January 2000

Student Life

Alicia Nemiccolo MacLeay

Colby College

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol89/iss1/13
I

Peru. That might sound like a

problem—to build a hospital in

the Ancash mountain region of

Peru. That might sound like

prolific—to build a hospital in

Conklin already has signed cor-

poration papers to create The

well-meaning naiveté, but

five trustees and obtained ad-

tice of the Pan American Health

Organization.

Conklin is also busy working

with Associate Professor Julie

Millard, whom he has worked

since his freshman year. Their

research involves isolat-

ing a drug from an edible mush-

room and cross-linking for cancer

studies. "Jake is loaded with en-

thusiasm, initiative and humor," said

Millard. "He will be a fantas-

tic tropical health practitioner.

Jake Conklin: A Vision Without Borders

Colby senior seeks cure for public health ills

by Alicia Nemiccolo MacLeay '97

Jake Conklin '00 originally en-

visioned it as an "innocent

project"—to build a hospital in

the Ancash mountain region of

Peru. That might sound like

prolific—to build a hospital in

Conklin already has signed cor-

poration papers to create The

well-meaning naiveté, but

five trustees and obtained ad-

tice of the Pan American Health

Organization.

Conklin is also busy working

with Associate Professor Julie

Millard, whom he has worked

since his freshman year. Their

research involves isolat-

ing a drug from an edible mush-

room and cross-linking for cancer

studies. "Jake is loaded with en-

thusiasm, initiative and humor," said

Millard. "He will be a fantas-

tic tropical health practitioner.

One might think Conklin

would have little time for other

pursuits, but he recently com-

pleted what he said "can be con-

sidered a novel," about a student

who finishes medical school and

works in a third-world country
to pay off his debts. "It's a very

political and a very hopeful novel," said Conklin. He hasn't

contacted a publisher yet. "I'm prepared to work on it for three
to five years, until I'm satisfied," he said.

Though he loves to write, Conklin says he has no desire to be a writer. "My true passion is to

perform visible change and help people live in healthier condi-
tions," he said. "I like just about everything and I think that's my

biggest problem. I get pulled in so many different directions."
Colby Bookstore Girds for On-Line Challenges

Ads tell textbook-buying students to "Get on-line, not in line." Varsitybooks.com bills itself as "your online college bookstore." Is the traditional campus bookstore on its way to extinction?

Last summer the Colby Bookstore tested the on-line competition. A student picked six Colby classes and shopped for books at eight of the most popular college textbook Web sites. She got so frustrated that she asked to be let out of the project, says Barbara Shutt, book division manager, who oversaw the project. Only one company was able to ship all the books requested. Others had waits of up to six weeks for out-of-stock books. Still others didn't have the books needed or the correct edition, according to the bookstore's research.

"No one else will sell all the books you need at Colby," said Bruce Barnard, manager of the Colby Bookstore. He admits on-line sellers can offer books cheaper, even with shipping costs, but says students should consider the total experience. "The typical student at a private liberal arts college in New England is demanding of convenience," he said. "We tend to cater here."

However, Randy Stewart '00 had to log onto Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com when the Colby Bookstore was out of three required English books this fall. "It would have taken weeks" for Colby to deliver the books, he said. Instead, shopping on line, Stewart had the books in days. He compared prices at Barnes and Noble with his Colby Bookstore purchases and found them the same. "I should have checked them all at Amazon, though," he said.

Occasional out-of-stock titles notwithstanding, Barnard is working hard to keep students shopping on campus. The Bookstore offers used books and custom publishing of professor requests. The store also makes immediate exchanges when students add or drop classes and buys back new and used books.

Though bookstore sales were up this fall, Barnard says the store isn't about to dismiss the competition. While few Colby students have turned to the Web for textbooks, the on-line companies are "in it for the long haul," said Barnard. "Web stores like varsitybooks.com expect to lose money for some time." Eventually, though, they intend to make a profit.

So far, on-line textbook sellers are best at targeting public institutions, where booklists must be made available if requested in writing—a rule that doesn't apply to Colby. Some on-line sellers have begun partnering with schools and, in some cases, have completely taken over student textbook sales.

Looking ahead, Barnard said, "We know there's a battle, a long drawn-out war."

Maria Gonzalez Is Helping Build the Global Economy

For the Venezuelan-American Chamber of Commerce in her hometown. As an intern, she was assigned to redo a brochure that attempted to explain how Venezuelan companies can do business in Florida. "It was four pages long and all the information was messed up," Gonzalez said.

So she rolled up her sleeves and went to work.

Gonzalez, who already had three internships in human resources and corporate financial consulting under her belt, says she spent a month finding information on business regulations, the application process, what products could be exported or imported, "what each tax is about, what you should know."

