focus on environmental issues), helped pick up litter at Head of Falls, the open

“There are lots of good people up here who do a lot of good things that people don't know about. We want to put names and faces together.” Nick Cade '08

area alongside the Kennebec River where many events are held.

“I don't just come here to clean up garbage, though,” said Tara Brian '10, a Green House resident who helped out. “It's also fun to be in Waterville and see the different things that are going on here.” Brian said she liked Hill 'n the 'Ville because “It's good that it is something that Colby students are doing for Waterville,” and that residents can come and enjoy.

Abby Gordon of Waterville, walking on the grassy field with four young children including her two daughters, said she enjoyed Hill 'n the 'Ville tremendously.

“It's nice to see Colby and Main Street work together,” said Gordon, noting the variety of activities offered throughout the day, from the band John Brown's Body, which makes regular appearances on the *Billboard* reggae chart, to the Dumb Beautiful Ministers, one of Colby's student bands.

“It's a good beginning,” said Duane Wheeler, who grew up in Waterville and now owns and operates the Dairy Queen on College Avenue. “When Colby had its campus downtown, in fact not far from here, students came a lot downtown, but since it moved up the hill, students are not as much a part of the town as they used to be.”

Strolling the field, Wheeler smiled as he gazed at the crowd gathered in front of the big stage, dancing along with the music. “Today is a great opportunity to interact with students in a variety of different ways,” he said, “I want to see more of it.”

Q&A

NEW YORKER KATE VASCONI ON 9/11, HER FIREFIGHTING FAMILY, AND CLASSICS AS PREPARATION FOR SPORTS MARKETING

GERRY BOYLE '78 INTERVIEW

JIM EVANS/MORNING SENTINEL PHOTO

In a photograph that appeared in the Central Maine Morning Sentinel September 11, Kate Vasconi '09 is shown with 3,000 American flags she and other members of the Colby Republicans arranged on Miller Library lawn. Vasconi, daughter of a New York City firefighter, spoke to Colby about the memorial she helped create and about 9/11.

You didn't know what was planned for the 9/11 memorial on Colby's quad before the Republican Club met?

No, I went into the meeting and there was this big poster, pictures of 9/11. I was standing there, very shaken by it. I was very emotional about it because I didn't know it was something that we were doing. When we finally got out there to put the flags down, it really hit me. It was September 11 again.

And you had lived through it once?

On Staten Island.

Where did you see it from?

I was in math class, and out the school window you could see all the smoke, because we're right across from lower Manhattan.

What happened in the school that day?

We had actually heard about it on the radio. My mom works at the school. I'd been sitting in her office and somebody said a plane had hit the World Trade Center. People just assumed it was some kind of an accident and things just went on normally. When the second plane hit, I was in class. The building actually shook. At that point people were starting to panic because now we knew there were two planes that had hit.

We had all gotten put into sort of a lockdown situation. We couldn't leave the rooms we were in, and over the loudspeakers people's names were being called when their parents were there. Slowly but surely people kept leaving school until there was no one left. I went home with my neighbor because my mother couldn't leave the school.

Where was your dad?

My dad got called in to help with the emergency because they needed all the help that they could get.

Did you know that then?

No. When I got home, my neighbor told me. She went to pick up my little sister and they wouldn't let her pick her up ... so my dad actually had to come back to get her. Thinking about it, he would have been there a lot earlier had it not been for the fact that he had to go pick up my sister. So there are a lot of what-ifs that you can think about in that situation.

But that didn't spare him entirely?

He was there for three days. Well, he was there for longer than three days but for three days we hadn't heard from him. So we were obviously very worried about where he was. It was just that they were working straight for three days, trying to recover anybody who was caught under the rubble and just trying to bring home anybody dead or alive to their families. He had been in Ground Zero for something like two weeks, coming home sporadically. They set up tents for them to eat and to change.

He never came home in that time?

He came home sometimes just to shower and say hello and he'd go right back.

Is he the same person he was before?

