

# Colby



## Colby Magazine

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Volume 96  
Issue 1 *Spring 2007*

Article 5

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April 2007

## Colby News

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### Recommended Citation

(2007) "Colby News," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 96 : Iss. 1 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol96/iss1/5>

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## College to Receive Largest Gift in its History

A stunning collection of American art is being donated to the Colby College Museum of Art by Peter and Paula Lunder, President William Adams announced in May. He hailed the gift—more than 500 objects, with 464 works by American masters—as one of the most important American art collections ever donated to a liberal arts college.

The Lunders (Peter is a 1956 graduate and a lifetime overseer, Paula Crane Lunder is a life trustee, and both received honorary D.F.A. degrees in 1998) began collecting art in the late 1970s and by the mid-1980s had focused on American art, amassing one of the most important private collections of American 19th- and 20th-century painting, sculpture, and printmaking. They are longtime supporters of the College and the museum, and their gift is by far the largest ever received by the College. The Lunders' name already adorns the admissions building and a major wing of the museum.

The new gift, valued at more than \$100 million, includes works by John Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt, George Inness, William Merritt Chase, Winslow Homer, Alexander Calder, Paul Manship, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Donald Judd, Sol LeWitt, Alex Katz, and Jenny Holzer. An outstanding collection of 201 prints by James McNeill Whistler, also part of the overall gift, has been on loan to the museum. Some of those etchings and lithographs are among 80 pieces in the Lunder collection currently on view in Waterville.

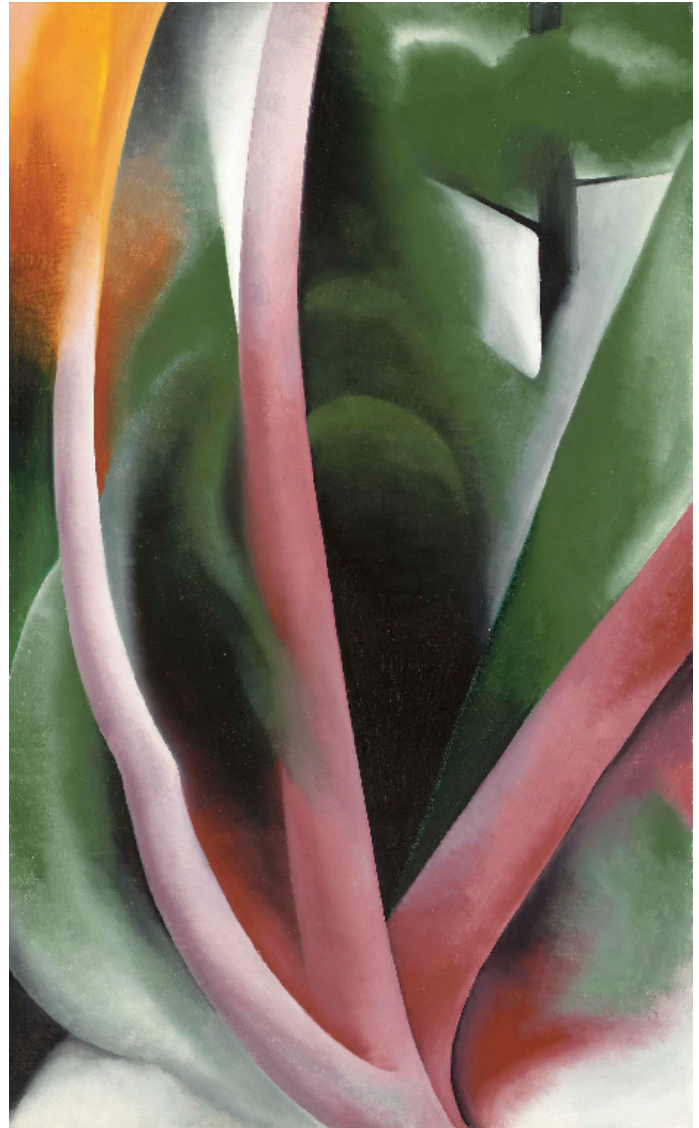
"This superb gift enriches the Colby College Museum of Art in numerous ways, placing it among the nation's best museums for the exhibition and study of American art," said Adams. "In a single stroke, the museum will become one of the world's most important repositories of Whistler prints."

