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A Housing Dialogue

Plan to link social and academic life under review

In an effort to link academic and residential life at Colby more formally, a form of housing based on students' shared interest in broad academic topics or themes, such as the environment or social justice, has been proposed.

Those two examples of potential Dialogue Houses were suggested as pilots by the Trustee Working Group, a committee of trustees, faculty, students and administrators that was formed to consider, among other issues, a proposal for multicultural housing at Colby. The group found the multicultural housing proposal "too narrow in scope, too potentially fragmenting, and based too exclusively on non-academic rationale," according to a report released January 20. The proposal for Dialogue Housing will be discussed on campus during the spring semester and could be instituted in 2005-06.

The Dialogue Housing proposal was to be aired in a variety of forums on campus beginning in February, said President William D. Adams. "We want to gather as much reaction as we can about the proposal and see what interest there might be," he said following the January meeting of the Board of Trustees.

This latest proposal emerged from a conversation that began in 2001 when some faculty members said they saw a need to link Colby's academic and social spheres more closely. While that observation did not lead directly to thematic housing proposals, Adams said he agreed in principle. Discussions of "learning communities" occurred at that time, and the Strategic Plan for Colby includes an initiative to "Integrate students academic, residential, and social experiences."

In the fall of 2002 students from underrepresented groups called for Colby to implement multicultural housing, a more specific form of specialty housing. That plan was prompted



by some gay and lesbian students who said they felt uncomfortable and even unsafe in conventional housing and by some students of color who said they wanted to live in a residential environment that stresses support of diversity.

The College Affairs Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee subsequently devised a modified plan for multicultural housing. Even in that carefully crafted form, however, multicultural housing "continues to be a place that the institution . . . does not choose to go," Adams said. "I think there is an understandably raw nerve about any kind of housing that suggests separations along either racial and ethnic lines or ideological lines." There is no room for negotiation on multicultural housing at Colby, he said. "The door is closed on that."

A door is open, however, to a plan that would permit students to live together based on shared academic thematic interests. A number of students have said that they feel a disconnect between their lives in the classroom and their lives in the dormitories. It is this separation that Dialogue Housing would help to bridge, Adams said.

While this is not an issue for all students, the College has identified a need to provide opportunities to intensify and broaden the academic experience for students who want to extend their intellectual inquiry even further.

"The notion there, going back to the strategic plan," Adams said, "was to afford these moments of connectivity around academic issues that were broad and far-reaching in their implications and, so, rather inclusive, and to do it in very carefully limited circumstances. So you could imagine a part of your Colby experience being shaped in this way but not all of it or even the primary part of it."

Under the proposal, the College would designate the two pilot houses (a social justice house and a "green" or environmental house) for 2005-06. Proposals for other future Dialogue Houses would be submitted to the College Affairs and Academic Affairs committees. The houses would need to have a minimum of 20 residents, a faculty leader and a clear plan for academic and civic activities. Group identity (e.g., gender, sexual orientation, major, religion, participation in athletics) could not serve as an organizing theme for a Dialogue House. Students could live in Dialogue Housing for only two semesters at Colby. First-year students would not be eligible.

Vice President for Student Affairs Janice Kassman said she and others involved in development of the Dialogue Housing concept considered several different versions of special housing in use at other colleges. "This [Dialogue Housing] seemed to combine all of the elements we wanted to achieve," Kassman said.

Discussions of the proposal are expected to gauge interest among students and faculty and to flesh out more details of how the system would operate. Kassman stressed that the College is not seeking a referendum on the proposal but an indication of whether there is sufficient interest in the Colby community to warrant moving ahead with the plan. Approval of the formal proposal would require assent from the Board of Trustees. —Gerry Boyle '78

Costs, Unstable Enrollments End CBB Abroad Programs

Citing unpredictable enrollments and financial challenges, the presidents of Colby, Bates and Bowdoin announced in February that the CBB collaborative study abroad programs in London; Quito, Ecuador; and Cape Town, South Africa, will end after the 2004-05 academic year.

Funded in large part by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the program was established in 1999 as a way to balance the benefits of immersion in a foreign culture and the rigorous academic standards that Colby, Bates and Bowdoin faculties expect in their own courses. Former Colby President William R. Cotter, during whose tenure the program was established, said one goal of the program was to allow for academic continuity both before and after the semester abroad.

Colby operates the CBB-London center, while Bowdoin runs CBB-Cape Town and Bates is responsible for CBB-Quito. With resident directors on site, the centers are partly staffed by a rotating faculty from the three colleges. Colby has had more students participate in the CBB programs than the other two schools.

In a joint statement, President William Adams, Bates President Elaine Hansen and Bowdoin President Barry Mills said the collaboration has been successful in some ways. They noted the quality of the programs, the richness of the students' experiences and the opportunities the centers afford faculty who want to teach in different settings and cultures.

But enrollments have fluctuated widely and have left the centers financially unstable. "We have concluded that we cannot continue to operate the centers without incurring further operating losses and very substantial administrative burdens," the presidents said.

The three colleges intend to continue to collaborate in the area of study abroad, a popular option taken by more than two thirds of Colby students. The presidents said faculty members at the three colleges and the Mellon Foundation will consider the lessons of the CBB-center collaboration as the next form of cooperation is shaped.

Colby is exploring the possibility of continuing its London program in some form, said Martha Denney, Colby's director of off-campus study and associate dean of faculty. Denney said Colby students still will have opportunities to study in Cape Town, Quito and London even without the CBB centers. "Prior to [the CBB programs] students went to all of those locations," she said. "They just went to different programs [offered by other schools]. We certainly hope they will again."

Abroad programs run by Colby in Cork, Ireland; Salamanca, Spain; St. Petersburg, Russia; and Dijon, France, will not be affected by the CBB decision, Denney said.

Groundbreaking Set for Alumni Center

Groundbreaking ceremonies for a new 28,000-square-foot alumni and development center, the first building in an ambitious plan to create an entire new campus district around the Colby Green, are scheduled for April 17. One of four new buildings proposed in the College's strategic plan, the \$5.7-million center should be completed for the opening of the 2005-06 school year.

While the alumni building will provide a welcoming venue near the center of campus for alumni visits and activities, offices in it will begin to address a College-wide office-space crunch. The move of development, alumni relations and communications departments into the new building will start a series of dominos that will free up space on the main academic quad for much-needed faculty offices.

"It's a place for alumni to gather and to feel part of the institution," said Trustee Douglas M. Schair '67, an early advocate for the alumni and development center. But the new building has important symbolic significance beyond its status as the first edifice in the broader construction program, he says.

Looking at the new facilities, new programs and strengthened

faculty and financial aid resources to which Colby aspires, Schair stressed the importance of getting the alumni relations and fundraising functions marshaled under one roof. To fulfill the ambitious vision for Colby's future, "You have to build a foundation," he said, "and this is an essential building block."

Vice President for College Relations Richard Ammons, who joined Colby's administration last fall, said he was "pleasantly surprised and impressed" with this commitment to alumni programming and to providing appropriate space for his division. With broad experience in development and institutional advancement work at other leading colleges and universities, Ammons said he is familiar with the challenges of "cobbling together good venues for meetings and for convivial gatherings in spaces not created for this."

The public spaces will serve students and faculty as well as alumni, since the large hall facing the new Colby Green will be a valuable new location for campus events during the school year. The large event room will be able to seat up to 150 for meals and will accommodate larger crowds with seating arranged for a lecture format.



Single Man March

Cornel West relentlessly challenges America's presuppositions, dogmatism, "spiritual vacuity"

Self-described "Chekhov lover, radical democrat and prophetic Christian," Cornel West began his speech to a capacity crowd in Page Commons in March with an observation: "You cannot talk about multiculturalism without examining why you are here."

West proceeded to keep his audience in thrall for more than two hours with questions that went to the heart of "Mosaic," Colby's fourth annual weekend-long student-organized diversity conference.

