

July 2013

Colby News

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Recommended Citation

(2013) "Colby News," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 102: Iss. 1, Article 5.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol102/iss1/5>

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Colby Leads Way to Net Zero Emissions

When it comes to carbon-neutral campuses, 668 colleges and universities have signed the pledge. On April 4 Colby became the first among NESCAC, Ivy, and comparable colleges to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

Colby is the fourth in the nation and the largest institution to reach the goal to date, according to David Hales, president of the nonprofit Second Nature, which supports the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment and its 668 signatories.

The achievement was a decade in the making, as Colby worked to calculate, reduce, and prevent greenhouse gas emissions.

A tradition of Yankee thrift has made energy efficiency projects a priority at Colby for many years. Cogeneration of electricity at the steam plant started in the late 1990s, and energy improvements have been part of renovations since the Arab oil crisis 40 years ago.

Having switched to sustainably generated electricity contracts 10 years ago, the College came within striking distance of net-zero carbon emissions after its new biomass fueled heating plant became operational last year. Though the plant wasn't running at full capacity as systems were tested and adjusted, Colby purchased 700,000 fewer gallons of oil in 2012 than in previous years,



PHOTO BY JOHN HORNER

Colby's biomass heating plant, completed in 2012, substantially cut the College's emissions.

according to Director of Physical Plant Patricia Whitney.

While there is some disagreement whether sustainably harvested biomass is "carbon neutral" or "carbon lean," Colby used national standards established by the nonprofit Clean Air-Cool Planet for calculating carbon emissions and then hired an independent firm to check and confirm methodology and calculations.

Both the College's analysis and that of Competitive Energy Services of Portland agreed that after all the measures to re-

duce emissions, the College still produces about 8 million tons of carbon dioxide a year. The biggest source is transportation—both employee and student commuting and business travel by employees.

The final piece of achieving carbon neutrality was purchasing carbon offsets—investing in greenhouse gas reduction projects elsewhere in Maine and the United States that countervail Colby's remaining emissions. Those offsets, which invest in projects including preventing methane from going into the atmosphere at the Presque Isle landfill for example, cost \$50,000. That amount is more than covered by fuel cost savings of biomass and is expected to decline as Colby continues to reduce admissions.

Vice President for Administration Doug Terp '84 said shifting from oil to biomass saved Colby \$1.2 million in the first year. And, he told employees in April, "instead of spending a couple million dollars that goes out of the state of Maine, and much of it out of the United States, the bulk of our fuel purchases now, on the heating side, are going back into the woods of Maine, which is supporting the local economy."

For additional information on Colby's carbon neutrality, including answers to frequently asked questions, see www.colby.edu/carbonneutral.

—Stephen B. Collins '74



PHOTO BY DARIA JONES '13

As library renovations get underway, some books have been relocated to create more study space.

Library Renovation To Restore Reading Room

Substantial renovations in Miller Library will remodel the entrance and the first floor and will restore the historic main-floor reading room over the next two years. The \$8.7-million project approved by trustees in April will significantly expand study space for students and will bring together academic support including the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Farnham Writers' Center, Information Technology Services, and the new humanities center. Some administrative offices will be moved to the ground floor. The project got underway in early May, when some of the collection was moved so construction could begin. Both phases of the two-part project will be completed by fall 2014.



Gregory White Smith '73



Eleanor Duckworth '57



Savas Zembillas '79



Erik Quist '99



Liz Czernicki Quist '98



Pete Rouse '68



David Bodine '76



Kenneth Ongalo-Obote '94

Commencement 2013 Honors Bicentennial, Alumni

There's something different about this year's commencement, May 26. For the first time in a century, all honorary degrees will go to alumni.

Gregory White Smith '73, a Harvard Law School graduate who has co-authored five *New York Times* bestsellers and won a Pulitzer Prize for his biography of Jackson Pollock, will deliver the commencement address.

Sharing the stage with Smith and receiving honorary doctoral degrees will be David Bodine '76, a chief researcher at the National Institutes of Health; Eleanor Duckworth '57, a leading progressive educator and emerita professor of education at Harvard; Kenneth Ongalo-Obote '94, a member of Uganda's parliament; Erik Quist '99, a wounded Marine Corps captain, and Liz Czernicki Quist '98, a veterans' advocate; Pete Rouse '68, counselor to President Barack Obama; and Savas Zembillas '79, the spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh.

