Colby Magazine

Volume 94
Issue 3 *Fall 2005*

Article 11

October 2005

From the Hill

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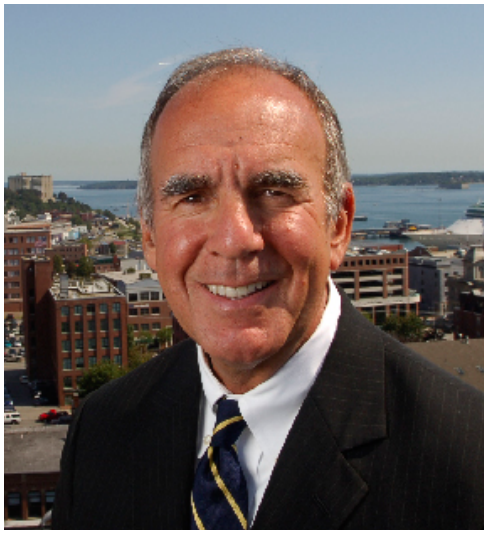
Bullish on Colby

Joe Boulos succeeds Jim Crawford as Board of Trustees chair; sustains initiatives and momentum

STEPHEN COLLINS '74 STORY **FRED FIELD** PHOTOS

Joe Boulos '68, the new chair of Colby's Board of Trustees, comes to the job with a deep love and enthusiasm for the College, astute entrepreneurial instincts, and an emerging profile as one of Maine's important movers and shakers.

Boulos broke out in the state's spotlight last winter in two major stories—his proposal to build a $250-million civic and convention center in Portland and a scholarship fund and an event he organized to honor service men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was described at the time as a well-connected but low-profile-by-choice Portland real estate developer who had remained under the radar while making a profound mark on southern Maine and Portland in particular.



Joe Boulos '68 pledges to move the College forward as it implements its strategic plan.

He takes on leadership of Colby's governing body when the College is in the midst of executing a comprehensive plan for the decade and just as it launches the public phase of its most ambitious capital campaign ever. Bullish about Colby's recent accomplishments and its prospects for the future, Boulos has emerged as a leader among trustees who are eager for the College to receive recognition as a world-class institution. And he won't be one to let Colby rest on it laurels.

"I'm very direct. I'm very goal-oriented and results-oriented," Boulos said during an interview in his office, which overlooks the booming Old Port area around Portland's waterfront. "It may be the result of growing up with six kids," he said, referring to his childhood in Portland and South Portland with five siblings.

Boulos points to the ways his experiences as a pilot for the U.S. Marine Corps right after he graduated from Colby shaped his personality and leadership style. Two years in the Vietnam War and experiences afterward as a commercial helicopter pilot in Laos, the Congo, and South America, he says, left him anything but risk-averse. "I think that a military experience, or someplace that you've been tested and you make it through, instills a lot of confidence. You think, 'What's the worst thing that can happen? The business doesn't make it? So what?' I don't think I'm afraid of trying something new."

That attitude has put him at the head of one of Maine's largest commercial real estate groups, with 65 employees in companies that cover commercial brokerage, commercial asset management, real estate development, and real estate security services.

So why does one of the busiest and most successful entrepreneurs in the state make room to chair Colby's Board of Trustees? "I've always thought that a good trustee has to have, number one, a great love for the college and have the college's interests first. One thing I've found about our board is it's the antithesis of being political," he said. "If you put your own interest aside, and the credit for all of this, there's not much you can't accomplish."

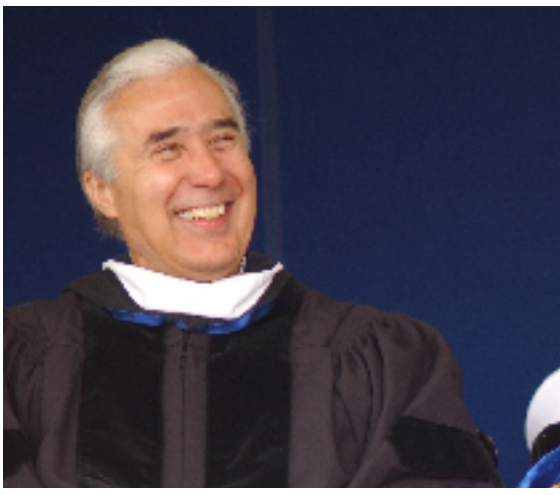
As board chair he sees his role as "an advocate for the College and an advocate for its leadership and Bro Adams." And, like his predecessor, he's conscious of where that role ends. "The board has great ideas and great vision, but when a board steps in and tries to run a college, something has gone amok. That's not our role," Boulos said.

Governing the College requires some tough choices, but Boulos is ready to confront them with hard business sense. "Let's talk about what has to be done and what's it going to cost. There are trade-offs. You can't do everything," he said. "There are certainly challenges, but this Board of Trustees has an immense amount of talent on it and we'll solve those problems."

His aspirations, right in line with Colby's strategic plan, are to see the College ever-stronger. "We have had a terrific start," he said of progress made on the strategic plan under Jim Crawford's leadership. "But you always want to measure yourself, and you never want to look back. You always want to look forward… I'd rather set much more ambitious goals than timid goals."

Jim Crawford's Legacy

The end of the 2004-05 school year brought with it the end of Jim Crawford '64's six-year term as chair of Colby's Board of Trustees. But even as Crawford handed off that leadership role to Joe Boulos '68, his vision was fixed on the future.