Sharon Corwin, the Carolyn Muzzy Director and chief curator of the museum said, "The extraordinary concentration of prints by Whistler is especially exciting, since it provides a genealogy for the museum's deep holdings in works by individual American artists of the past century who have explored the medium of printmaking."

The Lunders' generosity, Corwin said, "will ensure a richer experience for students, the larger Colby community, and the public who visit the museum."

A major exhibition of about 200 works in the collection is planned for summer 2009, when the museum celebrates its 50th anniversary. Adams also announced that in 2013 the museum will open a new wing with galleries dedicated to the permanent display of works from the collection, including works by Whistler.

*More information is online at [www.colby.edu/museum](http://www.colby.edu/museum). Look for a full story and images in the next issue of Colby.*



Georgia O'Keeffe, American (1887-1986)

*Birch and Pine Trees—Pink*, 1925

Oil on canvas, 36 x 22"

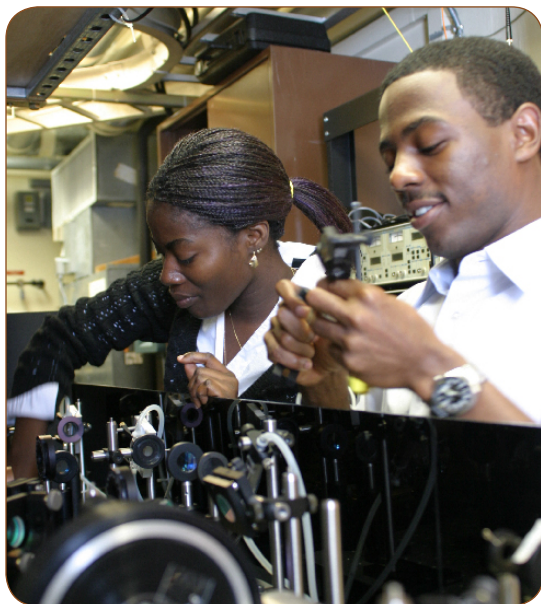
Courtesy of the Lunder Collection

### Research Symposium

"It All Started With Some Drunk Mice: AQTL Analysis of the LxSRI Panel." Huh? This physics project was one of hundreds of research topics explained at the Colby Undergraduate Research Symposium in May. Interested in elephant and

bat interactions? How about African-American influences on barbershop harmony or implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act in Maine? Ever wonder if lobsters use chemical clues to detect other lobsters? Colby students

can explain. The three days of presentations included 111 oral presentations and 99 posters representing 233 separate authors and coauthors. There were 27 departments and programs and 72 different faculty mentors involved.



MEGAN LEHMANN '08

## Cool Physics

In February two senior physics majors presented research at the annual joint meeting of the National Society of Black Physicists and National Society of Hispanic Physicists in Boston.

Roy Wilson '07, a Posse Scholar from New York City, presented his honors thesis, "External control of electron temperature in ultra cold plasmas." Margaret Martei '07, an Oak Scholar from Ghana, took second prize (\$200 and membership in the Optical Society of America) for an undergraduate poster presenting a project she coauthored with Anders Wood '07 of North Yarmouth, Maine. Their poster was titled "An injection-locked diode laser for cold Rydberg atom experiments."

Both projects were capstone experiences in physics and were overseen by Professor Duncan Tate. They examined the behavior of rubidium atoms in a state equivalent to 100 millionths of a degree above absolute zero.

After graduation in May, Martei has one year to complete the Colby-Dartmouth 3-2 engineering program. Wilson was interviewing for a high school teaching position.

« Margaret Martei '07 and Roy Wilson '07 at work in one of Colby's physics labs.

## STUDENTS . . . UNCENSORED

In the brave new world of podcasts and blogs, Facebook and CollegeConfidential.com, The Princeton Review and the College Prowler book series, colleges and universities no longer have a corner on the market of what gets published about them. In one respect, a new admissions initiative called insideColby takes the if-you-can't-beat-them approach, encouraging students to join the fray.

