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From the Hill

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PAYOFF

KAREN PRISBY'S RISE TO THE TOP OF DIII CROSS COUNTRY IS THE RESULT OF PRIORITIES, HARD WORK

GERRY BOYLE '78 STORY

CHERYL TREWORGY PHOTO

Women's cross country and track coach Debbie Aitken knew there was a runner from Cathedral High School in Massachusetts headed to Colby.

But Karen Prisby '07 wasn't a top recruit; in fact she was barely a recruit at all. "I knew she had applied," Aitken recalled. "But she hadn't done anything remarkable in high school."

Prisby was lead runner for her high school team, but by no means was she a star. She made the Colby cross country team as a first-year but initially was 20th among 22 women runners. "I remember her saying, 'Well, my [high school] coach never wanted me to run that much because he was afraid I was going to get hurt,'" Aitken said.

Prisby soon started making up for lost time.

By sophomore year she was in the top seven for the Mules, ran third for the team at the NCAA Division III championships, and finished 65th in the national meet. Junior year she was Maine champion, All-NESCAC, All-New England Division III, and 19th at nationals, earning her All-America status.

But she saved her best for last.

In November 2006 at the national championships in West Chester, Ohio, Prisby sped over a hilly and muddy course at a 6:29-per-mile pace, coming in 12th and earning All-America honors again. For Aitken, Prisby's ascent was unprecedented. "I have never seen anyone who has gone from where she was in high school, and even here [at Colby] freshman year, and improve to twelfth in the nation," Aitken said.

How did she do it? "I just add on about ten miles per week every year," Prisby said.

That has meant gradually increasing her training runs to 70 miles per week from the 35 to 40 she did as a first-year. But don't let the soft-spoken chemistry major fool you. Her steady climb into DIII running's highest

For the second year in a row **WOMEN'S SOCCER** made the NESCAC semifinals, ending with a 9-3-3 record. Goalkeeper **LIZA BENSON '07**, forward **LAURA WILLIAMSON '07**, midfielder **KATIE MCCABE '08**, and defender **MOLLIE PUSKAR '08** each earned all-conference honors, and Benson made the first team for the second straight year. Williamson became Colby's all-time leading scorer and made the all-NESCAC team all four years. Head Coach **JEN HOLSTEN '90** became the first Colby women's soccer coach to reach 100 career victories. . . . **MEN'S SOCCER** had one of its best seasons in years with a 6-5-3 record. Co-captains **DANIEL KIERNAN '07** and **JOSH KAHANE '07** each made the NESCAC all-conference second team. **JIM PILGRIM '07** led the team in scoring with four goals for eight points. . . . For complete season highlights for all fall sports, go to Colby Online at www.colby.edu/mag/sports_shorts.



echelons is also the result of a disciplined and studied effort (carefully monitored by Aitken) involving nutrition, weight training, rest, and, perhaps most important of all, a setting of priorities.

Prisby, her coach said, "has more determination than anyone I've ever met." That from a coach whose office wall is papered with photos of her past All-Americans.

Once Aitken was convinced Prisby's body could handle the additional load, the coach designed a training program to help the natural long-distance runner increase her speed over the three-plus mile cross country courses. Prisby works in the weight room twice a week. She follows a planned diet and makes sure she gets plenty of rest—no small feat on a college campus. Her priorities at Colby are academics (she was interviewing for environmental engineering jobs during Jan Plan) and running.

"I guess it's a priority over living a crazy college life," Prisby said. "If it comes down to going out to a party and drinking or getting enough rest, I'm not going to [party]. Some people don't do that and that's fine. My priority is running."

