

# Colby



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## From the Hill

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## Bienvenue, M. Kamundu

Congolese Human Rights Activist Named Second Oak Fellow

By Stephen Collins '74

Dydier Kamundu, a 29-year-old human rights activist who fled from the Democratic Republic of Congo to protect his family and his own life, has been named the 1999-2000 Oak Human Rights Fellow by the Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights. He will be in residence at Colby during the fall semester.

Kamundu, who taught himself law and started a small but effective human rights organization in the former Zaire, is credited with heroic acts amid the ethnic conflict and bloodshed that has wracked his homeland. In 1996, when he learned that a truck carrying ethnic Tutsis to the Rwandan border had broken down and was surrounded by a mob, Kamundu mobilized policemen and went to the scene. He

defused the situation and persuaded the authorities to escort the group to the border—acts called “miraculous” by a Western human rights worker. Earlier the same year, when nine young villagers were labeled rebels, incarcerated and tortured (three of them to death) by Zairian armed forces, Kamundu procured medical care for the victims and waged a campaign that ultimately got the six surviving youngsters released from custody.

Kamundu was a baker before ethnic strife among the Bahunde, the Hutu and the Tutsi people turned his homeland into a battleground and forced his family from their village. Horrified by the partisan violence that claimed 14 of his 15 brothers, Kamundu dedicated himself to human rights and peace, accord-

ing to Karen Hirschfield, who nominated him for the Oak fellowship. He learned local and international law by reading books and founded the organization APREDICI (*Action Pay-sanne pour le Reconstruction et le Développement Communautaire Intégral*). The organization initially consisted of a small shack in Goma with a single desk and typewriter, on which Kamundu typed legal protests of arbitrary arrests, detentions and other abuses. Today it has a staff of 13 in Congo and five in France and works with 2,500 families in peasant collectives.

Oak Institute Director Ken Rodman (government) said Kamundu was selected from among 62 nominees “because he was the person who took the greatest risks and saved the most lives.”

Eliza Denoeux, associate director of the Oak Institute, said Kamundu best fulfilled “the Schindler’s List criteria.”

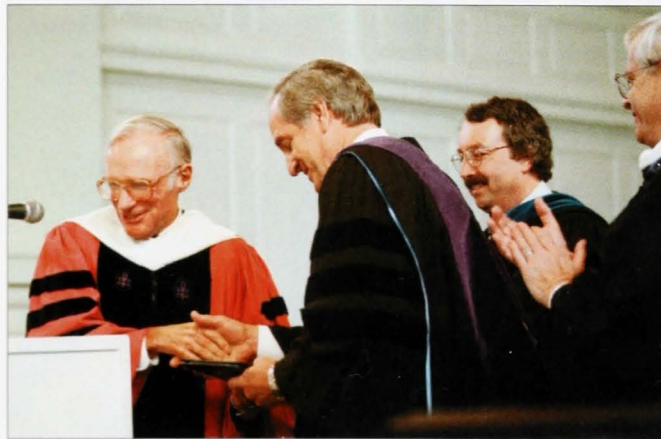
In 1998 Kamundu won the Reebok Human Rights Award. After accepting the award in New York he was unable to return to his home. Friends stopped him on his way back to Goma to say an army truck was stationed at his house, waiting for him. He escaped from Congo to Uganda, where he was reunited with his family, and they all are currently living as refugees in Lyon, France.

Unable to go home, Kamundu is working to create an international human rights network, and the Oak fellowship and award should make a significant difference in that effort, Rodman said. ♦

### Child Labor Is Focus of Week-Long Human Rights Program

On April 23 Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) was awarded an honorary degree for his efforts to link American policy with human rights initiatives and for his help in securing the release from Pakistan of Oak Human Rights Fellow Zafaryab Ahmed. Harkin addressed the College as part of Child Labor Week, a series of events organized by Ahmed, students and faculty. The senator decried the human rights abuses associated with child labor, against which Ahmed has crusaded. “We can protect ivory. We can protect animals, like the spotted turtle. We can protect prisoners,” Harkin said. “But we can’t protect kids.” He is the sponsor of legislation that would curb the use of child labor by America’s trading partners.

