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From the Hill

Stephen Collins
Colby College

Julia Hanauer-Milne

Ruth Jacobs
Colby College

Jonathan E. Kaplan
Colby College

Gerry Boyle
Colby College

See next page for additional authors

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From the Hill

Authors

Stephen Collins, Julia Hanauer-Milne, Ruth Jacobs, Jonathan E. Kaplan, Gerry Boyle, Robert Gillespie, and Allen Lessels

A Way to Live

In her teaching, Phyllis Mannocchi's passion is contagious

STEPHEN COLLINS '74 STORY

ROB KIEVIT '09 PHOTO

It's hard to imagine anyone who embodies her own course titles—American Dreams, for one; Passionate Expression, another—more thoroughly than Phyllis Mannocchi, professor of English and chair of the English Department.

The scion of a working-class Italian family who earned her Ph.D. at Columbia, and now a 30-year veteran of Colby's faculty, Mannocchi still burns with intensity talking about her teaching, her students, her family, and her desire to make the world a better place. She has the "best students." She is "extremely proud" of the way her graduates have chosen to expend their energy. She strives for "deep, emotional experiences" in the classroom. "I know I'm going to cry at graduation," she said in May. "Some of these kids I've had since their first year."

When she received the Charles Bassett Teaching Award by vote of the Class of 2007 this spring, she took the opportunity to offer a distilled meditation—a news-you-can-use version, if you will—drawn from her course titled *Passionate Expression: Love, Sex, and Sexuality* in Western Literature.

"When you find yourself in the fever of love or 'drunk with kisses,'" she cautioned students at the Senior Class Dinner, "remember that you have also been blessed with the gift of reason. If you believe that the motivating force of love is passion, remember that the root of passion is *passio*, which means suffering."

Mannocchi, one of the first tenured women in Colby's English Department, traces a personal journey over her three decades in Waterville. She arrived, she said, as a political activist, a radical, fresh out of Columbia, who "wanted to set the world on fire—and I think that's the image some people still have of me."

"But then you change. You change because students change, and because of how your family affects you."

After adopting a daughter, Jackie, from Haiti, and a son, Abu, from Sierra Leone, her focus shifted from feminism in America to poverty and injustice in the world. "People thought I was crazy

to adopt [at age 54] a traumatized kid from an orphanage that had just been bombed in Sierra Leone," she recalled. "But that was an incredible experience. Suddenly you feel you have an African child so Africa becomes your focus."

Subsequently she has found herself "not so interested in creating revolutions, but in trying to figure out what kind of changes I could make." Now she evaluates her success not in political victories so much as in individual students and the way they live their lives after Colby.

She talked about Elizabeth Banwell '85, who directs the Maine Association of Nonprofits and who has done development work with police in

every spring when students present short documentaries of their own creation. Since the late 1970s it has evolved from a women's studies course using slide tapes into a four-credit video-production course that studies the documentary form and classics of the genre, particularly as they reflect the experience of marginalized groups in America.

Recent subjects of student-produced films have included people in the Maine Handicapped Skiing Program, Maine National Guardsmen serving in Iraq and their families coping at home, and the regulars at Bonnie's Diner in Winslow and the community bonds they share. Students

"What's really rewarding is when you see kids over the years and how they change. They come in as one kind of person and by the time they leave there are all these different dimensions to them. You're amazed at how in four years they're transformed." Phyllis Mannocchi, professor of English

Sierra Leone regarding how best to deal with war victims. Banwell brought Mannocchi and her son a mask from Abu's village so he would have a connection to his original home. "I'm very proud of her, because she took up the message and is carrying it on," Mannocchi said.

She spoke affectionately of Glenn Cummings '87, who earned a Ph.D. in American literature, does pre-med advising at Princeton, and, with his partner, went through an international adoption.

Many students report back on the ways that their lives and work were influenced by their academic experience, Mannocchi said. "They proudly record that they're trying to raise their kids differently [because of what they learned at Colby]," she said.

On campus she is known for her American studies course *American Dreams: The Documentary Film Perspective*, which culminates

have made films about the Good Will-Hinckley alternative school in Hinckley, Maine, and about the experience of immigrants in Portland.

The course is a powerful experience for students and their professor. "There's nothing like being in the editing room at one o'clock in the morning with kids who have been up for hours and are about ready to scream and throw their work out the window," Mannocchi said. It is those raw, emotional moments—the "suffering" part of passion—when she feels students and teacher connect best and move forward.

"What's really rewarding is when you see kids over the years and how they change. They come in as one kind of person and by the time they leave there are all these different dimensions to them. You're amazed at how in four years they're transformed."

It's a transformation fostered by the special



Professor Phyllis Mannocchi, left, editing video in her American Dreams course with Claire Conger '07, who was accepted to film school for the fall.

environment at Colby in Waterville, she says. “I think it’s encouraged by our isolation. Kids have to make a real effort to go out into the world—to go to Africa, say—and they value it differently because of where we are. And I think kids are very sensitive to the way that we live with the environment.”

Mannocchi’s view of Colby is hardy utopian. There are struggles to get technical support for her video-production class, the slings and arrows aimed at department chairs, challenges raising black children in northern New England. But in the end she gets sustenance from the students and the way they respond. And she is encouraged by the attitudes students bring to her classes. “I get less and less resistance to new ideas. They’re much more open-minded than they’ve ever been. They’re much more thoughtful.”

And she is loyal to them. “You know, I also get the very best. You give them something and they really think about it, and you realize the thinking is going on out of the classroom. They look to you for ways to live.”

