

Colby



Colby Magazine

Volume 94
Issue 3 *Fall 2005*

Article 5

October 2005

Colby News

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Recommended Citation

(2005) "Colby News," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 94 : Iss. 3 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol94/iss3/5>

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Get Thee to a Nunnery

Colby found an innovative solution to an unexpected housing shortage—leasing a former Catholic nuns’ residence to house 58 students a few hundred yards from the edge of campus.

The former Ursuline Sisters’ home adjoining the Mt. Merici School was leased late in the summer to deal with a housing crisis after three factors combined to swell the student population: an unexpectedly high yield from the applicants admitted to the Class of 2009, an unusual number of students returning from leaves of absence, and fewer students choosing to live off campus.

College officials considered other options to house students, including reserving space in a local hotel, but the recently vacated convent proved the best option. The number of retired Ursuline sisters living there had declined, and the remaining residents recently moved to a new, smaller building on the grounds.

The brick building, at the end of a tree-shaded drive, was converted to a dormitory with 17 double rooms and 34 singles and was named “Colby Gardens.” To transport students between the dorm and campus buildings, about a half-mile away, the College is providing a Colby Gardens shuttle van, has added the new dormitory to the regular jitney run, and has given students taxi vouchers. Inside, Colby Gardens features wireless Internet, a mini-cafeteria where continental breakfast is available, a fitness room, and spacious lounges with televisions.

Initial reaction to the plan was mixed, with some students—and parents—saying they preferred housing on the main campus. Students placed in Colby Gardens subsequently were given the option of rooms on the main campus; 19 of them moved. Offered the opportunity to move into Colby Gardens from main-campus dorms, 15 students accepted, according to the office of the dean of students.

Head Resident Elli Jenkins ’06 said some Colby Gardens residents would prefer to be on campus but most of the remaining residents seemed satisfied with their housing. Jenkins said she was enjoying



Colby Gardens, a former home for the Ursuline Sisters, is a temporary dormitory. The residence, located a half mile from the main campus, has a fitness center, spacious lounges, and a dining area, shown at left.

the opportunity to see people other than college students. “It’s the perfect situation,” she said. “The nuns and the [Mt. Merici School] kids next door.”

Less than perfect, some neighborhood residents feared. Before students arrived, neighbors—including Colby faculty—voiced concerns, anticipating noise and traffic problems. In neighborhood meetings and before the Waterville City Council, they demanded that Colby and city officials address those issues. Neighbors also complained they were not notified of the Colby move in advance.

Vice President for Student Affairs Janice Kassman told neighbors—and city officials—that student and professional staff would be in place to enforce regulations, including alcohol sanctions, and assured that the building’s (mostly underage) residents would not be allowed to host parties where alcohol was served.

Two weeks into the semester, Kassman said there had been no problems. “We had the first weekend and we had no noise complaints that I know of,” she said. “So far, so good.” —*Gerry Boyle ’78*

Natural Disaster Evokes Natural Response

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Colby rallied to offer support in a number of ways.

Shortly before Labor Day the College offered enrollment to qualified students whose schools were closed by Hurricane Katrina and enrolled students from Tulane and Loyola during the first week of classes.

Colby students rolled up their sleeves to

help, and the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement organized their efforts. They began with a fund raising drive that raised more than \$21,500 in its first two weeks to provide assistance to K-12 students displaced by the hurricane.

The Goldfarb Center launched an educational response, beginning with a panel discussion that included three Colby professors

and a former city planner of New Orleans.

Outreach through the Colby Volunteer Center will include working with other organizations to offer long-term support for resettlement needs, such as one that provides professional clothing to those who lost their belongings. Information about ongoing relief efforts is online at www.colby.edu/president/katrina. —*Ruth Jacobs*

The Beauty of *Ugly Ducklings*



While most graduating seniors are uncertain about what the future holds, Jeanette Richelson '05 had it made. She had a teaching contract with the New York Teaching Fellows, which would allow her to get a master's in education at the same time. But she gave it all up—for a play.