West's talk reflected the trajectory of his career, one that has launched, as Professor Cheryl Townsend Gilkes (sociology, African-American studies) put it, the "violent and eloquent public intellectual."

An acclaimed teacher and scholar of religion, West left Harvard in 2002 after a highly publicized disagreement with Harvard President Lawrence Summers, who questioned West's politics, extracurricular endeavors and what Summers said was a lack of serious scholarship. West quickly returned to Princeton, where he had taught and done graduate study.

Was West the victim of Harvard administrative establishment racism, as many have said? Or was the esteemed professor a casualty of his ego, putting himself above Harvard's requirements? Can one consider West—wooded by Princeton (where he is now the Class of 1943 University Professor of Religion), author of more than a dozen books, including the milestone *Race Matters*, organizer of the Million Man March, rap artist (visit cornelwest.com), actor in *The Matrix*—a victim at all? Who is this man who has garnered a following so crowded with strange bedfellows? The enigmatic persona before the Colby audience March 6 had a simple response: you are what you leave behind.

West's Colby performance was a public wrestling with "the dogmatism, provincialism and presuppositions" that burden us. In the course of a self-examination that afflicted the audience, as promised, with "intellectual vertigo," he spoke of race as "a litmus test that forces America to confront itself and what it means to be human."

West infused the debate on race with a new potency by moving easily among disciplines and centuries. In his talk, religious figures, philosophers, literary luminaries and political activists from Jesus Christ to Socrates, Edward Said to Louis Farrakhan, Aristophanes to Arthur Miller, became brothers in arms.

Alternating esoteric discourse and the staccato delivery of hip-



Cornel West addresses a packed Page Commons Room.

hop, West made good on his pledge to corral all possible means of communication to get the message out. "Share the same compassion, [don't] move towards Machiavellian group interests," he urged.

The targets of his criticism were varied and diverse, from black youth "who have traded in King's 'let freedom ring' for the bling-bling" of consumerism, to al Qaeda with whose anti-imperialism he identifies but whose thuggery he denounces, to white suburbanites who co-opt black music for their own, infusing it with a dominance of stupidity and mediocre talent.

West reserved a particular venom for "spiritual vacuity," disparaging a society that confuses "giganticism with greatness," values "hedonism and ubiquitous cheating" and "lives by an eleventh commandment: thou shalt not get caught."

West also delivered a scathing indictment of the nation's response to 9/11 and derided policies that rely on "great phallogocentric architecture," calling it a

metaphor for America's myopia, "instead of trying a little sweetness, kindness and love." For an alternate vision he drew on the black experience in America. "For those who have been so thoroughly hated and taught to hate themselves, as African-Americans have been," he said, "love is not merely an emotion, it's a subversive movement towards emancipation."

As the evening progressed West's challenges grew more pointed. "What judgment would be passed on a nation whose military budget is greater than the combined military expenditure of the next twenty nations and still manages to keep those it professes to love most of all, its children, trapped in poverty and without education or functional families?" he admonished.

Gilkes, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies, reflected later on the accessibility of West's scholarship. In fact, West's responses to the questions of the Colby audience—mostly young, white undergraduates—were gracious and un-condescending. He released his grip on the audience with the observation that "democracy is not about the majority, but about a minority whose passion, commitment and testimonies serve to persuade the less involved to effect change."

As the crowd rose to its feet and applauded enthusiastically, it was clear that West was accustomed to doing just that. —*Ru Freeman*

"Mosaic" Diversity Conference Mends Viewpoints, Disciplines

Multiculturalism took center stage (and classrooms and auditoriums, as well) on campus in March as the fourth annual conference on diversity-related issues attracted a varied and enthusiastic audience.

The student-run event, titled "Mosaic: What do you see?" after a passage in Daniel Quinn's *Ishmael*, featured renowned scholar Cornel West, and poet and actress Vanessa Hidary. Hidary and West both appeared before full houses in Page Commons. The conference also offered a full day of workshops and panel discussions aimed at "generating a dialogue about controversial issues by developing a fresh vocabulary and schemata of ideas," according to organizers Shapel Mallard '06 and Donte Tate '05.

The issues were discussed from the perspective of Christians, poets, gay and lesbian students and faculty from a variety of disciplines, from philosophy to biology.

At a workshop titled "A Christian Perspective on Race and Reconciliation," students

and administrators talked about their experiences with race, including facing ethnic and cultural lines in Africa and racial tension in Australia. "But under Christ, we're all the same," said Christabel Kwabi '06, an Oak Scholar from Ghana.

In "How to be an Ally?" organizers of Project Ally spent an hour talking about GLBT issues and suggesting ways to be supportive of gay and lesbian students and of the GLBT community. In "Communication 101... Are you listening to what I am saying?" Lisa Sweet (dean of students office and Posse mentor) addressed basic communication dynamics and the importance of listening to one another, particularly across cultural differences.

Mallard and Claire Jimenez '06 conducted a workshop on poetry as a political tool, with Mallard tracing activist African-American poets from Langston Hughes and others of the Harlem Renaissance movement to spoken-word poet Sarah Jones, who performed at the 2003 diversity conference.

Chyann Oliver '04 offered her own work ("I am like N'tozake's lady in green/I scream about repossessing my sh--/ Cause I am going on a woman's trip and I need my stuff/ And I've had enuf of you possessing it. ...") and then assembled students, staff and faculty wrote and recited poems, an exercise where the group leaders learned as well, Mallard said.

A panel discussion in Lovejoy 100 featured faculty from various disciplines discussing race in language, race defined biologically and genetically, race as an invention of a society trying to justify the Atlantic slave trade.

After an hour of discussion, a member of the audience asked the panelists whether they thought racial tension was diminishing in the United States. "I hope so," said panelist Cheryl Townsend Gilkes (sociology, African-American studies), "but the link between the thing we call race and a whole lot of other institutional realities is something we haven't come to grips with."

At right, students, faculty and administrators listen during a workshop intended to challenge participants to consider the ethnic and cultural forces that shape their identities. Below, scholar Cornel West mingles with students before his lecture in Page Commons. At lower right, Cheryl Townsend Gilkes (sociology and African-American studies) speaks at a panel discussion titled "What is Race?"



C Club Turns 100

For starters: a standing ovation for Cliff Veysey '36, the track and cross-country whiz who 70 years ago showed his heels to some of the best runners in the country.

Then Alex Wilson '73, president of the Colby Alumni Association, and Bill Ralph '88, president of the Colby C Club: lauding ski team members headed to the Division I nationals, extolling Colby's 2003 Division III women's crew national champions. "When I got to campus there *was* no crew team," Ralph told nearly 100 former Colby athletes and supporters of Colby athletics celebrating the 100th anniversary of the C Club.

"It's amazing to see where Colby athletics has gone," Ralph said, naming several C Club Person of the Year and Carl Nelson Sports Achievement recipients in the audience. "And it's great to see where it's going."

Colby athletics began in 1835 in an abandoned shed, where students could blow off steam lest they do it "in far less palatable ways," President William Adams told the gathering at the Burlington (Mass.) Marriott on February 28. But "even as we recognize how far we have come in these areas, we also know that critical concerns remain."

Athletics today has "migrated into the center of Colby," Adams said. Coaches think of themselves as teachers first, which extends the classroom relationship between student and teacher. But, Adams noted, the "collegiate" model is being supplanted by the "professional" model: the specialization and commercialization of intercollegiate athletics.

As a member of the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC), Colby is committed to academic excellence, Adams said, and focuses on helping student athletes achieve their academic potential. NESCAC "is arguably the finest of liberal arts college conferences," he said. "We're trendsetters in the national discussion."

The 100th anniversary celebration of the C Club followed a club event last fall, when the Family of the Century award was given to the Alford-Levine family for their many years of enthusiastic support of athletics at the College.