"Things are on the drawing board," he said, characterizing his years at the helm of the College governing body as a time of transition and table-setting. "A lot of it now is execution," he concluded, with a nod toward Boulos, seated alongside him in the latter's Portland office. But, in keeping with Crawford's self-effacing character, that summary

overlooked dramatic developments brought to conclusion under his own leadership.

Crawford, who took over as chair of the board in 1999, headed the search committee that brought President William "Bro" Adams to Colby in 2000. He also led the board during the development of a long-range strategic plan that mapped out a decade of ambitious growth in Colby's programs, facilities, and endowment. And, before he and his wife, Linda Johnson Crawford '64, were recognized for service to Colby with honorary doctoral degrees presented in May, Crawford saw many of the initiatives in the long-range plan put into action, some ahead of schedule.

Crawford's leadership was marked by openness, cooperation, and consensus, Boulos said. But the ever-gracious, southern-gentleman demeanor on the part of the Richmond, Virginia, coal-company executive may have partially concealed the strength of Crawford's leadership. "Quite frankly, some trustees had to be sold on spending the money for the plan that Bro conceived," Boulos said. "I think through [Crawford's] leadership and his ability to demonstrate the benefits of a long-range plan, the trustees unanimously bought into it, and you're seeing the results now. And those results are hard to argue with."

The Colby Green, for example—the most ambitious campus expansion since the move from downtown Waterville to Mayflower Hill more than a half-century ago. And the Schair-Swenson-Watson Alumni Center, which opened in July. The state-of-the-art synthetic turf Bill Alfond Field, completed well ahead of the plan's schedule. The creation of a neuroscience program, and the rapid ascendance of the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, which Crawford and Boulos agree strategically distinguishes Colby from its peers by combining some of the College's strongest academic and outreach programs in an effective pedagogical and service-oriented organization.

Crawford said maintaining and building the board's relationship with the faculty was a priority for him during his term as chair, and one program he initiated was to include a faculty presentation at almost every trustee meeting.

A hallmark of Colby, and one of the keys to its extraordinary success over the years, Crawford said, is the spirit of cooperation among trustees, faculty members, and the administration. "We, as board members, look upon our role as oversight and as providing the leadership and vision to support the College," he said. "We're not in here to try to run the College day-to-day. We're not in here to try and do anything that promotes our own self-interest. It's really 'what can the board do to strengthen and support … Bro's position and also the faculty's position.'"

Jim Crawford '64, left, former chair of the Board of Trustees, with President William D. Adams at commencement.

Perhaps Crawford's proudest accomplishment was lining up the current generation of administrative leadership—the hiring of Adams in 2000. "We were looking for someone who was not going to be a radical change from what Colby had. We were looking for someone who had good communication skills and was a consensus builder and was a leader who recognized the strengths of Colby," he said. The most inclusive process used in any college-president search in the nation, involving literally scores of people in the selection, netted three "excellent finalists," Crawford said, noting that the other two went on to become the current presidents at Bates and Middlebury.

Boulos praised Crawford for the "unbelievable momentum" he established, and pledged to sustain and build upon it. "People—faculty, students, trustees—they feel good about the College, and justifiably," Boulos said. "We should keep that going."

Joseph F. Boulos

Education
Colby, Class of 1968, B.A. in administrative science

Career
Chair and CEO, CB Richard Ellis/The Boulos Company (commercial brokerage, commercial asset management, real estate development, real estate security)
1975, founded The Boulos Company
1973-75, commercial pilot in Southeast Asia, Africa, South America
1968-73, U.S. Marine Corps pilot in Vietnam

Service
Trustee, Colby, 1993-present
Trustee, Portland Museum of Art
Advisory board member, Federal Reserve
Trustee, Maine Bank & Trust
Chair, Compact for Higher Education
Founding director, The Maine Alliance
Founding director, Maine Real Estate Developers Association

Awards
2003, Colby College Distinguished Alumnus Award
1997, Maine Business Hall of Fame inductee
1992, Developer of the Year, Maine Real Estate Developers Assn.
1988, Developer of the Year, Finance Authority of Maine

Married: Sheri Boulos

James B. Crawford

Education
Colby, Class of 1964, B.A. in economics
Attended NYU Graduate School of Business
Colby, 2005, Honorary Doctor of Laws degree

Service
Chair, Colby Board of Trustees, 1999-2005
Chair, Boys & Girls Club Foundation, Richmond, Va., 2003-present
Senior Warden, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 2003-present
Member, Colby Board of Trustees, 1990-present

Career
Consultant, Evan Energy Company, Richmond, Va., present
Chairman and CEO of James River Coal Co., 1988-2003
President and CEO of Transco Coal Co., 1982-1988

Married: Linda Johnson Crawford '64


Manners
respect
LISTEN
conduct
HOSTILE
homophobia
Honor
intolerance
vitriol
RACISM

On Postings and Other, Sometimes Uncivil, Discourse

William D. Adams, President

At the beginning of every school year, Colby's first-year class assembles in Lorimer Chapel to hear a few words from the president. It is the first of only two times that the class gathers in this way; the other is for the Baccalaureate service at the end of their time on Mayflower Hill. I write a new speech each year, but whatever else changes in the annual message, one theme has emerged as a must: civility. Not table-manners civility or the simple avoidance of conflict, but a civility of conduct and discourse that requires us to listen to others with open minds, to be willing to learn and to grow, and, when we disagree, to do so respectfully. I consider this brand of civility to exist at the core of an academic community. And I talk about it every year because it is so often discouragingly absent, here on Mayflower Hill, on other college campuses, and in our society at large.

