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Colby News

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More Academics, Less Alcohol

Extending the academic program and intellectual focus of the College throughout the week, severely restricting the use of hard alcohol on campus, and adopting a Statement of Community Expectations are among the Campus Culture Working Group's (CCWG) recommendations for addressing the culture of excessive drinking at Colby. The CCWG's report and recommendations, eight months in the making, were presented to students by Vice President for Student Affairs James S. Terhune at the State of the College address Sept. 15.

Formed by President William D. Adams in the aftermath of the May 2008 "Champagne Steps" end-of-classes celebration—which saw 14 Colby students treated for alcohol poisoning and nearly overwhelmed local emergency rooms—the CCWG includes students, faculty, staff, alumni, and Waterville com-

munity members. The group met eight times between Sept. 2008 and May 2009, analyzing national data on college student drinking behavior and outcomes as well as data specific to Colby students. More than 400 Colby students participated in the CCWG's Student Alcohol Survey, providing more than 3,000 short-answer responses to questions about the drinking behaviors of Colby students. The entire CCWG report and background materials are available at www.colby.edu/ccwg.

Students and other community members had approximately one month to comment on the CCWG's recommendations before they were slated to go to the Board of Trustees for approval at the October meeting. If approved by the board, implementation of some of the recommendations is expected to begin immediately. —*David Eaton*

Good as Gold

Two Colby residence halls built in the early 1950s and renovated in 2008 received LEED gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Colby now has more LEED-certified buildings than any other private college in Maine and is the first private college in Maine to achieve the gold level. Pierce and Perkins-Wilson, which were once fraternity houses, are now more energy efficient and include local, recycled, and sustainably harvested materials.

The two buildings, which were expanded as well as renovated, are the fourth and fifth projects at Colby to receive LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. Major energy improvements came from

replacing windows, expanding the number of heating zones, adding motion sensors and timers for reduced electrical use, and installing more efficient lighting and equipment. Energy-recovery systems allow for the capture of heat energy from warm-air exhaust, which is then used to partially reheat the incoming fresh air.

Pierce and Perkins-Wilson, originally both 8,160 square feet, each received a highly efficient 1,800-square-foot addition. Building features include new study/lounge space, an elevator for better accessibility, recycling centers, and interior bike rooms.

Other LEED-certified buildings at Colby are the Schair-Swenson-Watson Alumni Center (certified at the LEED silver level and opened in 2005 as one of the first academic buildings in Maine certified by the program), the Diamond Building, which opened in 2007, and the Cotter Union/Bookstore project, which opened last year and attained LEED silver.



PHOTO BY ROBERT P. HERNANDEZ

Pierce Hall is one of two renovated residence halls to receive LEED gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.



PHOTO BY KRISTIN NISSEN '11

At the Campus Life Expo, new and returning students learn about club offerings.

Bicentennial Class Gets Oriented

This fall Colby welcomed the Class of 2013, whose members will graduate as the College celebrates its 200th anniversary. Four-hundred eighty first-years include residents of 35 states and citizens of more than 30 countries including, for the first time, Rwanda and Cambodia. Orientation, revamped in recent years, went so smoothly that Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Barbara Moore said the potentially chaotic check-in process seemed "too quiet." A class profile is online at www.colby.edu/profile.

Women Who Shine

A new colloquium titled Women in the Spotlight was initiated in September, with monthly talks and events scheduled to highlight the scholarship and accomplishments of women on Colby's faculty and staff.

The inaugural event Sept. 17 featured the four women newly appointed to named, endowed chairs speaking about their academic careers and current research interests. The series continues in October as a once-a-month midweek talk in the Lovejoy Building.

In September Jill Gordon, Charles A. Dana Professor of Philosophy, talked about her study of Plato's erotic dialogues as a scholar interested in political and social philosophy.

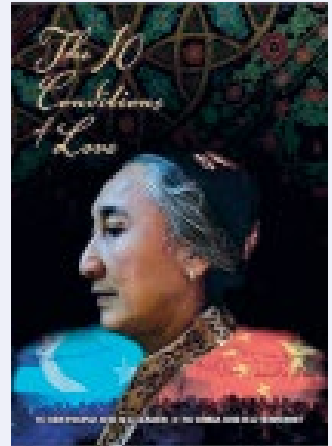


PHOTO BY BRIAN SPEER
Professor Jill Gordon

Kimberly Besio, Ziskind Associate Professor of East Asian Studies, discussed the multidisciplinary approach she has been able to pursue at Colby studying male friendship in 16th- and 17th-century Ming China. Jennifer Yoder, the Robert E. Diamond Associate Professor of Government and International Studies, talked about her research in post-reunification Germany, particularly political and social interactions along the Germany-Poland border. Adrianna Paliyenko, Charles A. Dana Professor of French, described her research on the erasure from history of the contributions of brilliant women in late-19th-century France.