Yeah. My dad's a very jovial, fun-loving person and I'd say maybe—I don't want to say it aged him because he's still very young. But it does make him more serious about things. He doesn't like it when I travel alone into the city. He was like, "Oh, you're going so far away to Maine to go to school." But then he was like, "Well, maybe it's a good thing because maybe you'll be safe there."

Are your family members all New Yorkers?

Yeah.

So the city wasn't seen as a dangerous place?

No, we just had the same things a regular dad would say. Don't go walking around by yourself at night. Setting curfews if we were in the city so we wouldn't have to take the subway alone or something like that. But I worked in the city all summer and he hated it when I was commuting. If something was going to happen, it would happen during commuting hours.

You said your brother is a firefighter?

Yes, this is his first full year on the job. My dad's really proud of him.

Does your family worry about him?

Yes and no. All of us really worry when something bad comes on the news, when a fireman is killed. At the same time, everyone in my family knows it's a job he's going to be really good at, and it's a job that he's passionate about.

Your dad has a health issue? When did that start to crop up?

When he first got back from the actual site of September 11, it was a problem, coughing up phlegm and things like that, just from debris. And then a year or two passed and he was okay, but then it really started three years ago. His lungs started deteriorating. My dad's been a minor league athlete, in baseball. He's always been healthy. He never had lung issues. Now he has pretty bad asthma. It's pretty obvious that's why he has it.



He's not alone?

There are a lot of his friends. Not just lung things. He has friends who have prostate cancer, things like that. They're finally coming to terms with it. For the longest time, what was so frustrating for my dad was that [the city] wouldn't say, 'You're sick because of this.' He had to keep going and going and eventually the doctors were like, 'He really is sick.'

Did you consider being a firefighter?

No, physically I could never do it. I could never make it through the academy. I'm only four-eleven.

So instead you're a classics major.

Yeah.

You think that's one of the majors that's probably furthest from being a firefighter?

Yeah, I'd say so. But when I was little I wanted to be a librarian. So nothing really shocks my family about me anymore. They're really supportive of me and they know it's something I'm passionate about.

So what turned you on to classics?

I really loved *The Odyssey*, so one of my first classes freshman year was on *The Odyssey*, with [Professor] Hanna Roisman. Two weeks in, I was just hooked.

So is it classics all the time?

I'm in three classics courses right now. I love it. I'm having fun.

So what do you think you'll do after Colby? Whoops. Do I sound like a parent?

I want to go into sports administration. I absolutely love professional sports, especially baseball. But anything really. I want to go into marketing for a professional sports team.

So are you a—

I'm a huge A's fan. It's a pitching and defense thing. And I'm a big Giants fan. That's my New York team, I guess. I'm a Mets fan, too. But mostly A's.

So when did you decide that you wanted to go into sports?

At first I wanted to be a sports journalist. And then I worked in marketing at Penguin Publishing this summer. I really loved marketing, but I didn't necessarily like it in publishing. So the thing I like about marketing and sports—I always say it's like trying to get your neighbors to come to dinner. And there's so much community involvement to it. That's what draws me to it. How involved you have to be to get the community to succeed in your own goal.

So what does that have to do with *The Odyssey*?

At Colby, you're getting such a background at being analytical. And so much of classics is, when you're reading a text, it's like reading between the lines. And I think in marketing, in some sense, you really having to think outside the norm. Classics really prepares you for that. What can you do that's new and different? When you think of classics, these are texts that have been around for thousands of years, but why are there so many classicists who have new ideas about what each line means?



Reality Check

Economic forecasts by Michael Donihue's students have real-world value

WHIT RICHARDSON STORY

FRED FIELD PHOTO

Wander into Colby's economics department computer lab any December evening before the winter break and you're sure to find the room crowded with students—laptops open, neck deep in numbers.