Reminiscing About a Record-Setting Track Career



Cliff Veysey '36

As a youngster, Cliff Veysey '36 ran 12 to 15 miles every day, rain or shine, at a five-minute mile pace on the roads of New Sharon, Maine, hoping publicity might earn him a college scholarship.

Publicity? Somebody once phoned his mother to tell her what her son was up to. "They think you're nuts, running," he recalled at the C Club celebration. He'd duck off the road when a car came along.

At his first race, his mother watched unhappily even though he was first across the finish line. Other runners "were coming in and falling on their faces," Veysey said. Mother Veysey beckoned him over. "No more!" she said. "You dumb fool."

But headlines followed more victories, and track coach Mike Ryan plucked Veysey for Colby, where he became one of the College's great track and cross-country runners. In May 1935 at the Eastern Intercollegiate Track and Field Meet in Worcester, Mass., Veysey set a meet record in the mile (4:22) and won the two-mile race (9:41.6), marks that stood as Colby records until 1967. "I had a nice time. I enjoyed every minute of it," Veysey said. "I wasn't very serious."

Don't believe it.

In the fall of 1933 Veysey finished third in the IC4A National Cross-Country Championship at Van Cortlandt Park in New York and was third in the National Intercollegiate Cross Country race. The following fall he won the New England cross-country championship in Boston and took second in the National Intercollegiate Cross Country event. In 1935 he won the state cross-country race for the third straight year but missed the nationals with a leg injury.

His best track events were the two-mile and 10,000-meter races. He ran before 18,000 people at the 8th Avenue Arena in New York in March 1934, finishing second in the 3,000. In May the following year he won the two-mile race at the New England Championships in Springfield, Mass.

And he bested some of the biggest names of his era—Tom Ottey of Michigan State, Penn's Gene Venske and two-time Boston Marathon winner Johnny Kelley. Veysey ran four or five marathons, including the Boston Marathon in 1935. "I wasn't last," he recalled, as modest today about his accomplishments as he was 70 years ago.

After school ended in 1936 he prepared for the Berlin Olympic Games, running 10,000-meter track races all across the country. In the final event at Princeton, Don Lash "scorched me," Veysey said. "I was beating his time all spring, but he ran like a deer." Only the winner went to the Olympics.

Veysey competed in his last race in the late '30s while in the military. During World War II he served as a staff sergeant in the South Pacific and Okinawa.

The father of two daughters and a son, Veysey owned a general contracting business in Glens Falls, N.Y., where he still lives and where his son, Wesley, runs the company today. Now 93, Veysey lost his left leg below the knee to an aneurysm in 1993, but the Veysey running gene has been passed on. Granddaughter Meredith Veysey was preparing for her first Boston Marathon in April. —Robert Gillespie



Cliff Veysey in 1935, at the height of his Colby running career.

Settlement Reached in Title IX Suit

In February Colby and five female student athletes who sued the College in June 2003 under the federal Title IX law mandating gender equity in athletics settled out of court. Both sides praised the agreement, which led to changes in the athletics program and avoided a potentially drawn-out court review of the case.

Under the agreement Colby agreed to adjust coaching duties in two instances where one individual has been serving as the head coach of two varsity women's teams. Also, a women's locker room will be remodeled and shower facilities there expanded.

Colby agreed to split one of the dual head coaching assignments before next fall and to address the other dual head coaching assignment before 2005-06. Athletics Director Marcella Zalot said that Jen Holsten '90, coach of women's soccer and women's ice hockey, will remain head soccer coach and will become assistant ice hockey coach for 2004-05.

The second dual head coaching assignment, to be addressed by fall 2005, involves field hockey and women's lacrosse, both now coached by Heidi Godomsky. Colby will look at whether to split those assignments between two individuals or to adjust head coaching assignments of men's teams to provide additional balance between the women's and men's programs, said Jerrol Crouter '78 of Drummond Woodsum & MacMahon, the College's legal counsel in the case.

Rebecca Avrutin '04, Wendy Bonner '05, Heather DeVito '05, Adrienne LeClair '05 and Kristin Putnam '05 were the plaintiffs in the case. They were represented by Sam Schiller, of Cookeville, Tenn., and Professor Ray Yasser of the University of Tulsa College of Law. Bonner told WABI-TV afterward, "We really wanted to stress to the school that this is not something we're doing out of anger or frustration. Well, it was out of frustration, but not out of anger. But our biggest aim was to see Colby be the best it could be."

In the settlement, which terminated the lawsuit, Colby agreed to establish and/or maintain policies, practices and systems to ensure equivalent programs and parity between men's and women's teams.

Conservative Argues for Gay Marriage

When Colby Republicans co-president Steve Bogden '05 began working last semester to bring gay conservative Andrew Sullivan to Colby, Bogden had no way of knowing that the speaking engagement would be so timely. The topic: same-sex marriage.

Sullivan, former editor of *The New Republic*, spoke in March, a week after San Francisco started granting marriage licenses to same-sex couples and President George W. Bush called for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Sullivan is openly gay and has advocated for gays in the military and same-sex marriage since the early 1990s.

Speaking to a crowd of more than 400 in Page Commons, Sullivan said, "From Massachusetts to San Francisco to small towns like New Paltz, New York, and now Nyack, New York, people are deciding that they're not going to tolerate discrimination anymore and are marrying couples of the same gender—gay people who want to commit to one another in the simplest and oldest gesture of love and commitment and fidelity."

Sullivan, who writes for *The New York Times Magazine* and *The Sunday Times* of London, has written books, including *Virtually Normal: An Argument About Homosexuality*, *Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con* and *Love Undetectable: Notes on Friendship, Sex, and Survival*. He also maintains a popular socio-political Web site, www.andrewsullivan.com.

Barely glancing at his notes, Sullivan countered many arguments against same-sex marriage with logic and passion. "It's such a simple moment, and yet it's taken so long to arrive," he said.

After the talk, Sullivan joined student organizers in the Bluelight Pub for more discussion. In a message posted on his weblog the next day, Sullivan wrote: "At a small college last night, over 400 showed up, cramming the biggest auditorium available, to listen to the speech and ask questions. . . . It's thrilling to see the interest and overwhelming support." —*Abigail Wheeler '04*

Italian Culture Proves Appealing

In a classroom on the third floor of the Lovejoy Building, Professor Mario Moroni strode back and forth in front of his students, his arms raised, his face animated, exclaiming, "Live free or die!"

It's probably not the first time the New Hampshire state motto has been the stuff of a college lecture, but consider that Moroni is Colby's Paul and Marilyn Pagannuci Assistant Professor of Language and Literature. What, pray tell, could the Granite State's renowned rebel streak have to do with Italian?

Plenty, for Moroni. The topic of discussion that day: a comparative analysis of the Italian independence movement, *il Risorgimento*, with America's own 18th-century struggle for independence.

Moroni incorporates elements of comparative and cross-cultural analysis into his courses. It's his way of making the subject appealing, not that Italian needs a lot of help.

Interest in Italian has surged, prompting the College to establish an Italian studies minor in September 2002. "In its first year, it already had twenty-seven students," Moroni said proudly.

Italian minors eagerly await junior year to spend their semester abroad in a country famed for its history, romance and beauty. Those back from their semester in Italy relish their memories of studying

the art of Michelangelo in the cradle of the Renaissance and Roman history and mythology in the heart of the Roman Empire.

Colby students aren't alone in their enthusiasm for Italian. In colleges across the nation there is growing interest in this country, which is only slightly larger than Arizona but heavily influences the world's fashion, art and cuisine.

The attraction, in part, stems from Italy's association with important cultural and intellectual developments in Western civilization. "That, together with the fact that Italy occupies seventh place among industrialized nations, is what accounts for Italy's enduring popularity among American students," said Allison Cooper, instructor in Italian. "That ranking also solidifies Italy's relevance in the global economy."

