“Absurd Success”

That’s what Will Barron ’00, track and field throwing coach, said about Kim Donaldson ’16, who picked up the shot just this year and reached the NCAA championships.

Donaldson was already a star volleyball player but was reluctant to end her Colby athletic career when the season ended, she said. So she turned to track and field. Within weeks she was placing near the top in shot put events at NESCAC meets. Within months she was competing nationally.

“I remember one day in practice, she was throwing the hammer, and the first rep she had that was executed correctly, I threw up my hands and said ‘You could have been an Olympic athlete!’” Barron told the Morning Sentinel.

She will be—sort of. After graduation Donaldson started work in athlete and community relations with the United States Olympic Committee.

When the Greatest Came to Mayflower Hill

Stephen Orlov ’71 first saw Muhammad Ali on the Ed Sullivan Show. Orlov, president of the junior class in 1970, went on to bring the champion boxer and controversial activist to Colby. On the occasion of Ali’s death, Orlov reflected on his memorable night with one of the most famous athletes and figures of our time. Read Orlov’s essay in Colby Magazine online.

That’s Colby’s national rank in the number of math majors it produces per 1,000 undergraduates. That’s just three places behind the University of Chicago and five behind MIT.
Hosting Hillary

Barry Ginsburg ’58 and his wife, Merle, hosted Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton for a fundraising event at their home in Roxbury, Conn., in March. Hundreds of supporters attended the event, as did Connecticut Governor Dan Malloy, U.S. Senators Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal, and Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty.

Same Faces, New Food Service

Students arrived to find familiar (and some new) friendly faces at Colby dining halls, but a different dining services provider. Colby chose Bon Appétit Management Co. effective July 1, following a months-long selection process. The program proposed by Bon Appétit—whose stated mission is “food service for a sustainable future”—emerged as the leader in the selection process for its focus on variety, local sourcing, and healthy, from-scratch cooking techniques.

Bon Appétit currently operates more than 650 cafés in 31 states for corporate names such as Google and Amazon, and for Hamilton College, Wesleyan University, the University of Pennsylvania, MIT, and Johns Hopkins University, among many others.

Tap That Network

Spring marked the Career Center’s launch of CampusTap, an online mentoring and networking platform for the Colby community. Alumni and parents can join CampusTap as mentors, giving students and recent graduates opportunities to receive career advice, engage in industry-specific discussion boards, and apply to jobs and internships posted by fellow Mules.

CampusTap is a Boston-based startup founded in 2012 with the goal of helping colleges and universities create meaningful connections between students and alumni.

When they join Colby’s CampusTap network, mentors—either alumni or parents—indicate on their profiles the types of guidance they are ready to provide. And since the platform is Colby-only, “there’s already a layer of trust,” Career Center Director Alisa Johnson said.

Students presented at the ninth annual Colby Undergraduate Summer Research Retreat, July 28-29 at The Forks, Maine. Representing a variety of disciplines and subjects, the group presented on everything from art to American history, obstetrics to climate change. A highlight was keynote speaker Gail Glickman Horwood ’86, vice president, worldwide digital strategy, consumer personal products, for Johnson & Johnson.
“We’re trying to get further research on better diagnosing and understanding concussions on the sidelines.” —Laurel Whitney ’16, who spent four years working on concussion surveillance for the Concussion Institute at Colby College, including testing, data management, and research. Whitney, a biology major planning to attend medical school, helped CICC answer such key questions as: How many concussions are happening? To whom? What is not being reported? (More at colby.edu/mag)

Offering Expanded Opportunities
Conversion of the Grossman residence hall (and, prior to that, the Tau Delta Phi fraternity house) into a center for discovery, global impact, and postgraduate achievement is expected to be completed by fall 2017.

The project involves adding a 4,300-square-foot, two-story addition to the building and upgrading the existing 8,600 square feet into state-of-the-art administrative space. The center, which is designed to LEED specifications, is expected to become a destination for students, making planning for life after graduation an integral part of everyday life at the College.

Initiatives to be overseen by the center include ensuring research experience and global opportunities for each student; establishing a professional mentoring program; and bolstering engagement of first- and second-year students in the career preparation process.

Alumni and parents will play a pivotal role in the center’s success, providing expertise and professional connections to students exploring career options and breaking into the job market. Parents and alumni can help, not only by providing internships and serving as mentors, but also by housing students traveling for interviews and by participating in Colby on the Road, an established career-immersion program that will be expanded thematically and geographically.

That’s the number of page views in July for the 2012 Colby Magazine story “Who Was Elizabeth Hanson?”

Interest in the story hasn’t waned since its publication. For four years, the Hanson article has generated the most cumulative web traffic on the Colby Magazine website, with average time on the page more than five minutes.

The story explores the life and death of the 2002 Colby graduate who went on to join the CIA and was killed along with six other operatives by an informer turned suicide bomber in Afghanistan in 2009.

Hanson’s work with the CIA, and death at a remote outpost, have been chronicled in print (The Triple Agent by Washington Post reporter Joby Warrick) and in film (Hanson’s character, played by Lauren Shaw, is recognizable in Zero Dark Thirty, the 2012 thriller about the hunt for Osama bin Laden.). There are bumps in traffic to the story when the subject of the CIA’s work in Afghanistan makes the news. But even between those spikes, Elizabeth Hanson’s story has attracted considerable attention, like its subject, flying below the radar.