The students aren't banging out final term papers or cramming for your average end-of-semester exam. Instead, the dozen or so students from Professor of Economics Michael Donihue's senior seminar on economic forecasting are putting the finishing touches on the Colby Economic Outlook (CEO), a short-term forecast of the Maine and U.S. economies that's read by policy makers in Maine and in Washington, D.C.

Economics 473, one of many capstone courses, is designed to be the culmination of a student's three years of economics and statistics classes. For 17 years, Donihue '79 has taught his students the ins and outs of economic forecasting—which one former student called "an obscure, dark art."

Donihue doesn't lecture on macroeconomic theory or give students hypothetical case studies. Instead, Donihue, who studied econometrics in graduate school at the University of Michigan, tosses his students into the deep end of the pool. "[Typically] we teach our students these theoretical models like how government spending in the war will affect the U.S. economy. It all works nice and neatly on the blackboard," Donihue said. "But it's not always so nice and neat" in the real world.

Many of Donihue's students end up in finance or policy work, where he says the real world will involve using raw data to create a forecast, whether it be a company's future sales or the price of oil. It's the world Donihue says he tries every year to prepare his students for. "It's the thought process and skill set that's attractive to employers," he said.

"At some point the textbooks are left behind," said Caroline Theoharides '06, a former student in Donihue's seminar who is now a senior research assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Theoharides, a Maine native who grew up in Lincoln, says a key to doing her Fed job is being able to look at the economy, not as a single entity but as a complex machine with hundreds of moving parts.

"I really had to understand that when something happens to oil prices, something happens to consumption, and then something happens to overall GDP," she said. "Forecasting [at Colby] helped me think like an economist."

But forecasting can help more than just economists. Trevor Hanly '07 used his experience putting together the CEO to land a job on L.L. Bean's sales forecasting team. He can now forecast shoe sales or the number of calls expected at a call center a given week for the Freeport-based outdoor retailer. "It's definitely not something a lot of people get to have a background in," Hanly, a Michigan native, said of forecasting. "To put out a Colby Economic

Outlook and bring it to an interview is not something everybody can do.”

Donihue begins every fall semester by assigning each student a series of real-world data from sources like the U.S. Census Bureau or the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Students spend the first half of the semester learning forecasting methods, then turn in forecast reports modeled on policy briefs commonly found in government agencies, investment banks, consulting firms, and nonprofits. They also make professional presentations to the class about their findings.

“These presentations are real-world situations, where we are not a student at Colby College, but a forecasting expert presenting to either a board of executives or some other group that wants the information regarding the outlook of our series or industry,” said Tanya Rosbash '08, a current member of Donihue’s seminar who has been assigned to look at U.S. manufacturers’ shipments of boats and ships. “This kind of simulation is not something you get in the more typical classes and will easily help all of us in anything we do post-Colby.”

All this is just a precursor to the creation of the CEO, which each year includes a focus chosen by the students and often influenced by current events. Past forecasts have focused on national issues like oil prices or consumer spending; sometimes the focus is Maine-centered, such as last year, when students created a model to forecast auto sales in Maine, something Maine Revenue Services was interested in using. This year’s focus hadn’t been decided, but Donihue says it most likely would be a national focus, maybe the war in Iraq or something to do with the stock market.

“But I could be wrong,” Donihue said. “I leave that up to the students. That way they can put their personal stamp on this year’s issue.”

When the students wrap up the CEO in December, Donihue sends between 30 and 50 copies of the forecast to policy makers and economists in the state, as well as to the students’ families and interested Colby staff. The students may have an opportunity to present the forecast to Gov. John Baldacci in person. Maine’s Consensus Forecasting Commission, of which Donihue is a member, uses the Colby forecast when coming up with its own forecast of the state’s economy. And depending on that year’s focus, Donihue will send a few copies to colleagues in Washington, D.C., where he was a senior economist on the Council of Economic Advisors for a year during the Clinton administration.