InsideColby.com is the new Web site, launched in April, that's at the center of a constellation that includes a new print magazine, blogs, podcasts, photos, profiles, and interactive features—all content produced by Colby students.

Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Parker Beverage said, "Prospective students want the inside look," and by letting current students do the talking about Colby, they're getting a lot more of that. "They're getting their information from many more channels and more informal means, and they're getting more timely information."

He recommends the Student Lens, a weekly gallery of photos taken by students, to anyone who can't visit the campus. "You see what's important to our students," Beverage

said. "Parties, events, dorm rooms, sports, the weather."

While other institutions are also using student-generated stories in their recruiting materials, Colby turned it into a multipronged, multimedia effort that replaces the traditional viewbook and gives students new venues for publishing their work. Mindy Favreau '07 wrote the lead feature story for the first *insideColby* magazine (also on the Web)—about how returning from a year abroad can be more disorienting than traveling to an unfamiliar culture in the first place.

Favreau, also an admissions volunteer, endorses the insideColby strategy. "New England and liberal arts schools

tend to look very similar on paper," she said. "It's a good idea to give prospective students a feel for what life is like here. ... It's more genuine."

Current students are paying attention too, she said. "A lot of people think it's great. They get another way to see what's going on on campus and to see what other students think is important."

Patrick Sanders '08, who maintains a blog on insideColby.com, agreed. "I find myself going to it [insideColby.com] a lot, checking out the podcasts and looking at the Student Lens—reading Lokesh [Todi '09] and Suzanne [Merkelson '09]'s blogs to see what I have to compete with."

It's too early to gauge results, but Beverage is encouraged. It feels like a more nimble system, he said, for getting Colby's inside story out. —Stephen Collins '74



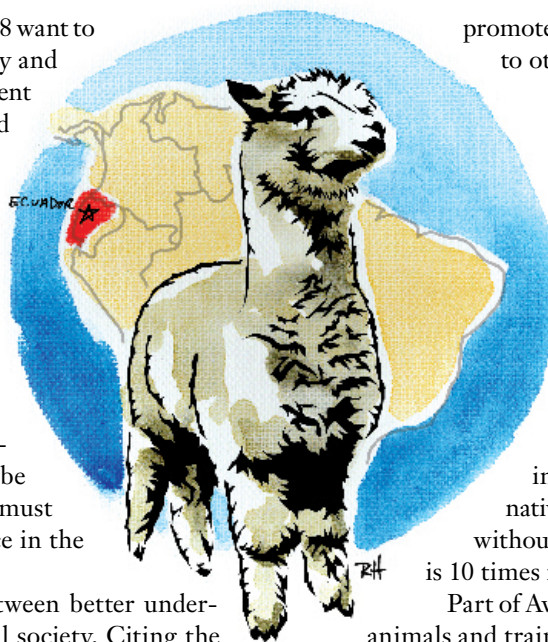


## Two Peace Projects

Victoria Yuan '07 and Melyn Heckelman '08 want to help Chinese high school students talk openly and honestly about sex. Christine Avena '08 is intent on reintroducing eco-friendly alpacas and llamas to the rugged highlands of Ecuador.

Both projects will begin this summer thanks to grants from the 100 Projects for Peace program initiated by philanthropist Kathryn Wasserman Davis on the occasion of her 100th birthday. The two proposals were among 22 submitted by Colby students—and hundreds prepared by students at colleges and universities in the Davis United World Scholars Program. The 100 most promising projects were awarded \$10,000 each, to be used in the summer of 2007. Each project must bring “new thinking to the prospects of peace in the world,” Davis said.

Yuan and Heckelman see a clear link between better understanding of sexual issues and a more peaceful society. Citing the unrest in China after the government's confused handling of the SARS epidemic, they hope to encourage discussions to reduce HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in the southern provinces. Sexual responsibility will prevent unwanted pregnancy and also will



promote communication skills that can be applied to other topics, they argue.