The Digest of Civil Discourse, a 2002 initiative of the Student Government Association, is an electronic bulletin board to which all Colby students have access. It was created, as the name implies, as a place where students could conduct civil discussions about a variety of issues. While most entries are fine, the digest at times can be a Wild West of ad hominem attacks, obscenity, name-calling, smugness, and intolerance … in short, a digest of very uncivil discourse.

Why? I have my theories.

We are in the midst of an effort to increase diversity at Colby. Although we have a long way to go to become a fully diverse, inclusive, and welcoming campus, our efforts are steady and obvious—and they are generating discomfort. This discomfort is a stage that has to be faced—even embraced—for us to make progress. But many have reacted by pushing back. Some majority members seem to be saying, "If you want more people who are unlike me to be represented in our community, that must mean that you think there is something wrong with me, my background, my culture, my values." Some members of minority groups come into the community and see the majority as hostile and threatening to their ways of life and their values, and so they too push back. Much heat is generated in this atmosphere, but little light.

Also, I believe that e-mail, instant messaging, electronic forums and the like have made it easier for us to forget that real people, with real feelings, exist on the receiving end of our messages. A case in point happened last spring, when a small group of students posted, to a non-Colby site, what they later termed a satire exposing the hollowness of reactions to the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. Another Colby student excoriated this posting on the same site, and the vitriol soon spilled over into the Digest of Civil Discourse.

There were many good and helpful responses to this controversy. What surprised and dismayed me, however, was that some of the students involved apparently felt free not just to disagree with the views of others but to attack those others personally.

Given that Colby's educational precepts include our hope that students will learn "how each individual can confront intolerance" and "to understand and reflect searchingly upon one's own values and the values of others," I might be forgiven some concern when I reflect on how we seem to be doing in these areas. And I sometimes wonder if it is fair of me to ask Colby students to maintain a higher level of discourse than that we see every day in the shrieking cable-news arena, on blogs, and even in Congress.

But fair or not, I do expect and hope for more from Colby students. After all, their ability to communicate with and relate to other people despite intellectual and cultural differences will be critical to their future success. That is why, when the topic of pulling the plug on the Digest of Civil Discourse arises (as it does once or twice a year), I have so far resisted. It is not entirely up to me, of course—I would want a full airing of the matter among students before considering such a measure seriously. And the idea is at times tempting, I admit. But the mission of a liberal arts college is to encourage, not stifle, the free expression of ideas. So, unless the digest takes turns that I cannot envision, I will not be the one to kill it.

What I will do, in my talk to the Class of 2009 and among faculty and staff and all students, is continue to urge us toward a standard of discourse and behavior that makes all of us proud to be members of this community. I will continue to involve myself where possible in efforts to invite to campus speakers and other programs that examine a range of political and social opinion. I will ask my fellow faculty members and administrators to model vigorous civil discourse in the midst of intellectual tension.

Controversy and debate have honored places on our campus and in the wider Colby community that includes alumni/ae and others. My hope is that we can honor ourselves with conduct that rises well above the standard we now see all around us.

TORTURE CHRONICLES

OAK HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOW DR. FRANCES LOVEMORE DOCUMENTS VIOLENCE AND TORTURE IN ZIMBABWE

ALISON JONES WEBB '81 STORY **FRED FIELD** PHOTO

In Zimbabwe, political upheaval and violence have become a way of life. But recent forced evictions of some 700,000 political opponents of the country's dominant political party by the military and allied militias amazed even the country's most conflict-hardened residents, including Dr. Frances Lovemore, Colby's 2005 Oak Human Rights Fellow.

The one-semester fellowship was established by a 1998 grant to Colby from the Oak Foundation to allow a frontline human rights practitioner to take a sabbatical for research, writing, and teaching as a scholar-in-residence at Colby.

Lovemore's report from the front lines centered on a government policy that has shaken her country. The destruction of homes and property of urban Zimbabweans in recent months has forced destitute throngs to wander the already-impoverished countryside. "There's just a complete shock in Zimbabwe," Lovemore said from Harare. "People didn't believe the government would go this far. The victims are in a state of complete shock. … They've basically lost everything."

Because of the large numbers of displaced people, the appalling famine conditions, and the high rate of HIV/AIDS infection and lack of medical care in the rural areas, a new question is starting to surface, Lovemore said. "Is this a planned genocide? Are we looking at a completely different situation than what we were thinking about two years ago, when we thought that we would be able to force a political crisis and have a transitional system where we could advocate for truth and justice?"

Lovemore has reason to ask—and to be worried. For the past five years, she has been treating victims of organized violence and torture and documenting their injuries. The torture methods she describes include beatings, branding and cutting, electrocution, partial drowning, rape and sexual torture. "It would appear that there has been a deliberate decision [by the government] to use torture rather than killing or disappearances … as it is as effective a method of terror as killing and has the advantage of being harder to detect. It also creates less alarm in the international community."

Lovemore spent her childhood and teenage years in what she describes as "a country of conflict … which affected everybody in the country, whatever color they were." Lovemore speaks of coming of age in the 1970s in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia), when the country's black African majority began to challenge white minority rule. The struggle for independence was violent, with atrocities committed by both sides. "For me," Lovemore said, "it was fairly traumatic, being part of a [white] community that thought they were right."

Lovemore received her nursing degree from the University of Capetown in 1982, where she experienced firsthand the effects that South Africa's apartheid system had on patients. "Being a white, I wasn't allowed to work in the black part of the hospital. … That really started to develop my interest in human rights." She continued her education in Zimbabwe and became a medical doctor in 1989.