The honorary degree subcommittee of the Board of Trustees—charged with deciding on the list of potential speakers and honorary degree candidates—considered various ways to make the bicentennial-year commencement distinctive. Committee members concluded that Colby is very

proud of its alumni, said Vice President Sally Baker, “and the best way to honor the bicentennial would be to have an all-alumni roster, including the speaker.”

“I think he [Smith] is going to say wonderful things about how the liberal arts informed his life and everything he's been able to do,” said Baker. “He's kind of the epitome of what a liberal arts education can do for you. You become a lawyer and you also write about painters.”

Beyond having earned distinction in their careers, the honorees also represent Colby's historical roots—educating “teachers and preachers”—and some more recent areas of Colby's focus, such as internationalism and scientific research. That, said Baker, was “an organizing principle.”

Members of the Class of 2013 have known throughout their Colby careers that their commencement would be historic. What the board subcommittee hoped as it recommended this year's recipients, said Baker, was that “the Class of 2013 would look up there on the stage and say ... “those are Colby people.” —*Ruth Jacobs*

Terrell Looks at Activism at Colby, Encourages Speaking Out

One week after a group of students interrupted the ceremonial end to the Bicentennial Address Feb. 27, Charles Terrell '70—an icon of activism at Colby for his leadership in the chapel takeover—delivered the endnote address for the Pugh Community Board-organized S.H.O.U.T! week activities exploring activism.

Terrell's presence March 6 was timely given the recent events. His message to admiring students included inspiration and realism. He encouraged students to speak out, but he said speaking does not guarantee being heard. “The same thing doesn't matter to everybody,” he said, “but it's important I think to speak to those things that you think are important.”

In a walk through the history of activism at Colby, Terrell reminded students that speaking up is not always easy. “Activism is messy. It's disruptive. It's always

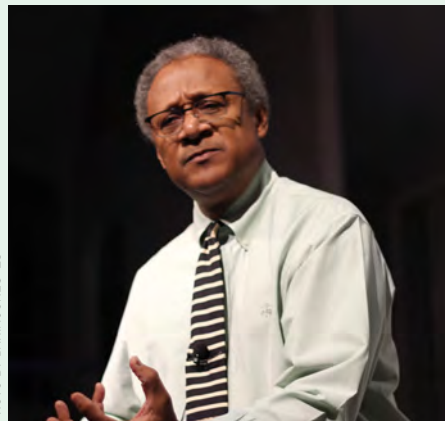


PHOTO BY DARIA JONES '13

Trustee Charles Terrell '70 reflected on Colby's history of activism—and his own—at a student-organized event in March.

inconvenient,” he said.

He spoke briefly about his involvement in the Lorimer Chapel takeover, though he expressed wonder at how he continues

to be identified, at least at Colby, by this small part of his life. “It truly amazes me that students find this action so meaningful all of these years later.”

Terrell mentioned the student film *Bicentennial* that drove some of the activism on Feb. 27. “I think that's very much a part of where Colby is now, and it certainly highlights a number of issues, things that matter,” he said. “But again, I want to remind us: everything does not matter to everybody. I just think it's important that we have artists on campus who will bring things that they think matter to the surface.”

In closing, as music by Marvin Gaye filled the room, Terrell read the names of each member of the “Chapel 17,” most of whom he had lost touch with, he said. The dramatic ending clearly resonated with students present.

President Obama Sends Birthday Wishes

A Miller Library cake the size of a refrigerator. So many birthday greetings that Twitter shut down Colby's special bicentennial account. And a surprise greeting and citation from President Barack Obama. Those were a few highlights during the College's all-day 200th birthday celebration Feb. 27.

Dean of Faculty Lori Kletzer read a letter from President Obama that surprised even President William D. Adams. "From its founding, Colby has been a leader in American education," Kletzer read. "Its graduates have stood tall in far-flung classrooms and pulpits; were martyred in battles against slavery and oppression; pushed open doors previously closed to women, minorities, and the underprivileged; and exemplified the hard work and self-sacrifice at the heart of our national character."

Obama's letter noted that he has first-hand knowledge of the quality of Colby graduates, as a number of them have participated in his presidential campaigns and in his administration. Finally, it acknowledged Adams. "Bro has guided the college through a challenging period, and his legacy will live on long after his tenure ends," read Kletzer, with Adams standing to her right.