“A Great Love”

Conclusion of Phyllis Mannocchi’s speech upon receiving the Bassett Teaching Award from the Class of 2007 on May 8, 2007:

“As our leave-taking approaches it may feel as if a grand love affair is ending. It’s lasted four wonderful years, but it won’t end tragically, because of the gifts it has brought. Let me single out just two of them. First, I have always been in awe of Colby friendships—of the caring that friends have for each other here and the loyalty you demonstrate. Your friendships are a great love that will last a lifetime, extending over the miles and throughout the stages of your life. During my thirty years here I have learned what friendship really means from watching you—friends together.

The second gift is the close bond you have formed with your professors. This place is a very special community of great teachers who have devoted their lives to attain excellence in teaching, and you have benefited from their commitment not just to teaching but to caring about the kind of people you are becoming. They have taught you well, and you should never forget that and all that they have taught you. Finally, to paraphrase James Baldwin in *Giovanni’s Room*—the great goal of love in all of its manifestations is to learn how to say ‘yes’ to life. If you have learned that lesson here, if we have done our job, you now have the power to go off into the world. Live life lovingly. Goodbye, my students, and my love to you all.”

View student documentaries from American Dreams.
Go to www.colby.mag, keyword **dreams**.





THE SOPRANO

Grandfather's record collection propelled Dori Smith to the world of opera

JULIA HANAUER-MILNE STORY

HOWARD HECHLER PHOTO

At first glance Dori Smith '08 looks much like other college students, wearing her jeans and shirt, a water bottle and music book in hand. But then she straightens next to the piano in Given Auditorium and begins, not just to sing, but to fill the room with her soaring, soprano voice.

Though Smith's vocals seem full, this is a read-through, or first practice, of a piece Smith will perform in February with the Colby College Chorale. Professor of Music Paul Machlin and Smith stop and start as they discuss and refine the solo, "Laudate Dominum," a movement from Mozart's *Solemn Confessor Vespers*.

They work out the tempo, and Smith wonders if she should change her approach. After discussing the piece's structure, Machlin tells her, "Your sound is gorgeous. I want you to have the sound you think is good, and if you're really off, I'll tell you."

From the beginning, Smith has rarely been far off.

"Dori auditioned for the chorale as a freshman ... and I was instantly aware of the capacity of her voice, the gift she had for interpretation, and her really fine ear," recalled Machlin, the Arnold Bernhard Professor of Arts and Humanities. Machlin says Smith is among the most outstanding performers he's worked with in his 33 years at Colby.

"I became aware of [her potential] at her audition. ... Over the years she's been in chorale, she's sung in the chamber choir," he said. "I've heard her recitals. These gifts she has have grown and matured. The quality of her voice is rare."

Now a senior, Smith is fully immersed in musical endeavors, especially opera. She spent this summer transcribing 17th-century Alessandro Grandi motets for Professor Steven Saunders,

preparing for her chorale solo as well as a senior recital and honors projects, applying for a Fulbright grant to study in Milan, and identifying graduate programs.

What may be even more remarkable is that Smith did not grow up steeped in the arts, nor in a particularly musical family. The eldest of four children, she says she started singing before she could talk, but her musical activities were largely limited to piano lessons and musical theater in Pownal and Presque Isle, Maine. Her father, who acted in high school musicals and a college production of *Carousel*, is employed by the Veterans Administration and her mother is a social worker who runs her church's youth ministry program.

How, then, does a teenager from northern Maine discover opera?

By inheriting her grandfather's opera albums as a high school sophomore, at least in Smith's case. "They had been sitting in the toy closet gathering dust," she said. "He had an amazing collection. Some were still shrink-wrapped."

She found herself listening to the old LPs, then slipping into a stairwell—the best acoustics in her home—when she was alone in the house. Smith started by trying to mimic what she had heard on the old records.

"My voice just naturally fit in a way it hadn't before with musical theater or jazz. I developed vibrato at a very early age," Smith said, jokingly.

Soon Smith's family tracked down a voice coach in Caribou, 20 miles north of Presque Isle, and Smith began private lessons. Instead of applying to premedical programs, which was once her plan, she put together audition tapes for colleges and conservatories.

"I was up against kids who had been studying with private instructors, and been to camps, and had diction instruction," Smith said. "I had never seen an opera or a DVD [of one]."

Nevertheless, Smith was invited to audition at the prestigious New England Conservatory, and, although she had not brought her own accompanist like some of the hopefuls, Smith was offered a place.

But after talking to Colby's music faculty, Smith was convinced Colby was a better fit. The liberal arts school has provided a more diverse education than a conservatory could, she said, offering double majors, conversational Italian, and a semester abroad at a conservatory in Milan, where both her musical and language skills proved up to the task.

And where else would Smith be able to participate in synchronized ice skating, too? (Being from northern Maine proved no advantage here. Smith had to take skating lessons.)

Smith's interest in opera is increasingly unusual in an age where opera companies are fewer and ticket prices steeper. And opera isn't a particularly accessible art form, Machlin noted, because it's a medium where characters sing a story to each other, usually in a language other than English. So why is Smith so passionate about opera?

"It's a combination of many things that I love—language, acting, singing," Smith said. "I don't know if I can describe [what it feels like to sing opera]. The music just sort of envelops you and you're in a different state."

Though pursuing a career in opera is more difficult than ever, Machlin believes Smith has what it takes. And Smith won't easily be deterred. "I want to give it my best shot," she said. "Otherwise I'll always be wondering and guessing."

Dori Smith '08 performing at the Rainbow Room in New York during a Colby campaign kickoff event in 2006.

Hear Dori Smith perform. 
Go to www.colby.mag, keyword opera.