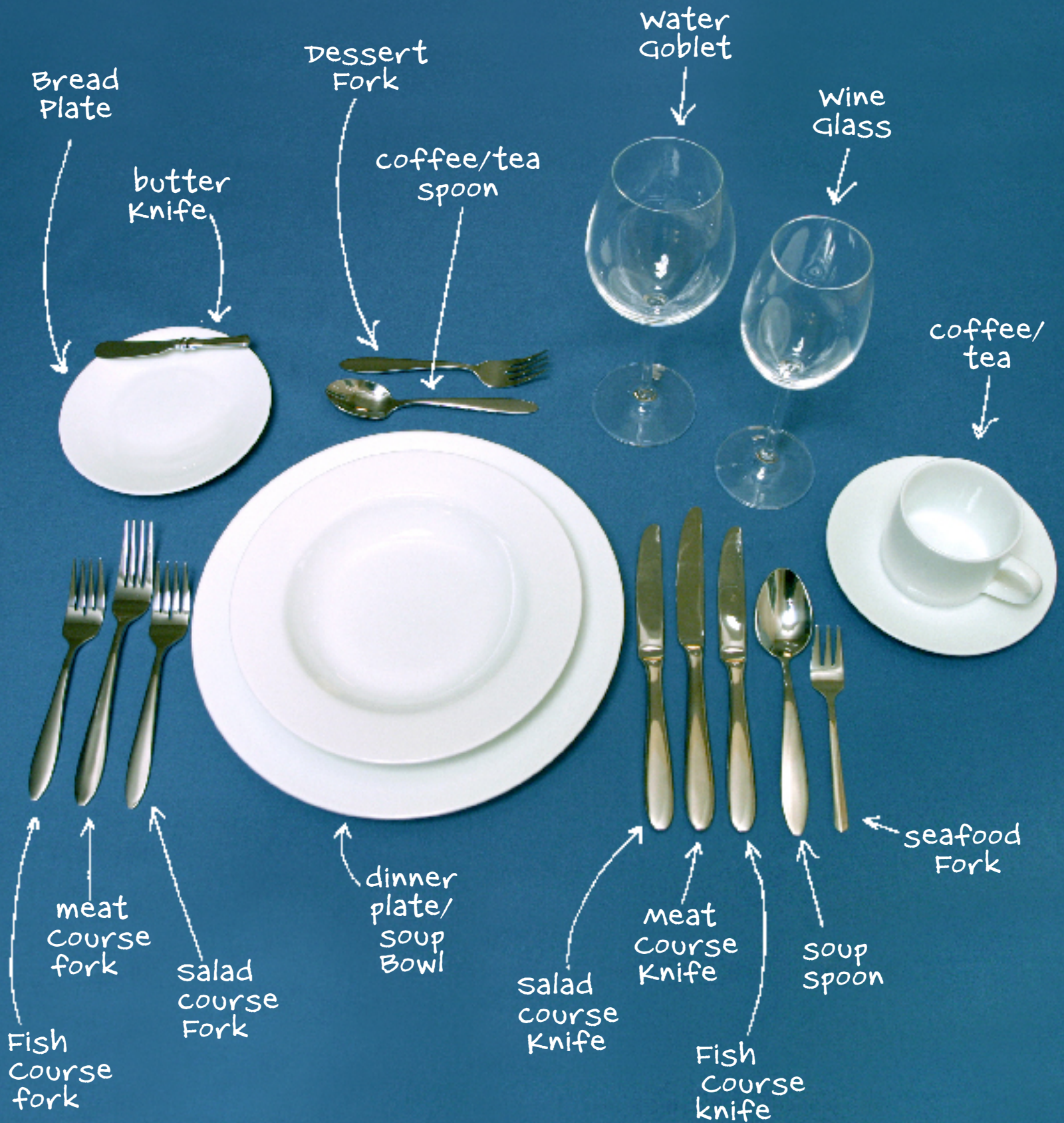
In fact, Prisby's goal for the NCAA cross country championship meet last fall was top 10, up from 19th in 2005. Now she has set her formidable sights on the indoor and outdoor track seasons. The goal: All-America in the 5,000-meter run for indoor and 10,000-meter run for outdoor.

So far, so good. At the indoor season opener in January, the Southern Maine Invitational, Prisby won the 3,000-meter run with a time of 10:21.43. The second-place runner trailed her by 30 seconds.

"That's the greatest thing about it," she said. "Seeing the results of all those hours of training pay off. . . . I just love to run."

Karen Prisby '07 en route to her 12th-place finish at the NCAA Division III cross country championships.

FROM THE HILL



AND DON'T SLURP YOUR SOUP

Students sit down to a five-course lesson on dining etiquette

EMILY JUDEM '06 STORY

FRED FIELD PHOTO

For the last three years Michael “Kip” Kiprop '07 has dined in establishments where the favorites tend toward pizza and burgers and diners arrive in their pajamas. But next year Kiprop will be working for Barclays Capital in New York City, and he suspects college eating habits won't impress clients and bosses.

“I've heard of cases of people being fired for not behaving well at the table,” Kiprop said.

On November 16 he was one of 60 Colby seniors who traded sweatpants and dining hall trays for dress clothes, a five-course dinner, and an etiquette lesson. The students were joined by some 40 area alumni for the fifth semi-annual etiquette dinner, sponsored by the Student Alumni Association and emceed by Varun Avasthi, director of dining services.

The etiquette dinner is part of a “real life” series aimed at teaching real-world-bound students practical skills they don't learn in class. According to Avasthi, etiquette is important for college seniors entering the professional world. “The basis of it is you're going out into the world for the first time in a working environment, and you have to know how to conduct yourself,” he said.

For that reason the etiquette meal always includes foods that are difficult to eat politely. This year the challenge began with a skewered-beef appetizer, which Avasthi advised one should eat “very delicately, and as nicely as you possibly can, without hurting yourself in the process.” Italian wedding soup and lemon sorbet were served before the main course, which included sun-

dried tomato, leek, and ricotta-stuffed chicken roulade, potato pancakes, and a vegetable medley. Finally, guests were served coffee and cheesecake in phyllo cups.

While enjoying the offerings, guests learned how to correctly sip soup, politely tell a coworker she has food in her teeth, and even the correct way to spit food out. As Avasthi put it, “You don't want to put chewed food back on the plate for everybody else to see what you did with it.”