It also highlights another aspect of the interest Italy engenders among Americans. According to Moroni, students are attracted to Italian because the mentality of Italian culture is appealing. With Italians, students get the sense of "knowing how to be productive, but also knowing how to lead a livable and relaxed lifestyle," he said. "They get a sense that Italians know how to enjoy life above all things." —*Yvonne Siu '03*



Q&A

Margaret McFadden on queer studies, cautious optimism and *The Simpsons*

When President William Adams commissioned a task force on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues in 2002, the panel renamed itself the Queer Task Force and issued a report last year. In an interview Margaret McFadden (American studies), a

member of the task force considered the College's response to the report.

What do you think of the responses to the Queer Task Force report?

My general view is positive. The senior staff seems to have taken the report seriously and tried to respond to it thoughtfully. We didn't expect, necessarily, that they would follow all of our recommendations. . . . While not much change is clearly visible yet, I think some concrete things are in process and, when they are in place, will make a difference. I am optimistic that those who have committed to making changes will do so; the responses seem genuine.

Are you surprised by that?

Not really. We knew when we did this report that we were taking a risk, that the administration could say, "This is very interesting, thank you very much," and put it on a shelf. And we would have done all that work to no effect. But that didn't seem like much of a risk, because we believed that the president's invitation to do this work was sincere. I think the response demonstrates that he was.

But?

But of course we're disappointed about the queer studies [faculty] position. I recognize that it's expensive, that there are lots of important competing priorities, and that it's not a good time financially. We really did believe as a group, and I think it's a more widely shared view, that getting queer studies into the curriculum might be the single most important change we could make to improve the climate on campus. It's great that the proposed position made the list of top priorities. Our problem is we never quite make it to the top of the list, despite clear student demand and the benefits such a position could offer to the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program.

I think it's important to note that what we need is to make structural change, to put in place programs or staff or services or ongoing events that aren't dependent on the efforts of a few volunteers or that can simply disappear if a certain student graduates or a faculty member can't teach a given course one year.

So do you think things are better here for the gay/lesbian members of the Colby community?

It's hard to be concrete about that, but probably yes. I think there was a lot of energy around this issue last year that got people thinking and talking and started to create more awareness and sensitivity that has persisted. It turned out there was more quiet support and that there were more "allies" than I think a lot of the GLBT community was aware of. One sees a lot of rainbow ribbons and Project Ally buttons on backpacks this year. That sort of small thing marks a change for the better in the vibe on campus, I think. And in a variety of locations, I see some incremental changes that all contribute to a sense of moving forward.

Can you cite any examples?

Reorganization of the dean's office [student affairs] to have Cecilia Stanton leading the office of multicultural affairs has made a very positive difference already. Although GLBT issues are only a part of their charge, I think they're doing a terrific job and the students have responded enthusiastically to their initiatives. A few academic departments hired new faculty members who have expertise in queer studies, as well as in other fields, so there are a couple of new QS courses. Also, a few continuing faculty members have offered new courses with substantial QS material, so students have, at least this semester, more choices than usual if they want to study in this field.

Any more tangible ways to describe how "the vibe" has changed?

This has been a pretty low-key year for GLBT activism, so maybe the absence of obvious backlash can be attributed to that fact. But there's also more visibility of things aimed at queer students, just as a normal part of the scene. There are signs and flyers about events that stay posted. Posse One did wonderful chalkings to celebrate National Coming Out Day, and there was no visible negative response. The Colby Republicans brought a conservative speaker who supports same-sex marriage to discuss the issue. Everyone just seems to have gotten used to more GLBT visibility. In the end, I think that's a good thing. Maybe every Pride Week won't have to be a big drama.

I'm reminded of a great scene in an episode of *The Simpsons*. Homer is awakened from his nap by sound of a gay pride parade. The whole family goes to look. The marchers are chanting, "We're here; we're queer. Get used to it." Lisa says, "We are used to it. You were here last year." That's kind of where we are at this moment. That's certainly reason for optimism, but my more cautious self worries that that's only because the visibility has not been particularly political or controversial. It might turn out to be a kind of uneasy calm, but for now things seem to be moving in the right direction.



A Personal Epic

Anthropologist Hong Zhang
mirrors the strengths of the
people she studies



Resilience in the face of uncertainty is among the most impressive characteristics of the Chinese people that anthropologist Hong Zhang sees as she studies peasant families and labor migration trends in a rural Chinese village called Zhongshan.

Adversity, uncertainty and resilience—in nothing short of epic proportions—are part of Hong's personal story as well. Her own migration from central China to central Maine included a lengthy rural "reeducation" program for urban youths during China's Cultural Revolution.

During the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), it would have been hard to predict China's recovery or foresee what Hong describes as a current mood of optimism among the Chinese people. After she was sent in 1975 from the industrial city of Wuhan to tiny Zhongshan to be reeducated by peasants, Hong's primary worry was that she would never be able to return to the city. She wouldn't have dared to imagine someday returning to the village to study Chinese peasant culture as a Ph.D. anthropologist from Columbia University and a member of Colby's faculty.

Hong was the eldest daughter of intellectuals, teachers in Wuhan. "I was only nine years old and it [the Cultural Revolution] lasted ten years, so

all my formative years were completely formed in this whole political movement," she said. "I witnessed my own parents' struggle." Educated by American missionaries, "they were not clean. So they had to confess what they had done in the Thirties and the Forties." Teachers were labeled "the stinking ninth," and for month's Hong's mother was confined at the school. "She

had to write countless confessionals. It was very painful."

She was forced to clean bathrooms, "do the dirty work," Hong recalls. "You just felt you hated to be born in that kind of situation." Soon enough the Cultural Revolution would disrupt Hong's life more directly: "Mao said, 'those city youths need to be reeducated by the peasants.' So after we graduated from high school many of us were sent to the village to learn manual labor."

"That's when I learned about the hard life in the countryside. China was poor, but there was a big gulf between the city and the village," she said. "Even twenty years later when I returned there again as an anthropologist [in 1993] there were changes, but there was still no running water in the village."

Bright and energetic, Hong distinguished herself and was asked to leave the relative comfort of her cadre and become a teacher in the village school. Apprehensive about never being able to return to the city, she nevertheless accepted and remained in Zhongshan from 1975 to 1978.

But after Mao's death in 1976, one of Deng Xiaoping's early reforms was the reinstatement of college entrance exams. Hong was in the first group to take the exams, and despite a

10-year backlog competing to be in that first class, she gained entrance to study English.

Her success there led to a master's program at Wuhan University. From hundreds of applicants, she was one of five admitted—the only woman and the only student in the program new to the university.

In the late 1980s her intellectual curiosity led her to Columbia University and a graduate program in a discipline that didn't exist in China at the time—anthropology. She worked three jobs, raised a toddler and earned two master's degrees and her Ph.D., despite initially struggling with a language she knew only from classroom experience. She taught two years at Colby and one at Drew University before being hired in 2000 for a tenure-track position at Colby in East Asian studies.

Hong has written about eldercare in China, shamanism and gender issues in Chinese proverbs. Doing what she calls "virtual ethnography," she conducted online research about SARS jokes in China that garnered attention at Harvard, Stanford and Yale.

But her primary research interest takes her back to the site of her "reeducation." In 2002 she was stunned to find her village almost devoid of people in the 16-to-24 age bracket. The village, country and economy had changed so drastically that young people were leaving for wages in China's booming industrial economy.

While relocation was disruptive to the Chinese peasant families, Hong sees a bright side to the migration. "This mobility ultimately will do good for the population. They need to see the outside, and not just on TV. They need to experience it," she said, citing awareness of human rights and regional inequities as important benefits.

"There is this spirit of hope and optimism for a better future or a better society. It's encouraging," she said. —*Stephen Collins '74*

At Home on the Hill

Homeschooling is solid preparation for Colby, students say

James Thompson '06 was a bit uneasy when he learned before his freshman year that his future roommate had been homeschooled. "I think almost everyone has a stereotype of a homeschooler in his or her head," he said. "When [Francis] told me he was homeschooled, I feared he would be clingy, socially awkward and extremely quirky. After meeting him in person, my views on homeschooling have completely changed. . . . He's no quirrier than anyone else."