UIGHURS FILM ROLLS ON

Shortly after graduating from Colby in 2000, Jeff Daniels learned about the plight of the Uighur people—Muslims in western China worried that their culture was being subsumed by the Han Chinese. Years of research culminated in his 2009 documentary film, *The 10 Conditions of Love*, about exiled Uighur leader Rebiya Kadeer.



In July, after a Chinese official asked to have the film pulled from the prestigious Melbourne International Film Festival, Daniels said in a GuardianUK blogpost, "Ironically, the one country that wants to silence my film gave it press I could never afford."

Tensions escalated as the screening neared, with cyber attacks on the film festival's Web site and online ticket sales. Interest built. The film's premiere was moved to the 1,500-seat city hall venue and still sold out, the *New York Times* reported Aug. 10.

On Sept. 11 the Associated Press reported on appearances by Kadeer and the Dalai Lama in Prague, and noted that Daniels's film was being shown as part of the Peace, Democracy and Human Rights in Asia conference there. —Stephen Collins '74

Summer School—and Recess, Too

What do sex and Bratz dolls, robots and Velcro, and mud and the Triassic period have in common? All three topics were among the student presentations featured at the 2009 Colby Undergraduate Summer Research Retreat (CUSRR), held in June in The Forks, Maine. Organized by Assistant Professor of Chemistry Kevin Rice '96 and in its second year, the retreat highlights the research done by students and faculty at Colby each summer. "While it's a pretty common thing at larger schools, I thought it would be a unique thing at a smaller school," said Rice.

This year's two-day retreat featured 57 student research presentations representing the breadth of Colby's liberal arts curriculum. The "usual suspects"—biology and chemistry—were heavily represented, but the 115 Colby students, faculty, and staff in attendance also saw presentations ranging from the exploitative branding of Bratz dolls (American

studies) to allowing people to visit the Colby Museum of Art remotely using robots (computer science). A complete list of topics is at www.colby.edu/CUSRR.

The program also connects students and faculty with alumni researchers. This year's keynote speaker, Scott Murchie '81, is a planetary geologist and leading Mars researcher who spoke about his work and the search for life on Mars. [See "Mars Up Close," summer 2008 *Colby*.]

Research is the focus, but CUSRR is not all "Downstream targets of D-Pax2 in *D. melanogaster*" and no play. Day two included rafting led by Rob Peabody



Social bonding on the Kennebec River followed academic presentations in The Forks, Maine, at the second Colby Undergraduate Summer Research Retreat.

'96 and Crab Apple Whitewater or a hike led by Associate Professor of Biology Russell Johnson. "Given the unique flavor of the summer research experience, it seemed appropriate to get everyone together," said Rice.

A video of CUSRR 2009 is available at www.insidecolby.com/video. —D.T.E.

THE MUSEUM AT 50

Many Artists, Many Voices

The original notion for what became the book *Art at Colby: Celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Colby College Museum of Art*, was to showcase 50 works, one for each year of the museum's existence. But the project soon grew. "At every meeting, we kept adding works," said Carolyn Muzzy Director and Chief Curator Sharon Corwin.

Ultimately, the book became an opus that includes 176 works with accompanying commentary, providing a comprehensive overview of the collection. Works range from early Chinese and classical art to installations and video, with an in-depth selection from the Lunder Collection.

Art at Colby offers not only lavish reproductions of the works, but also illuminates the art with essays (and even a few poems) by 98 authors, including eminent artists, curators, and art historians. Added to the mix are Colby faculty from a variety of disciplines and students who have done art scholarship. "We wanted to have a multiplicity of voices," Corwin said.

Contributors were chosen for both their knowledge and perspective, she said. They included nationally known experts like Elizabeth Broun, a museum supporter and director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum; H. Barbara Weinberg, curator of American paintings and sculpture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and James Cuno, president and director of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Colby Museum of Art curators wrote essays for the book, as

did faculty members, some of whom might seem unlikely choices for a book about art. But paleobotanist Robert A. Gastaldo (geology), who wrote about Philip Taaffe's painting *Garden of Extinct Leaves*, 2006, brings a scientist's power of observation to his essay. Kerill N. O'Neill

(classics) explains the Roman custom of a household god (or Lar) as he describes the Augustan-era statue in the Colby collection.

