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Relief for Katrina's Children: NOW

Hundreds of New Orleans-area children displaced by Hurricane Katrina are back in school thanks in part to a whirlwind partnership linking Colby students, faculty, staff, and alumni with the organization Teach for America.

Colby's Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement and student leaders began fund-raising efforts soon after the hurricane hit, deciding early on to steer aid directly to primary and high school students, said L. Sandy Maisel, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Government and Goldfarb Center co-director.

Including matching funds allocated by President William D. Adams, the Colby community raised \$25,000 from faculty, staff, and students. "I was really thrilled with the committee we called upon," said Claire Walsh '06, co-chair of the Goldfarb Center Student Advisory Board. "People were running tables at every meal, constantly meeting about publicity. That was awesome."

In addition, nine Colby students will volunteer at the new school, New Orleans West (NOW) College Prep, during Jan Plan. The civic engagement course is offered by Professor of Education Mark Tappan, who was to join the students there.

Colby's involvement grew quickly with the help of Lewis Krinsky '65 of Houston, a long-time supporter of Teach for America efforts in that area. Krinsky, a friend of Maisel, learned

of the efforts to open a school for displaced New Orleans children living in Houston, and he agreed to serve as liaison between organizers there and Colby. "I knew there'd been a New Orleans [Teach for America] corps that had been displaced," Krinsky said. "It was almost a perfect fit."

The NOW College Prep students were among thousands of New Orleans-area residents evacuated to Houston. Teachers also had fled the hurricane and flooding and had scattered to other parts of the country, said Peter Cook, program director for Teach for America—Greater New Orleans. When it was decided to open a school for the New Orleans children, one of the first tasks was moving teachers to Houston. "Colby's very generous donation helped get all the teachers settled and ready for school."

With \$875,000 in private donations, and other state and federal aid, the new school was opened in a former elementary school near downtown Houston. Students were recruited from the Astrodome, Reliant



The Colby community raised funds for New Orleans West (NOW) College Prep, a new school in Houston for 350 children displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Center, and other places where New Orleans residents were housed. Administrators were provided by the KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program) organization of charter schools, and the entire teaching staff was drawn from the Teach For America corps, Cook said.

"It's kind of like a great experiment," he said. "We basically started a charter school in one month."

The incentive, he said, was to get children into classrooms. "At least it's stability in their lives," Cook said. "They have a routine after all of the chaos." —Gerry Boyle '78

Janice Kassman Moves On, Not Far



FRED FIELD

After 25 years as Colby's dean of students, Janice Armo Kassman (currently dean and vice president for student affairs) will become the president's special assistant for external relations at the end of this school year. A national search for her successor is underway.

President William Adams announced the impending shift in responsibilities in October. Begin-

ning next year Kassman will work with the College Relations Division on the capital campaign and on special projects in community relations and admissions.

Having joined the administration in 1974, she has worked with thousands of students who are now alumni. Those relationships, coupled with an intimate knowledge of contemporary student

life make her uniquely qualified for work with alumni and with prospective students. "No one at Colby has a broader acquaintance with current and former students," Adams said.

Kassman is Colby's first-ever vice president for student affairs, a title that was added to dean of students in 2001. —Stephen Collins '74

Innovative Jan Plan Choices

For more than 40 years now, Jan Plan has offered intriguing opportunities for Colby students to try something new, and January 2006 is no different. A new course, Economics 215, is called Made in China. After the class spends four days visiting American manufacturing plants, Assistant Professor Phil Brown will take 12 students to China to study the economic, political, and social issues associated with that country's rapid growth.

In The Career Experience, 15 first- and second-year students will examine historical, economic, and social changes in the world of work before spending four days in Boston exploring careers, including one day job shadowing.

This year Professor Mark Tappan's Urban and Multicultural Practicum in Education course will send nine students to volunteer in a charter school for children displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The course is the latest phase in Colby's hurricane relief efforts, which contributed \$25,000 to help establish the NOW College Prep school in Houston for evacuees. (See page 5.)

In Theater and Dance, renowned off-Broadway monologist Michael Daisey '96 will be in residence to teach a course, Drama and Dance: Performing Stories, working with students on the art of storytelling and extemporaneous autobiographical solo performance.

Add these new entries to some of the perennial favorites—American Independent Films (including a trip to Sundance), Israelis and Palestinians: Conflict and Accommodation, Blacksmithing or Furniture Making at the Hume Center, Tolkien's Sources—and Jan Plan sounds at least as good as ever. —S.C.



Act Locally, Shine Nationally

Buying local food is one of many initiatives in Colby's dining halls that earned the College a place in the National Wildlife Federation's annual Campus Ecology Yearbook, now online. Colby buys locally to reduce emissions from transportation, to reduce packaging, to support the local economy, and, of course, to provide fresher food for students.

Colbians Win Council Seats

In Waterville municipal elections held November 8, Henry Beck, a first-year Colby student and a Waterville native, was elected to the city council representing Ward 2. Also elected to the council was Thomas R.W. Longstaff, the Crawford Family Professor of Religious Studies, emeritus.