Harkin’s address was preceded by a campus march against child



Senator Tom Harkin (center) receives an honorary degree from President William Cotter for helping to secure the release of Oak Fellow Zafaryab Ahmed.

labor, and other events during the week included a debate between Columbia University economist Jagdish Bhagwati, a staunch defender of free trade, and Pharis Harvey, director of the International Labor Rights Fund. Also, filmmaker Robin Romano showed his film *Globalization and Human Rights*, and there was a roundtable discussion of a national effort by students to curb the use of sweatshop labor.

Ahmed, who faces sedition charges for his human rights work in Pakistan, was allowed to leave

the country after Harkin intervened with Pakistan’s prime minister, Nawaz Sharif. Ahmed announced this spring that he has applied for political asylum here because he fears for his safety should he return to Pakistan. Ahmed’s lawyer calls his application “a textbook case” for asylum, but no hearing had been scheduled as of mid-June. ♦



## New Museum Wing Takes Flight

The Colby Museum of Art opened The Lunder Wing this month—its third major addition this decade. The 9,000-square-foot addition expands the museum's exhibition space by 44 percent and enhances its status as one of the top art museums in Maine.

Already open to the public, the wing and its 13 galleries will be dedicated officially on October 2 as part of The Campaign for Colby victory celebration. This latest expansion of the museum comes on the heels of the 1996 opening of the Paul J. Schupf Wing for the Art of Alex Katz and the 1991 opening of the Davis Gallery.

The new two-story wing was made possible by a challenge grant from Paula H'98 and Peter Lunder '56, H'98, of Waterville. Mrs. Lunder is a trustee and Mr. Lunder is a lifetime overseer, and both serve on the museum's Board of Governors. The \$1.3-million addition will be used exclusively for the exhibition of some 200 American works from the permanent collection. Those pieces, including the expanded John Marin Collection, trace the development of art in this country from the middle of the 18th century through the early 20th century.

Architect Frederick Fisher of Los Angeles, one of the world's leading designers of museum space, says the galleries were designed to feel like the early American homes in which the paintings originally hung. "We imagined it as a house, because most of this art was created for domestic environments," he said. His firm won international acclaim for its design of New York's P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center and work on the municipal art museum in Berlin.

"Thanks to the Lunders' generosity," said President Bill Cotter, "important works of art, some of which we have had to keep largely in storage, now will be on view in these handsome new galleries. We are grateful for all they have done to make Colby's one of the best college museums in the nation."

"As we celebrate our fortieth year," said museum director Hugh Gourley, "the opening of this wonderful new wing is an extraordinary event in the history of the museum, and it opens important new opportunities and flexibility for our exhibitions. It is because of the loyalty and generosity of people such as Paula and Peter Lunder that the museum has flourished—and will continue to do so in the future." ♦

## wit and wisdom

"Is the war in Kosovo a *just war*, or *just a war*?... Our use of force shouldn't just satisfy our sense of outrage about what's going on."

Ken Rodman (government), about NATO's bombing of Serbia, addressing the Mid-Maine Global Forum in Waterville.

"I am forever a frightened child with the Gestapo hammering at my soul."

Rabbi Joseph Polak, survivor of the Bergen-Belson prison camp, delivering the inaugural Berger Lecture on the Holocaust.

"Really, nothing I did before the age of seventy had any value at all... When I reach a hundred my work will be truly sublime."

Painter Cleve Gray, age 80 (quoting Japanese artist Hokusai), in an artist's statement accompanying Gray's exhibit at the Colby Museum of Art.

"It's a red herring to talk about Affirmative Action for individual achievement."