Avena returned from a semester in Ecuador inspired by work being done in the mountainous highlands to replace cows and sheep with indigenous llamas and alpacas. She wrote her grant proposal the day she arrived home in Connecticut.

“I was literally getting home the day [applications] closed at midnight,” Avena said.

She explained that cows and sheep require non-native grasses, and that cows carve paths on the steep hillsides, increasing erosion. Alpacas and llamas can live on native vegetation and navigate the mountainsides without scarring the hills. And the fine alpaca fiber is 10 times more valuable than sheep's wool.

Part of Avena's grant will go toward purchasing more animals and training farmers to raise and breed them.

In addition Avena hopes to step into an ongoing grazing-rights dispute between farmers and officials of the expanding national park system in Ecuador. “I'm hoping to be the extender of the olive branch,” Avena said, “to be the mediator between the two.” —Gerry Boyle '78

### Alumnus Ambassador

Patrick D. Duddy '72, a senior official in the State Department's Latin America bureau, was nominated in March by President Bush to be ambassador to Venezuela. Duddy, previously a diplomat in Brazil and Bolivia, needs to be confirmed by the Senate.



### Doris On The Daily Show

Pulitzer Prize-winning alumna  
Doris Kearns  
Goodwin '64

mediated a dust-up between Jon Stewart and former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show*. On March 21 Stewart got laughs accusing Doris of lying to him about Abraham Lincoln. Watch it online at [www.insidecolby.com/mulespacev1n1](http://www.insidecolby.com/mulespacev1n1).



ELIZABETH COLE '09

**Tapping Trees** This spring Colby students took the concept of local food to the extreme with maple syrup production on campus. With the help of Brandon Kulik '76 and a team of eager workers, Emma Carlson '08 and Bayley Lawrence '07J tapped a grove of sugar maples near Hill House and boiled almost 200 gallons of sap into four gallons of syrup, which they shared with the Colby community at a pancake breakfast. More online at [www.colby.edu/mag](http://www.colby.edu/mag), keyword: syrup.

## Wit & Wisdom

"I don't think we should lose sight of our small size and relative intimacy as a tremendous asset in these situations."

*Vice President for Student Affairs  
Jim Terhune, at an emergency-response  
planning meeting in the days following  
the Virginia Tech killings.*

"It's important to realize that in going abroad you don't become a member of another culture and leave your past behind. You're intertwining two people—your background with the new place you've entered."

*Ethan Abensohn '07, reflecting for  
insideColby magazine on his experiences  
reintegrating to Colby and life in the U.S.  
after semesters in France and Cameroon.*

"You!? I think of you every morning when I brush my teeth!"

*Rollie Morneau '65, upon answering a  
telephone call from Mike Picher '67 after  
30 years without contact. Picher accidentally  
knocked out five of Morneau's teeth with his  
stick during a Colby hockey practice. He was  
calling Morneau to invite him to a testimonial  
dinner for former coach Charlie Holt.*

"I just want to acknowledge the challenges they face in this [pause] hormonal season."

*President Adams, at his spring forum  
for faculty and staff, in a shout-out to the  
Office of Security.*

"My path has been illuminated by the unquestioning love of my parents, the intellectual example of Colby professors, and the shining light of my closest friends."

*Jayadev Vadakkanmarveettil '07 of Kerala,  
India, in the 2007 edition of To Change the  
World, the yearbook from the Davis United  
World College Scholars Program.*

"Over my dead body."

*Kate Braemer's mother, at the  
woodsmen's Spring Meet at Dartmouth,  
when recruiters approached Kate '07  
about a possible pro career.*

## Cheers to the Seniors

Like last year, rain poured onto costumed celebrating seniors as they cheered, hugged, and drank some bubbly on the last day of classes. Unlike last year, no one left in a police cruiser.

For months, members of the senior class worked with the administration to devise a plan for Champagne on the Steps that would not resemble the debauchery that led to arrests and injuries in 2006. On May 11, the seniors proved that they could preserve the tradition. But the fate of the event wasn't always certain.

Early in the spring semester, rumors began circulating that the administration had canceled what has become known as "steps." More than 500 students and young alumni joined a Facebook group called "Save Champagne on the Steps," and some alumni threatened to withhold annual fund support.