Q&A

MATT APUZZO, NATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT,
ON LIVING OUT OF A BACKPACK, CLIMBING THE LADDER, AND SERENDIPITY

RUTH JACOBS INTERVIEW

Journalist Matt Apuzzo '00 has risen quickly through the ranks, from covering sports for the Echo to covering some of the nation's biggest stories for the Associated Press. He went to New Orleans just after Hurricane Katrina and to Virginia Tech after the April shootings. Apuzzo works out of the Federal Courthouse in Washington, D.C., where he covered the Scooter Libby trial, among other political scandals. Colby writer Ruth Jacobs caught up with Apuzzo in Washington for this conversation about his work.

Do you know what you're going to run into when you're on your way to work in the morning?

Sometimes. I'm a legal affairs writer, that's my job—so you kind of know from a case standpoint what's brewing. ... Right now we've got the [Jack] Abramoff investigation going on, we just had someone plead guilty in that a little while ago. We've got an investigation going on Ted Stevens, the senator from Alaska. These are things we're keeping an ear to the ground on. In that sense you know what's going to happen.

You've covered Katrina, Virginia Tech—some of the biggest stories of recent times. How did that come about?

Somewhere along the line I got a reputation as someone who can live out of a backpack. When I first got to the AP, in 2003, I ended up at the Rhode Island nightclub fire—100 people died. I worked out of my car and lived out of my backpack. ... A year later there was a federal prosecutor in Baltimore who was found dead in a stream in Amish country. They needed somebody who had covered cops and law enforcement and FBI just to help out, so they sent me. ...

When Katrina happened, they said, "Can you go?" and I said, "Oh yeah, sure." ... I think that there are just reporters who don't mind smelling bad.

Did covering Katrina catapult you into this job in D.C.?

Not really. It was sort of the right-place, right-time thing. I was in New Bedford [Mass.] covering drug trafficking and heroin networks in New England. The Hartford bureau of the AP was looking for somebody to cover criminal justice, so they moved me there. And then the governor of Connecticut ended up getting under federal investigation, so I ended up doing that story for pretty much two years.

Now, you didn't study government at Colby.

No, I was a biology major. I'm a pre-med student gone horribly, horribly awry. This is what happens when you get D's in organic chemistry.

I'm curious about your counterparts in the press area. You seem to be collegial, but is there competition?

Yeah. On your typical court case, the *Washington Post* isn't going to rush that to the Web. ... On certain things we're in competition—scoops, we're definitely in competition. Tomorrow there's going to be a Scooter Libby brief and we're all going to write about it.

So it's not a race? Basically, you're going to be the first one to get it out?

Yeah, in this case. During the verdict of the Scooter Libby case, it's a hundred reporters, so then [the race] is on.

When the sentence came down, I think your story was first.

Probably.

Is that important?

Yeah. 'First' is number two on the list behind 'accurate.' Gotta have them both.

How do you handle that?

Fast.



Matt Apuzzo '00 in Washington, D.C., where he covers national legal news.

Do you get stressed out about it?

Oh, all the time. Incredibly. But I don't think I could ever go back to a newspaper.

Is it an addiction to speed?

I just think there's a lot of criticism about reporters. I think AP is largely seen as—close to universally—as an honest broker of news. We don't have a liberal or conservative bent to us. ... I think people in government and people in business—lawyers, judges, clerks, people I need to deal with on a daily basis—understand that I don't need to make it sexy, I just need to get it right.

Covering trauma is probably one of the hardest things reporters do.

How did you approach Virginia Tech?

You go in sensitively, you talk to them about what you want to know, but you understand these are people who lost family members or friends or neighbors. But in this case, I didn't have to do much of that. ... At Virginia Tech it was strictly the law enforcement side. ... I went into Virginia Tech with a very specific mission, which was criminal investigation. We had state police, ATF, FBI, local cops, campus cops, and not offering a lot of answers. ... I didn't go to a vigil, I never met a family. I spent a lot of time with cops, I spent a lot of time on my cell phone in my car, I spent a lot of time at courthouses reading search warrants.

You're relatively young to be where you are.

I don't know. AP has a lot of young, talented reporters. I'm 28, I'll be 29 in October.

So you started at the *Echo*?

It was just something to do. A friend told me my sophomore year, 'oh you should go.' ... Then I stumbled—through the Lovejoy Convocation—stumbled into working part time for the [Morning Sentinel] on the sports desk. And the news editor there, Tony Cristan, had me writing some more news stories. ... That was all really good training ground. I learned a lot of good lessons. Even at the school paper—great lessons. I was fortunate to learn them early.

What were some of the lessons?

The biggest thing is, when the news is bad, when bad news happens, people oftentimes irrationally, I believe, do not respond negatively to the news, they respond negatively to the reporters, they respond negatively to the newspapers. That was hard. That was hard for me to figure out, especially on a small campus like Colby. But that same sort of irrational response is going to happen whether you're covering Colby or whether you're covering the school committee or you're covering the war in Iraq.

Throughout your career did you have people who mentored you and worked with you closely?

Yeah, I was lucky. ... The editor in Massachusetts who hired me was a tremendous mentor to me, really brought me along and we had some knock-down—[points to corner of cafeteria] that's the judge in the Scooter Libby case right there—we had some knock-down drag-out fights. You know, blood on the wall kind of fights. But you know you love him in a sense, the way you love your father. Which is to say most of the time growing up you kind of think maybe you hate him, but only later do you realize. ... I've just been fortunate to work for really, really talented people, and when you work for really talented people it makes you look so much better than you are.

What does it take to do what you do?

Reporting is not that hard—that's the dirty secret. I talk to people, and I listen to what they say, and I write it down. ... I don't know, I've just been lucky. Think about it. I was in New Bedford covering school committee stuff and then I got moved to the cop desk. I didn't put the mob on the waterfront there. I just kind of stumbled into that. I didn't put the governor under investigation. ... I'll talk to anybody. And I think that oftentimes that's what it takes.