Francis Orzechowski '06 is the oldest of five children, all homeschooled. He arrived at Colby from Newport, N.H., to encounter the prevailing misconception about homeschooled students—that they are all socially maladjusted.

"Some students were skeptical," said Orzechowski, a government major. "Few people understood that to be a homeschooler does not mean that one is divorced from society and that I was in the same boat as all the other freshmen in adjusting to college life."

As his roommate explained, accepting homeschooling is as easy as getting to know a homeschooler. "The only perceptible difference caused by homeschooling is the obvious lack of peer pressure in [Francis's] life thus far," Thompson said. "Because of this, he is true to himself and speaks his mind without fear."

Nor does Orzechowski fit any of the other stereotypes that people apply to homeschoolers. He isn't from the religious right or the antiestablishment left, he said. As another former homeschooler, Mary Ostberg '06, put it, those families who opt out of a formal school system are as varied as the families who go along with it.

Some homeschooling parents want to teach their children from a Christian perspec-

tive; some worry about violence in conventional schools. Some are disappointed in their local school system, and some families think they can achieve more at home.

Advocates of home education say the practice recognizes that every student has individual interests and ways of learning. At home, assignments can be tailored to the student and, oftentimes, designed by the student. Ostberg, a sociology major homeschooled through high school, says the experience was empowering. "I had the ability to make my own assignments, make my own goals, so I just had to answer to myself," she said. "I think you feel a lot better when you make a goal and you finish it rather than someone else saying 'you have to do this.'" For many, it's about creativity and freedom. "It's very focused on making everything a part of your education," Ostberg said. "We did tons of field trips to museums. It was nice because we never had to fill out a little sheet with questions, like you do on school trips. We could just talk about it and just . . . absorb it."

Homeschoolers are joining their public- and private-school peers at Colby and at other homeschool-friendly colleges and universities. Think they're ill prepared? Introverted? Think again. Today's homeschoolers are winning national spelling bees and captaining school sports teams. Orzechowski is on four I-Play

teams and plays three musical instruments; Ostberg is on the crew team, does photography and plays the piano. Both students have made the Dean's List every semester.

That kind of success is leading more colleges to open their doors to homeschooled students, says Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Parker Beverage. "In building each entering class, we seek to include highly able and interesting students from a wide variety of backgrounds," Beverage said. "Students who have experienced homeschooling add to the richness of this mix."

Admissions inquiries by homeschoolers have more than doubled at Colby in the past five years, and while only a small percentage of the current student population was home-



Mary Ostberg '06 and Francis Orzechowski '06.

Rolling Up Their Sleeves

Given a month to pursue academic projects wherever their interests took them, Colby students set out from Mayflower Hill during Jan Plan. A very random sampling:



Nine second-year Japanese students spent a month in Aomori, Japan, living with host families and doing internships and research projects on everything from massage to Japanese religions. Funded by the Freeman Foundation, the project was organized by a school superintendent in Aomori. The Colby students were featured in a three-quarter-page spread in the *Daily Tohoku* newspaper.

RUMBI SUNDIRE '04, from Zimbabwe, started taking German last fall. Determined to speed up the learning process, she took a German course at the Goethe Institut in Berlin. When Sundire, a mathematics major, returned to Colby, her German had improved so much she jumped ahead two levels.

KATE BARUS '06 did a Jan Plan in Nicaragua, studying women's health.

Four students worked for presidential candidates in the New Hampshire Democratic primary, doing everything from door-to-door canvassing to logistics. One, **EMILY BOYLE '06**, was Sen. John Kerry's driver when he visited Portland before the Maine caucuses.

MONTY HANKIN '05 did an internship with Malteser Hilfsdienst in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Malteser is a large national nonprofit organization assisting in all areas of society, from care for elderly to traffic accident emergencies. Hankin was one of several students awarded Linda Cotter Grants for Jan Plan projects.

An English composition class taught by Associate Professor **NATALIE HARRIS** focused on the Holocaust and, in turn, taught seventh grade students at Waterville Junior High School. Joint presentations and e-mail exchanges were highlights.

College Intends to Restore "24/7" Health Center

After a year of limited hours, the Health Center will revert to round-the-clock coverage in the fall—if suitable staff can be hired, College officials said.

The reduction in hours was under consideration in 2003 when the College was unable to hire staff because of an ongoing shortage of nurses in Maine. Health Center hours were reduced to daytime coverage only beginning in the fall. That brought the services in line with most of Colby's peer colleges. But in February it was decided that the College would return to full round-the-clock hours beginning in September, if possible.

"The College had always said we were going to use this year to evaluate and determine the future of '24-7,'" said Vice President for Student Affairs Janice Kassman. "The only reason we eliminated it this year is because we couldn't find the nurses."

In a related matter, the College rethought a plan to add a full-time health educator to the Health Center staff. That plan would have displaced two Health Center staffers. After concerns were raised by the Health Care Advisory Committee and the College Affairs Committee, along with students and staff, the reorganization was changed to use existing staff to fulfill the growing education mission of the Health Center.

Objections to the original plan prompted students to circulate a petition asking that the plan be reconsidered and nurse practitioner Lydia Bolduc-Marden, a long-time member of the Health Center staff, be retained. More than 1,200 students signed the petition, according to Taffie Gwitimah '06, who headed the petition effort. She said Bolduc-Marden listens and sincerely cares about students. "When they go to the Health Center, it's Lydia they want to talk to," Gwitimah said. "Lydia's office is a safe space." —Gerry Boyle '78

schooled, the numbers are rising. And as the numbers grow, the negative stereotypes fade. "I think, on the whole, most people are realizing that homeschoolers don't just sit at home and do nothing," Ostberg said.

Like all other students who apply to Colby, homeschoolers take the SATs and SAT IIs and submit extensive course descriptions in lieu of transcripts. They send in scores from the Iowa Basic Skills Test, which some states require homeschoolers to take annually, and grades from outside courses.

Ostberg took classes at the Harvard University Extension school; Orzechowski studied ancient Greece at St. Paul's School Advanced Studies Program. They have captained sports teams at their local high schools, taken music lessons and done volunteer work. "I didn't encounter any problems, or questions, from any college to which I applied . . . especially not from Colby," Orzechowski said. "When I contacted admissions officers before beginning the process, Colby was definitely the most flexible. . . . [The] unqualified acceptance, even

embrace, of homeschooling is in retrospect probably a big reason why I was immediately attracted to Colby."

Socially it seems that, for these students, Colby is a lot like home. "A lot of the worry over how homeschoolers will adapt to college stems from the idea that we are not well-rounded in the social arena," Ostberg said.

"At Colby I've made some wonderful friends," Orzechowski added. "I love the social scene. The close-knit, friendly atmosphere is just what I expected." —Anne Marie Sears '03



Booth's Toll

Elizabeth Leonard probes the tumultuous events that followed Lincoln's assassination

Lincoln's Avengers: Justice, Revenge, and the Reunion after the Civil War

By Elizabeth Leonard (history)

W.W. Norton & Company (2004)

Most people have at least vague knowledge of the aftermath of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. After shooting Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth leapt from the president's box at the Ford Theater and was injured in the fall. Booth fled Washington and was treated by a doctor named Mudd. The assassin was surrounded as he hid with an accomplice in a barn. He was shot and died without telling his story. Some of his fellow conspirators were subsequently executed.

End of story? Hardly.