It wasn't until the mid 1980s that Lovemore and her colleagues began to learn the extent of the atrocities perpetrated by both whites and blacks in the struggle for independence. "A lot of my friends had been involved in the war, on both sides, and I felt the impact of them having never been debriefed or reintegrated back into society. I began to question the impact of that on people's future lives." At the same time, Lovemore and others began to see evidence of torture in the patients they treated. Under an elected, black Zimbabwean government in place since independence in 1980, violence continued.

Lovemore now works as the medical director of Amani Trust, which was formed in 1993 to provide community-based care to survivors of organized violence and torture. The trust was founded, in part, with a grant from the Oak Zimbabwe Foundation.

Amani Trust trains doctors in internationally established guidelines for the medical treatment of torture survivors. These guidelines call for more than just medical treatment—doctors also refer patients to counseling and support and to legal assistance. Doctors are also trained to document injuries and complications.

The organization has developed a network of counselors and medical practitioners—and survivors.

Redress and reparations for victims, perpetrator accountability, and public acknowledgement of atrocities are important to the healing process that Lovemore hopes eventually will occur. "In Zimbabwe now, we're beginning to see the effects of never having a truth and justice commission, post-1980, to create accountability for the atrocities. … The victims themselves were also the perpetrators on both sides …[who] never had any opportunity to obtain redress or be held accountable for what they had done."

In the hope that a truth and justice commission eventually will be established in Zimbabwe, Amani Trust works to stay "ahead of the curve," as Lovemore describes it, in documenting torture while it's happening and alerting local, regional, and international organizations. "We've had the advantage of seeing other people's experiences, at seeing what is required for documentation." Lovemore cites work done since the 1970s, including in South Africa, where the Truth and Reconciliation Commission publicly acknowledged the victims and exposed the perpetrators of human rights abuses during apartheid. In Zimbabwe's case, it is a goal to have documentation that leaves no question about the responsibility for atrocities. "Our dream is that we will have absolutely everything ready when we come to some transitional process where we really don't want the issue of an amnesty to occur, where the perpetrators get amnesty as a bargaining tool."

Lovemore arrived in Waterville in late August with her husband and three children. The Goldfarb Center, which oversees the Oak Fellows program, will be host to a human-rights conference in November, along with other events. While at Colby, Lovemore is "really looking forward to some academic interaction with like-minded people and some intellectual input. If I look back at my last five years, it's always been emergency to emergency and meeting another crisis. … We've got a lot of half-finished bits and pieces of research that I would like to finish off."

Ideally Lovemore would like to write an overview of what has happened in Zimbabwe, how Amani Trust has been able to document torture activities, and tie that to what is being done internationally. But Lovemore says she isn't interested in personal recognition for the work she will be able to accomplish while at Colby. It's the effort of everyone at Amani Trust that produces results. "I've got the most wonderful staff. They're really brave. … I kind of wish that it was the whole office that was able to do this."

Q&A

PROFESSOR CATHERINE BEVIER ON SUNFISH, FROGS, AND A BIOLOGIST'S NEED TO KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS

NEHA SUD '05 INTERVIEW **FRED FIELD** PHOTO

Last year while strolling around Johnson Pond, Catherine Bevier, Clare Booth Luce Assistant Professor of Biology, stumbled upon something she hadn't noticed before—dozens of sunfish nests in the shallows. She spent this summer in Waterville, studying the reproductive behaviors of the fish and the mating habits of mink frogs. Bevier (pronounced beh-VEER) spoke with Colby *about her research.*

You really just discovered these sunfish last year?
Yes, last summer we were out taking a hike and I looked at the pond and noticed these nests. I hadn't noticed them before because they're very seasonal. I always get curious when I see nesting behavior, especially if it's a system that's easy to study. So I thought, "Wow, what a nice place to do a study. Right on campus."

Have you studied sunfish before?
No, until now I had only caught them as a kid, off the end of a dock in New York. In my animal behavior class though, we've talked quite a bit about blue-gilled sunfish. They've been very well studied in terms of different male reproductive strategies.

Why are you studying these fish? Solely for observation's sake or do you hope to predict anything?
We're generating some hypotheses, especially about territoriality and mating strategies. All the nests are built and maintained by males, but there are also other strategies that males take on to make themselves more attractive to females. For instance, you have the sneaker males. They don't hold territory, but if they see a female and a male spawning in a nest, they'll try to get their sperm to fertilize some of the eggs. So even though they're not putting any energy into maintaining a territory, they can still continue their genetic line.

So the sneaker male is one of the hypotheses you're testing?
Well, we're trying to see if this behavior does occur, and we're also observing other characteristics of nests. My research assistants, Spencer Koury ['06] and Daniel Breen ['06], noticed that the nests toward shore are smaller than those away from shore. Maybe more subordinate and less desirable males have larger nests, hoping that the large nest will make them attractive to females. This summer we'll be measuring the nest size, and we also have a light meter to see how much sunlight is getting into the nest.

Why is sunlight so important to these fish?
Sunfish are prone to putting on displays when the sun is out. Also, they have beautiful iridescence, which is both attractive to females and a factor of competition to other males.

Have any of your hypotheses proved true?
Yes, I was hoping that we'd see some sneaker male behavior, and we've noticed that. There are definite differences between nest sites. We've got about thirty sites identified, and we're doing focal studies. In fact, what I'd like to test further is a hypothesis in sexual selection theory. It's said that males with a better immune system are more attractive to females. A better immune system may be reflected in their body size and body coloration, like has been shown in turkeys and peacocks. Brighter males have a better immune system and are more successful with females.