If that comes naturally, the job must be that much more enjoyable.

It's so much fun. This job is so much fun. You get a front row seat to history. How cool is that? It's a blast.

Ultimate Challenge

Triathlete Abe Rogers leaves college coaching to fight the Taliban in Kandahar

JONATHAN E. KAPLAN '94 STORY

Abe Rogers '95 is neither the first nor last Colby graduate to enlist in the Army. But he just might be among the oldest.

Specialist Rogers, 34, is part of the 1-508 Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division based in Ft. Bragg, N.C. In mid-January, he flew to a U.S. Army base in Kyrgyzstan. He waited there for a week while the Army decided when and where to ship his unit.

On January 28 he landed in Kandahar, Afghanistan, after a two-hour flight. He's been there ever since. Fighting the Taliban as part of a mortar platoon. By night, being ferried by helicopter into remote villages where he shoulders his 60-millimeter mortar and proceeds on foot. By day, searching for shade in 120-degree heat. Learning the art of diplomacy while conversing with villagers through a "terp," an Army abbreviation for interpreter.

"We touch down in an open area and file out two by two, just like the animals on Noah's Ark. We immediately form a perimeter and secure the landing zone, facing out with our night vision goggles," Rogers wrote in an e-mail to friends back in the States.

It's not a path anyone could have predicted, not recently, and not when he was a student.

An administrative science major and African studies minor, Rogers stood out among Colby athletes because of his training regimen. For some, a two-hour swim practice and 30

"We touch down in an open area and file out two by two, just like the animals on Noah's Ark. We immediately form a perimeter and secure the landing zone, facing out with our night vision goggles."

Abe Rogers '95 in an e-mail to friends about his duties in Afghanistan

minutes of weightlifting are exhausting enough; Rogers would tack on a bike ride (indoors) or hit the track before the pool.

After graduating, Rogers became a nationally ranked triathlete—another unexpected move. In the early 1990s, the sport of triathlon was not nearly as popular as it is today. But Rogers embraced it, a Vermonter in a sport that originated in California and holds its premier race, the Ironman (a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, and a marathon), in Hawaii.

He moved to Colorado to train and race and, in 2000, he competed in the Olympic trials. But a snowboarding injury derailed his professional athletic career in 2002 and he moved back east to coach the MIT swim team and a

master's team at Boston University.

And then Rogers defied expectations again, choosing, at 32, to serve his country in a very focused way—and over the objections of those close to him. "He'd been talking about it for several years," said his stepfather, Rob Reiber. "We tried to talk him out of it. We have mixed feelings, but we certainly support him. ...

"I'm sure he's going to be tested all the way through."

Reiber described Rogers as tough, determined, and stubborn—traits not uncommon to endurance athletes. Once Rogers decided to enlist in the Army, nobody was going to dissuade him.

"I know he was drawn to the physical challenge of being a soldier," Rogers's girlfriend, Kirsten Wenge, said in an e-mail. "But having gone through this past year with Abe, I've also learned that there are as many reasons to enlist as there are soldiers, and some of those reasons are *tremendously* personal."

"I wanted to serve something other than myself," Rogers said via e-mail from Kyrgyzstan. "The military seemed like a place where I could find fulfillment by serving my country and find personal challenge as well."

In February 2006 the Army sent Rogers to 14 weeks of basic training and three weeks of airborne training at Fort Benning, Ga., home of the elite Army Rangers.

The experience in the Army has not been easy for him. First, Rogers had to adjust to



Former Colby swimmer Abe Rogers '95, during training for deployment to Afghanistan as a member of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

the military's conformist culture. "It's quite different than the Colby experience or civilian life. But it takes all kinds to make up our military," he said.

Rogers was trained in hand-to-hand combat, navigational and first-aid skills, and how to use a variety of weapons. He has learned to lead and communicate with a team of soldiers. Jumping out of airplanes, something he never would have done if he had not joined the Army, has been the biggest thrill.

"You get a little nervous as you leave the plane, but once your chute opens you can enjoy the ride down—until you have to perform a landing," he said. "Landing at night is probably the most nerve-racking moment because you usually cannot see the ground until you hit it."

(His advice: keep your feet and knees together.)

Then there was Ranger school, an intense nine-week course, where Ranger wannabes are put through the paces in Georgia's woods and mountains. They get little food or sleep, making them cold, hungry, and tired amid extreme conditions.

"You learn to perform skills under high-pressure situations so in combat you'll be successful," he wrote.

Rogers made it through two thirds of the training, but he failed some of the graded leadership tests. He'll be allowed to try again. A second attempt, however, will have to wait until his tour in Afghanistan is finished.