Whether it was that lesson or the finer points of dining manners, the Colbians were eager learners.

Kiprop said the event taught him several helpful guidelines for professional dinner engagements, such as how to order wine for clients. “Apparently when you're choosing wine you propose to the table, ‘Does anyone prefer red over white?’... I thought you'd order what you like and then force other people to drink [it].”

“Apparently when you're choosing wine you propose to the table, ‘Does anyone prefer red over white?’... I thought you'd order what you like and then force other people to drink [it].”

Michael Kiprop '07

Suzi Swartz '07 hopes to be an English language assistant in Austria next year and doesn't see herself ordering wine for her boss anytime soon. “Unless you're working in some Fortune 500 company and you're going out with the CEO ... how many of us are really going to go to a five-star restaurant?” Swartz asked. But still, she says etiquette might come in handy. “I think a lot of times the eating atmosphere in Europe is a little less casual than here.”

Andrew O'Connell-Shevenell '07J doesn't want to work on Wall Street, either. He plans to travel to China next year in order to study the

mind-body connection through meditation and other practices—an endeavor that is unlikely to include many cocktail parties. But he said the lessons weren't wasted.

“There is this dynamic of elitism [associated with etiquette], but at least you have that skill,” O'Connell-Shevenell said. “So if you need to enter that world, you can enter that world. Because we're certainly in a place where that world exists, and that world has money and that world has power. And if you want to be able to move things around, you've got to be able to enter that world.”

Whether students attended the dinner to learn rules they'll have to follow every day, to acquire skills they'll rarely use, to meet alumni, or just to eat some good food, all seemed to enjoy themselves. “It was a lot of fun,” said O'Connell-Shevenell. “It feels cool to just ... know how to not be a slob.”

Q&A

TRUSTEE CHARLES TERRELL '70 ON CULTURE SHOCK, PEPPER HALL, AND AN ACT OF DEFIANCE THAT PRESAGED A CAREER DEVOTED TO CHANGING THE FACE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

It was 1966 when Charles Terrell '70, the adopted son of a Washington, D.C., dishwasher, arrived on Mayflower Hill. Terrell majored in history, was active in student government, and went on to a distinguished career in higher education. Now vice president of the American Association of Medical Colleges, Division of Diversity Policy and Programs, Terrell still is remembered at Colby for the week in March 1970 when he and 17 classmates occupied Lorimer Chapel for a week to protest College policies relating to minority and scholarship students. In an interview with Colby magazine Managing Editor Gerry Boyle '78 at Terrell's home in the Brookline section of Boston, Terrell spoke about his experiences before, during, and after Colby. The following is an excerpt.

It was massive culture shock when I arrived at Colby. [Growing up in Washington, D.C.] I only saw white people on television or once in a blue moon when we went downtown to go shopping. Otherwise everything was black. Black undertakers, black lawyers, black doctors. Everybody black. So when I got to Colby, of course the landscape was completely foreign.

It would be politically incorrect to do this now, but Colby put all of the black men— ... there were twenty of us, only two of us graduated—but all of the black guys started out in Pepper Hall. And they tended to stay in Pepper Hall. I'm pretty sure that was a conscious decision to put us all together. ... It was easier, though some of the conversations you would have, when you're in the bathroom and you're trying to comb your hair and they're looking at you ... and I'd do the same thing. ...

So I say this because it was a difficult cultural transition, but there was just enough of a critical mass of black kids that I didn't feel completely alienated. And the guys in Pepper Hall were incredible.

We had a fraternity there. We had a wonderful time. It was very easy to find a niche. ...

But you are most known for leading the chapel takeover, which I understand has bothered you at times.

Yes. Because, interestingly, I was vice president of the freshman class. I was president of the sophomore class. I was president of the junior class. People tend to forget that I was a citizen of the institution. And I ran for president of student government. [I] lost but I was always actively involved. I was always interested in issues. I wasn't focused on the issues we raised with the [Lorimer] Chapel [takeover] until senior year.

Quite frankly, what happened was Alpha Delta Phi, that group of guys in Pepper, we had to disband the fraternity in 1969. My roommate and I—we were going to have this wonderful suite in Pepper Hall—both of us got apartments downtown. I lived on Front Street. I lived above Senator Mitchell's parents. They were so wonderful to me. Very sweet. All I did was go up to campus to class, study, work. I still had two jobs.

Sebsibe Mamo ['70] and I were good friends. He said, "There are a lot of things happening. We have quite a cohort of black and Latin students." He said, "They've started quite an organization." I said, "I've made my contribution." He said, "Come to one meeting for me."

The meeting that we went to was the meeting they were holding for elections for SOBU (Student Organization for Black Unity). We were just talking about things as a group and I was nominated and Terry—I forget Terry's last name—was nominated. I said, "If elected I will not serve. I have other things to do." We had about three or four ballots and Terry and I tied. The next ballot I won by one. For some reason I couldn't keep my promise. That's when, as a group, we started coming together [about] what we thought we needed. Now there was a critical mass of us.