How do you plan to go about testing the immune system hypothesis?
I've been talking to Lynn Hannum, the immunologist in the biology department, about collaborating to see if the brighter males have a better immune system and eventually getting some of the behavioral data to show that those are indeed the males being chosen by females.

Is there always a fear that your hypothesis won't prove true?
Yeah and that's fine. If you can't find support for a hypothesis then you go on to the next one. Every study is going to lead to three, four, five new questions, and that's just great. It's exciting.

What about the frogs you're studying? Any particular area of interest there?
Yes, this is my sixth season working with mink frogs over at a bog in Mercer. It's a species that's not very well known. In the past I've published on their vocal repertoire—the types of calls that they produce. This summer I'm continuing an experiment to see how males and females react to the different kinds of calls being produced, so I'm doing some choice tests.

Have you faced any difficulties while conducting this research?
Yes, my field site for the mink frogs totally changed this summer. It's a series of three ponds intersected with beaver dams, and two of the beaver dams breached, draining two of the ponds. So I was left with only one pond. There were five different species of amphibians trying to breed in there, competing for space. It really didn't look possible to continue the kind of work that I was doing last summer.

That kind of setback must have been disappointing.
Yeah, but where there's a will, there's a way. Just up the road there was another site. Thankfully I had some pretty good contacts around the state that helped me find feasible places to conduct my experiments.

Will you eventually publish or present all your research?
Both. Usually when I start a new project I spend one season getting a feel for the animal—how we can study it, if we can mark them individually, and then really defining the hypotheses we want to test. The next season we usually get into the nitty gritty of gathering data.

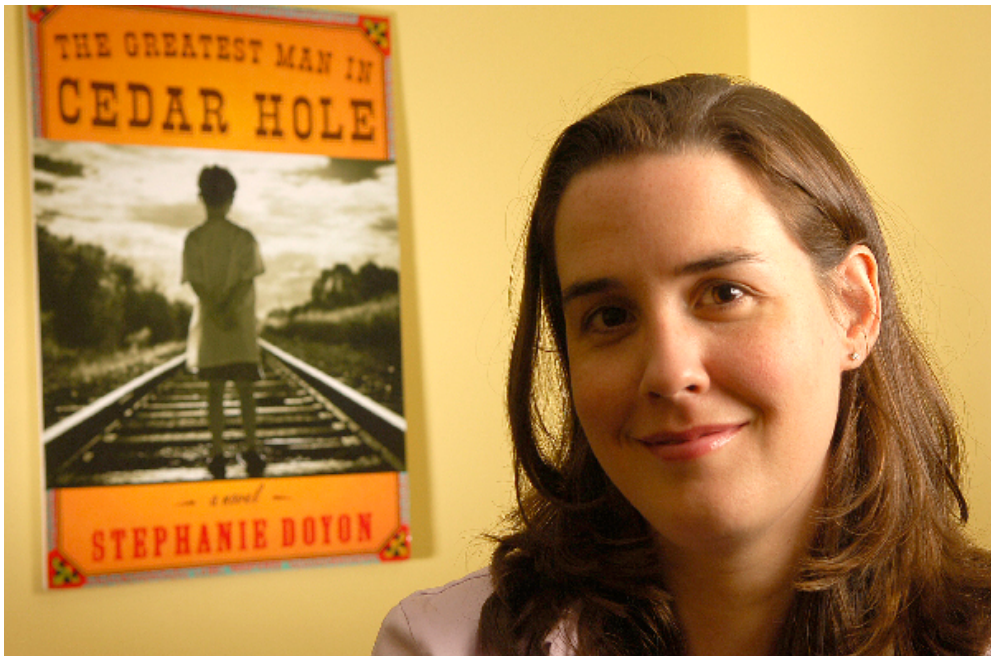
Does your research usually involve a lot of students?
At any given time I have between two and four students working with me. I've often also had students come back and continue past research.

So, it's relatively easy to find students interested in your work?
Absolutely. I usually have a full lab by February. Students seek out these kinds of jobs. I think it's a great opportunity for those potentially interested in research to see if they like it. Especially if the students are interested in professional fieldwork—this gives them a chance to see whether or not they can sustain their enthusiasm. And they're such a great help to me. I couldn't do it without them.

Sad Sacks, Big Hearts

In Stephanie Doyon's new novel, greatness wears a shabby cloak

ROBERT GILLESPIE REVIEW **FRED FIELD** PHOTO



At age 10, Robert J. Cutler already stands out in Cedar Hole, a sad-sack little burg drenched by constant rain and parched by job drought, a place where the railroad called it quits and the only thing growing is grass. Robert is a courteous, ambitious boy admired by adults for his optimism about the town's future—which makes him the perfect antagonist to his classmate Francis Pinkham, a kid pummeled by nine wacko older sisters and shunted to bed in a pantry smelling of vinegar and the potato sack that earns him his nickname, Spud.

If everybody in Cedar Hole were like Delia Pratt, the children's teacher, nobody in town would have a prayer. In Delia's eyes, all the kids except Robert appear absent, in a stupor, miserable, bumbling, slogging. Was Charles Dickens ever so hard on his characters in a first chapter as Stephanie Doyon '93 is on hers?