While the book project was a huge undertaking, it required coordination but no arm twisting. "It's a labor of love," Corwin said. —Gerry Boyle '78



Art at Colby: Celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Colby College Museum of Art is available for purchase online at www.artbook.com

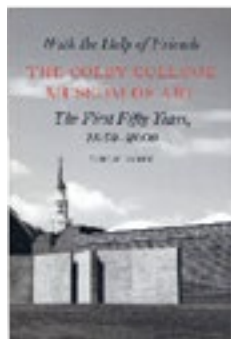


THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PLACE

By any standard, the rise of the Colby College Museum of Art has been extraordinary. Since its founding 50 years ago, the museum has grown from an expanded alcove in the Bixler building to the relatively sprawling museum that is nationally known, particularly for its important collection of American art.

In his new book, *With the Help of Friends: The Colby College Museum of Art, The First Fifty Years, 1959-2009*, College Historian Earl H. Smith tracks the growth of the museum, focusing more on people than on the art they helped collect.

The names are familiar: Jetté and Lunder, Cummings and Abbott, Marin and Katz, Schupf and Tsiaras, Mirken and Gourley, Strider and Cotter, among others. Smith reveals their



roles in the museum's evolution with prose that is both precise and lively—from the early years, when a collection of primitive portraits hung in Foss dining hall, to the present, when the gift of the Lunder Collection made national news. Peter '56 and Paula Crane Lunder, "declined interviews with the *Boston Globe*, the *New York Times*, and others, but, as if to

underscore a primary target of their gift, Paula spoke with a reporter from ... the *Colby Echo*."

The museum is poised to follow its half-century birthday by growing anew, with completion of an expansion targeted for Colby's bicentennial in 2013. The supporters of the museum have created "a most remarkable masterpiece indeed," Smith writes.

First Thursdays at Museum

A cultural must in many art districts, First Thursdays have been initiated by the Colby museum. The First Thursdays program, which opened Oct. 1, is part of the museum's continued effort to open its doors to the greater Waterville and Maine communities as well as reach out to students and faculty in disciplines not traditionally associated with arts. The first First Thursday included an open house followed by a tribute to choreographer Merce Cunningham (1919-2009). Future First Thursdays will include film screenings, a student art and craft sale, and student art committee receptions in the spring. —Alexandra Desaulniers '11

Dizzy Math

When an article about her research on dizziness and disorientation, which recently received a \$200,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health, ran in the *Portland Press Herald* and other Maine papers, Associate Professor of Mathematics Jan Holly received phone calls and e-mails of appreciation from people who suffer from inner-ear disorders. “One of the women who called me said, ‘Oh, it’s so good to see someone studying this, because you don’t hear about it much,’” Holly recalled.

While the focus of the grant is ultimately to help people with vestibular disorders, which cause dizziness, nausea, and disorientation, Holly’s role is way behind the scenes. A mathematical modeler, Holly uses physical experiments to understand people’s perceptions of various movements. For example, “You take a person, strap ’em into a chair ... it’s basically on sort of a track where the chair can go back and forth,” she said. “You just slide someone back and forth along the track, in the dark, and you say to them,

‘Are you upright? Or are you being tilted? And how far are you moving?’ And the interesting thing is some people say they’re being tilted when they’re not being tilted at all.”

Using data from this and many similar experiments, Holly creates computer mathematical models to predict what people might feel like during various motions. Meanwhile, her student researchers with mathematics and computer-science backgrounds work on computer animations to represent the movements. And she relies on math-biology double majors, too. “They often help me out by reading ... and consolidating the literature on how perception of motion takes place in the brain—the physiology behind it,” she said.



While this current grant is aimed at helping people with inner-ear disorders, Holly thinks her research will ultimately be used to predict and prevent disorientation in healthy people as well, such as astronauts for the transition in and out of a zero-gravity environment and pilots and who can

misperceive motion in the air, sometimes leading to plane crashes.

The interdisciplinary nature of the work, and the practical application, contribute to Holly’s enthusiasm. “The core of what I love to do is math. However, I really like the fact that this type of math is being applied to something useful, and so it has a longer-term motivation,” Holly said. “I like being able to do something useful.” —R.7.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH HATHAWAY '11

Men’s Soccer Celebrates a Half Century

Men’s varsity soccer at Colby opened the 2009 season Sept. 12 with a celebration of the program’s 50th birthday, and almost 100 former players returned to campus for the festivities. Forty-four, including six from the original 1959 team, played in an alumni vs. alumni game. Pictured are (from left) Pat Skulley ’94, Niles Parker ’91, Chris Flint ’92, Rod Corey ’93, Brian Wiercinski ’92, and coach Mark Serdjenian ’73, who is now in his 34th season as head coach. “It was really positive,” said Serdjenian.

UPDATE: Student-Security Relations

Following the events of April 12, when three Colby students were arrested and students responded with protests, the College, aided by outside experts, undertook an independent investigation of the incident and a comprehensive review of campus security policies and procedures.