Ugly Ducklings, however, is no ordinary project. The play deals with issues of sexuality and bias-based harassment, bullying, and suicide at a girls' summer camp in Maine. Most of the cast is 8- to 16-year-old students from schools in Maine. *Ugly Ducklings* was produced by Hardy Girls Healthy Women and Greater Waterville's Communities for Children and Youth, and it

made its premiere run at Strider Theater September 15 through 17.

Richelson played the role of a stern, and apathetic camp counselor. Along with Siri Ashton '05, she worked on a Community Action Kit that will accompany a documentary film by award-winning director and producer Fawn Yacker. The kit, which will be distributed nationally, includes educational resources and a discussion guide on gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) issues in youth culture.

"I gave up my teaching job because I saw how devoted the people involved in this project were to making a difference," said Richelson. "I can't fathom how anyone could take their life, but kids kill themselves because of bias-based harassment. It shows how hurtful and cruel the words of others can be." The *Ugly Ducklings* team hopes the project will raise consciousness about GLBT issues. "We want the kids to develop compassion for those who are queer and harassed because of their identity," said Richelson.

Co-created by Professor of Education Lyn Mikel Brown and Karen Heck '74, Hardy Girls Healthy Women is a nonprofit organization that aims to improve the physical and social well-being of girls and women in Maine. Several Colby students have worked with the organization as volunteers or employees since its inception in 2000. —*Neba Sud '05*

Wit & Wisdom

"It is almost always a mistake to have heated arguments in virtual space."

President William Adams, offering advice to first-years at the Matriculation Convocation in September. (Adams's address is online at www.colby.edu/president/articles/firstyr05.htm.)

"We were giddy from sitting down at the big table."

Donnell O'Callaghan '06, president of the Student Government Association, describing himself and SGA Vice President Romeo Raugei '06 after their first meeting with the Board of Trustees. (The SGA president and vice president attend trustee meetings as student representatives to the board.)

"Are you the one with the whip?"

An Ursuline nun to Dean of Students Janice Kassman at a neighborhood tea arranged by student residents of Colby Gardens. The nun was referring to a letter to the editor in which Nancy (Briggs) Marshall '82 assured the neighbors that Kassman was always good at "cracking the whip."

"It will be reiterating in a ham-handed way what we already are doing."

Professor Joseph Reisert (government), quoted in the Portland Press Herald about Colby's plan for Congressionally mandated "Constitution Day" programs at American schools.

"Believe me, after four days of not showering, that shower will probably be the most memorable shower you ever take."

Melissa Hernandez '05, to a first-year student before he embarked on COOT.

"I hate that liberal newspaper."

Clyde L. Wheeler, Winslow, Maine, resident, after learning that, in its arts calendar, The New York Times had mistakenly printed his phone number instead of the number for the Colby College Museum of Art. He explained that he comes from a long line of Republicans.

New Scholarships a Dunn Deal

A Waterville woman has made a major gift to Colby that will provide four full scholarships a year to students who weren't even born when their benefactor passed away.

This spring Colby received the remainder of a trust set up by the late Florence E. Dunn—a Colby graduate (Class of 1892), a longtime professor of English, and for many years a trustee.

Dunn, who died in 1964, designated in her will that, following the death of her last surviving individual beneficiary, Colby would receive the remainder of her trust. She directed the College to establish a special scholarship fund, with first preference to Maine students who needed financial help to attend Colby.

When the trust came to the College it

had grown to \$1.6 million. That enables Colby to establish, in perpetuity, a full scholarship for a member of each class to be designated Dunn Scholars.

Dunn was born in Waterville and was one of the first members of Colby's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. She earned a master's degree at Radcliffe College and rose to full professor in Colby's English Department, retiring from teaching in 1934 to serve as a trustee.