Some chapters chronicle the growing-up and initiation into life of two boys who couldn't be more dissimilar; many episodes involve hapless adults like Delia, whose couplings with the local police officer are held at the town dump. Francis's sisters pop in and out like monsters in a house of horrors. At one point they cow him into playing "Pinkham Baseball," the antithesis of Tom Sawyer conning a bunch of boys into whitewashing Aunt Polly's fence. It's a shameful chapter in Francis's life when he joins his sisters' night of revenge on an unfair world. The novel covers some 25 years and the family, class, and social relationships of a score of townsfolk facing their own growing pains—or the lack of them.

Feckless fathers and washout mothers, small infidelities and large jealousies, the consequences of a high school pregnancy, childhood friends, mentors, and mainstays drifting apart: Cedar Hole is a lifelong obstacle course, so any accomplishment is treasured. The first time young Francis takes the controls of Mr. Mullen's Toro lawnmower, "the exhilarating strangeness of vibration buzzing right down to his marrow . . . he felt visible. Justified." According to sweet old Mr. Mullen, he might become "the greatest lawn mower in all of Cedar Hole."

Robert and Francis go head to head at the Lawn Rodeo, the town's major summer bash featuring three cornball events that require speed and skill with a lawnmower. But even the merriest moments in Cedar Hole hit the funny bone. When a mishap fells one of the five finalists in a preliminary heat, the judge calmly raises three fingers and announces, "one of our contestants has lost three toes," adding that if five volunteers would help search for them in the high grass "it would be greatly appreciated."

Not every eccentricity in Cedar Hole is sported with in this exuberant, darkly comic novel, Doyon's first after her career as a ghostwriter of books for teenagers. The girl Francis marries carefully slices into envelopes that contain checks coming in from their fledgling business, as if tearing them open would rip the couple's hopes for a more prosperous life. One poignant detail says worlds.

The Greatest Man in Cedar Hole lines up behind *Winesburg, Ohio* and *Main Street*, classics that portray small-town America as stunted and joyless, but Twain-like horseplay is here, too. So are the stories of commonplace life that flowered in 19th-century local color and realistic fiction, like *The Rise of Silas Lapham*, William Dean Howells's novel about the rags-to-riches Vermont paint merchant who has the conscience to admit to shabby practices. The small town has gotten a fresh face in contemporary fiction by, among others, Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Russo, Doyon's creative writing teacher at the College. A Maine native, Doyon nails Cedar Hole's state of mind but avoids locating it geographically.

Since nobody in the town is going to make any Who's Who, the story nudges the reader to think about a couple of heavyweight questions: what constitutes "greatness," and who is "the greatest man in Cedar Hole"?

Among others, there's Robert, who passes along his faith in the town even when choices are limited in large part by the givens of parents, economic class, and work opportunities. His daughter, learning to blow soap bubbles, sees "a world of translucent wonder, shimmering and expanding in a fluid whirl." Hope for better days being as easily shattered as those bubbles, Robert the optimist might take the greatest-man title.

And there's Francis Pinkham, the kid whose sisters' brutishness causes him to ink his name on his girlfriend's palm because he always puts SPUD on his belongings to keep them from being stolen. Isn't making right choices—choices that transform a boy with three strikes on him into a hard-working husband and father such as any decent man might hope to be—pretty great?

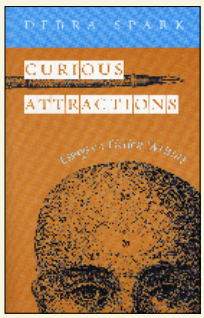
Fiction this wise, funny, and true shows us how we might live our lives.

RECENT RELEASES

Stuffed to the Gills
Linda Greenlaw '83 and Martha Greenlaw
Hyperion (2005)
Bestselling author and fisherman Greenlaw joins with her mother to reveal what Maine fishing families eat onshore. Along with anecdotes about island life, the first and only woman swordfish boat captain shares some 75 recipes, including Penobscot Bay Clam Dip and Point Lookout Lobster Salad.

Orientations: Space/Time/Image/Word. Word & Image Interactions 5.
Véronique Plesch (art), co-editor and contributor
Rachel Tobie '04, designer
Rodopi (2005)
Based on papers presented at the conference of the International Association of Word and Image Studies (IAWIS/AERTI) held in 2002 in Hamburg, the 22 essays in this volume cover an array of intermedial relations and a great variety of media, from medieval architecture to interactive digital art. The contributions come from scholars from Europe, the United States, and South America.

Curious Attractions: Essays on Fiction Writing
Debra Spark (English)
University of Michigan Press (2005)



When she was only 23, Debra Spark edited the bestselling anthology *20 Under 30*, which introduced readers to some of today's best writers. Almost 20 years later, Spark brings this same keen, critical eye to *Curious Attractions*, discussing a broad range of authors from multiple genres and generations. A collection of essays in the belles-lettres tradition, *Curious Attractions* offers lively and instructive discussions of craft flavored with autobiographical reflections and commentary on world events.

Valenciennes, Daubigny, and the Origins of French Landscape Painting
Michael Marlais (art), John Varriano, and Wendy M. Watson
Penn State University Press (2005)
A volume that traces the history of French painters' engagement with nature from the late Renaissance, when landscape painting first emerged from the background of narrative representation, up to the eve of 19th century Impressionism. Marlais's essay explains the reasons artists began questioning, while not rejecting, classical formulas.

It's Always a Good Day for Crabbing
Karin Whiting Burgess '83
Flat Hammock Press (2005)
Burgess's first children's book, inspired by her observations of children (including her own) catching and releasing crabs on the Connecticut shore. The story of one young crabber's adventure is told in rhyme and geared to children 2 to 5. Illustrations are by Deborah McLaren.