Ralph C. Martin II, a former prosecutor and prominent Boston attorney, reviewed the sequence of events leading up to the arrests and found a lack of clarity and accountability in the responsibilities of all parties involved in the April 12 events. Martin offered a number of recommendations, including publishing clear standards of conduct for all Colby community members in their interactions with campus security and the student EMTs of Colby Emergency Response.

The Security Department’s policies and procedures were found to be in line with “best practices,” according to outside experts who conducted two separate reviews over the summer. As with the Martin report, both of these reviews found room for improvement in the relationship between campus security and Colby’s students along with a need to clearly articulate the expectations and responsibilities of students and security officers in their interactions on campus.

Martin’s full report and media coverage of the April 12 incident are available at www.colby.edu/april12.

WIT AND WISDOM

"It seems like it's out of vogue [to be a gentleman], like that's something nobody would aspire to be. You want to be a player, you want to be all these other things. No, you can be a gentleman and be all the things that you need to be."

Joseph Atkins, coordinator of Multicultural Student Programs, speaking to the Echo about a new Pugh Center club, Gentlemen of Quality.

"You can't understand what he's saying about metaphysics and epistemology if you don't understand what he's saying about erotic desire."

Charles A. Dana Professor of Philosophy Jill Gordon discussing her current research on Plato's dialogues at the first Women in the Spotlight event Sept. 17 (see previous page).

"The cashier didn't want to touch our money."

Brooke Frappier Jude '00 recalling a shopping trip she took with other student researchers who were trying to identify a fungus afflicting batchery trout. The students went to a local pharmacy and bought every type of antifungal medication in the store.

"Can you imagine what this place was like two hundred years ago? The whole four years was like COOT without GORE-TEX."

Dean of Students Jim Terbune touching on Colby's history in welcoming remarks to the Class of 2013 on the Miller Library steps Sept. 1.

"We think it's reasonable to create just a little bit of space between students and security on those evening occasions,' Adams said, which are times when 'social life tends to be more energetically pursued.'"

President William D. Adams quoted in a Morning Sentinel story about the State of the College address. Adams introduced a plan to eliminate routine security patrols in residence halls on weekends.

Salopek Wins Lovejoy for Courageous Reporting



Paul Salopek

Foreign correspondent Paul Salopek has reported from 20 conflicts around the world and 50 countries, mostly in the developing world. In 2006 he was imprisoned for five weeks in Darfur, where he endured beatings and brutal jail conditions but declined freedom until he knew his Chadian driver and Sudanese translator would also be freed. Salopek was selected to receive the 2009 Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award for courageous journalism and was slated to speak at the Lovejoy Convocation Oct. 18.

As a foreign correspondent for the *Chicago Tribune*, Salopek won the Pulitzer Prize twice for individual work: in 2001 for reporting from the civil war in Congo and in 1998 for a profile of the Human Genome Diversity Project. He is a regular contributor to *National Geographic* magazine and is in residence at Princeton University as a McGraw Writing Fellow this year.

Teaching People to Read [News]

Just as newspapers are shrinking, journalism's presence has grown on Mayflower Hill. This is the second year of a three-year grant from the Knight Foundation to promote news literacy on liberal arts campuses. The grant includes a Jan Plan course, internships, a visiting journalist program in the name of Elijah Parish Lovejoy, Colby Class of 1826, and—new this year—a news literacy blog (www.colby.edu/lovejoy).

Goldfarb Center Director L. Sandy Maisel (government) tapped journalist-friends of Colby, including many alumni, to write about how news is created and consumed in this changing media landscape. Bloggers include high-level journalists such as trustee Rebecca Littleton Corbett '74, deputy Washington bureau chief at the *New York Times*; Gerry Hadden '89, Europe correspondent for Public Radio International's *The World*; Brian MacQuarrie '74, general assignment reporter at the *Boston Globe*; and Hannah Beech '95, Southeast Asia bureau chief for *Time* magazine. Posts from about two dozen

contributors create a dynamic site that often examines current events from the perspective of those covering them.

While blog posts have covered topics ranging from a post-Cronkite world to using unnamed sources, the difficulties facing the news business are a recurring theme. And, judging from the size of the crowd at a September lecture by Lovejoy Visiting Journalist in Residence and ProPublica editor-in-chief Paul Steiger titled "How Newspapers' Decline Will Affect Citizens and Democracy," students are interested in this issue, too. —*Ruth Jacobs*



Annual Report of Contributions Online

Based on positive feedback from alumni, parents, and friends, Colby's Annual Report of Contributions will be made available online this fall through a secure site with some enhanced features. Alumni will be able to access their class lists through a drop-down menu in addition to viewing other segments of the report. An e-mail announcement with instructions was slated for October from Vice President for College Relations Richard Ammons. "We appreciate your support of our efforts to conserve resources and, most importantly, your loyalty to the College and its mission," Ammons wrote.