Kletzer presented the letter as the Miller Library cake was cut and after Adams had delivered the Bicentennial Address in Lorimer Chapel. Adams introduced those remarks as an opportunity "to acknowledge the College's remarkable past and to think about how we, inheritors of two centuries of effort and achievement, can advance the extraordinary legacy left to us by the founders and those who followed in their footsteps."

With a significant snowstorm in the afternoon forecast, the academic procession did not linger outdoors. Departments and programs marched in the order of their founding from Miller Library to Pulver Pavilion. There, the party mood was



PHOTO BY JEFF POULAND

Grouped in the order of their creation, academic departments processed from Miller Library to Pulver Pavilion on Bicentennial Day.

maintained with throbbing African music accompanying the African dance group, a cappella performances, an indoor "ice" skating rink, and miscellaneous bicentennial swag including hats, water bottles, and souvenirs from the photo booth.

At www.colby.edu/Colby200 find a transcript and recordings of the Bicentennial Address, video of *Light of the Mind*, a gallery of photos, and archived birthday greetings from well-wishers around the world. —SBC



Light of the Mind, created by professors Lynne Conner and Jonathan Hallstrom, played to full houses Feb. 27 in Strider Theater. More at www.colby.edu/mag.

Colby Volunteer Center Puts Service in Spring Break

There was a time when thoughts of spring break conjured images of beach parties. And they may still—for some. But these days, demand for alternative spring break programs exceeds capacity. The Goldfarb Center, which oversees some of Colby's trips, is considering expanding its program.

Currently the Colby Volunteer Center oversees three student-led trips each year. This year, students traveled to Nicaragua, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and New York City to lend many hands. Other students worked with Native American children in Maine, sang for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ten Colby students helped build the foundation of a small school in Las Cebitas, Nicaragua.

children in the Bronx, and tested their paddling and physical skills in Kentucky.

These trips, says Vice President for Student Affairs Jim Terhune, provide

leadership training, teach life skills, and help students connect what they learn in the classroom with personal experience—all elements of the "Colby 360" plan. Almost all of the trips are organized entirely by students.

As it prepares to expand ASB options, the Goldfarb Center will consider the cost of its trips, which are paid for through student-organized fundraisers, according to Associate Director Alice Elliott. Beyond soliciting donations from family, this year students shoveled out cars and held bake sales. "You name it, they do it," she said.

Lectures Look to the Future of the Liberal Arts

Celebrating 200 years since Colby was chartered, a theme often repeated this year was the importance of looking ahead as well as remembering the past. In that spirit the Distinguished Bicentennial Lecture Series brought four leading American intellectuals to campus to talk about the future of the liberal arts.

David Oxtoby, president of Pomona College and chair-elect of the Harvard Board of Overseers, wrapped up the series April 8 with an address that envisioned a bright future for colleges like Colby and Pomona.

Oxtoby followed a March 18 lecture by William Bowen, president emeritus of Princeton, past president of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and “one of the most-respected voices in higher education,” according to President William D. Adams in the introduction. Earlier speakers in the series were Wendy Ewald, a pioneer in visual literacy and learning, and Martha Nussbaum, a political philosopher on the University of Chicago faculty.

Oxtoby, a renowned scientist, described two approaches to the study of chemistry: analysis (breaking something down to see what it’s made of) and synthesis (combining materials to make a more complex compound). “These steps of breaking down and putting together,” he said, “characterize many of the activities we engage in through the curricula of our colleges.”

While the focus in higher education has long been on analysis, he said, echoing Ewald’s thesis,

more attention needs to be paid to synthesis. Liberal arts colleges “should be centers of interdisciplinary innovation in order to foster this type of synthesis,” Oxtoby said.

“From poverty to climate change to religious intolerance,” he said, solving the problems we confront will require contributions from many disciplines. He advocated interdisciplinary work and more attention to nonlinear, intuitive, and visual “left-brain” thinking. Ultimately, he argued, “the people who will be successful are those who can integrate their entire brains,” right and left hemispheres.

In his talk Bowen led with a challenge: that Colby and its kin cannot dismiss digital technology as a potential part of their teaching. “Heresy of heresies,” he said, “I suspect—though no one knows as yet—that such pedagogies may even be helpful in intimate, bucolic settings such as this one.”