Our primary issue—and this tends to get forgotten—we felt there was disparate treatment of students on scholarship and those who were not. If you were on scholarship, you had to maintain an increasingly high GPA to keep your scholarship. I saw a number of black students leave. If they needed a 2.4, they got a 2.3. I always made it but just. It was a very stressful thing we lived with. Every semester I wondered if I was going to be allowed to stay, just because I might fall below.

That central demand for us was why not treat us all the same? If we're here on a scholarship, if we're negotiating an environment that may be more challenging for us than for others, if we're required to work ten hours a week and some of us have other jobs and our friends don't have to work at all—we're not saying we should not have to maintain satisfactory academic progress, but why should we have to maintain a higher level than these other kids who have no responsibilities? That was key for us. We saw many of us who didn't make it.

In Earl Smith's book [*Mayflower Hill*] he writes that the trustees took up the issue and didn't want to water down standards for the minority students. How can that be? We weren't wanting to water down standards. We just didn't want to have to pack our bags if we fell below a certain standard, and other students could stay with a 2.0 or 2.1. It was a challenge to the College and a challenge to [President] Strider. That's what happened. I got involved in it unexpectedly with a critical mass of black and Latin students who wanted to make changes.

We picked the chapel because we felt if we tried to do Eustis we'd really be disrupting the central functioning of the College. We said, "Let's pick the chapel. It symbolizes the College. It will upset them but it won't stop anything."

So I have some great memories of blasting the Temptations and Motown across the College, of students trying to help us. We had meeting after meeting. We were very disciplined. We had newspapers and radio and television people calling. No matter where I was, no one spoke until they found me.



Charles Terrell '70, center, is shown with a group of student protesters on the steps of Lorimer Chapel in March 1970. The group occupied the chapel for a week to draw attention to College policies that were unfair to minority and underprivileged students.

We were struggling. There were campus meetings and a support group outside. We were always thinking, what are we going to do? We knew we could only be in there for so long. When we were served with the injunction to vacate, we were told if we left voluntarily we could go back to class and finish out the semester without repercussion. But if they had to force us out, that would not be the case. We were really torn. I would say about half the people felt that we would fail if we left on our own accord.

It may have been self-serving, in retrospect, but they did tend to listen to me and I just suggested that—many of them were freshmen—I just said to them, “What are we gonna do if they evict us?” I said, “I don’t have anywhere to go. Do you guys have anywhere to go? We made our point. If they evict us, we’re not going to get any more than we’re going to get if we leave on our own. Let’s just go. We can keep our careers. We’ve done something courageous.” We had a quite a battle but finally they agreed to do that. After all these years, I’m glad it happened that way instead of the other.

So I’m pleased with the points that we tried to make. That [requirement for financial-aid students] was changed. I view that as our legacy and our gift to students. The focus of my career in higher education is to provide access for the under-served, low-income, and underrepresented students. I think that’s what we were trying to do and I think we did that.

My whole life has been in higher education, though now in a strange branch of it, in medical education, which wasn’t my plan. But again, my job is to change the face of medicine and make it like the face of America. [These are] the same issues that we’re dealing with on undergraduate campuses like Colby and other places. ...

I think we go through cycles. For underrepresented minority students, I think we’ve suffered through maybe two or three generations of children raising children, and I think the great similarity between underrepresented students and low-income and poor students is that poverty may be much more of the issue than race or ethnicity.

When you look at what needs to be done, it’s extraordinary. ... It’s incredible being back in Washington, D.C. I have my Colby and my master’s and my doctoral degrees in my den, framed here [at his Brookline home]. In my office in Washington, D.C., I have my junior high school diploma and my high school diploma because all kinds of people come into my office. I don’t give a damn about what they think about where I went to college but I want them to know I’m a product of the Washington, D.C., school system. Quite often they will look and they’ll say, “You went to McKinley?” That’s important to me because now people don’t typically say that with any kind of pride at all.

For the full interview with Charles Terrell '70,
go to www.colby.mag, keyword terrell.





Learning by Doing

Liliana Andonova's students develop practical solutions to global problems

RUTH JACOBS STORY

FRED FIELD PHOTO

Before banker Muhammad Yunus brought attention to micro-lending by winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Government Liliana Andonova had created a course on poverty alleviation and sustainable development and had assigned Yunus's book, *Banker to the Poor: Micro-Lending and the Battle Against World Poverty*. As she sees it, extreme poverty is one of the three major challenges of the 21st century, right up there with climate change, which she tackles in another course. (The third, she says, is security: "I don't work on security, but climate change and poverty are right down my alley.")

Now in her third year at Colby, Andonova guides her students through these complex global issues—and teaches them to find practical solutions. Her students begin by acquiring in-depth knowledge of their subject, then put that knowledge to use in exercises that might include negotiating a proposed international treaty on emissions or interviewing local volunteers in Paraguay. "It's a completely different kind of framework—of learning and participating," said Renzo Mendoza Castro '07, who took the climate-change course last spring and the new sustainable-development course in the fall.