The Hickory Staff: Book 1 of the Eldarn Sequence
Robert Scott '90 and Jay Gordon
Victor Gollancz and Orion Publishing Group (2005)
This first novel follows the adventures of assistant bank manager Steven Taylor, who finds a 135-year-old safe deposit box in his Colorado bank. Taylor opens the box and enters a portal to the mysterious world of Eldarn, a magical place ruled by an oppressive dictator.

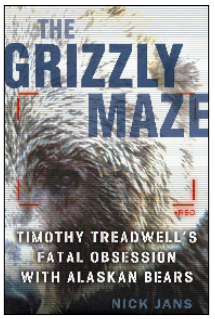
Upcoming
Garry Mitchell (art)
ICON Contemporary Art, Brunswick, Maine
(Sept. 24-Oct. 22, 2005)
This one-man show features 15 of abstract painter Garry Mitchell's most recent efforts. The canvases seem full of shapes edging into figures, becoming pieces of letters, parts of the underwater world, or even an aspect of memory, elusive but still there. Mitchell's paintings are about atmosphere and space, rich hues and surfaces that "tell the story" (as Mitchell explains) of their own making.

From Nick Jans, a "Grizzly Maze" Indeed

Timothy Treadwell and his girlfriend, Amie Huguenard, were killed and eaten by a grizzly bear or bears on October 5, 2003, in Alaska's Katmai National Park. Huguenard and Treadwell, a self-proclaimed bear protector, were camped in what he called the Grizzly Maze, an area criss-crossed by the animals' trails. Experts in bear behavior call Treadwell's close encounters with the grizzlies suicidal. His supporters call Treadwell, the subject of the Werner Herzog documentary *Grizzly Man*, a "bear whisperer."

Nick Jans '77, a 25-year Alaska hand, erstwhile bear hunter, and author of three previous books, interviewed Treadwell's friends and critics for his newest book, *The Grizzly Maze*. He tracked the trail of this charismatic "saint, sinner, wise man, fool" who lived among the Katmai grizzlies for 13 summers, gave them cuddly names like Mr. Chocolate, and imitated their behavior to close the gap between human and animal.

Scientists scorn Treadwell's procedures, which resulted in the deaths of two people and two bears. Treadwell defenders cite his organization, Grizzly People, his appearances as a pitchman for bears in films and on television, and his many visits to elementary schools to educate kids about his beloved grizzlies.



Bears play a large part in myth and popular culture—Pooh, Yogi, Smokey, Teddy, and Goldilocks's threesome among them. Jans looks beyond Treadwell's life and death to his own lifelong fascination with bears, which parallels Treadwell's spiritual kinship with the grizzlies. The mysterious power of these creatures eventually led Jans to hunt them with a camera.

One interviewee suggests that the grizzly that killed Treadwell saw him as "just another bear." Treadwell is an object lesson in commitment to a cause, Jans says in this even-handed account of the man who lived among bears to become like them. Treadwell's story offers hope that protection will expand the habitat for the magnificent animals he loved.

The Grizzly Maze is reminiscent of Jon Krakauer's nonfiction stories about wilderness adventures and misadventures—a well-paced and compelling tale. Even though readers know it will end with a train wreck, it's hard to stop watching. —*Robert Gillespie*

A Tale of Vichy France

Jonathan Weiss plumbs the life of the enigmatic Irène Némirovsky

NEHA SUD '05 STORY

Professor Jonathan Weiss, an expert in contemporary French history, has written a timely biography of French novelist Irène Némirovsky who died in Auschwitz. A Jew, Némirovsky aligned herself with right-wing elements but was turned over to the Nazis nonetheless.

A few miles up the road from the Sorbonne University, deep in the heart of Paris's Latin quarter, is a magnificent 18th-century basilica, the Panthéon. The former cathedral's side façade is engraved with names—a memorial to those who died for France during war. Among these names is Irène Némirovsky, an enigmatic author to whom Professor Jonathan Weiss has devoted the past nine years of his life.

Originally intending to write a five-volume epic, Némirovsky only completed the first two installments of her novel, *Suite Française*, before she was arrested by French officers and deported to Auschwitz in July of 1942. She died there a month later. Released for publication by her daughter in 2004, *Suite Française*, a fictional account of German occupation, has already sold more than 150,000 copies in France and publication rights have been sold for at least 18 countries.

Némirovsky was posthumously awarded the prestigious literary prize, the Prix Renaudot 2004, making her the most celebrated author in France at this time. "Yet, it was France that killed her," acknowledged Weiss, author of a 219-page biography of Némirovsky published this summer. "Irène didn't want to die for France; she wanted to live and write. She deserved a prize, but when she was alive."

An expert in contemporary French history, Weiss, the NEH/Class of 1940 Distinguished Professor of Humanities, became interested in Némirovsky when he read her critically acclaimed novel, *David Golder*, published in 1929. The daughter of a wealthy Russian-Jewish banker, Némirovsky fled to France during the Bolshevik Revolution. Educated at French-speaking schools, she effortlessly settled into her new homeland. In 1926 she married Michel Epstein, an émigré Russian banker, with whom she had two daughters, Denise and Elisabeth. She wrote in the 1930s and even as late as 1940 for right-wing journals, and years

earlier had taken the plunge into fiction with *David Golder*, the story of a ruthless, ill-fated Jewish businessman.

