

Colby



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Real-Life Learning

Known worldwide for his work with environmental innovation, Anil Gupta visited Colby for a week in March as part of the Goldfarb Center's new visiting fellows program—and promptly took students away from the classroom.

Gupta, a professor at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, India, brought small groups of students on a series of day-long workshops at Waterville-area farms. The workshops stressed the importance of grassroots-level innovation and technology and that linking with such entrepreneurs will help Colby students learn new ways to be environmentally and socioeconomically responsible.

"People in academia don't know how much they can learn from the working people," Gupta said. "There is a missing link between Colby and the outside community. I want to link it."

Gupta has traveled across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas seeking out environmental innovators and inventions in rural areas and spreading

that knowledge to the world. In the process he has set up two NGOs: the Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI) and the Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network.

Gupta emphasizes that confining education and knowledge solely to classrooms ignores a major part of the learning experience. "I have always believed that knowledge is about knowing, doing, and feeling," he said. "If one is missing, you will have less incentive to take that knowledge and make change."

Instead of limiting the farm workshops

to environmental studies students, Gupta opened the sessions to all students, urging economics majors to learn the business side of farming from the farmers themselves and government

major to learn how agricultural policy affects the individual. "I feel like students, no matter [their] focus, need to experience [more]," Gupta said. "We need to redefine our conceptions of learning."

He returned to campus to guest lecture in classes and dine with students nightly. Gupta also delivered a lecture titled "Nature as a Metaphor for Designing Technologies, Institutions and Social Networks."

For more information about Gupta and his work, visit www.sristi.org. —Brendan Sullivan '06



Anil Gupta

ROB KIEVIT '09

Other Goldfarb Center Visiting Fellows

CLAUDIO AGOSTINI of Santiago, Chile, worked with Phil Brown (economics) to map poverty in Chile.

ORIT TYKOCINSKI of Israel collaborated with Thane Pittman (psychology) on research on inaction inertia.

JOHN GILMOUR of Cape Town, South Africa, worked with Catherine Besteman (anthropology and African studies) on her book, *Transforming Cape Town*.

ALEXANDER STOYANOV of Sofia, Bulgaria, helped design a project about poverty in Bulgaria with Liliana Andonova (environmental studies and government).

Student Activists Question Investments

Concerned over the possibility that some investments in Colby's portfolio may be extended to companies that do business in Burma (Myanmar), about 20 students visited trustee meetings on campus April 8 to press their case for the College to adopt a policy of shareholder activism.

As the trustees' Investment Committee convened, the group sat in the Schair-Swenson-Watson Alumni Center lobby and engaged several trustees and administrators in dialogue. The demonstration came a week after the Student Government Association (SGA) passed a motion calling for an analysis to see if there are Colby investments in Burma, a possibility that President William D. Adams called "slim."

Before the meeting Adams communicated to students that the Investment Committee had put the issue on its agenda in response to the SGA motion, and concerned students signaled their interest with chalked messages around the alumni center and with signs that they brought into the lobby as the Investment Committee convened. Several administrators and trustees, including Bill Rouhana '72, Richard Schmaltz '62, and Executive Assistant to the President Sally Baker,

engaged in a dialogue with the students for more than half an hour. Michael Deheeger '07 spoke on behalf of students, many of whom were motivated by personal experiences working in refugee camps along the Burma-Thailand border. Their message to trustees expressed concern about "the violent, corrupt rule" of "Burma's brutal military junta."

Afterward the Investment Committee issued a statement signaling the board's and administration's essential agreement with the SGA motion, though Adams allowed that there may not be full accord on the timetable for what he called the due diligence process. The committee added Sudan to Burma as an area of concern.

The debate over investments spilled onto campus sidewalks earlier in the semester in a series of chalked messages on the main academic quad, an area where chalking currently is proscribed. As a result the SGA was examining the rules governing chalking as adopted by the College's committee system in the past.