In Climate Change Politics, using the Kyoto Protocol as a starting point, students collectively created a treaty more likely to be ratified by key countries. Each student represented a country in the negotiations. "Every student got to know in depth the country they were representing," said Mendoza. "We learned a lot about how countries make concessions and stand strong on certain things." Mendoza represented Peru, his home country. And in February he is traveling to Chicago with Andonova to present a paper about this course at the International Studies Association's annual convention.

Mendoza's paper will discuss the international solution that his class devised, a solution that

Andonova called "very, very ingenious." One of the reasons the U.S. pulled out of Kyoto, she says, was the failure of some developing nations (and major polluters) to ratify. Her students found a way to appeal to those countries, namely China and India. The class set emissions targets for developing countries to just slightly below "business as usual," making the target attainable. If the countries dropped below target, they could sell their credits to the international market.

"Even though it looks weak, it commits countries to a target and it's no longer a question of whether they're in or out of the treaty," she said. "It's important that they're in, because we have seen that if countries have at least some commitments, even if those commitments are not perfect, industry starts to organize, industry starts to look for alternative technologies. The incentives to innovate are much greater than if you don't have any commitments at all."

And so goes the discussion—from the environment to governmental policies to the economy and technology. It's the web of interdisciplinary study. As Andonova explains, "You need to understand both the politics of environmental policy as well as how different pieces of environmental legislation affect societies—both politically as well in socioeconomic terms—which translates back into politics. So I don't think you can neatly separate these things."

The same is true when studying poverty and sustainable development in Andonova's Environmental Policy Practicum course. Seniors majoring in environmental studies, government, and international studies read diverse theoretical texts about challenges and new ideas around sustainable development. Then Andonova explored a real civic engagement piece: "What could a group of very committed, interested, and intelligent students do?" she asked.

Focusing on the town of Carapegua, Paraguay, students collected information on the progress of

a research institute working to help the municipality adopt a development path in line with the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The institute had trained volunteers to work with people in this community, one of the poorest in Paraguay, according to Andonova, on everything from marketing handmade items to giving vaccinations.

Students each explored one area of reform, from health to infrastructure to education to agriculture. Some students conducted phone interviews and surveys; some received original documents that classmates then translated into English. What was working, they asked, and what was not? They planned to share their findings with officials from the institute and leaders in the community of Carapegua. Beyond helping the town determine a path ahead, said Andonova, "Having the attention put on that project and having an assessment of its impact is helpful in sustaining it, in making it last."

She should know. Prior to coming to Colby, Andonova studied the role of local and global institutions in climate-change policies while at the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Before that, while earning her Ph.D. in politics from Harvard, the native of Bulgaria focused on how European Union integration influences environmental policies in Central and Eastern Europe.

From Harvard to Columbia, Andonova met people she has engaged in her Colby courses. Some have visited Mayflower Hill, and, in October, students in her poverty course traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with others. Students flew out early one morning, visited The World Bank, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the World Resources Institute, then flew home. "They took a six o'clock morning flight to Washington to be there for a nine-thirty meeting... college students waking up at four-thirty to go to a meeting!" she said with a chuckle. "That means they were interested."



b.good for Goodness Sake

Boston entrepreneurs cook up a winning recipe of fresh food, a friendly uncle, and a dearly beloved El Camino

BRENDAN SULLIVAN '06 STORY

MARY SCHWALM '99 PHOTO

For childhood friends Jon Olinto '98 and Anthony Ackil, business has always been about combinations. Their endeavors—from attempting to create cigar vending machines or massage parlors with upscale appeal—never included just one ingredient. Their latest recipe for success? Lean beef, a comically deadpan 70-year-old Korean War veteran, and a barely functioning El Camino with a red flame paint job.

A strange combination it may be, but it is one that has landed the entrepreneurs a thriving fast-food business in the Boston area: b.good. The second restaurant in the chain recently opened in Cambridge, Mass., and a third is slated to open in Brookline this spring. B.good aims to

make fast food healthy, or at least healthier, by serving lean beef burgers, baked (not fried) French fries, and other home-style items whose nutrition facts are proudly displayed on the menu.

“It is kind of the anti-McDonald’s,” said Tony Rosenfeld '97, a co-owner who joined Olinto and Ackil as culinary advisor and head chef during the early development stages of b.good. “We serve real food, homemade by people instead of mass produced by machines. And instead of Ronald McDonald we have Uncle Faris,” Rosenfeld said.

While the owners work “insane” hours, Uncle Faris (Faris Ackil, Anthony Ackil’s 70-year-old uncle) serves as the company mascot, appearing on



"It is kind of the anti-McDonald's. We serve real food, homemade by people instead of mass produced by machines."

Tony Rosenfeld '97,
co-owner of b.good restaurants

ventional marketing, opting to interact more directly with its customers. Patrons have named several selections on the menu, including a couple of items named for TV characters. Where else can you order a "Cousin Oliver" from *The Brady Bunch*?