“We should remain open to the possibility that emerging technologies can complement more-traditional forms of teaching,” Bowen said, “and thereby allow valuable faculty time to be put to higher-value uses, such as seminar instruction and one-on-one guidance of independent work.”

Nussbaum discussed her recent work, particularly European laws targeting Muslim customs, in a Feb. 21 talk titled *The New Religious Intolerance: Overcoming the Politics of Fear*.

Ewald’s talk, *Secret Games: A 21st-Century Education*, was covered in the winter *Colby* magazine. —SBC



David Oxtoby



Martha Nussbaum



William Bowen



Relay Team Wins New England Championship

Frances Onyilagha '14 runs her leg of the 1,600-meter relay as she and Emily Doyle '16, Emily Tolman '16, and Brittney Bell '13 won the event at the New England Division III Track and Field Championships at Colby's Harford Stadium May 4. The women's team took third place overall in a field of 25, finishing behind MIT and Tufts University.

Photo by Frank Poulin

Scholars Make the Cut

Before April was over, Colby students had won awards including three Fulbrights, two Goldwater Scholarships, a Truman Scholarship, a Beinecke Fellowship, a Hollings Scholarship, and a Davis Projects for Peace grant. For more about the student award winners and what they'll be doing, visit www.colby.edu/mag.



Research Symposium: “Time to Learn From Each Other”

“This represents the heart of what we do here at Colby ... and each year this gets bigger.” That’s how Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Lori Kletzer described the 14th annual Colby Undergraduate Research Symposium when she introduced the keynote session May 1.

Once again the research presentations, held May 1-3 this year, and associated sessions, oasted record numbers.

“The wide range of activities at the symposium display discipline-specific content at very great depth,” Kletzer said, “with many if not all of the other skills that we talk about in a liberal arts education.” Among skills exhibited, Kletzer listed analytical, technical, research, communications, and problem-solving skills, patience, organization, persistence. “It’s a long list, and I have not even gotten halfway through it.”

With that she introduced three professors who shared keynote duties.

Adrianna Paliyenko, the Charles A. Dana Professor of French, talked about her research and the role students have played in it. Paliyenko has spent a decade studying French women poets of the 19th century and how they were marginalized. Charles Conover, the William A. Rogers Professor of Physics described “the coolest place in Maine”—Colby laboratories where physics students research quantum mechanics in extremely cold atoms.

John Turner, associate professor of history, concluded with a broader view of his discipline and his work. “Doing research, collaborating in our quest to find the answer—and the question first—gives you power.” —*SBC*



Ms. magazine cofounder Gloria Steinem spoke to a packed house in Lorimer Chapel.

PHOTO BY DARIA JONES '13

Steinem Connects With Activism at Colby

Famed activist and political figure Gloria Steinem spoke to a packed Lorimer Chapel Feb. 28, the same day Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act. She served as the keynote speaker of S.H.O.U.T!, a week of multicultural celebration organized by the Pugh Community Board.

Steinem used passage of the act earlier that day to jump into a discussion of the need to think closely about the effects our actions have, and the current state of the feminist movement.

Coming into prominence in the late Sixties after she published an article titled “After Black Power, Women’s Liberation,” Steinem cited the 1970 takeover of Lorimer Chapel as she spoke about the shared efforts and effects of diverse activisms. The argument that feminism is no longer relevant to young people is a myth, she said. Women and men have different patterns of activism, and the more that women “experience life, the more likely we are to be activists.” —*Jacob McCarthy*



PHOTO BY DUSTIN SATLOFF '15

Ian Deveau '13 averaged 3.71 points per game, with 52 points in 14 games this season.

Deveau Best in NESCAC Men’s Lacrosse

Ian Deveau '13 is the top men’s lacrosse player in a very competitive conference.

Deveau, a former NESCAC rookie of the year and three-time all-conference midfielder, was named NESCAC Men’s Lacrosse Player of the Year in May.

Deveau, said head coach Justin Domingos, “embodies what playing college lacrosse is all about.”

The Portsmouth, R.I., resident finished his ca-

reer ranked fifth in scoring in the history of men’s lacrosse at Colby with 99 goals and 80 assists for 179 career points. He is sixth all-time in goals, sixth in assists, and tied for sixth for most points in a season (52 in 2013). Deveau ranks first in the conference in points per game (3.71) this year, with 36 goals and 16 assists.

Deveau’s teammate John Jennings '13 was selected to the All-NESCAC second team at attacker.