Historian Elizabeth Leonard's new book, *Lincoln's Avengers*, is a detailed account of the rest of the story—political upheaval that followed Lincoln's death and shaped the Reconstruction Era. The book also relates—and thoughtfully considers—the public political and ideological debates that raged in the months and years after the assassination as the country wrestled with monumental questions. How best to reunite the country after the carnage of years of civil war? Should the South be punished or forgiven? Would forgiveness lead to resurgence of the same forces that led to the Confederacy? What did Confederate president Jefferson Davis know about the Lincoln assassination plot, and when did he know it?

Leonard traces the events in large part by following Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt, a Kentucky lawyer who, despite his southern heritage, was a stalwart "Union man." It was Holt and his Bureau of Military Justice that headed the investigation of Lincoln's murder, determined not only to catch Booth and his cronies but also to prove that the assassination was ordered or approved by Davis.

Holt succeeded in rounding up and convicting (before a military tribunal) eight conspirators. They worked with Booth in a failed plot

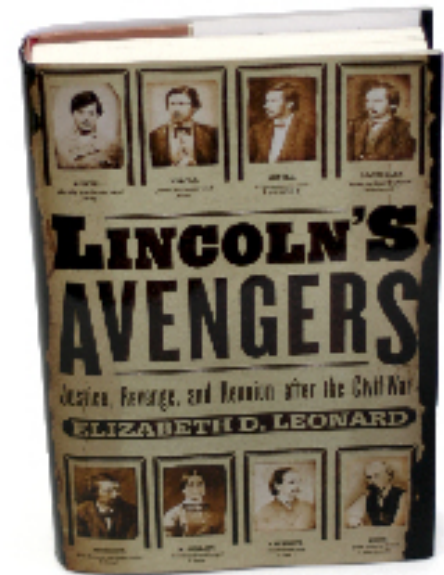
to kidnap Lincoln and, later, in simultaneous attacks on the president and Secretary of State William Seward and a planned assault on Vice President Andrew Johnson. The attacker chickened out.

The assassination, on April 14, 1865, came as Americans were daring to think that Robert E. Lee's surrender would lead to a long-awaited peace. Instead it was a brutal reminder that, while the fighting had stopped on the battlefield, the enmity that fueled the war was unabated in the South.

Drawing on newspaper reports and other documents, Leonard gives detailed accounts of the lives of Booth and his abettors, most of whom were fervent Confederate sympathizers. The eight were arrested and rapidly convicted. Four, including Mudd, were sentenced to life in prison (though he was pardoned in 1869). Four, including rooming-house owner Mary Surratt, were sentenced to death. They were hanged July 7, less than three months after the assassination, despite national debate on the propriety of executing a woman.

While Leonard draws compelling portraits of the individuals involved in the Lincoln plot, her book also provides insight into the political climate of the time. The nation was torn between revenge and reconciliation, and with Andrew Johnson in the White House it was reconciliation (which some charged was motivated by his southern sympathies and opposition to suffrage for freed slaves) that would prevail.

But Holt had no doubts about the course he felt the nation should take. At considerable personal cost, including death threats and estrangement from friends and family in the South, he set out to bring Confederate leaders to justice. After the conspirators, it was Henry Wirz, commandant of the notorious prison



camp at Andersonville, Ga., where more than 10,000 Union prisoners died.

Holt's military tribunal found Wirz guilty of a host of charges and, as Leonard notes, he was hanged and buried alongside the Lincoln assassination conspirators.

But it was Jefferson Davis whom Holt wanted to bring to trial for Lincoln's murder, and he told Johnson just that. "Holt's step was bold," Leonard writes, "but hardly reckless or surprising. [Secretary of State] Stanton himself had reached the same conclusion. Indeed, as early as the day Holt took over the investigations, *The New York Times* had explicitly linked the assassination conspiracy with the leadership of the Slave Power itself, noting that the attacks . . . amounted to nothing less than the 'legitimate crowning of a whole system of crimes and atrocities.'"

In Davis, Holt may have met his match, not because the judge advocate lacked conviction but because the issue became enmeshed in one of the most raucous disputes between a president, his own Cabinet and Congress in the nation's history. Johnson did everything in his power to obstruct the Republican reconstruction plan, in a series of dramatic moves that Leonard chronicles in passages that make this a political page-turner.

It was a remarkable time, and Leonard brings it to life with succinct, unfettered writing and the clarity of a historian's perspective. She shows that, as is often the case, it isn't the historic act itself that is important but the ripples that spread irrevocably and unpredictably from it. —Gerry Boyle '78

To Spain, On a Gust of Wind

Jennifer Barber's poems, composed in compact lines and perfectly nailed images, veer surprisingly among moments of splendid isolation, familial intimacy and centuries-old ethnic contention.

In "Summer in the Attic, I'm Taking off my Skirt," Barber '78 writes, "the air up here/scratches like a Hudson's Bay/ blanket." Dropping her shirt and the bra she feels is "a fancy thing," the speaker shucks off adornment, simplifying, her eye deliberately attentive to finches "pulling invisible/banners of blue sky" until "I'm in the catbird seat/ with my naked skin./The shrill/monotone of insects," she concludes, "tightens like a wire." She's "wired" reverently to the things of this world.

Barber's adopted territory is Spain, the cities and country villages, farms and rivers she discovered while living in Galicia following her Rhodes Scholarship in England. Her poems frequently summon up air and wind, the essence of a natural world that inspires but is predictably unfathomable and often dangerous.

Like the wind, cities and their inhabitants pass away, returning only to pass away, their history a maze of alarms and accidents, looping cycles and shifting shapes of persecution and hardship ("wind/knocking/at the doors/where Franco's men/conscripted farmers' sons/fifty years ago"). Bereavement, in several poems about Spain, where bloody tragedy has struck time and again, is tempered by a religious instinct for renewal that shines through like sunlight on stained glass.

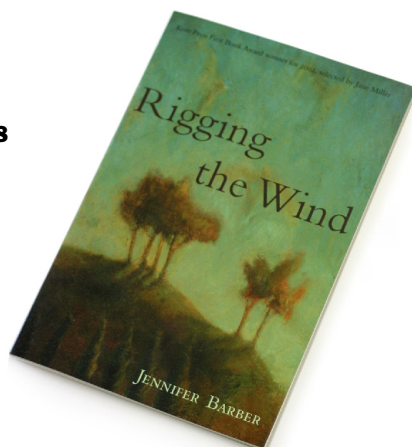
A poem to love, honor and anthologize, "The Adoption," begins, "October leapt out/with a barrel-chested laugh." The moment, a blessing to the speaker because it is unsought and transitory, is also "the joke." When "A gust of wind/unhinged the sparrows/from the maple," knocking them off their perch and turning them giddy,

the baby, too, laughed deep
as though being here
were nothing she had planned
but she got the joke,
the lovely, lovely joke.

Barber chose the name *Salamander* for the literary journal she founded and edits in Brookline, Mass. The salamander, reputed to live in and survive fire, is also the residue in a blast furnace—and a trademark of Barber's clean, sharply forged lines rigging together words of homage to "the lovely, lovely joke."

Rigging the Wind was the 2002 Kore Press First Book Award winner.
—Robert Gillespie

Rigging the Wind
Jennifer Barber '78
Kore Press (2003)



recent releases

Graceful Exits: Catholic Women and the Art of Departure **Debra Campbell (religious studies)**

Indiana University Press (2003)

Graceful Exits explores the complicated relationships of Catholic women to their church through the personal narratives of nine modern women writers who dealt with leaving the Catholic Church. Their stories suggest that no one ever really leaves the church, and Campbell's final chapter examines narratives of return.

A Heart Divided

Cherie Bennett and Jeff Gottesfeld '77

Delacorte Press (2004)



This young-adult novel explores the Confederate flag's significance through the eyes of Yankee teen Kate, who moves to small-town Tennessee with her liberal-minded New York City family. A petition to replace her school's Confederate flag insignia pits Kate and the handsome Jack against one another in a bitter controversy: about the flag and what it means to be an American. A stage adaptation is planned for July 2004.