The owners also hold an annual spinach eating contest in which the winners score free burgers for life. Figuring the victors would come in no more than once a week for a free meal, the prize was thought to be fun and harmless. Olinto, a former management consultant, is not so sure anymore. "One winner, an offensive lineman at Harvard, vowed to eat a thousand burgers before graduating, so he comes in here almost every day for his free food," said Olinto.

Despite signing away the revenues from all those hamburgers (valued at more than \$5,000), b.good has managed to thrive since its grand opening in Boston's Back Bay in 2004. The success is due in part to clever advertising, including e-mail newsletters, free T-shirts, and, of course, the company vehicle—a 1979 El Camino, bought for \$1,650 off Craigslist and dubbed "El Tio." "We originally planned to put the fry machine in the back of the El Camino and drive around handing out fries, but it turned out not to be mechanically feasible," Olinto said.

The restaurant's combination of healthy food and healthy sense of humor has pushed it past the food industry's dreaded "first two years," a period from which only 10 percent of new restaurants emerge, Rosenfeld said. As its business slogan says, b.good promises "real.food.fast"—a combination that has made the chain a success, real fast.

T-shirts, posters, and in online videos in which he shares everything from offbeat wisdom to memories of the Korean War. In one promotional video, he urges, "Always treat your body well by eating at b.good, as eating at other fast food establishments may cause gastric discomfort or even pregnancy." Uncle Faris's comedic appeal has landed him some local fame. He threw the first pitch at a Red Sox game last season—after chatting up catcher Jason Varitek in the dugout.

Faris is an appropriate symbol of the restaurant. The two founders grew up in his kitchen and say they used his loyalty as a model of their business-to-customer relationships. The restaurant shies away from con-

Opposite page, Jon Olinto '98, left, and Tony Rosenfeld '97 work the grill at b.good, which they cofounded in Boston in 2004. Above, Olinto and Rosenfeld at one of their two locations. A third restaurant was expected to open this spring.

Late to School

For Leo Trudel, a classroom was something new and different

GERRY BOYLE '78 STORY

FRED FIELD PHOTO

When Leo Trudel '07 was applying to college, he was at a bit of a disadvantage.

Trudel, now an economics and government double major, hadn't graduated with honors or been elected class president. He had no GPA. He was disappointed by his first SAT scores but not entirely surprised.

"Those were the first tests I ever took in my life," Trudel said.

Not just standardized tests. Tests of any kind.

Trudel, who hails from the northern Maine woods (literally), had never been in a formal school until college. He was short on academic credentials but, in the highly competitive world of college admissions, with applicants looking for any way to stand out, Trudel jumped off the page.

"Normally you would say, 'Well, this is never going to work,'" said Steve Thomas, Colby's director of admissions. "But there was something electric about him. His story is just so compelling."

In fact, Trudel's presence may be the only thing electric about him. He was raised outside the town of Cabot, Vermont, where he lived off the grid with his parents and three sisters.

But off the grid in Vermont was suburban compared to the family's next stop: Township 18, Range 10, an unorganized (as in no town, no services) swath of rugged forest on the Canadian border 14 miles west of Fort Kent, Maine.

The Trudels—Rhode Island native Julie, a stay-at-home mom, and Massachusetts-raised Leo Jr., a college professor in business and economics—bought 280 acres of land, including a 30-acre island in the St. John River. They built a house and barns, cutting logs and moving them with draft horses to their own sawmill.

That the Trudels are the township's only residents is no surprise, considering that the most convenient way to get to the family farm is truly over the river and through the woods.

"It's very difficult to get there because we have to rely on the road the paper companies built," Trudel said. "Even then, it's an extra hour to drive all the way around. Normally we just canoe across if we want to get in and out."

With the road impassable during winter and Maine's spring "mud season," the family paddled or poled back and forth year-round, preferring

to come and go through Canada because the St. Francis River is narrower. They stayed off the river only in the spring when ice was coming downstream. "That's the one time we are literally locked either in or out, because the ice breaks up," he said. "The river's moving, there are ice chunks, and it's dangerous. We just stay on the farm."

With horses, cattle, sheep, and chickens, along with gardens that supplied the family with "everything but grain," there was plenty to do. And along with chores, there was the need for education. While some home-schooling methods are structured, the Trudels' was based on the children's curiosity.

"My mother had this philosophy when we were young that if we were motivated to learn then we would do it," Trudel said. "She was always supportive. If we had a question, she was ruthless about finding the answer for us. Otherwise she just assumed we would do most of the work ourselves."

For Trudel it was one independent study after another. When he was 12 it was chemistry. The family took chemistry books from the local library and his mother, who has a bachelor's degree from Franklin Pierce College in New Hampshire, brought textbooks home and helped Trudel with the material, he said.

"Otherwise, there was no order to what we learned," he said. "There was no particular level at which we started or ended. It was just wherever we wanted to be."