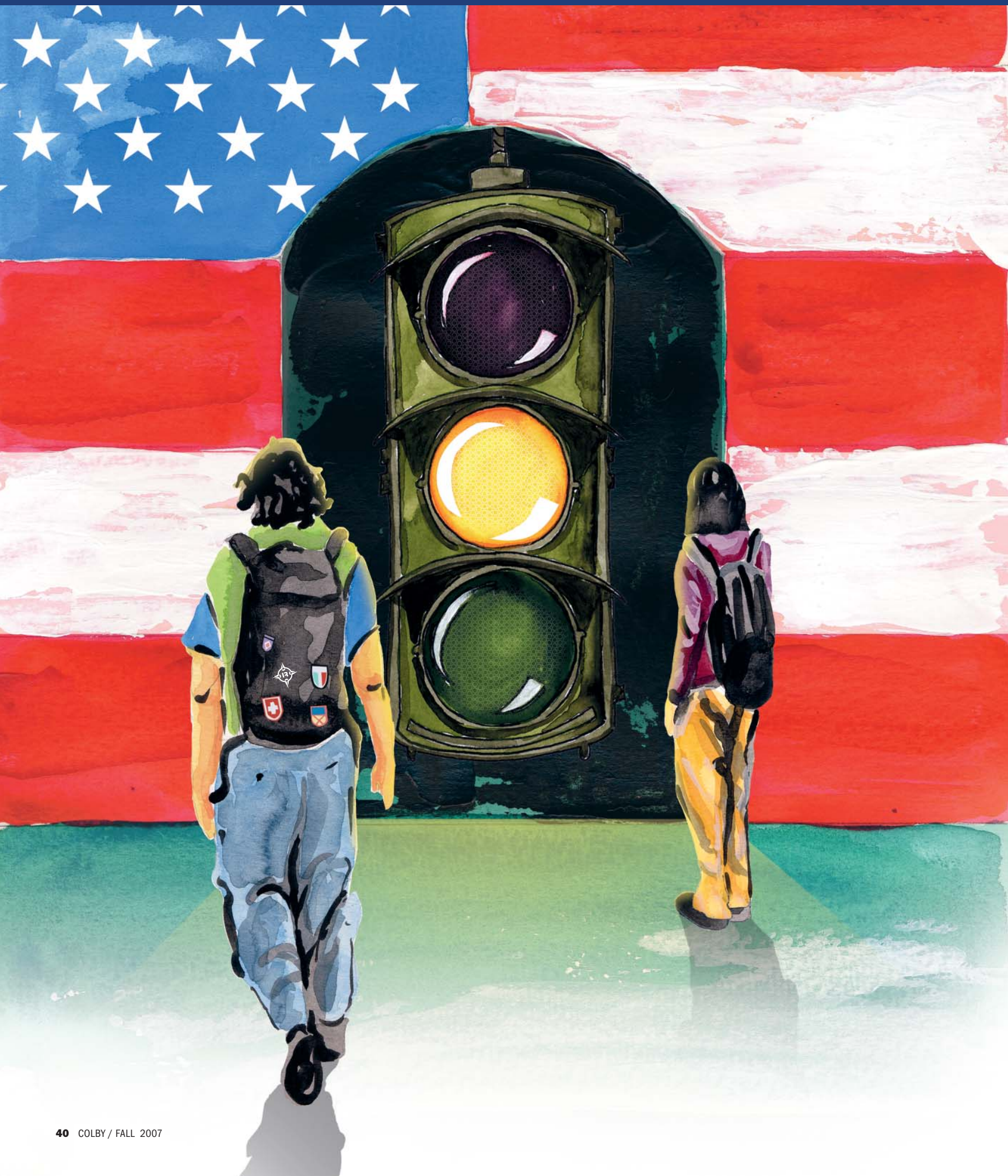
Last year was the bloodiest year in Afghanistan since 2001, when the U.S.-led invasion began.

In his e-mail, Rogers wrote that he and others in his platoon received awards and

medals for their role in fighting in Helmand Province. Rogers wrote that he was living in a tent across the road from Jordanian soldiers who wash their hands and feet before they face Mecca to pray five times each day. Outside the mess hall there was a sign that read, "No military personnel allowed in without a weapon."

The Kandahar military base has a Burger King and Tim Hortons, operating out of trailers. Local vendors sell their wares, too, but the city outside the base gates is not be mistaken for home.

"I practice some Pashto with our terp," the former swim coach wrote home. "He is from Kabul, where his wife, sisters, and parents live. He explains to me that in Kabul I could probably walk through the city safely, but not in Kandahar. There are too many Taliban connections there."



Visa Squeeze

Shortage of work permits is roadblock for international alumni, students

GERRY BOYLE '78 STORY

ROBERT P. HERNANDEZ ILLUSTRATION

Ana Prokic '04 may be going home to Serbia soon—like it or not.

Prokic, who lives in Chicago, worked for a law firm there, and recently got her MBA, is among tens of thousands of former international students vying for an increasingly limited number of professional work visas. Unless she can find a job and a sponsor soon, she'll be packing her bags and heading for Belgrade.

"I've been here since I was sixteen," said Prokic, a graduate of the Armand Hammer United World College of the American West in New Mexico, Colby, and Loyola University's business school. "I don't now how to function as an adult anywhere else."

She may have no choice.

A Serbian citizen, Prokic needs something called an H1B visa from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in order to continue to work here. Since earning her master's with high honors from Loyola in February, Prokic has been on the job hunt. She's made it to the final rounds of interviews several times but says when potential employers hear she needs the visa, they find another candidate.

As one recruiter put it, "Oh, that's going to be hard," she recalled.

The problem is that under current U.S. law, the number of new six-year work visas for professionals is capped at 65,000, a third of the number allotted two years ago. On the first day that applications were accepted in fall 2006, more than 120,000 were received. (Some major IT companies apply for as many as 20,000 H1B visas each year.) This round, some 58,000 applications were chosen by lottery and the rest were dumped back into the pool, which doesn't bode well for future odds. And students and recent graduates fear that many employers will decide it isn't worth the trouble to go through the application process.

"This had not just the seniors worried but the juniors and sophomores," said Susan McDougal, associate dean of students at Colby. The underclassmen were saying, "By the time we get up there, there will be nothing available."

McDougal has assured students and young international alumni that U.S. companies still will want their services. Some recent graduates have been hired under the one-year "optional practical training" visa offered students enrolled in U.S. colleges. Some have returned to their home countries temporarily to cross their fingers and hope for an H1B visa.

"I'm praying really hard," said Francis Chapuredima '06, who was working at a school in Kenya this summer as he waited for an H1B visa that would allow him to return to his mathematics teaching job at Berkshire School in Massachusetts.