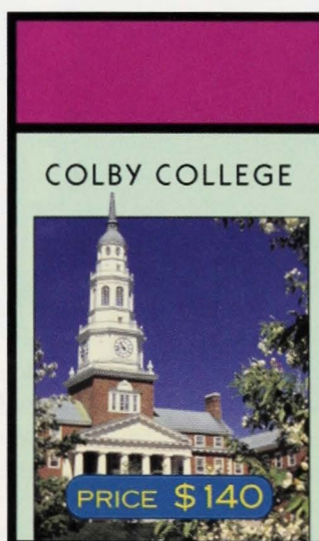
Troy Duster, University of California at Berkeley sociologist and grandson of Ida B. Wells, explaining the beneficial effects of Affirmative Action on public health and access to care.

"Japan was let off pretty easily after World War II."

Author Iris Chang, contrasting Germany, which paid \$60 billion in post-war reparations, with Japan, which she said has paid next to nothing and never apologized for the massacre and widespread rape in Nanking, China.

"You all know from having attended Colby commencements that Latin is not my first language."

Bill Cotter, in a tribute to retiring classics professor Peter Westervelt, who tutored Cotter in Latin pronunciation.



## MAINEopoly

Maine is the fifth state to be the subject of a special edition of the game Monopoly, and Colby is one of the properties for sale. Initially the Maine version will be marketed exclusively through Filene's, beginning in mid-July. Among other Maine icons like L.L. Bean, Sugarloaf/USA and Acadia National Park, look for the Miller Library tower where you would expect to see States Avenue.



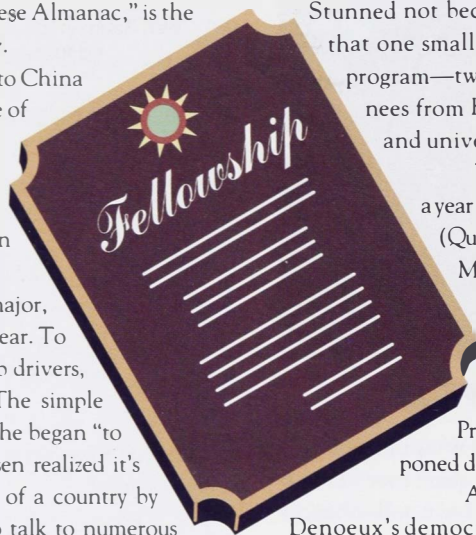
## Watson Fellow Number 50

Adella Mikkelsen '99 will travel to Taiwan, Singapore and China for a year of independent study as Colby's 50th Thomas J. Watson Fellow. She is one of 60 Watson Fellows nationwide who received \$22,000 to spend a year studying abroad. The topic she will pursue, "Notions of Fate and the Future in the Chinese Almanac," is the result of her fascination with family history.

Mikkelsen's great-grandparents traveled to China in 1919 as missionaries and shared their love of Chinese culture with their family. As a teen Mikkelsen embraced her connection to China and bought classic Daoist texts. At Colby her academic interest increased when she began East Asian studies.

A history and East Asian studies double major, Mikkelsen traveled to China for her junior year. To improve her Chinese she practiced with cab drivers, renowned for their troublesome accents. The simple conversations improved her speaking, and she began "to get a feel for Chinese culture." But Mikkelsen realized it's impossible to form an accurate impression of a country by talking to so few people. "A scholar has to talk to numerous people from all walks of life and compare experiences," she said.

The Chinese almanac she is studying unifies a geographically diverse culture, she says. Originating thousands of years ago as a calendar from the emperor, the almanac evolved to promote popular culture and folk traditions alongside traditional values. Mikkelsen describes the almanac as "a Cliff Notes for life" that people use to answer questions about the future and to live by its laws. To study the role of the almanac in everyday life, Mikkelsen will talk "to almanac-makers, fortune-tellers, temple-goers, people on the streets and students." And probably a few cab drivers too. ♦



## Carnegie Fellow, Times Two

Associate Professor Guilain Denoeux (government) was stunned in April when he received word that both of Colby's nominees, seniors William Barndt and Jennifer McElhinny, were offered fellowships at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Stunned not because either was undeserving; stunned, rather, that one small college corralled 20 percent of the fellowship program—two of 10 positions—competing against nominees from Harvard, Stanford, Yale and other top colleges and universities.