Books were supplemented by discussion. "We talked around the dinner table," Trudel said. "If I was doing chores with my father ... he would give me these business problems. Or give me a verbal business plan and ask me to determine what the profit would be. That was my type of schooling."

When he was 17, Trudel joined in extracurricular activities at a high school. As a homeschooler, he joined the cross country team at Fort Kent High School, following that with wrestling and a part in the school play. Still, when he went to apply to college (his choice, not his parents') Trudel was a mystery. Thomas, who admits two or three homeschoolers each year, still was astounded. And captivated. "He was just completely raw," he said. "But there was this will you really couldn't deny."

Though Trudel was denied admission, he was advised to go to the University of Maine, retake the SATs, and apply again. He did just that, earned nearly a 4.0 GPA at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, brought up his ACT scores, and showed up in Thomas's office again.

He was accepted, but the biggest challenge was ahead of him. "My first few semesters were extremely hard," Trudel said.

His earlier free-form education made it hard for him to adjust to the structure of Colby courses. "I love learning," he said. "I usually like doing research, but I don't particularly like sitting through class. I don't like tests. I don't like having to learn a set number of things that I don't see as particularly useful or applicable. But that's an old complaint."

Michael Donihue '79, associate professor of economics, said Trudel clearly was less prepared than other students in his macroeconomics class. Trudel survived, Donihue said, because of "his sheer determination and his ability to display knowledge outside of traditional exams."

And the adjustment to the cultural and social side of Colby?

"In this case it was just that everything was easier," Trudel said, smiling. "I didn't have to chop wood and start a fire to get hot water."

With that spare time, Trudel went out for the football team, not only as a walk-on, but a walk-on who had never put on a helmet or caught a pass. A skeptical Coach Ed Mestieri had him film games and practices that first season. Trudel eventually joined the team. A strong safety, he said he was pretty much a practice player but loved every minute of his football experience. "I liked the competition. I liked pushing myself to my limit every single day and getting a little bit better. I liked the brotherhood of the team," Trudel said.

Said Mestieri: "He was respected. That's the key word."

And how did other Colby students react when he told them about his background? Trudel said he tells close friends but soon gave up on sharing his experience with casual acquaintances. "The typical response is that they don't believe me," he said. "They actually think I'm making it up."

Leo Trudel '07 poles his canoe on the St. Francis River in northern Maine. The river is the international boundary, separating the Trudel family's land in Maine from New Brunswick. The family often canoes to its land, saving a long drive on rough and sometimes impassable logging roads.



For the more photos of Leo Trudel's home,
go to www.colby.mag, keyword trudel.



Equal Opportunity?

HEATHER JOHNSON FINDS THAT EVEN MODEST WEALTH OPENS DOORS

ADRIANA NORDIN MANAN '07 STORY

RYAN HULVAT PHOTO

America may be the land of opportunity, but is that opportunity equal? Hardly, says sociologist Heather Johnson '94, whose new book shows that even the modest wealth of America's middle class opens doors that remain closed to a large sector of our society.

The American Dream and the Power of Wealth: Choosing Schools and Inheriting Inequality in the Land of Opportunity (Routledge, 2006) explores the role that wealth plays in determining access to education—and how people perceive (or misperceive) this, given America's ideals of equality, fairness, and equal opportunity.

Johnson, assistant professor of sociology at Lehigh University, has illuminated a stark but often overlooked fact: income pays the monthly bills, but wealth pays for big-ticket items like the downpayment on a house or tuition at a private school. And big-ticket advantages—or the lack of them—shape our lives and our society.

The differences are not easily identified, but, according to Johnson, understanding them is essential to any discussion of the widening socioeconomic gap in America.

"While income is usually earned through an occupation of some sort, wealth is the money we own," Johnson said in a recent interview. "From research conducted by sociologists across the country we know that across the financial spectrum most families use income for necessities such as food, housing, and the more day-to-day expenses. On the other hand, large pivotal moments throughout the course of life are being funded by wealth."

American Dream began with Johnson's doctoral dissertation research at Northeastern University. She ultimately interviewed more than 200 white and black families from various socioeconomic backgrounds in cities across the country.

"The families with histories of wealth, even in small amounts, were the most fascinating to me," Johnson said. "Even if they acknowledged the history of wealth in their families as giving them huge advantages in life... they would always say that all their accomplishments were individually earned and personally achieved."

This disconnect is to be expected, says John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, who knew the author when Johnson was a student at Colby.



"One of the problems in this country is that people of privilege do not understand on whose shoulders they stand," Gilkes said. "For the most part, society rewards individual achievement, and none of us made it by ourselves, although society will tell us that."

American society loves stories of upward mobility, she said, but often people whose stories tell of digging their way out of poverty actually had a hand from a relative or friend. "I think if people were more honest about that we would have very different attitudes in our society," Gilkes said. "Wealth does matter, and not just the fantastic wealth of the upper class but the kind of wealth building that has happened for the American middle class since World War II."