Various communications on the investments issue, including the Investment Committee's statement, are online at www.colby.edu/news_events/investments. —Stephen Collins '74

Following Nomads

Emilia Tjernström '06 won a 2006-07 Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, which includes a \$25,000 stipend for independent exploration and travel outside of the United States and outside her home country, Sweden. Her proposal, "Nomad's Land: Development, Conservation, and Nomads," will take her to Mali, Mauritania, Argentina, and Mongolia to survey nomadic herders caught between the forces of development and conservation.

"Nomads who have prospered for generations in hostile environments are struggling to cope with outsiders' conflicting interests," Tjernström says in an abstract of her proposal. "Migration routes are being cut off by park borders and mining claims, forcing nomads to move from ancestral lands."

Part of the impetus for her proposal was research she conducted in Mongolian national parks last summer, supported by a Freeman Foundation grant awarded through Colby. She also cited her research documenting the social contradictions of a developing socialist society, in Cuba, and a Jan Plan in Morocco, where she worked with street children in Tangiers. "I believe that it is essential to meet those who I theorize about," she explained.

Tjernström, an economics major, came to Colby from Red Cross Nordic United World College in Norway. She is Colby's 58th Watson Fellow. Since 1970-71 the College has had at least one Watson Fellow each year.

To be eligible for a Watson, a student must be a senior and must be nominated by one of 48 colleges that participate in the program. This year 50 Watson fellowships were awarded. For more information on the Watson program visit www.watsonfellowship.org. —S.C.



Emilia Tjernström '06

Wit & Wisdom

"First of all, you should all become teachers. If you've got other plans, sorry."

Caleb Dolan '96, principal of KIPP Gaston College Prep, a charter school in Gaston, N.C., speaking to students who attended a panel discussion "Transforming Education in Poor Communities," at Colby in March.

"We manage to keep busy, mainly because it takes twice as long to do anything."

Janice Tappin Lowell Whittemore '44, in Colby class notes.

"I was a little discouraged for a moment that they had a man playing me, but I got over it. After all, a man played me for years."

Professor Jennifer Finney Boylan, quoted in the Echo, reacting to a March 4 Saturday Night Live skit that was a parody of a Larry King Live show where she was interviewed about being transgendered.

"The devil ain't got no music.
All music is the Lord's music."

Gospel legend and rock 'n' roll hall of fame member Mavis Staples, on February 12 in Lorimer Chapel, talking about concerns over The Staple Singers bringing blues music into churches and gospel music into nightclubs.

"Want to know the secret of success in teaching?
Never teach a course for the first time."

Advice that Joe Reisert (government) says he got from his senior colleague Cal Mackenzie.

"I'm as proud of Seth as a person—and maybe even more so—than I am of Seth as a snowboarder."

Retired track and field and cross country coach Jim Wescott, reflecting on his son's Olympic gold in snowboard cross and the impact Seth has made on the children of Maine.

Mother on a Mission

Judy Shepard lost her son Matthew Shepard to a violent anti-gay hate crime seven years ago in Laramie, Wyoming. Since then she has traveled the country with the hope that sharing her story—and inspiring others to share theirs—will help change a culture in which ignorance fuels hate. "We need to put a face on the issues, or people don't listen. . . because they don't know," she told a packed Page Commons on March 8.

Shepard urged gay students in the audience to be courageous and tell their stories, to be open about their sexuality, and to be proud of who they are. "You need to show them who you are, that you're just like them—the only difference is who you love," she said. When people can relate, they will be more accepting and understanding, she says.

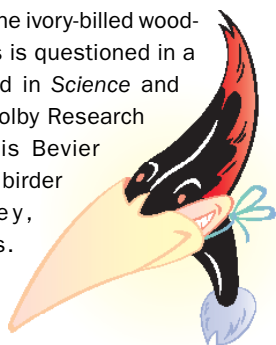
Shepard mixed personal accounts of her tragic loss with political calls for action. She urged the audience to be informed voters and to make sure that legislators know what their constituents want. She spoke in favor of anti-bullying policies in schools. She also supported gay marriage, which she called a "civil rights issue."