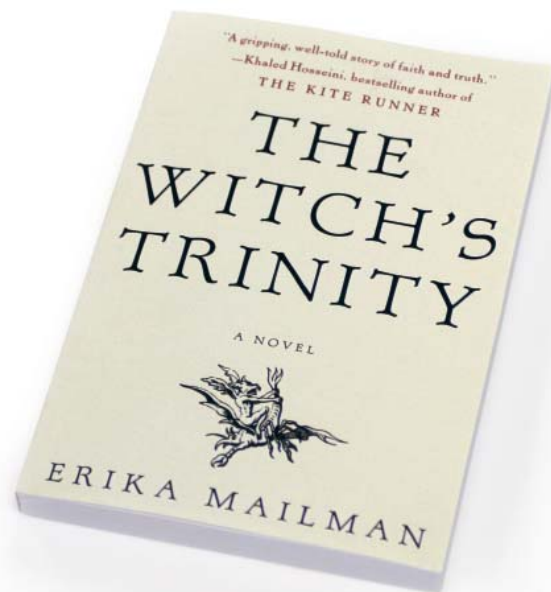
In general, Donihue says the forecast is well received and is usually in line with professionally produced forecasts—especially when it comes to predicting interest rates. But the students have been wrong on occasion. The most notorious faulty forecast came in 1990, when Donihue’s class was putting together the CEO on the brink of the First Gulf War. There was a lot of “saber rattling” going on, Donihue recalled, and students predicted that if war broke out in the Middle East oil prices would rise to \$65 a barrel and could cause a worldwide economic recession. In reality, there was a war, he said, but oil prices spiked and then went down and there was no recession. “I guess the consolation was that we weren’t further off than other forecasters,” Donihue said. But Economics 473 is ultimately designed as a learning experience, so Donihue says he doesn’t worry when the students get it wrong. “You’re predicting the future,” he said, “and by definition the future is unknown.”

“I really had to understand that when something happens to oil prices, something happens to consumption, and then something happens to overall GDP. Forecasting helped me think like an economist.”

Caroline Theoharides '06, a former Donihue student, now a senior research assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Read the Colby Economic Outlook. Go to www.colby.edu/mag, keyword: ceo





The Devil's Work

ERIKA MAILMAN TRANSPORTS READERS TO A WORLD WHERE GOOD IS EVIL, EVIL IS GOOD

ROBERT GILLESPIE REVIEW

The Witch's Trinity
Erika Mailman '91
Crown Publishers (2007)

First the plague, and now, in 1507, famine reduces a small German village, hemmed in by forest, to a kind of concentration camp inhabited by living skeletons. For two years the crops have failed; people are starving. Grievances spew forth—a hen no longer lays eggs, a cow's milk spoils. It's obvious to all that someone has brought God's punishment upon the land. When Friar Johannes Fuchs shows up armed with *Malleus Maleficarum* (an actual book published in 1485-6), all the demons of hell are loosed.

The friar speaks the word *Hexe*: witch. "I travel our land charged with the duty of ending the devil's work begun in the hearts and souls of womenfolk," he declares, announcing his intention "to ferret out the worst in women." The game is already rigged.

Innocence is guilt, good is evil. That irony is at the heart of this fine and frightening novel. Speaking for the Holy Church, which speaks for God, the friar whips up fear, pagan superstition, and soul-searing mischief worse than anything witches might conjure. The step-by-step description of the friar's inquisition is chilling.

Knowing about witch hunts, knowing the end of many witch trials, we know the essential story, and Mailman's intense narrative moves relentlessly toward a wind-up it's impossible not to see coming. The mad goings-on in Tierkindorf, repeated for hundreds of years all across Europe and in our own Salem, proceed with

the inevitability of Greek tragedy. Good people, some with esoteric knowledge of healing herbs, some only forlorn outcasts, are thought to possess the power to disrupt the cycle of fertility in women and fields, drive game from the woods, turn men's heads from their wives. For that, the witches must burn. Mailman's richly detailed story has it all down cold.