While Johnson's study primarily is about wealth, privilege, and socioeconomic class, it inevitably moves into the ways race fits into the equation.

She uses the hypothetical example of two lawyers, one black and from modest circumstances, the other white and middle class. Though they may

Sociologist Heather Johnson '94 speaks with students at Lehigh University. Johnson's studies have found that Americans' access to education is profoundly influenced by wealth.

have similar incomes, the impact of wealth in our society could lead them to have very different lives.

Johnson writes that her research shows that the white lawyer, more likely to be from a middle or upper-middle class background, probably has advantages that are not obvious but are substantial.

He may have substantially less student-loan debt, for example. And while he is reaping the benefits of his income, the black lawyer, more likely to be a first-generation college graduate, may feel compelled to use his income to give back to his family and community.

"This is not a bad thing; it's just that by doing so he is not able to accumulate wealth the way his friend is," Johnson said. And that will affect the next generation in terms of educational opportunities, among other crucial advantages.

Gilkes, who has seen Johnson present at sociology conferences, says

her colleague "is really making a difference. One of the biggest topics [in sociology] is the study of the growing inequality in the country... and she is in the middle of it."

Johnson points to significant strides being made in our society in terms of issues related to gender, race, and sexual and religious orientation. "But class is still that huge elephant in the living room," she said, "that looming thing that has yet to be dealt with."

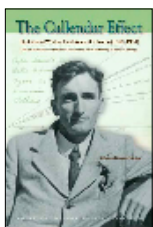
"The biggest challenge for us as a society is the ideology of the American Dream. As much as it is the heart and soul of this country and the most wonderful and beautiful thing about it, it is also in a very ironic way a major challenge for us, because until we can recognize that equal opportunity does not exist, we cannot make it exist, and until we can recognize it as a problem, we cannot have a solution. ... I truly believe that, in the United States, class is the final frontier."

RECENT RELEASES

The Callendar Effect

James Rodger Fleming (science, technology and society)

American Meteorological Society (2006)



Who discovered that global warming could be brought about by humans increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere? (No, it wasn't Al Gore.) In an award-winning new book, Fleming tells the story of Guy Stewart Callendar, the pioneering British scientist who discovered the dynamics of global warming—in 1938. Using never-before-published original scientific correspondence, notebooks, family letters, and photographs, science historian Fleming introduces us to one of Britain's leading engineers and explains his life and work through two World Wars to his continuing legacy as the scientist who established The Callendar Effect.

Women and Religion in the African Diaspora

Cheryl Townsend Gilkes (sociology, African-American studies), contributor

Johns Hopkins University Press (2006)

A collection of essays exploring how women of African descent have practiced religion in their lives. The book focuses on women of Christian denominations, African and Afro-Caribbean traditions, and Islam, and it has been hailed as "truly groundbreaking." Said scholar Cornel West, "This monumental text is the definitive examination of the rich and complex doings and sufferings of religious women of African descent." Gilkes's essay is titled, "Exploring the Religious Connection: Black Women Community Workers, Religious Agency, and the Force of Faith."

Heroes and Hero Cults in Latin America

Ben Fallaw (history, Latin American studies) and

Samuel Brunk, editors

University of Texas Press (2006)

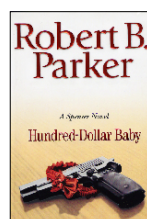
Through original essays on 10 modern Latin American heroes, Brunk, associate professor of history at the University of Texas at El Paso,

and Fallaw bring heroes back to the debate on Latin American history, moving away from the emphasis on social and cultural factors found in more recent scholarship on the region. With charisma derived more from relationships with admirers than personal qualities, heroes not only shape history, but also "tell us a great deal about the places from where they come," Brunk and Fallaw write. In the end, the editors argue, there is no formula for Latin American heroes, who both forge, and are forged by, unique national events.

Hundred Dollar Baby

Robert B. Parker '54

Putnam (2006)



Parker has gone on to create two other successful crime-novel series but his legions of fans still clamor for his first creation, Spenser, the iconic Boston private eye. In this, the 34th in the series, Spenser comes to the aid of Boston madame April Kyle, first rescued in *Ceremony* (1982). The trail of deception leads to New York con artists and hoodlums and offers lots of airtime for sidekick Hawk and paramour Susan. This is classic

Parker: crackling dialogue, sexy repartee, and the wisest wisecracks in crime fiction.

Jews at the Crossroads: Tradition and Accommodation during the Golden Age of the Hungarian Nobility

Howard N. Lupovitch (Jewish studies)

Central European University Press (2006)

In the 18th century, Miskolc was the home of one of the largest Jewish communities in Hungary, part of a then-new moderate form of traditional Judaism. Jews were able to reconcile the demands of Magyarization and citizenship and were able to be both traditional Jews and patriotic Magyars. Unlike many historians, Lupovitch differentiates between German and Habsburg Jewish history and shows how traditional Judaism evolved to meet the challenges of the time.