Google-bucks

Colby wasn't just watching from the sidelines as the run-up in the price of Google stock made news; a Sequoia Fund investment with a position in Google netted the College approximately \$12 million dollars.

ALUMNI DEDICATION

Doug Schair '67, the driving force and lead donor for the Schair-Swenson-Watson Alumni Center, wasn't able to attend the building dedication this fall. He passed away unexpectedly last January, as construction was entering the final phase. When his sister, Leslie Cohen, spoke at the ceremony on October 22, she said, "This dedication is a moment to acknowledge the long and loving relationship between a man and his alma mater." And so it was.

Colby's newest building is the gathering place for which alumni have yearned, and it houses the College Relations offices under one roof, as Schair envisioned. It features geothermal heating and countless environmentally green details, and, in the words of Student Alumni Association Co-President Amy Squires '06J, it is already "a meeting place for clubs, a venue for events, a student space, and a connection to our Colby past."

After Cohen regaled the crowd with letters her brother wrote home as a student ("Dear Mom, When I come home next weekend for Saturday lunch, I would like you to prepare the following if possible: wiener schnitzel"), she recalled her brother saying that he would love to teach at Colby. "Instead he gave his heart and soul to the college he loved," she said. —S.C.



The Schair-Swenson-Watson Alumni Center, across Mayflower Hill Drive from The F.W. Olin Science Center, was dedicated October 22.

BRYAN SPEER



The field house was transformed for the October 22 campaign kickoff dinner, where President William Adams was one of the speakers.

FRED FIELD

Campaign Kicks Off

Fireworks lit the skies over Mayflower Hill in October as the College kicked off Reaching the World: A Campaign for Colby, the most ambitious capital campaign in the College's 193-year history.

The dramatic announcement at the dinner on October 22 was that \$112 million, very close to half of the campaign goal, had already been raised during the quiet phase.

Reaching the World seeks to raise \$235 million by 2010. "Reaching the World is about building on the success of past generations and securing Colby's future," said Joe Boulos '68, chair of the Board of Trustees and emcee for the evening. "Reaching the World is also about keeping Colby accessible to capable students from all walks of life," he added.

The kickoff in Waterville was the first of three major events planned to launch the fund-raising initiative and to communicate the goals of the campaign to alumni. Dinner programs were scheduled for January 20 in Boston and January 26 in New York.

In Waterville almost 1,000 alumni and supporters came to campus for weekend events featuring student talent and showcasing academic initiatives. A grand dinner was held in the field house, transformed for the event with curtains, lights, and a stage. Reaching the World campaign co-chairs Bob Diamond '73 (speaking on tape from London) and Larry Pugh '56 exhorted the audience to support the campaign. "There is nothing more gratifying than providing opportunities that can help transform someone's life," Pugh said.

Up-to-date details about Reaching the World: A Campaign for Colby are online at www.colby.edu/campaign. —S.C.

A Mandala's Meaning

Thousands of people flocked to the Colby College Museum of Art in October to view the "painting" of a work of art that was destroyed almost as soon as it was completed.

Over five days, Tibetan artist Losang Samten carefully created a sand mandala on a platform in the museum. Often joined by students, staff, faculty, and residents of greater Waterville, Samten engaged onlookers with stories and reflections on the Buddhist philosophy that underlies the ancient practice of sand painting. It is a ritual he has repeated many times in past decades, creating mandala sand paintings for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural His-

tory, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, among many others.

The Colby painting, composed with grains of colored sand, featured circles representing principles of Buddhist belief, and a circle at the work's center, representing compassion. At the end of the week, Samten and onlookers swept the sand from the painting into a jar and, with an entourage of admirers in tow, prayed and then poured the sand into Johnson Pond.

With that reminder of the temporal nature of life and beauty, Samten went on his way. —Allison Cogbill '07



JOHN MEADER



Tibetan artist Losang Samten adds colored sand to a mandala he created in the Colby College Museum of Art.

Lovejoy Recipient Confronts Reality

Cynthia Tucker's journalism career has earned her admirers and enemies—and, now, Colby's 2005 Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award. The syndicated columnist and editorial page editor of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* received the award October 16. Countering the notion that "discernible reality doesn't matter," an attitude she attributed to some misguided public servants, she told the Lorimer Chapel audience, "Facts do matter. Indeed, access to reliable and verifiable information is one of the things that separates a rational functioning democracy from a dictatorship."

As a reporter Tucker covered Nelson Mandela's release from prison, and, in the 1980s, the U.S. military build-up in Nicaragua. In Atlanta she has taken the lonely road of chastising the family of Martin Luther King Jr., accusing them of profiteering with the sacred relics of America's civil rights movement—prosecuting authors for using King's words, then selling permission for telecom companies to use the "I Have a Dream" speech for marketing.

President William Adams compared Tucker with Lovejoy, who was killed defending his press from a pro-slavery mob in 1837. "On November ninth, one-hundred and sixty-eight years ago, Elijah Lovejoy was buried on his 35th birthday. Had he survived the mob, one can imagine him saying at some later date, 'I was too young and dumb to be as frightened as I should have been,'" Adams said, quoting Tucker's words about some of her own work.