Vice President of Student Affairs Jim Terhune and Director of Student Activities Kelly Wharton assured students the event had never been canceled and outlined requirements for an improved event. If the seniors could to develop a plan that was inclusive, safe, legal, and responsible, the College would help with logistics.

"It's consistent with what we've been trying to say to students all year, about taking responsibility," said Terhune, who began working at Colby just before the 2006-07 academic year.

About 40 students worked together to create the proposal. "You get a significant chunk of the class engaging in the conversation and [you find] that the majority of the class doesn't like what's gone on," said Terhune. The new plan: Students would be required to sign a statement declaring their respect for the tradition and their commitment to safety, among other things. In turn, they'd be issued a bracelet for admission into a fenced-off area, where they would each be allowed three cans—yes, cans—of sparkling wine. (In previous years broken glass became a safety hazard. The cans of Sofia Mini, named for Francis Ford Coppola's daughter, came from his vineyard.)

Students were given a second chance, but they would not get a third. "They know that if we have anything close to what happened last year then it's done," Terhune said prior to the event. But for now, the tradition that began in the early 1990s with small group toast will live on, at least for another year. —Ruth Jacobs



Costumed seniors cavort in the annual Champagne on the Steps celebration of the last day of classes in May.



# What to Do with Division III?

The NCAA's Division III, in which Colby competes, has problems, members agree. But how and whether to fix them? There the agreement ends—at least for now.

With a membership that has grown to 420 colleges and universities—with widely varying views of athletics and academics—the behemoth that is DIII may split. In January the

NCAA formed a group to study the possibility of creating a subdivision of DIII or a Division IV.

"The division has become too large, and the philosophical positions of members are too diverse and in some cases conflicting," said Colby President William D. Adams, in an e-mail in response to a query about the issue. "I think some kind of subdivision is desirable, if not inevitable."



ROB KIEVIT '09

What would a reconfigured Division III mean for Colby athletics?

In fact, the most recent study was barely underway when different views began to surface. While most acknowledge the problems with the size and diversity of DIII—from restricted opportunities for postseason play because of the hundreds of teams to widely varying academic requirements—some see a new division as problematic.

Officials at athletic powerhouses like Williams already have said they want to stick with DIII as we know it. "It's a big group, but we can handle it," Williams Acting Athletic Director Lisa Melendy told *The New York Times*. "I like the diversity, instead of just playing the same New England or eastern schools"

At Middlebury, coaches have warned the administration that moving to a Division IV or a subdivision would make already fiercely competitive athletic recruiting even tougher.

At Colby, Athletic Director Marcella Zalot acknowledged that the size of DIII, and the resulting changes in qualifying hurdles, make it tough for Colby teams—though not individual athletes—to qualify for NCAA postseason play.

But, Zalot said, Colby athletes already play in one of the most competitive conferences in the division. "If you make the (New England Small College Athletic Conference) final four, that's pretty darn good," she said. "We play at the highest level possible. It's the highest academic/athletic conference in the country." —G.B.

## Katz Wins NSF Award

In March, Colby was awarded more than \$400,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund research in chemistry and to attract and retain minority students in the sciences. Jeffrey Katz, assistant professor of chemistry, submitted the winning proposal. His work focuses on synthesis and applications of a new class of molecules.

"We build molecules about a nanometer in size and with a particular shape," he said. "Then we design applications and new uses for them. The process we've developed makes these compounds easy to build and then we learn about them. We observe them and what they do and then find applications for them."

Colby was the only four-year undergraduate institution on the list of 35 NSF chemistry winners. Katz's proposal also contained a mentoring component for minority students.

"This enables minority students to do real science research in the first year," he said. "If there is interest coming in as first-year students, it is critical to mentor and encourage that interest."

Katz has taught introductory and advanced organic chemistry and general chemistry at Colby since 2002. He earned his Ph.D. at Harvard.