The Carnegie Endowment's 10 junior fellows spend a year working on programs in international affairs. Barndt (Quakertown, Pa.) will work in the democracy project; McElhinny (San Francisco, Calif.) will work on international migration policy. McElhinny had accepted a Peace Corps assignment in Jordan and wangled a deferral despite the Corps' "nodeferals" policy; Barndt has a full-scholarship to Princeton's Ph.D. program in politics, which he postponed despite the university's similar policy.

At Colby both students were involved in Denoeux's democracy-assessment research. McElhinny, a government and anthropology major, evaluated democratic characteristics of Morocco's constitutional monarchy. Barndt, who majored in government and international studies, studied in Chile and did research in Bolivia.

Though the two occupy different stations on the political continuum, according to Barndt, they are friends and there was no rivalry in the competition. When the Carnegie endowment contacted them this spring, each was nervous about upsetting the other with the news. "We didn't talk to each other for two days," McElhinny said. "The best part about it is that Will and I both got it." ♦

## Linda Cotter Steps (Halfway) Down

Linda K. Cotter, known to a generation of students as associate director of off-campus study in charge of internships—as well as wife of President Bill Cotter—retired at the end of June. From the Off-Campus Study Office, that is.

The Cotters arrived at Colby in 1979, and soon afterward Mrs. Cotter was volunteering in the Career Services Office, where a liaison with alumni was needed to develop the alumni support network. In 1982 Jim McIntyre (German), then director of career services, pleaded with her to take a half-time job to manage the growing demand for internships.

"Back then," Cotter said, "I had to explain to people what an internship is." Today internships are a staple of both a student's career preparation and many employers' labor pools and recruiting programs. Whether it's working in a judge's chambers, doing public relations for a nonprofit organization or working toward a marine captain's license, internships give students experience that is increasingly important on a résumé and that helps them determine what they do and don't like in a career.

Colby had an early leg up in the internship game because of the opportunities presented by the Jan Plan term and, says Director of

Career Services Cindy Yasinski, because of the way Cotter "dug right into the job." Yasinski said the personal contact Cotter invests and the care with which she reviews each internship ensure optimal success both for students and sponsors. She developed a list of 1,800 alumni and others who expressed a willingness to participate in the program and generated about 250 internship offers each year.

Cotter says Colby's internship program is unique because of the ways it is tied to the curriculum and the faculty. During each fall semester she worked with about 300 students planning January internships—a four-fold increase since she took the job. In addition she saw some of the students planning non-credit internships. Having lived in Nigeria and traveled extensively in Africa, she advised students going to Africa, and she advised students on domestic exchange programs.

Cotter has contributed in innumerable other ways at Colby—as a member of the Women's Studies advisory board and as Hillel advisor in years past and on the landscape and commencement committees, planning celebrations and dedications and fostering the strong sense of community at the College. During the coming year that workload will persist. Her address remains "Mayflower Hill" and, she said, "I intend to keep doing all those things." ♦



## 178th Commencement Is Colby's Largest Ever



Five hundred and twenty-one seniors, more than in any of Colby's 177 previous graduating classes, marched down the library steps at 10 a.m. on May 23. Speaker George Mitchell (below) told graduates, "If you remember one thing I say here today, remember this: in the presence of evil, silence makes you an accomplice." The Condon Medal, which has been awarded to two graduates only four times, this year went to Doug Comeau and Brad Sicchitano (lower left). Members of the Class of '99 included Benjamin Shepard (bottom) and Valerie Mitchell (center, left), for years a secretary in the Performing Arts Department and in Special Collections.