All Stories Are Fiction

Mike Daisey '96

In late February performer-writer-monologist Daisey began performing "All Stories Are Fiction" every Monday night at New York's P.S. 122. The series of brand-new stories range from the warped genius of scientist Nikolai Tesla, to the strange and wonderful powers of Chinese hamster ovaries, to growing up in rural Maine under the shadow of the apocalypse. For more, go to www.mikedaisey.com.

The Perfect Score

Jon Zack '93, writing credit

Six high school seniors with a range of braininess and motivation decide to break into the Princeton Testing Center so they can steal the answers to their upcoming SAT tests and all get perfect scores. The teen film's cast includes Scarlett Johansson (*Girl with a Pearl Earring*, *Lost in Translation*) and Erika Christensen (*Traffic*).

Hartford: Connecticut's Capital, An Illustrated History

Glenn Weaver and Michael Swift '85

American Historical Press (2003)

Hartford Courant writer Swift's update of Weaver's history of the Connecticut capital includes hundreds of lithographs and vintage photos. The illustrated history covers Hartford's development from a collection of crude dugout huts to what is today a highly developed metropolitan area.

Rooting Multiculturalism: The Work of Louis Adamic

Dan Shiffman '86

Fairleigh Dickinson University Press (2003)

Rooting Multiculturalism evaluates the life and work of Louis Adamic, the Slovenian-born writer, editor, historian and champion of immigrant contributions. Shiffman argues that Adamic's writing on diversity in the U.S. is fundamental to American pluralism.



Life Lessons

Tom Austin's gridiron career leaves legacy of pride, trust and hard work

When Colby's football team walked off Whittier Field in Brunswick at the end of the 1988 season, not only a 24-0 victor over Bowdoin but winner of the CBB championship for just the second time since 1972, the Mules left something behind. "We were all on the bus," recalled then-coach Tom Austin, "and [Bowdoin] coach [Howard] Vandersea came on board with a bag and said, 'I thought you might want this.' We opened the bag, and there was the CBB trophy. We didn't even know there was one."

Such were the depths of Colby football when Austin arrived two years earlier as head coach of a program that had languished in the competitive shadows of in-state rivals Bowdoin and Bates. Eighteen years later, there are no such depths, no such shadows.

Austin announced his retirement from coaching in November, just after leading Colby to a 5-3 record and a 12th CBB title under his guidance. "Colby's been the perfect place for him," said Chris White '90, a member of Austin's first recruiting class and now an assistant coach at Syracuse. "He wasn't someone who wanted to go to the big time. Colby was the big time for him, and it was in Maine, which he loved."

Austin leaves as the school's career leader in football coaching wins, his 67-76-1 record including a 1-15 start in 1986 and 1987 as he began to rebuild the Mules from gridiron ground zero. "I learned a lot of lessons from Coach Austin, things he preached daily," said Eric DeCosta '93, director of college scouting for the National Football League's Baltimore Ravens. "Detail, preparation, discipline, toughness, compassion and trust were all paramount."

At the peak of Austin's Colby tenure were 7-1 seasons in 1994 and 2000 that earned the Mules top-five rankings in New England. The 2000 finish also gave Colby a share of the first-ever New England Small College Athletic Conference football title and Austin accolades as NESCAC Coach of the Year and Division



II-III Coach of the Year by the Gridiron Club of Greater Boston.

"Tom's been a tremendous role model for all of us," said Ed Mestieri, a 15-year Colby assistant coach who replaced Austin on January 1. "The enthusiasm he has for life, the game, Colby football and, most of all, his players has impacted all of us in a very special way."

Mestieri sees little reason to alter much of what Austin has built, a legacy that includes leadership within the CBB and competitiveness within the NESCAC. "When you're with someone for 15 years like myself and [assistant coach] Tom Dexter have been with Coach Austin, you have input into the way things have gone," Mestieri said. "We hope to build on the tradition of excellence that is symbolic of how our program is viewed."

For Austin, an Ohio native who grew up in Maine and played free safety and quarterback at the University of Maine in the early 1960s, rebuilding Colby football was a gradual process. The 1988 campaign, a 4-4 season capped by the Mules' first shutout win over Bowdoin since 1933, seemingly put the program back on solid footing.

That growth was challenged in 1990 when

underground fraternities were discovered on campus and a number of students, including football players, were suspended from the College. "There was talk we were the worst team in the country," said Sean Devine '94, a freshman defensive end on the 1990 team who is now an assistant coach at the University of New Hampshire. "I was one of thirteen freshmen who started, but Coach Austin always remained positive."

"We started 0-5, but he and the other coaches made me want to come out every day for practice. We wound up winning our last three games, and the CBB, and that really was the springboard for some good years. Even though we were young and only had 40 players, Coach Austin always talked about 'Blue Team Pride,' and even now I don't go a day without thinking about it."

"Blue Team Pride," at the core of Austin's football philosophy, is the belief that individuals working as a team toward common goals can produce great results. "It's a wonderful life to come to work every day and to work with human beings," Austin said. "The challenge is to reach out to them. With football, there are so many people involved, it's a challenge to get everyone on the same page. I don't think there's anything that equals the satisfaction of seeing that goal reached."

"How you do it is pretty simple, really. I think the big thing is to treat people like you would like to be treated."

That has involved some unique bonding adventures, like beaver trapping and paintball sojourns, all designed to develop the sense that football is as much about camaraderie as it is about competition.

"His warmth and love of family is something that was always evident," said Mark Jackson '95, director of football operations for the reigning NCAA Division I national co-champion University of Southern California. "He built a family atmosphere around the program that allows each one of us to still feel connected to Colby football today." —Ernie Clark

MEN'S HOCKEY finished 14-7-4, falling 4-2 to Trinity in the NESCAC semifinals. **PATRICK WALSH '05** made the All-NESCAC first team and led Colby's defensemen with eight goals and 14 assists. Forward **NICK BAYLEY '05**, an Academic All-American, was the team's leading scorer with 14 goals and a league-leading 21 assists. The Mules lose two of their top three point producers in **ROSS MACMILLAN '04** (11 goals, 16 assists) and **BRIAN CHISHOLM '04** (11 goals, 15 assists). . . . **WOMEN'S HOCKEY** finished 4-18-1. **KATE SWEENEY '04** led the team in scoring (9 goals, 9 assists), finishing her Colby career with 36 goals and 39 assists. **HEATHER DEVITO '05** had 12 goals and three assists. . . . **WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK** sent three athletes to the NCAA Division III Championships: **KARIMA UMMAH '04**, high jump and triple jump; **CAROLINE MINKOFF '04**, weight throw; **JESS MINTY '06**, 800-meter run. Ummah won two ECAC titles, one New England Division III title and a record five individual events at the Maine State Championships. . . . **MEN'S INDOOR TRACK** missed **XAVIER GARCIA '05**, who was abroad part of the season, but he returned to win the Maine State title in the long jump. **PATRICK HARNER '05** took second at the New England Division III Championships in the 55-meter dash. **NAT BROWN '04** won a Maine State title in the 800-

meter run. . . . **MEN'S BASKETBALL** finished 6-17. **PATRICK MCGOWAN '05** led Colby in scoring (14.2), assists (76) and steals (41). Center **DREW COHEN '07** led the NESCAC in blocked shots per game (2.10). . . . **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** finished 9-16. **WENDY BONNER '05** led in scoring (11.2) and rebounding (9.2). Bonner was second in the NESCAC in rebounding, fourth in field goal percentage (.505) and 15th in scoring. . . . **WOMEN'S SQUASH** finished ranked 12th in the nation and fourth in Kurtz Cup competition at the national team championships at Yale. . . . **MEN'S SQUASH** came up big in their final match to take 19th in the country with a 5-4 victory over Wesleyan in the national team championships at Yale. **TODD BASNIGHT '06**, one of the top winners for Colby from the third position, was named to the NESCAC Winter All-Academic squad. . . . **WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING** had one of its most successful seasons, going 7-2 in dual meets and setting 14 school records heading into the NCAA Division III Championship meet. **LAURA MILLER '05** set eight school records individually or as part of a relay team, winning titles in the 50-yard butterfly and 100-yard butterfly. . . . **MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING** had a small roster but won two meets. **JABEZ DEWEY '07** set two school records at the NESCAC meet. **TOM IRELAND '05** was strong