## Seniors' Pick

Professor of English Phyllis Mannocchi received the Senior Class Charles Bassett Teaching Award in May at the senior class dinner that kicked off end-of-year activities for the Class of 2007. Her acceptance speech, taking themes from her Passion-



JUI SHRESTHA '07

ate Expression course, was a deconstruction of romantic love and included the line: "Ah, Senior Week. It is the time for strange loves to bloom and for others to crash and burn."

## An Economist and a Woodswoman: Commencement 2007

The late arrival of spring in Maine increased the likelihood of trees blossoming for Commencement, scheduled for May 27 this year. The Class of 2007, 475 strong,



Thomas C. Schelling

elected the energetic Kate Braemer '07 as class speaker and lined up Nobel laureate economist Thomas C. Schelling to speak at the College's 186th Commencement. Braemer was captain of the women's woodsmen, an admissions volunteer, COOT leader, CCAK mentor, and senior pledge volunteer, among other activities. Novelist John Barth, former Nigerian Minister of Finance Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, saxophonist Sonny Rollins, Whitney Museum Director Adam Weinberg, and Schelling were slated to get honorary

degrees. Details, including video, were set to go online following the ceremonies. See [www.colby.edu/commencement](http://www.colby.edu/commencement).

Kate Braemer '07 competing at the Spring Meet at Dartmouth.



DEB DUTTON



ROB KIEVIT '09

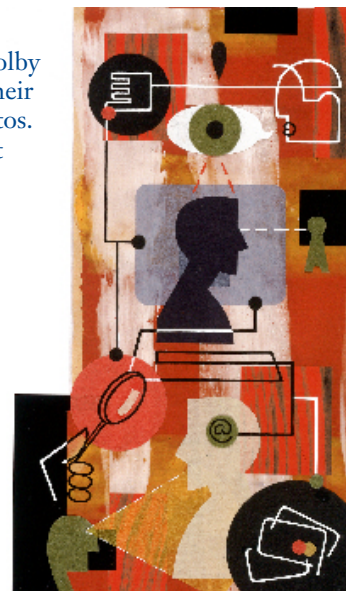
### Video of Mandala Online

More than 2,500 people visited Colby's museum to watch former Buddhist monk Losang Samten create *The Wheel of Life* sand mandala in February. For those who missed it, a video is now online. Using grains of colored sand, Samten created this elaborate circular "painting" that symbolizes the cyclical nature of life, and after it was finished he swept it into a pile. To watch the video, go to [www.colby.edu/museum](http://www.colby.edu/museum).

### And the Survey Says!

As employers increasingly look at graduates' profiles on online networking sites, students at Colby are reacting by "cleaning up" their pages, including removing photos. In the last issue, we asked, "Is it ethical for employers to look at personal Web pages?"

- 63%** Absolutely. Those pages are for public viewing.
- 17%** Not at all. Those pages were made for social, not professional reasons.
- 20%** Not sure. It's a fine line and I don't not sure which side I am on.



### Consider This . . .

Colby continues to work on its relationship with the local community (see Good Neighbors? P. 14). In your opinion, how important is that relationship? To answer, go to [www.colby.edu/mag](http://www.colby.edu/mag).





## Extravagant

Sakshi Balani '10 of Kolkata, India, was among the performers in the International Extravaganza in April. The event celebrates all of the cultures present on the Colby campus through song, dance, music, and a cornucopia of food.

Photo by Kaitlin Lynch '10



# Flexing Muscle

The arrival of warm weather in April brought students out of the classroom and onto the academic quad to soak up the sun. Shown here, students of mammalian physiology team up to act out the mechanism of muscle contraction. Photo by Rob Kievit '09







## Wound Up

Nick Ruocco '10 in his windup during the Mules' game against Bates at Coombs Field in April. Colby won the game 13-12, and went 2-2 against the Bobcats for the season.  
Photo by Rob Kievit '09



## Kindness of Strangers is Not a Healthy Policy

By ALISON JONES WEBB '81

We touched down in Mumbai on a Tuesday morning and spent three muggy days exploring the city. Boarding the overnight train to Rajasthan Thursday evening, we looked forward to seeing old forts and palaces and the arid landscape of western India. The midnight stop in Ahmedabad was magical—the air was cool, the chai was delicious, and the children nodded off on our duffel bags waiting for the next train. By Saturday we were in Udaipur, trying to diagnose my husband Jim's symptoms of low-grade fever, nausea, and fatigue.