The characterization of the story's narrator is central to the hallucination and delusion that erupt in the village. An elderly woman whose mind slips on occasion, Güde isn't always aware her actions invite suspicion, though she has more than sufficient wit to be a reliable narrator. Nevertheless, turned out of her house in the night, wandering in the snow-filled woods, her mind disordered by age, fear, cold, and hunger, Güde sees a woman floating in the air, hears chants, signs the devil's book with her blood, ruts with creatures (including her dead husband), feasts on roast pig. She believes these events occur. Perception is reality; hallucination is dramatic event. Mailman manages illusion and reality, one of fiction's grand themes, so

adroitly it's easy to believe it all happens.

In the historical sense, it *did* all happen—the author discovered a Massachusetts ancestor who twice stood trial for witchcraft—even when events in the novel feel as if they take place in the far-away and long-ago. Sentence constructions and rhythms are elevated just enough above modern English to sound foreign, archaic, even ceremonial as befits high drama. Metaphors drawn from Güde's village life and the surrounding woods are primitive and earthy. It's Mailman's witchery with description and somber tone that compels belief in this world.

The Witch's Trinity may sound like a children's book title, but it's hardly aiming to cash in on the success of the Harry Potter books. For sure, this novel is about specters and monsters, but none are supernatural. Reading Güde's disturbing narrative is like watching a horror movie shot at night in black and white—the black of the night sky and woods, the white of the snow, the symbolic black and white robes of the friar whose mindset is terrifyingly black and white.

The witches never had a prayer.

"I flew over a clearing and saw moving shapes. I circled back and let myself drift on a current as I watched the wolves pad into a formation and then sit upon their haunches. Of one accord, they lifted their heads, exposing their throats, and howled. ... They rose upon their hind legs, and as I watched, their fur blanched and retreated. The sharp ears curled and shrank. The round eyes oveled and developed whiteness around the borders. The claws lengthened and fattened: fingers. Below me, the gray and black fur became spun wool, and the white throats of the wolves were again the necks of men."

Erika Mailman '91, *The Witch's Trinity*

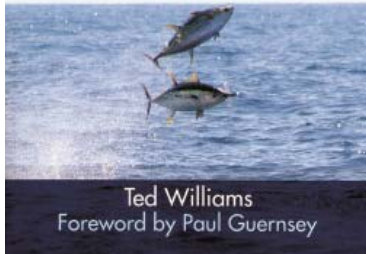
The Write Stuff for a Tough Business

"Environmental journalism is not a cheerful field of work," Edward Abbey wrote in the introduction to his collection of essays *Down the River*. It's an epigram that could describe the career of Ted Williams '69.

Williams is an investigative conservation journalist who works to bridge the gulf between sportsmen and environmentalists. He's best known for columns and articles in *Audubon* (where he's an editor at large) and *Fly Rod & Reel* (where he is conservation editor). In October he published his third book, *Something's Fishy* (Skyhorse Publishing, 2007), a compilation of pull-no-punches articles from those and a half-dozen other periodicals.

To paraphrase Abbey, these are not generally cheerful tales.

In the introduction Williams maintains that "staying hired is easy. What takes talent, effort and spine is getting fired—or, rather, choosing to get fired when principles are at stake." And he speaks from experience. A top national fishing magazine hired and fired him the same day over his demand that the magazine defend him in case of a lawsuit.



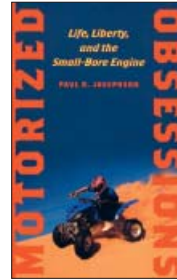
The 45 essays in *Something's Fishy* include vivid accounts of fishing excursions and in-depth analysis of major land conservation initiatives and ecological controversies (ethanol policy e.g.). Some essays advocate killing prized trout species with rotenone.

He describes the same species, brook trout, as the most beautiful creatures in Massachusetts and the ugliest creatures in Moraine Lake, Alberta. They're native to New England but were introduced in Alberta. In "Fish-Poison Politics," and several other pieces in the book, he suggests even brook trout should be poisoned trout if they're invasive and if it will preserve native species.