A *Colby* magazine obituary identified her as being at the forefront of a group of women who "finally won the long struggle for equal recognition of the women's division" of the College, and in her will she specified that female students be given preference for at least half of the Dunn Scholarships. —*Stephen Collins '74*

Happy Birthday to COOT



Colby COOTers about to take to the water during an orientation sea kayaking trip on the Maine coast in the late 1980s.

Thirty years ago, 18 freshmen trekked into the Maine woods with a lot of enthusiasm and returned to campus with Katahdin or a piece of the Appalachian Trail under their belts. After the first “Freshman Wilderness Orientation Trip,” a *Colby* magazine article said, “The participants . . . hoped that the program could not only be continued but expanded next year...”

They got it. Since then, FWOC has become known as COOT (Colby Outdoor Orientation Trips), and it’s a rite of passage that almost every first-year chooses to brave. “It’s just sort of grown like a fungus,” said Jonathan Milne, director of the program, while preparing to send about 630 new students and trip leaders out on 52 trips throughout the state this summer.

While COOT orients students with Maine’s outdoors, it also orients students with each other. “Around a campfire you can really start talking about some meaningful things,” said Vice President for Student Affairs Janice Kassman. And while first-years are starting their year with a core group of about 10 friends, their roommates are doing the same, so when they get back to campus their social network expands. “It’s like this tentacle that radiates out,” said Kassman.

Tentacle? Fungus? Whatever COOT is, the reality is that four days of eating trail food, not showering, and sharing everything with a group of complete strangers makes them strangers no more. —R.J.

Courageous Columnist Takes Lovejoy

Cynthia Tucker, the editorial page editor of *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, will receive the Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award on October 16. Tucker, who earned praise “for her forceful, persuasive columns that confronted sacred cows and hot topics with unswerving candor” from Pulitzer Prize judges, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree and will speak during a formal convocation in Lorimer Chapel.

The Lovejoy Selection Com-

mittee chose Tucker because she has upheld the Lovejoy tradition of integrity and courage, challenging the Atlanta elite with principled editorial stands that aren’t always popular. The committee called her “an equal opportunity social critic,” who guides editorial policies on everything from foreign policy to local school board races and who has not been afraid to confront powerful people and institutions ranging from government officials to the Martin Luther King Jr. family.

Besides editing the *Journal-Constitution*’s editorial page, Tucker is a syndicated columnist and a frequent television commentator. As a reporter she covered local governments, national politics, crime, and education, and she filed dispatches from Africa, Central America, and Cuba as well as from stateside. In 2000 she won the American Society of Newspaper Editors’ Distinguished Writing Award, and last year she was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for commentary. —S.C.



Editor and columnist Cynthia Tucker

PENALTY POINTS FOR ALCOHOL

In some states, drivers are assessed points for traffic violations. At Colby, beginning this fall, students will be assessed points for alcohol infractions.

The new format aims to simplify the disciplinary system so the College is more aware of repeat offenders and so students can easily understand the system, said Vice President for Student Affairs Janice Kassman. “We want students to know, as they’re progressing through the College, where they stand.”

As in the past, all students who are cited must see an alcohol counselor, but now disci-

plinary action varies based on the accumulation of points or the seriousness of the violation. One-point violations include underage possession and possessing an open container, and two-point offenses include attempting to purchase alcohol with false identification and supplying alcohol to a minor.

Accumulation of three points results in disciplinary probation, campus service, and possible parental notification. A fourth point means off-campus alcohol treatment, and the severity of sanctions increases up to permanent disciplinary probation and required leave of

absence at eight points.

Much like some states offer driving school for point reduction, Colby will deduct one point per semester if students participate in non-mandated campus or community service or make an alcohol-related public presentation with the group Student Health on Campus.

The points system uses existing policies, says Kassman, and does not change or amend any policy. The new system does decrease the fine for one type of violation. Most fines are \$100, except in cases where damage to property is included. —R.J.