Returning to the personal, she recalled the time, in the early 1990s, when her son asked her about gay marriage. "I said, 'You know, Matt, I just don't see it happening in my lifetime. Maybe in yours, not in mine.' It turns out it's happened in my lifetime, not his."

"Matthew is no longer with us because two men learned—they learned—that it was okay to hate," she said. Now Shepard spends her life sharing lessons of love and respect. —Ruth Jacobs

Ivory Bill Controversy

The claim that the ivory-billed woodpecker endures is questioned in a paper published in *Science* and co-written by Colby Research Associate Louis Bevier and renowned birder David Sibley, among others. They maintain the Cornell videotape shows a pileated woodpecker, not an ivory bill. The Cornell team includes Sara Barker '94, whose role in the search was chronicled in the fall 2005 *Colby*.



Students Praised by Sen. Mitchell

At the April 24 kickoff event of "Burst the Bubble, Build a Bridge Week," Waterville native and former U.S. Senator George Mitchell praised students working to strengthen ties with the community. The week of activities included a panel discussion with Colby President William Adams and Waterville Mayor Paul LePage among others, a historical tour of Waterville, an a cappella concert, and more.

Roberts Rules

Colby has long been known for having some of the finest college food in the country. Now, with the completion of the Roberts dining hall renovation and the bright, spacious Dana and Foss, both renovated in the late 1990s, the College might just have some of the finest dining halls, too.

Roberts, or "Bobs," as most students call it, reopened with the second semester on February 6. The \$6.3-million overhaul and expansion, which began in June 2005, eliminated the behind-the-scenes kitchen, leaving the stainless-steel refrigerators, stoves, and ovens in plain sight. Now the chefs prepare almost all the food right behind the counters. "The object is to land it just before the customer picks it up," said Joe Klaus, associate director of dining services.

And what kinds of fare will be served in this state-of-the-art kitchen? Here's a sampling from the menu on its first day of business: spinach salad with hot bacon dressing, polenta with eggplant caponata, and beef machaca tostadas—as well as old standbys like omelets, grilled-cheese sandwiches, and Philly-style cheesesteaks.

To properly enjoy haute cuisine or comfort food, students congregate in a large dining room with sustainably harvested wood paneling and a working gas fireplace.

Behind the scenes lies a catering kitchen for Colby functions and a bakery where an 80-quart mixer spins dough that goes into the "Ferris wheel" oven, pumping out the campus-wide quota of cookies: 125 dozen a day. —R.J.



Students peruse offerings at the dessert bar in the newly renovated Roberts dining hall, which opened February 6. Food is prepared in open kitchens and eaten in a spacious dining room, complete with fireplace.

High Marks for SAT

A Colby task force on the use of standardized tests in the admissions process concluded a comprehensive review this winter and decided that the College should stick with the SAT or ACT requirement for at least three years. "All the other measures are declining in value," said Goldfarb Distinguished Professor of American Government and task force chair G. Calvin Mackenzie. The panel's recommendation, that Colby spend three years evaluating the new three-part SAT and testing a parallel evaluation system that doesn't use the tests, was accepted by President William Adams.

With national controversy around standardized college entrance examinations and after most of Colby's closest competitors have made submission of SAT scores optional, President Adams appointed the task force last fall. Members of the task force spoke to officials from colleges that have dropped standardized testing requirements and found that most said they would go back to requiring SATs if they could but, politically, they can't, Mackenzie said.

In an interview Mackenzie ticked off a list of reasons for the recommendation. First, with the new writing sample as part of the SAT

Reasoning Test, the College needs time to determine its value. Also, "When you look at the role the SAT score plays in our admissions process, it's pretty small," he said. But test scores do remain a valid predictor of students' first-year GPAs, he said, and dropping them from the mix would diminish Colby's ability to build the best qualified class.

Mackenzie said other criteria available to admissions officers are becoming less useful. He cited inconsistencies in GPAs from school to school, problems with grade inflation in high schools, and difficulties comparing class rank information. He also noted that, given increased international recruiting, it's hard to find a yardstick other than the SAT that measures all applicants consistently.