Some recent graduates have been transferred to company offices in the UK and other parts of the world to wait out the U.S. visa process, McDougal said. Still others have gone to graduate school earlier than they had planned, putting the visa process off a year or two.

Nico Mwai '06, a computer science major from Kenya who, like Prokic, attended the UWC in New Mexico, landed an information technology job right after graduation. Mwai moved to New York City to work for Revenue Solutions, a company that provides financial technology and strategic planning. For a year he worked on tax software used by the City of New York.

But Mwai wasn't one of the lucky ones in the visa lottery, and he recently had to leave what he said was "exactly the kind of job I wanted to do." He said his supervisors at Revenue Systems were pleased with his work and sorry to have to let him go. But he isn't going far.

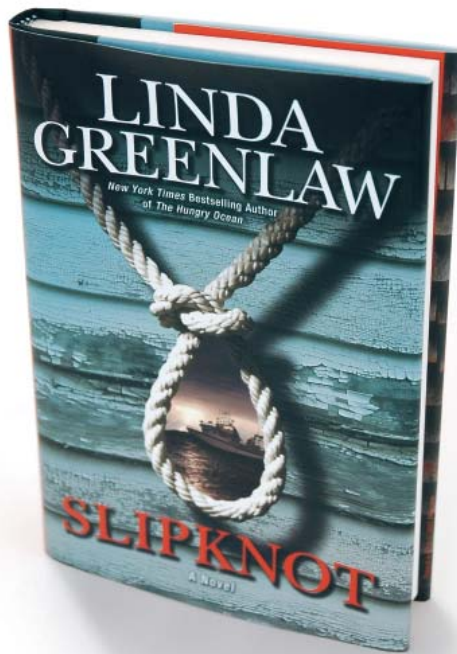
Mwai has enrolled at PC Tech, a vocational school in Manhattan, a move that will provide computer training—and allow him to stay in the U.S. while he awaits the next H1B offering. "I want to stay legal," he said.

McDougal pointed to efforts by industry (H1B visas are seen as essential to the U.S. technology industry) to persuade Congress to raise the professional work visa limit back to 115,000. But that hope was dashed when the comprehensive immigration reform bill—which included the H1B bills—died in Congress in June.

Meanwhile the pressure mounts for talented, well-educated young graduates like Prokic.

Told by her supervisor at the law firm that the firm would only sponsor lawyers, she decided to get her MBA in three semesters to be better poised for the visa application process. She earned high honors in finance and international business but, as of June, hadn't found a company in Chicago willing to hire her with the H1B visa issue looming. Serbia isn't in the European Union, which rules out a UK solution, she said. If she returns to Belgrade, she said, she'll likely find a job but at a fifth or less of the salary she would earn in the U.S. That will make it nearly impossible for her to pay off her student loans, she said, noting that in her time in the U.S. she has earned another good mark—a solid credit rating.

American friends tell her she'll find a way, including joking about a so-called "green-card marriage," but Prokic has always played by the rules and plans to continue to do so. "I've always done everything by the book," she said, "but because of that, I may have to pack up in six months and leave everything behind."



Maiden Voyage

SMOOTH SAILING AS LINDA GREENLAW
NAVIGATES HER FIRST MURDER MYSTERY

ROBERT GILLESPIE REVIEW

Slipknot
Linda Greenlaw '83
Hyperion (2007)

Linda Greenlaw '83 made waves with three nonfiction books about swordfishing and fish stories. *Slipknot* is a different kettle of critters. On her maiden voyage into fiction, Greenlaw is learning the ropes of the female detective murder mystery.

No high-tech science, no squads of investigators in the coastal fishing village of Green Haven, Maine—just Jane Bunker, a rookie “marine consultant” on her first assignment as an insurance investigator for Eastern Marine Safety Consultants. Convinced that the dead man found off the Green Haven wharf is a murder victim, Bunker pokes about town. Investigating in Green Haven is like sleuthing in the era of Sherlock Holmes.

Greenlaw impresses with a New Englandy crew of suspects. On board are the packing plant's girthy owner (“even her forehead was fat”), the elderly foreman who looks as craggy as Poseidon, the gabby waitress at the local cafe, the old maids peering out the window of their hardware and variety store, the self-appointed harbormaster who's simply simple, the handsome eligible bachelor and his disgruntled son and potbellied brother, the shrewish ex-wife, and a comic pair of old tipplers who cluck like parents over Bunker, the town's most eligible bachelorette. Somebody wants Bunker, who is spied on, fired at, and even stood up on a date, deep-sixed.

Though light at heart, *Slipknot* is darkened

by real-life controversy. Regulations on fishing might lead fishermen into competition to the death. A proposed wind farm would affect traditional fishing ground, forcing the packing plant to pack it in. Contentiousness, cutting across economic and social status and political ideologies, splits Green Haven families and friends. Anybody in town could turn rotten for any number of good reasons.

If those two delightful old tipplers turn out to be murderers, however, you'll gnaw your oilskin hat in disbelief. Like the querulous harbormaster—“Clyde was sputtering like an outboard motor with water in the gas”—most residents of Green Haven are generally too darned entertaining to be murderers.

Greenlaw fans will love the drama of a storm at sea, the crew hauling aboard a codfish net while battling huge winds and waves. Fidgety landlubbers, remembering that mysteries involve netting whoever knocked off the victim, might wish Bunker got back to shore business more quickly.

Women detectives fearlessly venture into tight spots, again and again risking bodily harm to satisfy their curiosity, and Bunker, sprightly, intrepid, and indomitable, is cut from that same tough sailcloth. The author needn't have padded Bunker's job résumé with a previous “position as chief detective in Dade County.” Her zeal for snooping and her job as marine inspector are all the authority she needs to wade into salty

places, boats, and people who make their living off the water. It's success in her first case that earns the sleuth her detective stripes.