Lecture Brings Mitchell Home



George Mitchell

Colby inaugurated the George J. Mitchell Distinguished Lecture Series on September 22 with a lecture by the series's namesake. Promising to bring a prominent world leader each year to speak on international affairs, the series, under the auspices of Colby's Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, creates a forum to engage the Waterville community while honoring former U.S. Senator, statesman, international negotiator, and Waterville native George Mitchell.

An internationally known decision maker, frequently one who is in the country for the annual United Nations General

Assembly meeting, will give the lecture each September. "We expect these lecturers to be people whose names you will recognize from the headlines," said Goldfarb Center Co-director L. Sandy Maisel.

The annual event will include a convocation for the awarding of an honorary degree to the lecturer, comparable to Colby's annual Lovejoy Convocation, associated with the journalism award, and to the Brody Convocation, associated with the College's Morton Brody judicial award.

The series was launched by generous contributions from Mitchell family members and friends of the senator who were eager to bring a high-profile event to the Waterville area. They include Paul Mitchell, the senator's brother and a lifelong businessman in Waterville; his son Bill Mitchell, also a Waterville businessman and the senator's nephew; and three of Senator Mitchell's cousins, Bob Baldacci, a Portland consultant and brother of Maine's governor, and Waterville attorneys John and Mark Nale.

Quantifying Volunteers' Value

Last year 434 Colby students contributed 5,263 hours of service to 24 community-service organizations, and 218 students served as weekly mentors to area youth through the Colby Cares About Kids program. Add in 309 students in 22 civic engagement courses, and Colby students donated just short of 25,000 hours to local communities in 2004-05. Using metrics developed by The Independent Sector, a coalition of nonprofits supporting volunteerism and philanthropy, The Goldfarb Center calculated that Colby students contributed slightly more than \$334,000 worth of effort to the community last year.

Classic Rockers

The Rolling Stones aren't the only band with a 40-year lifespan.

Colby's own Love Equation, the frat-party rockers who once opened for Janis Joplin, took the stage at reunion in June, rattling Roberts with Beatles, Doors, and Jefferson Airplane covers and proving once again that you're as young as you feel.

It was a second annual reunion for the band, whose original members included Vic Pinansky '68, Ron Caruso '69, Barry Atwood '69, Dick Lewin '71, Chris Crandall '70, and Jim Winchester '72. For the reunions, Lewin was replaced by Marc Pinansky '00, Vic Pinansky's son and a professional musician based in Boston. "My first reaction is my jaw kind of dropped when everybody opened



Love Equation in 1969, clockwise from back left: Dick Lewin '71, Barry Atwood '69, Chris Crandall '70, Jim Winchester '72, Ron Caruso '69

their guitar cases and there's all these vintage guitars from the sixties. But that's when they walked down to the local shop and bought them," said Marc Pinansky.

Vintage instruments and vintage musicians in this case make for a musically potent mix. In fact, this year's show was a reprise of Love Equation's successful reunion debut last year. "The whole place exploded," said Caruso, who went on from Colby to a career as a multimedia producer and occasional lyricist. "People just jumped up from the tables and started dancing like it was 1969 again."

Not bad for a band whose members hadn't played together since today's classic rock was cutting edge. —G.B.

For more on the band and its once-in-a-lifetime gig with Janis, and for more photos, go to www.colby.edu/mag/rockers.

And the Survey Says!

In the last issue we asked how much of a threat global warming poses to this generation. Here's how Colby readers responded.

- 77%** Global climate change poses a significant threat to this generation
- 14%** Research is insufficient to determine the threat of global climate change.
- 9%** Global climate change does not pose a significant threat to this generation.



Consider This . . .



Increasing involvement of parents in college students' lives has given rise to the term "helicopter parents" to describe their habit of hovering (see "Ties that Bind," page 10). How involved do you think parents should be in their adult children's lives? To answer go to www.colby.edu/mag.