She then spent two months compiling the brochure pertaining to business in Florida. Her superiors liked it so much, they asked her to expand it to New York, Texas and California. "I'm glad that I managed to know everything I needed to know before I got [to the job]," Gonzalez said.

She said much of her training for the task came from Associate Professor of Economics Debra Barbezat's course on labor markets, which acquainted students with ways to find the kind of information the brochure needed to convey. That training apparently paid off; Gonzalez learned Florida officials may award a grant that would pay for her to do similar brochures to be used to encourage trade between their state and Latin America.

She plans to return to Caracas to do an independent study in Jan Plan with the Chamber of Commerce, and after graduation she may go back to Venezuela to begin her business career. "I would like to do some kind of finance," Gonzalez said. "Financial consulting would be nice."

Speaking in the Spa, Gonzalez said her business model and inspiration is her grandfather, a self-made Caracas businessman who was successful in banking and other areas. "If it weren't for him, we wouldn't be standing here right now," she said.
From Aroostook County to the Final (Irish) Four

Even when Eric Saucier '00 was in his basketball prime, playing in the Eastern Maine tournament for Presque Isle High School, he never dreamed he'd go to the Final Four. As a player.

But that's exactly what Saucier did last spring, leading his team to the finals of the national championship by sinking two three-pointers and making a key steal in the last three minutes of the semi-final game.

"I had the green light to shoot whenever I wanted to, from wherever I wanted to," Saucier said.

Saucier had given up basketball after his final high school game. When he arrived at University College Cork, Ireland, for second semester last year, Saucier, a starting halfback on the Colby soccer team, decided to join the university basketball club as a way to meet more Irish students.

Tryouts were in a middle school gym, a dimly lit hall with a dirty floor and ripped nets. But if the facility was lacking, the reception from his new teammates was not. "They were like, 'Wow, an American,'" Saucier recalled.

No matter that he is only five-eleven and hadn't played in three years. Saucier was embraced—literally—by his teammates and given a key shooting guard role by his coach, who was German-born but felt a special affinity for Americans because he had lived in Canada.

"We had this bond," Saucier said.

Indeed, camaraderie was what the club was all about. "We'd have practice, then we'd go to a pub, just to celebrate the practice," Saucier said. "Good practice, guys. Let's go have a pint."

In late March, the team was culled from about 18 club players to a dozen who went to the tournament in Dublin. The entire season was three days long. The skill level was comparable to that of a team from a very small American college.

"You're in the final four if you win three games," Saucier said.

Cork beat the University of Limerick in the first round and topped the University of Ulster Jordanstown in the second. In the semi-final's Cork knocked off the University of Ulster Monmouth, in part because of Saucier's late-game heroics.

With about 100 fans in attendance, Cork finally succumbed to Dublin College University—partly because that team had two skilled American players from Detroit. Saucier scored 23 points.

Any hard feelings?

Not in Irish hoops, Saucier said. Opposing players socialized in pubs, got together for a dinner dance after the finals. "Everybody's hugging, arms around each other," Saucier recalled. "And singing. Singing is a big part of it."

The basketball team returned to Cork by train. The trip was highlighted by girls singing Irish folk songs. The singing spread, not only through the car but up and down the train.

It was athleticism without hype, competition without the commercialism that is the trademark of American college sports at the national level. Not that Irish college sports all lack celebrity appeal. Saucier said the prestige sport is hurling, an Irish game that is similar to lacrosse but played with sticks with blades instead of nets. The UC Cork hurling team was sponsored by Guinness; basketball player wore the logo of a spring-water company. The Irish hoopsters may have gone to the finals, but the hurlers were the top jocks on campus.

"They have their hurling jackets on and a couple of girls on each shoulder," Saucier said.

This wasn't lost on Colby students in Cork, several of whom have brought sticks back to the States. They hope to start a hurling club on campus. It would be a club sport, of course. Reserve your Final Four tickets now.

What's in a Name?

WMHB-FM (89.7 FM) prides itself on delivering a diverse blend of music by student and community disc jockeys. Some program titles are self-explanatory, such as "Tuesday Blues," "Odd Rock" or "The Greatest Songs." But others? Here's a sample. The music genre is included, in the event that some readers might find the names just a bit cryptic.

Some of us may even need explanations of the explanations.

Nudity & The Tulsa Bus System (jazz & fusion)
Crizzly Bob's Vaudeville Hour (rock)
Tiger Cub BSA (new rock)
The Apathetic Tom Show (indie rock)
A Doggy Program (trip-hop & indie)
The Happiness Hour (punk, indie rock, melodic hardcore)

Musical Mayonnaise (rock)
Red Wine & Crackers (jazz & blues)
Jigs, Hoedowns & Songs O'Tragedy (folk, bluegrass and Celtic)
Nocturnal Emissions (talk)
Euro-Trashed Hangover (euro dance and club music)
Trapped in an Oven (new rock)