Better yet, she'll bring job experience to more Jane Bunker “knot” mysteries that you can bet will be sailing our way from Down East.

Cal appeared ill at ease in the presence of a female he assumed was here to question him regarding the body. From what he said, it seemed that his boss feared a wrongful-death suit, since the body had washed up below her dock. Again, Cal hadn't asked. So I would not confess that I was actually here to do a routine safety examination and survey of the fish plant and surrounding properties for insurance purposes. Coincidentally, this body had washed ashore. I've always been lucky that way.

—From *Slipknot*
by Linda Greenlaw '83

Poems That Roam Lost Moments

The Blurring of Time

Ronald Moran '58

Clemson University Digital Press (2007)

Moran's new poems—about ordinary people at a fair in Berlin, a sports bar, a car dealership—are less ironic and more contemplative than the poetry in his previous eight collections. First-person voices aim high: one speaker shoots BBs into “a stand of fall colors ... the first of my irrational flights/to a wood I could never enter.” Something skews—a reflection in a store window, spilled tic tacs—and the poems “roam like an errant spotlight” recovering moments blurred by time.

In his first encounter with a stripper, recalls a voice from the vantage of advancing years, she knocked his “dark lenses/nearly out of their frame/and me with them./Whatever they call days like that,/they come rare.” Here is rare connectedness and metaphors that speak precisely, “like snow-flakes, like droplets, like the clear voice of the world.” —Robert Gillespie



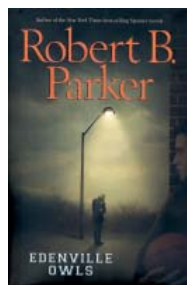
The inspiration for the paintings in Jane Melanson Dahmen '63's newest series, *Northern Hardwoods* (at the Firehouse Gallery in Damariscotta, Maine), comes from walks through the forests of coastal and inland Maine. A departure from her earlier art, the most recent work begins in the natural world but draws the audience into a space where the two-dimensional image is as interesting as the sense of depth. The large format of the paintings (some are nine feet by six feet) invites the viewer to enter the environment of the art.

RECENT RELEASES

Edenville Owls

Robert B. Parker '54

Philomel (2007)



After more than 50 novels for adults, including the iconic Spenser series, Robert B. Parker has created a mystery for young adults. It's 1945 and Bobby Murphy is 14, a basketball player with a new team—and a new teacher who may have a problem. Miss Delaney has been seen arguing with a man and then returned to school with bruises on her face. Bobby senses something is amiss, and vows to do something about it.

The Missing

Sarah Langan '96

Harper (2007)

Langan's debut novel, *The Keeper*, was compared by *Publishers Weekly* to “the more ambitious work of Stephen King.” Langan is back with another well-crafted tale of horror and suspense. This time it's an affluent Maine town where a mysterious plague is turning people sick, deadly—and hungry. Don't ask what they are driven to eat. Langan, a master's degree candidate in environmental science/toxicology at NYU, definitely knows how to dream up a mean malady.

The Flame You Follow

Jason Spooner '95

CD, online and retail release (2007)



No sophomore slump for Maine-based singer/songwriter Spooner who, with his dead-on trio and a bevy of guest musicians, delivers in his second CD. Spooner doesn't walk away from his musical influences (Neil Young, J.J. Cale, among others) but he lets us feel them through a lens of blues, jazz, and

even a tinge of funk. Spooner's following is growing, and recent festival awards and TV appearances are spreading the word. Go to jasonspooner.com for more.

Old Jalopy

Jim Heald '74

CD and online release (2007)

Folksinger/balladeer/guitarist Jim Heald's latest CD is a love-tinged collection, with inspiration drawn from everything from Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers to a photograph of a pre-war jalopy on a dusty Texas street. Heald, who now lives in Virginia, is joined by musicians from his years in the thriving Austin music scene. Available as digital download from iTunes, eFolkmusic.org, or as CD from CDBaby.com

With the Program

Crew alumni still a big part of the program

ALLEN LESSELS P'08 STORY

JEFF EARICKSON PHOTO

So what's a true-to-the-blue Colby grad doing flaunting memorabilia from Bowdoin, Bates, and Williams? In her living room, no less? Right there on the couch?

Far from showing any chink in the Colby pride of Katie O'Neill '04, who rowed on the College's national championship team in 2003, the quilt made of opponents' T-shirts that hangs across the back of her sofa does exactly the opposite.

Wagering school T-shirts on the outcome of a race is part of the tradition of the sport. To the winner goes your top.

The shirt-swapping tradition helped draw O'Neill, a Washington, D.C., management consultant who these days rows rarely, into crew in her first few days on Mayflower Hill. And now they are just one symbol of her devotion to Colby and her support of the sport.

O'Neill is one of the driving forces behind a growing alumni group that has already helped the crew program in everything from fan support at races to networking to financial contributions and hopes to do much more later. "We've made some pretty good progress," O'Neill said. "We're trying to give it a little more structure, to help hold up the program and try to give back."

The plan is working, said Stew Stokes, who just finished up his seventh season as Colby crew coach.

"Katie and some others are trying to change things without an oar in their hands," Stokes said. "There are many ways to impact a program. They were great while they were here. They were good teammates and good people and all that stuff. Now they're impacting the program as alumni. That's just a great legacy."

Financially, the long-term goal is to establish an endowment of half a million dollars that will enable the team to spin off about \$20,000 a year for boats and other equipment needs.

The shorter-term goal as the 2007 season neared its end was to collect the last \$5,000 or so of the \$30,000 needed for a new boat for the varsity women.