Men’s Lacrosse Alumni Competing in Pro Leagues

With his college lacrosse career behind him, Deveau was planning to head for California, hoping to play for a new league, the LXM Pro Tour. Already competing in LXM is Whit McCarthy '10, who plays for Team Maverik. Also playing in the pro ranks are Caddy Brooks '09, who was drafted this spring by the Boston Cannons of Major League Lacrosse, and Craig Bunker '11, in his second season with the Cannons.



Women’s lacrosse earned a berth in the NCAA tournament, with Katharine Eddy '14, and All-Americans Kate Pistel '13 and Lindsey McKenna '15 leading the way. Visit www.colby.edu/mag.

Capitol Hill to Mayflower Hill

Just after the budget sequester took effect and as partisanship in Washington seemed elevated, two former congressmen—one Republican and one Democrat—visited campus to clarify how the government got here and where they think it should go next.

Alan Simpson on Fiscal Irresponsibility

Former Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson, a Republican who was invited by George J. Mitchell (a Democrat), combined a gloomy message with his signature humor to engage a packed Ostrove Auditorium for the George J. Mitchell International Distinguished Lecture April 10.

Simpson, a senator until 1997, later co-chaired the Simpson-Bowles Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform at the request of President Obama.

"Erskine and I really say, 'Pull up a chair.' We don't do BS or mush, and we'll tell you where your country is," he said. "We borrow three billion, six hundred million bucks a day. And we'll do that tomorrow and we did it yesterday."

He invoked the big bang theory of the universe—which happened roughly 13 billion years ago—to put the \$16.7 trillion national debt into perspective. "That's the planets the sun the moon," he said. "That isn't even close to a trillion, and we owe sixteen point seven of those babies. That's how big this thing is."

So big, he said, that increasing taxes and decreasing spending can't solve the problem. Major reforms need to be made. He railed against military contractors, against special interest groups like the AARP, and against special health-care benefits and schools for members of the military and their families.

Other areas in need of major reform? Health care, tax expenditures like the home mortgage deduction, and Social Security, which he said was never intended to fund retirement. (In fact, he said, when Social Security was set up with a retirement age of 65, the life expectancy was 63. "You can't beat that kind of logic.")

Simpson praised Obama for, that very day, proposing a chained Consumer Price Index (CPI). He suggested eliminating tax expenditures, which benefit the small portion of taxpayers who itemize, and creating a simple tax structure with percentage of tax based on income.

With his background, Simpson represented across-the-aisle governing to hundreds of community members and students. He reminded the audience that this country has been through bigger battles and come out strong, and he spoke in favor of politicians identifying as American, not Democrat or Republican, first. —RJ

Barney Frank on the Death of Bipartisanship

"Bipartisanship ended in America, dysfunction appeared in America, on one day—January 20, 2009," said Barney Frank, former Democratic congressman from Massachusetts.

At the Government Department's annual Goldfarb Lecture April 21, Frank detailed the inability of Democrats and Republicans to work together. Gridlock, he argued, is a relatively new phenomenon.

In 2007 the Democrats controlled the House with a Republican president. Compromise did, in fact, exist. "Generally the party that doesn't hold the presidency does better when things are going bad," he said. So even though it would have been more politically advantageous to Democrats to stall or delay the Economic Recovery Act, "Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid negotiated with George Bush and gave him an economic stimulus to keep the economy from getting worse in 2008, in a presidential election year, in a way that was compatible with their social goals."

With the election of Barack Obama, compromise evaporated. Frank described how, in his view, Republicans began to stop, stall, or kill Democrat-initiated bills. He quoted Mitch McConnell, the Republican Senate Minority leader, who said, "My number one goal is to defeat this president." When Republicans took control of the House in 2011, partisanship only got worse, Frank said.

The primary reason for conflict, he said, is that "the Republicans who have obstructed Barack Obama legitimately believe ... that less government is almost always better. With every proposal to add programs or increase the influence of the government, Republicans push back harder."

But consensus does not exist within the Republican party. "The most important dynamic now going on in the United States politically is the struggle within the Republican party—within the mainstream conservatives and the more extreme conservatives," Frank said.

Frank urged the crowd to stop thinking of government as separate from the American people. "Government is what we call ourselves when we decide to work together to achieve some common purposes."

"Partisanship is not the problem," he said. "Excessive partisanship is."

—Kayla Lewkowicz '14