in the freestyle sprints. . . . **MEN'S ALPINE SKIING** took a full squad of three skiers to the NCAA Division I Championships. **WARNER NICKERSON '05** won five of the first seven races in the season's opening four meets, and became the first Colby skier to win giant slalom and slalom the same weekend. Nickerson went to the NCAA meet with **CHARLIE REED '06** and **ROBERT SAUNDERS '05**. Saunders earned All-America honors at last year's nationals. . . . in **WOMEN'S ALPINE SKIING** twin sisters **JENNY LATHROP '06** and **ABBI LATHROP '06** helped Colby to a first NCAA Division I victory when Jenny finished first and Abbi second in leading the Mules to a slalom win at the Williams College meet. Jenny, the national runner-up in the slalom last year, became the first Colby woman to win the giant slalom and the slalom in the same weekend. . . . A number of sophomores and first-year skiers posted good results in **MEN'S NORDIC SKIING**. Four skiers—**ERIC FITZ '04**, **KRIS DOBIE '06**, **FRED BAILEY '07** and **JEFF ALDEN '07**—placed in the top 36 at the Dartmouth carnival. . . . In **WOMEN'S NORDIC SKIING**, **ALEX JOSPE '06** finished third in a TAMC Nordic Nor Am Super Tour event before the Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association (EISA) season. Jospe and **HILARY EASTER '06** were consistently the top two skiers for Colby.

A March for All-America

Colby athletes went down the slopes, over the high-jump bar and splashing through the pool to earn All-America honors in March.

Women's swimmers Laura Miller '05, Beth Foxwell '06, Annie Muir '07 and Meg Vallaly '07 all earned All-America honors at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships at Principia College near St. Louis.

Karima Ummah '04 was an All-American once again in the women's triple jump at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Warner Nickerson '05 and sisters Abbi Lathrop '06 and Jenny Lathrop '06 all earned All-America status at the NCAA Division I Skiing Championships staged by the University of Nevada.

Miller came the closest to a national title by finishing second in the 100-yard butterfly, in 56.99. Denison University's Jill Boo trailed Miller to the wall at 50 yards but made up ground in the last 25 yards to win by 41 hundredths of a second. Miller's finish was the highest ever for a Colby swimmer (male or female) at the NCAA meet.

Miller, Foxwell, Muir and Vallaly became the first Colby relay team to finish in the top eight and earn All-America honors. The foursome had a school record time of 3:57.44 in a 400-yard medley relay preliminary race and then finished eighth overall with a 3:57.55.

The four swimmers helped the Mules take 20th place at the NCAA

meet, the best finish by a Colby team since the 1989 squad took 19th.

Ummah finished in fourth place in the triple jump with a leap of 38' 3.5". In 2003 she finished third, earning All-America honors with a school record triple jump of 39' 10.5".

The Lathrop sisters and Nickerson all earned second-team All-America honors in the giant slalom. Jenny Lathrop placed in a tie for seventh in the giant slalom in 2:00.22 over her two runs, while Abbi Lathrop was 10th in 2:00.64. Both women also earned second-team honors in the giant slalom at the 2003 NCAA meet.

Nickerson went from 13th place in the giant slalom at the 2003 NCAA meet to 10th place this year. He was 12th after the first run but moved up two spots after a solid second run. —Bill Sodoma



Warner Nickerson '05

The Gift of Music

Playing from the heart, Colby trio trades
Foss stage for Northwest spotlight

Zöe Kaplan's life is all about music and art and warmth. Musical instruments fill her wood-paneled Portland, Ore., bungalow: three guitars, two mandolins, conga drums, a banjo, a cello and a vintage piano. Photographs and artworks by local artists adorn the walls. Olive, a friendly shepherd/collie mutt rescued from Montana, eagerly greets all who enter the house. It's a soothing, restorative place, reflective of the woman herself.

"To me, music is about healing, even if I'm singing in the smokiest bar to the drunkest people," said Kaplan '97, a lead singer for Cross-eyed Rosie, a hot new Portland-based (and Colby laden) bluegrass band.

Kaplan does not lightly link music with healing. She was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2001, a life turn that, she now reflects, "propelled me on an exciting adventure." She attended a school for spiritual healing and began to share her learning and experience with others. "I went from a place of deep despair to joining this band to starting a healing practice. And I'm exploring ways to get my music into hospitals and hospices."

The six-member group was launched in the summer of 2002, the brainchild of Jon Ostrom '94, who plays guitar in addition to serving as manager and promoter. James Loveland '96 writes half the band's original songs.

Kaplan's deep friendship with Loveland, a psychologist for Portland public schools and the husband of Jen Vogt Loveland '97, led James Loveland to write "Rosalie," a song on the band's CD *Lookin' Up*, as a tribute to the way Kaplan redefined herself during her struggle with multiple sclerosis.

"I cried when I first heard 'Rosalie,'" Kaplan said. "I even learned about myself while listening. James's writing is so deep, so touching, so close to the soul."

Loveland claims less of a role in the creative process, saying he simply starts with a bit of musical inspiration. "And then the words fall into the cracks of the music," he said. "Sometimes I just wake up with an idea; sometimes, I really have to labor. But it's always wonderful to bring an idea to the band and create together and see and hear the magic happen."

Magic happens often, according to bandmates, fans and music critics. "James writes great tunes. He's awesome, amazing!" said Ostrom.

In just over a year, the band has risen from performing in Portland-area coffee shops and pubs with names like The Ugly Mug to major music festivals in the Northwest. Cross-eyed Rosie's very first gig in Seattle, at the Conor-Byrne pub, was a sellout, the audience sprinkled with other Colby graduates, attracted by the grapevine reports of the band's great sounds. This February Cross-eyed Rosie was to play at Wintergrass, an internationally renowned bluegrass festival staged in Tacoma, Wash.



Cross-eyed Rosie. From left: Lincoln Crockett, Allison Longstreth, Zöe Kaplan '97, Ellie Holzemer, Jon Ostrom '94 and Jason Mellow, rear.

(Also performing was bluegrass star Tim O'Brien '76.)

Cross-eyed Rosie's consistent rave reviews have helped create the buzz and fuel the rise. "They are a bit like the dorky wallflower in high school who turns out to be really hot at the reunion: you need to look past the surface to get it. . . . Check it out, wallow in the three-part harmonies, take in some completely original tunes, and leave your overalls at home," said a critic in *The Portland Mercury*.

"Like our lives, these songs are woven with threads sometimes hopeful or reckless, joyous or bittersweet, yet always beautiful for all its variations. . . . They seem to smile out at you and say, 'Hey, I'm nobody special. Wanna hear some good music? Hear, come listen.' . . . Real people doing real music," said a writer for *The Music Liberation Project*.

Real enough to recall their musical roots—in the case of the Colby trio, stints in electric bands like Kaplan's Groove, Meddling Kids and Rhythm Cattle.

Ostrom says Mayflower Hill was a very positive musical influence. "We were in different classes, but each of us played in bands every year we were at Colby," Ostrom said. "The music scene at the College helped drive our enthusiasm for our art wherever we played, whether it was at Foss Dining Hall or at Winslow or in Waterville."

They've traded the Foss stage for national festivals, with tours of California and possibly the Southeast looming. "It's wonderful to be able to touch people through music," Kaplan said, "and it feels like we're doing that. Deep down, we all need music in our lives for our peace and soul. It's a gift for us to give, just as it is for others to hear."

—David Treadwell

For more information about the band go to www.crosseyedrosie.com.