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The Boatbuilders

In the world of custom-built yachts, Maine boatbuilders Jock Williams ’62 (above) and Steve White ’77 are renowned for their boats’ classic lines and impeccable craftsmanship.

Jeronimo Maradiaga’s Journey

Thomas J. Watson Fellowship winner Jeronimo Maradiaga ’09J was a smart kid from a single-parent home in the South Bronx. Few people knew his responsibilities included more than his studies at Colby.
Alternative Paths
By Fiona Brown ’09

For some students, four years of college is plenty. For others, taking five or more years to graduate means having an even more meaningful experience.

No, these students aren’t slackers. Known at Colby as super seniors, they leave school to gain experience, and they return with wisdom, enthusiasm, and a slew of stories to share before they enter (or re-enter) the “real” world.

Starting to tell his story about his time off, Jamie Goldring ’09 is out of breath. He has just left a lecture and he’s rushing to host a fundraising gig in the pub for the organization he launched to help people in Malawi. After a sigh, he says with a smile, “It’s a joy to be here again.” Goldring, like many who take a leave, returned with a new perspective and enthusiasm.

At Colby, leaves of absence are uncommon. Over the last 10 years about three students per graduating class have taken off a full year (or more) without receiving credit, according to Beth Schiller, the College registrar. For three in this year’s graduating class—Goldring, Jessica Stern, and Alexandra Freyer—leaving school meant pursuing passions, gaining work experience, and seeing the world.

Engineering Harmony
By Meghan Moynihan ’09

Pop quiz. Which of these doesn’t belong: physics, music, or engineering? If you guessed music, you’re right—and wrong. Daniel Gomez ’09 used to think his interests in science and music might not mix into one career path. Then he discovered the Colby/Dartmouth dual-degree program.

For Gomez, college has been about finding a balance. “The extremes don’t appeal to me,” he said. Instead of focusing only on his interest in physics or his love of music, Gomez found a way to blend his passions. He spent his first two years at Colby focusing on music and physics, then went to Dartmouth for his junior year to work on an engineering degree. After he graduates from Colby this year he’ll be back at Dartmouth for one more year. When he’s done he’ll have two degrees—a bachelor of arts in music and physics, and a bachelor of science in engineering—that he hopes to apply to a career in acoustical engineering. “That was one of the advantages of coming here,” he said. “I can actually do both.”