"[In the novel,] Irène associated Judaism with materialism. She was more attracted to a selfless, family-oriented life of Christian ideals," Weiss said. In 1939, Némirovsky converted to Roman Catholicism. To the collaborationist French government though, she remained a Jew. By 1941 Michel Epstein was barred from working for his bank, and Irène, once the darling of French literary society, was ostracized. The Epsteins fled to Issy-l'Evêque, a small village in Burgundy. There Némirovsky started writing *Suite Française* and desperately struggled to save her family from persecution.

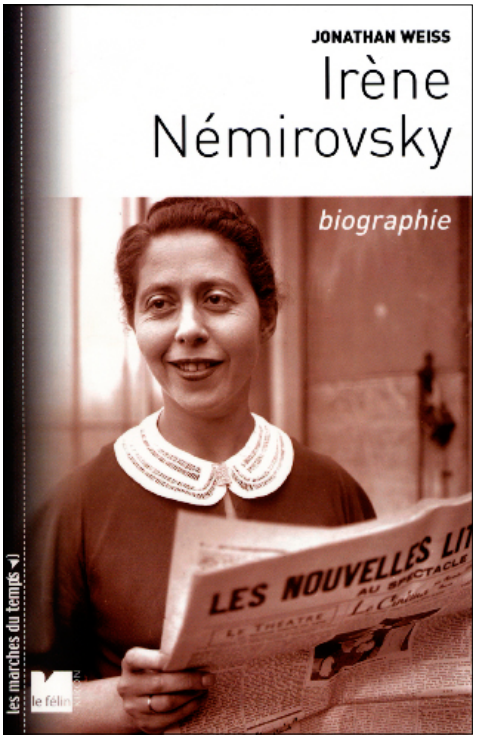
"She thought that her friends on the extreme right would help her get through this," Weiss explained. Némirovsky wrote directly to Marshal Pétain, head of the Vichy government. Her letters argued that despite being Jewish by birth, she herself disliked the Jews, hence should be given special status. Weiss finds this conflict of identity most intriguing. "After reading *David Golder*, I went to talk to Irene's daughters about the ambiguity of her identity," he said. "That's where my fascination with her began."

Weiss spent the next five years trying to understand the mystifying Némirovsky. He shuttled between Maine and France to study Némirovsky's manuscripts, examine periodicals from the era, and interview her acquaintances. His research was both emotionally and academically difficult.

"As a professor at a small liberal arts college, students are your first priority. If a student calls and says, 'Can we meet tomorrow?' you can't say, 'I'm sorry, tomorrow's my writing day,'" he said.

In 2000-01 Weiss spent a year-long sabbatical in France, focusing solely on finishing his book. When he visited Issy-l'Eveque, Weiss noticed that there was no visible trace of Némirovsky having lived there—no plaque on her house, no street named for her. "There was a certain amount of shame involved," he said. "Here was an extremely well-known author. She got arrested by local village police, and no one did anything to protect her."

Then he was faced with hoax calls from people pretending to know Némirovsky. "As a biographer," Weiss said, "you have to be judicious. When you can't verify what someone's telling you, then you are lost."



He resolved the gap between speculation and fact by focusing on concrete evidence. "When you look at this period in black and white terms, it doesn't make sense," he said. "The collaborators weren't all demons and the resistance weren't all angels. Some collaborators actually saved Jews, but little has been documented." He cited the example of Carbuccia, the notoriously anti-Semitic editor of the right-wing journal *Gringoire*. Carbuccia secretly sent Némirovsky money and continued to publish her work, even after she was shunned by society. Weiss concluded, "The ambiguity of the period doesn't allow assumptions about intentions or beliefs. You can only go by actions."

In 2001, when Weiss finally finished his manuscript and sent it to publishers, he was bitterly disappointed. French publishers rejected his manuscript, saying that Némirovsky was too unknown, and that his book would not sell.

His fate changed in April 2004 when Denise Epstein released her mother's manuscript. Since Weiss's book was the only biography of Némirovsky, publishers fought to get the rights. In North America the biography will be translated by Weiss's wife, Dace (assistant professor of French, emerita), and published by Stanford University Press in 2006. In France the biography was published in the summer of 2005 by Éditions du Félin.

"Weiss paints a very detailed portrait, nourished by facts and texts," said a review in *24 heures*, a Swiss newspaper. The Parisian magazine *Psychologies* called it "a clear and intelligent book that illuminates the emotional conflicts of the author concerning her Judaism." *La Libre Belgique Lire*, a Belgian newspaper, reported, "Jonathan Weiss offers an insightful, penetrating portrait of a particularly complex personality."

Overwhelming as the praise is, the book has raised some controversy, too. Some critics have disapproved of Weiss's assessment of Némirovsky, saying he makes her seem too harsh towards Jews. Weiss, however, maintains that Némirovsky's wealthy Russian background distanced her from the poor Jews in ghetto communities. By converting, she didn't reject her Jewish heritage, but affirmed that she never had a Jewish identity, except by lineage. Yet even Denise Epstein believes that her mother remained Jewish at heart and converted only to escape persecution.

Weiss has taken the criticism in stride. "The critics may disagree with me," he said, "but none of them attacked the writing quality and research. When I did interviews in France, I was surprised at how many people read the book and liked it."

Asked about his newfound celebrity status in France, Weiss modestly replies that he's the "same old guy." He does, however, recall one particularly proud memory. "The best feeling was going to the publisher, and he handed me this 'Fiche Auteur' [author's form]. I sank back into my chair, smiled, and thought, 'Finally!'"