"Ted's tone is harsh on occasion," writes *Fly Rod & Reel* editor Paul Guernsey. "But the threats are growing and our living natural resources are in great peril. Someone needs to speak up and lead the way, and that someone is Ted Williams." —*Stephen Collins '74*

RECENT RELEASES

***Motorized Obsessions: Life, Liberty, and the Small-Bore Engine*
Paul R. Josephson (international studies, history)
The Johns Hopkins University Press (2007)**

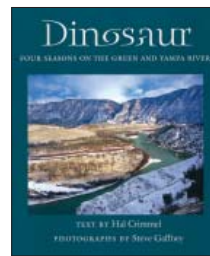


From lawnmowers and leaf blowers to personal watercraft and all-terrain vehicles, machines powered by small gasoline engines have become quite literally part of the American landscape. But, as Josephson demonstrates in this groundbreaking study, small engines also carry significant social and environmental costs. *Motorized Obsessions* explores the history of the development of these mechanized devices and their profound damage to ecosystems and the atmosphere. "The internal combustion engine is an institution ...," Josephson writes. That institution has changed our lives, his study shows, in many ways for the worse.

***Counting the Dead: The Culture and Politics of Human Rights Activism in Colombia*
Winifred Tate (anthropology)
University of California Press (2007)**

Tate, who joins Colby's faculty in 2008 as assistant professor of anthropology, spent years in Colombia, as an intern, a staffer with an NGO, and as an "embedded anthropologist." The result is a detailed, wide-ranging, and nuanced study of human-rights activism in a country in the throes of a complex conflict. Tate offers an analysis with lessons not only for Colombia and those interested in its fate but for anyone compelled by the ways rights activism and conflict both coexist and intersect.

***Dinosaur: Four Seasons on the Green and Yampa Rivers*
Hal Crimmel '88, with photographs by Steve Gaffney
The University of Arizona Press (2007)**



The latest in the series of books *Desert Places*, *Dinosaur*, moves through the high desert of Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado and Utah. Essayist, Fulbright Fellow, and former river guide Crimmel joins with Gaffney to explore, chronicle, and contemplate the beauty and mystery of this stunning landscape in all four seasons. As Crimmel writes of one stop on an isolated winter trail, this is "a place of confluences. Of creeks and rivers, certainly. Of cultures, rocks, seasons, too." The same can be said for this thoughtful and graceful blending of words and images.

***Perfect Together: Astrology, Karma, & You*
Alice Shest Loffredo '62
Sterling House (2007)**

Astrologer Alice Loffredo has written a book that provides the lay reader with astrological information that has been the private domain of serious students of the discipline. *Perfect Together* allows readers to consider the ramifications of their sign and house and to use that information to draw a road map for life. Astrology, Loffredo says, "can allow us to feel understood, maybe for the first time in a long time."



Focused

Nordic skier Fred Bailey is sequestered in northern Maine in his quest to be one of the best

STEPHEN COLLINS '74 STORY AND PHOTO

The lifestyle of the elite U.S. ski racer may conjure up images of Bode Miller living the high life, appearing on magazine covers, defining après ski in Aspen.

For a slightly different experience, go to the list of elite ski racers at the Maine Winter Sports Center, one of just a handful of top national training programs for Nordic skiers, and read about Fred Bailey '07.

Sure, there's a difference between a gold medalist and a young up-and-comer—and between an alpine and Nordic skier. But Bailey's decision to tackle the pinnacle of competitive skiing by training at the facility in northern Aroostook County has led him to a life that evokes more monastic solitude than jet-set glamour.

It's about living in an old farmhouse on top of a windswept hill, working out two to five hours a day, then fulfilling community service requirements building trails or working with schoolchildren. It's about wondering how he'll afford both the vast quantities of food he requires *and* repayment of his student loans. It's about focusing on training for the next three years just to see if he has what it takes to race at the international level when he reaches the peak for endurance athletes—the late-20s through early-30s.