Jim is a history professor at Colby. He had just finished a semester directing the Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Education study-abroad program. We were taking a three-week vacation in India with our children, who were then 8 and 12, and after that we were headed back to Sri Lanka for Jim's sabbatical year. I was taking a sabbatical, too. Dissatisfied with my work lobbying for business interests in Maine, I was contemplating a career change.

Jim's fever persisted in Udaipur. At the end of our first day there, I flipped through the pages of my worn copy of *Where There is No Doctor*. The index wasn't helpful, and the results of my research were remarkably unsatisfying. "Not every fever is malaria.... The common cold, typhoid and tuberculosis can cause mild fevers." Heat exhaustion was another possibility. I suggested Jim take a cold sponge bath. He ended up shivering for an hour afterwards and felt no better.

By the time we reached the desert city of Jodhpur four days later, Jim was unable to eat or to walk in the heat of the day. We sought out an upscale, air-conditioned tourist hotel. Jim slept for the next two days and nights while I worried. Our precautions before traveling—rounds of vaccinations, prescriptions of antibiotics, sterile syringes, a first-aid kit overflowing with salves and creams—were of no use. The fever was still low, he still felt nauseous, and he had no appetite.

We opted not to take public transport for the six-hour trip to Jaipur and paid for a taxi and driver. We chose our lodging based on the recommendations in our travel guide. Hotel Meghniwas was family-owned, located near the center of town. The innkeeper was a retired colonel in the Indian army and he recognized Jim's symptoms straight away. Hepatitis.

Colonel Singh called his personal physician, who arrived the following morning. The young doctor's bedside murmurings were reassuring. His lab assistant drew a blood sample, and the next day the physician returned. The diagnosis: Hepatitis E. Transmitted

through contaminated food and water, with a four-week delay of onset. Acute symptoms peak two weeks before jaundice occurs and abate about a week after that. The treatment was simple. Bed rest, liquids, a no-fat diet, and an ayurvedic treatment of vitamin K tablets. It appeared that this was a mild case. Long-term liver damage was a possibility, but we would only know the severity as the symptoms continued to develop.

For the rest of that week, Jim slept 22 hours a day and was able to eat little and to drink only intermittently. I kept the kids occupied seeing the sites, all the while wishing and willing Jim back to health.

At the end of the week, Jim was weak and jaundiced. In our family photos at the Taj Mahal he looks exhausted. In Delhi the temperature was a sweltering 111 degrees, and we made an extended visit to the air-conditioned national museum. Back home in Sri Lanka he began a diet of king coconut juice, fruit, and bland curries. It would be six weeks before his appetite and energy level returned to normal.

In the year that followed, my understanding of the world around me fused with exploring career options. I realized that the link between poor health and

In the year that followed, my understanding of the world around me fused with exploring career options. I realized that the link between poor health and poor social conditions in Sri Lanka and India were the same as at home: unemployment and poverty, income inequalities, and lack of access to health care contribute to poor health status.

poor social conditions in Sri Lanka and India were the same as at home: unemployment and poverty, income inequalities, and lack of access to health care contribute to poor health status. My liberal upbringing surfaced, and the idea of grassroots work hovered.

I now work with a community health coalition in Waterville that seeks to improve health and quality of life. We convene local agencies to review data and identify health problems annually, and then we spawn partnerships to address those problems. As a result, a prevention coalition addresses teen substance abuse through prevention programming in the schools. A diabetes care initiative combats diabetes complications by changing primary care and hospital practices. A community collaborative promotes physical activity and healthy weight. A network of doctors provides medical care on a sliding fee scale.

That experience in India—Jim's brush with illness in a strange place—is often on my mind and inspires me to make changes locally that improve health for everyone. Jim was lucky; he had the financial means and family support to find a doctor, a diagnosis, and appropriate care. But not everyone is so fortunate. And it doesn't seem right to me that sheer luck—and the kindness of strangers—should determine our health and well-being.