Full coverage, including a transcript of Tucker's address and coverage of the Goldfarb Center panel discussion, is online at <http://www.colby.edu/lovejoy>. —S.C.

Wit & Wisdom

"I'm just so, like, beyond stress that I'm not stressing."

Student overheard in Spa a week before final exams.

"I came for the good weather."

Buffalo, New York, native Professor L. Sandy Maisel, explaining how he came to Colby and Maine in an interview for Internationalizing the Campus 2005.

"We were reminiscing just a moment ago about the lovely French dinners we had at the Chez Patee."

Kurt Swenson '67, at the dedication of the Schair-Swenson-Watson Alumni Center, relating a conversation with friends.

"I lost 90 pounds the first year and no one noticed."

Cathi Lee, Alumni Relations secretary, in story about how she lost 330 pounds, without bypass surgery, crash dieting, or diet pills—a feat that landed her on The Today Show and in People magazine.

"How is it that people without names or faces have so much to say about our government?"

Assistant Managing Editor of the Boston Globe Walter Robinson, speaking in a Goldfarb Center panel discussion about anonymous sources. Robinson led the team that exposed the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic church.

"Colby has reached such a state of excellence that you need a Bowdoin degree to mow the lawn."

Senator George Mitchell, quoting his father, who was a custodian at Colby, and who helped him get a job on the grounds crew after he graduated from Bowdoin.

And the Survey Says!

In the last issue, *Colby* wrote about the phenomenon of "helicopter parenting." We asked, "is a parent overly involved if he or she has called a professor to discuss a child's grade?" Here's how you weighed in.

79% Yes

6% No

15% Depends on the situation



Consider This . . .

As technology changes, so do the means of news dissemination ("Open Mic," page 24). The rise of blogs, cable news, and online news sites has changed the way some people get their news. What sources do you rely on? To answer go to www.colby.edu/mag.



ADAM MUSIAL '09

Off Broadway

Student performers in the 21st annual Broadway Musical Revue on stage at Cotter Union in November. The show, a perennial favorite on campus, included numbers from *The Fantastics*, *Footloose*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*, among others.

Conscience Cleansing

This September a Colby employee found an envelope on her windshield after work. In it was a note from a former student, confessing to a hit-and-run that damaged a car (not necessarily that employee's) in the same lot 12 years before. "I am . . . sober from all drugs or alcohol for over 7 years now. Righting my wrongs is part of my recovery," it said. There was no signature, but the envelope held \$150 in cash: "yours to keep and do with as you wish." The lucky recipient said she decided to share the windfall, paying tolls for the car behind her, coffee for the next person in line, taking people to lunch, etc. "It was so fun!" she reported.



Mitchell Offers Four Steps to Peace

Long before the U.S. was the most powerful nation, its principles propelled it to greatness. Americans must embrace those ideals and regain the confidence of other nations so the U.S. can reestablish its role as an effective world leader, said Senator George J. Mitchell in a lecture at Colby in September. "We have power to protect us and principles to guide us," he said. "One without the other will be inadequate to the challenges of the 21st century."

Mitchell's was the inaugural lecture of the George J. Mitchell Distinguished International Lecture Series, an initiative of Colby's Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement that promises to bring a prominent world leader to Waterville annually for a speech on international affairs.

The primary challenges we face, he said, are the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons; the increase in terrorist groups and their growing decentralization;

and the increase in hostility toward the United States.

The solution, he said, is not in the military. "Although military force must be used when necessary and appropriate, by itself it is plainly insufficient because this is not a conventional war," he said. Instead, America should rely on analyzing the intelligence it collects. "We must do much better at timely, incisive analysis or the mountains of data we collect will be of as little value as they were before 9/11."

America also needs allies. "To win the peace [in the Middle East], to prevail, we need all the help we can get . . . and we are much more likely to get that help if we can broaden, rather than narrow, the international coalition."

With both of these pieces in place, another thing must happen, he said: An end to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, which is a major contributor of anti-American sentiments in the Muslim world. The solution, he said, is to give both sides what they want. "I believe that

neither can obtain its objective by denying to the other its objective. The Palestinians are never going to achieve a state until the people of Israel have a reasonable degree of security, and Israel will not be able to achieve sustainable security over time until the Palestinians get a state," he said.

Finally, but not least important, is economic stability. "Despair is the fuel for instability and conflict everywhere. Hope is essential to peace and stability," he said. "There can be no hope without opportunity, and that requires economic growth and job creation. It is a universal truth that the best social program is a good job."

Mitchell expressed optimism at the possibility of a world without major war. "From my experience in Northern Ireland I formed the conviction that there's no such thing as a conflict that can't be ended. I saw it happen in Northern Ireland, and with strong leadership it can happen in the Middle East." —*Ruth Jacobs*

Cliff Walk

Patrick Bagley '09 is silhouetted near the end of a climb of Otter Cliffs in Acadia National Park during a Colby Outdoor Orientation Trip in September. The photo was taken by Rob Kievit '09, another member of the four-day rock-climbing trip.