Ultimately, requiring the test appeals to students who did well on it. "It's a measure of the rigor of your process," Mackenzie said.

The recommendation to re-examine the admissions testing issue in 2009 gives Colby three years to evaluate the new three-part SAT Reasoning Test as well as time to construct and test a predictive model that does not rely on the SATs to see if there is an effective substitute. —S.C.

Still Pursuing the Dream

Almost four decades after the death of Martin Luther King Jr., his eldest daughter, Yolanda King, says people must refuse complacency and continue to work for positive social change. “That dream fiercely pursued by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is still a dream,” she told students and community members in Lorimer Chapel on March 11, in the keynote address of the student-organized Mosaic Conference.

To read the full story about King’s lecture-performance, visit www.colby.edu/mag/king.

Terhune Named V. P. for Student Affairs



TIMOTHY SOFRANIKO

Colby’s next vice president for student affairs and dean of students, James S. Terhune, will assume responsibilities in July, President William D. Adams announced April 24. Terhune comes from Colgate University, where he is currently dean of student affairs. He is a 1986 graduate of Middlebury College and holds a master’s in education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Three to be Tenured

Cathy Bevier (biology), Alec Campbell (sociology), and Judy Stone (biology) were granted tenure and will be promoted to associate professor effective September 1, 2006.



FRED FIELD

Beyond the Orthodox Matisyahu, an acclaimed Hasidic reggae singer who has developed a significant following, performed to a sold-out Page Commons on February 11. His was one of several performances by nationally recognized entertainers on campus this year. This fall’s biggest name was comedian Dane Cook, who recently filmed his first HBO special.

Honoring the Honorable

They weren’t wearing robes and they weren’t atop benches, but the judges commanded the attention of a packed auditorium at Colby on March 19. Along with many more admirers of the Honorable Frank M. Coffin, justices from federal and state courts flocked to campus to watch First Circuit Court of Appeals Senior Judge Coffin become the first Maine native to receive the Morton A. Brody Distinguished Judicial Service Award.

The award, given biennially, recognizes a judge who embodies the qualities that distinguished Brody: integrity, compassion, humanity, and judicial craftsmanship.

The presence of these judges and their remarks about Coffin—along with the remarks of others who did not attend, such as U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer H’98—revealed in what high esteem Coffin’s colleagues hold him. At a Goldfarb Center panel discussion about the Supreme Court under Chief Justice John Roberts, Hon. Robert Katzmann of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit went so far as to say, “If Humphrey and Muskie had won [the White House] in 1968, we would today be celebrating the ‘Coffin Court.’”

Loyalty to Coffin is evident in the existence of the “Coffin Clever,” a group of his nearly 70 former clerks, many of whom make periodic trips to Maine for reunions with the judge and his wife. They include Jeff Lehman, immediate past president of Cornell University, former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, and many academics, judges, and government officials, in addition to practicing lawyers.

Other admirers are former colleagues, such as Breyer, who wrote in a statement, “Judges who have not served on the First Circuit with Frank Coffin envy those who—like me—have had the opportunity to do so. Frank taught us much of value—about law and about character. Through his opinions, his legal writings, his government service, his humanity, he has become a judicial legend—a master craftsman of the law.” —R.J.

SAVING LIVES IN SIERRA LEONE

Green and Silver for SSWAC

The Schair-Swenson-Watson Alumni Center is officially a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green-certified building. The geothermally heated alumni center, which employs many other innovative environmentally friendly systems and technologies, exceeded basic LEED approval and received silver certification.

Student Photos Online

Three student photographers, Rob Kievit '09, Adam Musial '09, and Katherine Noble '09, document life on Mayflower Hill for Colby publications and Web pages. And now they're sharing images in an online photo gallery called The Student Lens. Each week they upload new shots. For current and previous installments, visit www.colby.edu/student_photos.

When David Amadu '07, a student from Sierra Leone, stopped to chat with his new neighbors in Mary Low last year, he didn't know the conversation might save a life back home.