The project is about more than dollars and cents. It's about the bonds that come from meeting at Lovejoy at 5:30 a.m. for the seven-mile drive to crew's home at the Colby-Hume Center on Messalonskee Lake. About

bonds from 24-hour spring-break bus rides to Georgia and points south to work out two or three times a day—"instead of going to Cancun with friends," said former captain Pete Morelli '02.

Bonds from collecting stream water in bottles in the fall and keeping it near the rowing machines as a winter reminder that there will be open water someday, even in Maine. Bonds from ever-expanding post-race meals put out by parents. "They're like full-service restaurants now," Morelli said.

Bonds—and interest—that come from success.

The women's NCAA championship in 2003 gave the rowing teams a big boost.

In 2006 Morelli and Ted Farwell '05, another former captain, became the first two Colby men to make the U.S. national team and go to the world championships. They hoped to compete in the worlds again in Munich in August and September but came up just short, with Farwell's boat missing a slot by 1.5 seconds. Farwell is still aiming for the Olympics in 2008. Margaret Duggan '06, who won her Head of the Charles race last fall, did make the national team and was bound for Munich in August. Steve Whelpley '05 was also eyeing a spot on the national team.

Hilary Gehman '93, a two-time Olympian and six-time member of the U.S. national team, was named women's rowing coach at Cornell in July.

The success spurs others.

"The kids now look at it and say, 'We could do this. We've been able to turn out some fast boats. Why not us?'" Stokes said.

Rob Zondervan '07, a 2006-07 captain, has been on the board of the alumni group and built the Web site www.colbycrewalumni.com. He wants to boost the men's side of the organization and race an alumni boat in the Head of the Charles Regatta as the women have done.

Austin Phillips '07, a women's captain in 2006-07, and the rest of the team appreciate all the efforts.

"It's such a close group here," she said of the alumni support after a race in Durham, N.H., in late April. "It's a very unique, hardworking group of people. I think maintaining that kind of social group outside of college is really great. It's exciting that people are proud of this team and had a great time here and want to support people that they've never even rowed



Members of the 2007 women's crew team prepare to launch a boat prior to a practice on Messalonskee Lake.

with, they don't even know."

They may not know the students, but they know the sport.

They know about things like putting in the docks at the Hume Center after a long roundtrip bus ride, like the 2007 team did after that race in Durham.

And, of course, they know the shirts.

"I remember clearly Pat Tynan (then assistant coach) taking a huge box of medals [the team] had won over the years and dumping them on the stage at our first meeting," said O'Neill, who, like many first-year rowers at Colby, had never rowed. "And then there was the pretty cool stack of T-shirts."

She and her teammates had their own stack of shirts by the time they finished.

"She won a lot of shirts at Colby," said Farwell, O'Neill's long-time boyfriend. It was O'Neill's mother who took the stack and had selected shirts made into a quilt. "It looks pretty cool," Farwell said. "You can't wear thirty T-shirts."

But you can drape all those NESCAC logos across your couch with a little Colby pride.

Women's Lax Rocks

Women's lacrosse had an outstanding season, finishing with a 12-5 overall record and seven straight wins before their 10-8 loss to Middlebury in the NESCAC championship game. The team was disappointed when the NCAA Division III national seeds were announced and Colby was not included as it had been the previous year.

Four players were named Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) All-Americans—the most ever in one year for the Mules—tying the number selected from national champion Franklin & Marshall and runner-up Salisbury. Allie Libby '07 became the first athlete in program history to receive first-team All-America honors twice, and Liz Morbeck '07 became only the third Mule ever to earn first-team honors. Kate Sheridan '09 made the second team for the second year in a row, and Lauren Barrett '08 was named to the third team. Morebeck, Sheridan, and Libby also made the WomensLacrosse.com All-America team.

Libby (27 goals, 42 assists), Sheridan (43 goals, 16 assists), Barrett (32 goals, 7 assists), Libba Cox '07 (12 goals, 12 assists), Heather Nickerson '09 (8 goals, 4 assists), and defender Morbeck (57 caused turnovers, 52 ground balls) all earned IWLCA All-Region honors. Libby, Cox, and Morbeck were invited to play in the North-South Senior All-Star Game.

Libby finished her career with 94 goals and 105 assists for 199 points. She was honored with the Millett Award for contributing the most to Colby athletics in her four years. Cox had 46 career goals and 23 assists for 69 points and had 147 ground balls, 80 draw controls, and 80 caused turnovers. Morbeck had 172 ground balls, 125 caused turnovers, and 65 draw controls and was on the NESCAC Spring All-Academic Team. Sheridan, who earned NESCAC first-team honors along with Libby and Morbeck, was one of the best players in the country with 89 goals, 29 assists, 108 ground balls, 104 draw controls, and 57 caused turnovers in two years.

Head coach Heidi Godomsky ended her final season coaching the Mules with a 136-82 record in 14 years at Colby. Godomsky and her husband, alpine skiing coach Mark Godomsky, resigned to take positions at Gould Academy. —*Bill Sodoma*

MacCrate Henning Takes Over

Karen MacCrate Henning is Colby's new head women's lacrosse coach.

Henning spent the last eight years as head coach at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University, where she started the women's lacrosse program in 1999 and won NCAA Division II national titles in 2001 and 2007.

Starting August 1, Henning took over a team that was 26-9 over the past two seasons. "The (Colby) players I've communicated with so far seem so motivated and have great balance in their lives," Henning said. "They all have so many positive things going on."

At C.W. Post, Henning was Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) Division II National Coach of the Year in 2001. Her teams made seven NCAA tourney appearances and won an ECAC title in 2005. "My family and I are ready for a new chapter in our lives," she said.