In his blog he writes: "Since my return [to northern Maine] I have had to adapt to life with limited television, but that's really not such a bad thing. I read a lot more now." Driving through Caribou's modest downtown he reflects on the life of a single-minded 22-year-old athlete: "Yes, it's a distraction, but you do need a *bit* of a social life."

Which is not to suggest that Bailey complains. About anything. He's thrilled to be chasing his dream. He's passionate about the science of turning his body into an optimally tuned endurance machine, though it will take years and there are no guarantees. He spent parts of the fall training at Lake Placid and Sugarloaf, and he will spend much of the winter traveling to meets in the United States and abroad.

He's psyched to be sponsored in a program

that gives him coaching, housing, health insurance, skis, wax, and, perhaps most important, time to both work out hard and rest sufficiently.

It's a rare job that requires an afternoon nap most days. And that can be a major problem for endurance athletes attending colleges like Colby.

"For sure, it needs to be a good fit," said Bailey's coach, Will Sweetser, about matching skiers to the program. While Caribou isn't right for everyone, it's a great place for someone who appreciates the great outdoors, a supportive community, and the need to focus.

Bailey grew up on a dairy farm in Andover, Maine, near Rumford. Generally quite serious talking about skiing, he gets downright animated describing races, particular exertions to pass a rival, individual and team success that resulted from "hammering" a little harder. But he grew to realize, working with Colby's head Nordic ski coach, Tracey Cote, that a serious training regimen determines just how hard a racer can hammer.

Cote credited Bailey's leadership as captain for helping raise the bar among his teammates. Talking about the fine balance between athletic achievement in the context of rigorous academics and general student life, Cote said, "It's crazy that you can get the education *while* you are training at that level. It takes a lot of organization and dedication to do it ... but my team is doing a really good job of it."

"We like to say there are three S's—school, skiing, and social," she said. "And that you can only keep two."

During his senior season, Bailey and the team set some daunting goals. "I didn't think that was possible," Cote admits. But, after taking their bet, she had to buy Ben & Jerry's ice cream and T-shirts when they took second as a team at a carnival. Colby ultimately placed six skiers in the top 20 in a race, and sent two skiers, Bailey and Nick Kline '08, to the NCAA championships.

At the NCAAs Bailey finished 20th in a field of 38 in the 10K skate and 29th in the 20K classic

despite ski problems—the result of an earlier pile-up crash in the final carnival race that left him without enough time to determine optimal "wax zones" for another pair of skis. The fact that half of the higher NCAA finishers weren't Americans throws more light on Bailey's status in the pyramid of elite U.S. skiers.

He says there are about 50 elite Nordic skiers in the United States—on the U.S. Ski Team, in programs like his, and on a couple of corporate-sponsored teams. And Cote agreed. "He's right in that mix—the next group chasing the U.S. Ski Team," she said.

It will require patience from Bailey and from and those following his career. But he may well be part of the future of U.S. Nordic skiing.

Fast Company

Colby's women's cross country team placed 11th in the nation in NCAA Div. III November 17. Only one team from NESAC, Amherst, placed higher among the 32 schools that qualified to send teams to Minnesota for the national meet. **ANNA KING '08** and **CASSIE KNIGHT '10** both finished in 22:28, giving them 45th and 46th places. **JOHN SWAIN '08**, who qualified as an individual for men's nationals, took 78th place. **LIZ PETIT '08** took 133rd place in 23:14, **EMMA LINHARD '11** was 141st in 23:16, and **MANDY IVEY '10** was 150th with a time of 23:18. **JEN MACDOWELL '09** took 188th in 23:32 and **KATRINA GRAVEL '10** was 230th in 23:55. Swain, who automatically qualified for the national meet by taking fifth at the New England Division III NCAA qualifier, had a time of 25:42 over the men's 8-kilometer course.

More fall sports at www.colby.edu/mag

Read Fred Bailey's blog. 
Go to www.colby.edu/mag, keyword: **fredb**