Amadu's neighbors, Erin Rhoda '06 of Washington, Maine, and Emily Mosites '06 of Pittsburgh, were just back from a semester in Cork, Ireland. Both had spent time in Africa, but they were unfamiliar with Amadu's country. "He'd just sit down in our room and talk for hours," Rhoda said. "He told us the entire history of Sierra Leone."

A part of that history is an 11-year civil war that tore the country apart until a peace settlement was forged in 2002. One rural region in the Eastern Province, where Amadu's relatives still live, was especially hard hit and remains isolated today, with subsistence farmers simply trying to feed their families. In a region where poverty is endemic, preventive healthcare is not a top priority.

Among the prevalent, and preventable, diseases is malaria, Sierra Leone's leading cause of death of children under 5. "Adults can fight it off," said Amadu, a biology major planning to attend medical school. "With children and pregnant women, it's a big problem."

But it's a problem, the students decided, that can be addressed. "We said, 'We can do something,'" Rhoda recalled. "If we want to, we can do it."

The plan that emerged includes purchasing 2,000 insecticide-treated bed nets, the most effective way of preventing exposure to the mosquito-borne disease. The group—which soon included Jess Emerson '08, Kirsten Duda '09, Peter Steinour '07 (just back from Botswana)—also planned volunteer activities and an educational piece about causes and prevention.

The students have worked to raise money through various fund raisers and plan to leave for Africa June 2, returning June 30.

"It's just to see another life being saved," Amadu said. "That bed net is going to last two years and during that time, that kid is not going to get malaria. For a little money, you can save a life." —Gerry Boyle '78

And the Survey Says!

The last issue of *Colby* included a story about two alumni who cover news in the blogosphere. The rise of blogs, cable news, and online news sites has changed the way some people get their news. We asked: "What sources do you rely on?"

- 48%** primarily online (Web sites, blogs)
- 35%** primarily print (newspapers, magazines, and their online editions)
- 13%** primarily broadcast (television, radio)
- 4%** Other



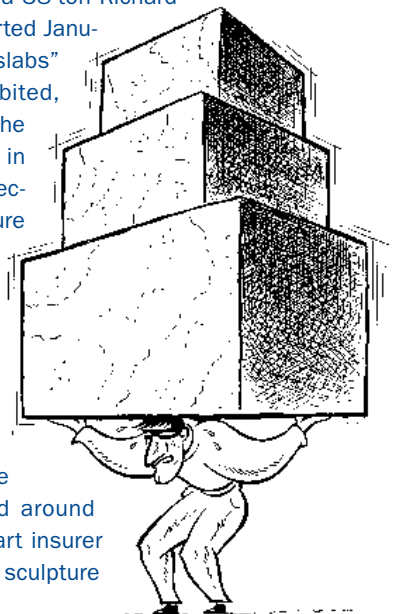
Consider This . . .

Five of nine NESCAC schools that once had fraternities have eliminated them since the early 1960s (see "The End," page 16). Are liberal arts colleges better off with or without them?

To answer, go to www.colby.edu/mag.

Nail Down 4-5-6

The loss of a sculpture from the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid might be less noteworthy if it weren't a 38-ton Richard Serra. The *New York Times* reported January 20 that the four "stark steel slabs" were purchased in 1987, exhibited, then sent to an art warehouse. The warehouse company dissolved in 1998 and, when the museum director wanted to display the sculpture last year, it had disappeared. That was a lightweight compared to Colby's Serra, 4-5-6, three steel blocks each weighing as much as a Greyhound bus. A week later the *Times* reported that more than 20 large sculptures, all bronze, were swiped from collections in and around London last year. It quoted an art insurer who said, "Never presume that a sculpture is too heavy to steal."





In the Swing

Courtney Chilcote '09 and David Connick '09 are among dancers who took part in a night of swing dancing at the Spa in February.
Photo by Katherine Noble '09



Spring in Their Step

Madison Gouzie '08 takes the baton from teammate Menya Hinga '09 during the 4X100 meter relay at the Maine State meet at Colby in April. The Colby relay team finished 3rd in the event.

Photo by Jeff Earickson