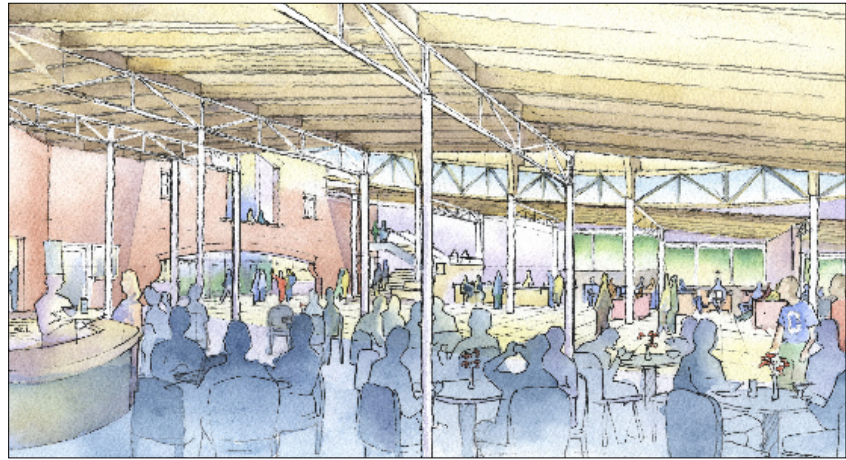
Pulver Pavilion Pending

Colby will receive a \$3 million gift to add a 7,000-square-foot pavilion to the student center. Construction of the Pulver Pavilion, which will bridge the space between two wings of Cotter Union, will begin in 2006-07.

The Pulver Pavilion, a vast, open space with high, barrel-vaulted ceilings, will include a café, a snack bar, and a lounge area. Designed to become a “living room” for Colby students, the pavilion will become the focal point of Cotter Union, with most areas of the existing building leading to and from the new addition.

Trustee David Pulver '63, his wife, Carol, and their daughter Stephanie Pulver '93, made the naming gift for the new facility. David Pulver, who has served on the trustees' Student Affairs Committee since he joined the Board of Trustees in 1983, says that a gift to support student life seemed natural, given his involvement in that aspect of the College. But not until he saw the plans for the building, designed by the architectural firm Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, was he convinced that this project deserved his substantial support. “The more I saw it the more excited I became,” he said from his home in Mendham, N.J.

The Pulver Pavilion will be built into the student center, which was completed in 1985 and was renamed Cotter Union in 1997 in honor of former Colby president William R. Cotter and his wife, Linda. In addition to the new space created in the pavilion, major parts of



Architect's rendering of the interior of Pulver Pavilion, the planned expansion of Cotter Union. At left is the bridge between the two existing sections of the building.

Cotter Union will be reconfigured and renovated. The project is part of a comprehensive campus plan that includes several other new buildings, which, taken together, qualify as Colby's most ambitious expansion since the Mayflower Hill campus was built in the first half of the 20th century. —R.J.

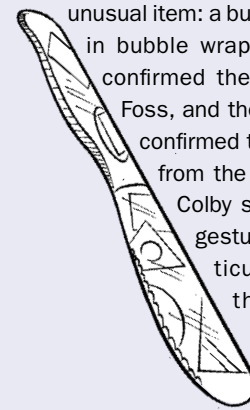


A Change in the Direction

Workers and Colby physical plant staff watch as the sloop *Hero* weathervane is eased to the ground during renovation of the Miller Library tower. The weathervane was to be restored and returned to its place atop the library this fall.

Cleaning Out the Drawers

A lumpy, plain white envelope from Brewer, Maine, arrived in August containing an unusual item: a butter knife swaddled in bubble wrap. Dining Services confirmed the knife came from Foss, and the alumni database confirmed the envelope came from the home of a former Colby student. An honest gesture, to be sure. Particularly considering the student withdrew from Colby in 2000.



No Trivial Matter

English Professor Jennifer Finney Boylan is the first Colby professor we know of to be the answer on a Trivial Pursuit card. The question: “Which American author of *She's Not There* began life as James Boylan?” It's part of the new Book Lover's edition of the game. The card was drawn by a friend of Colby alum Alex Blue '92 during a recent game. Alex nailed it.