

Colby



Colby Magazine

Volume 96
Issue 3 *Winter 2008*

Article 5

January 2008

Colby News

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine>

Recommended Citation

(2008) "Colby News," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 96 : Iss. 3 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol96/iss3/5>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the Colby College Archives at Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colby Magazine by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Colby.

Philanthropist Harold Alfond Dies at 93



PHOTO BY FRED FIELD

Harold Alfond, founder of the Dexter Shoe Co. and a generous supporter of Colby for more than a half century, died November 16, at 93, as this issue of *Colby* was going to press. Alfond's name adorns many facilities at Colby—including the athletic center and a residence complex—and across the state. A life overseer at Colby, Alfond received an honorary doctorate in 1980. His late wife, Dorothy "Bibby" Alfond, was a member of the Class of 1938, and their son William '72 is now a trustee. Their nephew Peter Lunder '56 and granddaughter Jennifer Alfond Seeman '92 both serve Colby as overseers. Expect complete coverage in the next issue.

Goldfarb Lectures Bring Global Perspectives

Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, *New York Times* Chief Foreign Correspondent John Burns, and former counter-terrorism advisor Richard Clarke have more in common than that they spoke at Colby this fall.

The speakers discussed a range of topics, from Clarke's assessment of misconceptions about the war in Iraq to Burns's from-the-ground account of life in Baghdad to Albright's vision

for diplomacy and human rights for all.

From their various vantages, each expressed concern about the perception of the United States internationally and looked forward to a time when the U.S. holds the respect of the international community. To hear the speeches in their entirety, visit www.colby.edu/goldfarb.

—Ruth Jacobs

AMERICA IN THE WORLD



RICHARD CLARKE, September 23, Government Department Goldfarb Lecture

"Remember right after 9/11, when two days later there was a spontaneous demonstration, 100,000 people with candles in the streets of—Tehran. People throughout the Islamic world thought Al Qaeda had gone too far, was killing innocent people, killing Muslims among them. We had an opportunity then to unite the world against this ideology. And we blew it."

JOHN F. BURNS, September 30, 55th Lovejoy Convocation

"I take encouragement that America will once again emerge from this time of adversity and continue in the future, perhaps under a different president, perhaps after it has extricated itself from Iraq, to be what my father told me as a NATO general himself in the 1950s. ... He said, '[Americans] are the people that keep the peace in the world in our time, and don't forget it.' It was true then, it is true now, and may God grant that this nation finds its way through its present adversity and is once again in the minds and hearts of the people of the world what it has been, especially throughout most of my lifetime—admired, regarded, loved."



MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, October 25, Sen. George J. Mitchell Distinguished International Lecture

"In some parts of the world young people are being brought up to believe that the United States is the enemy of their religion and that we are using our power to hold them back and keep them down. ... We must fight back by doing a better job of explaining not only what America is against but also what it is for. ... The world should know that the best America respects the rule of law, opposes torture, believes in due process, and thinks that everyone—including private security contractors in Iraq—should be held accountable for their actions. And that's why we need leaders in the future who will restore America's reputation."



PHOTOS FROM TOP: ROB KIEVIT '09, JEFF EARICKSON, TOM BOLLIER '11

InsideColby Adds Video

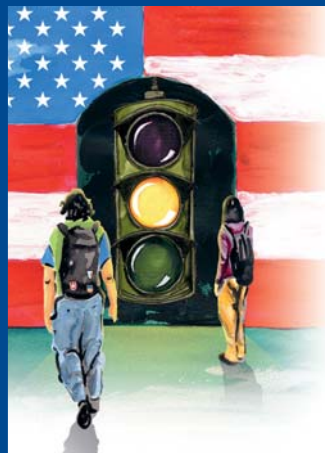


Thanks in part to the popularity of online services like YouTube and iTunes, video is now a regular part of the Internet. This fall, insideColby added a student-produced vodcast (read: video podcast) aimed at capitalizing on that popularity.

Martin “Moxie” Connelly ’08 and Ned Warner ’09 create the three- to five-minute videos exploring some aspect of the Colby experience—both on campus and off. The duo has covered students’ impressions of the new Pulver Pavilion, recent alums’ return for Family Homecoming Weekend, the Waterville farmers’ market, and student activism, from politics to human rights. “Every two weeks, we try to make the magic happen,” said Connelly.

InsideColby, which consists entirely of student-generated content, also includes a magazine, blogs, photos, an audio podcast, and more. To watch—or subscribe to—the vodcast, go to www.insidecolby.com/video. —*Rob Clockedile*

And the Survey Says!



New federal restrictions have made it more difficult for Colby’s international alumni to stay in the United States. In the last issue we asked, “Do you think the number of professional visas should be restored?”

67%

Yes. We need more highly educated people in this country.

33%

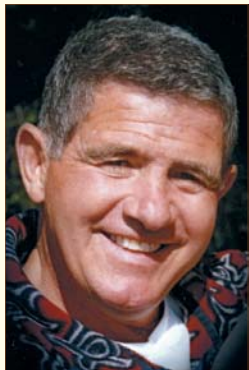
No. Not unless the unemployment rate drops to zero.



Consider This . . .

This fall saw changes to Colby’s first-year orientation program (see P. 32). Do you think orientation needed revamping? Go to www.colby.edu/mag to weigh in.

Boating Accident Claims Life of Administrator



Long-time employee Thomas Kopp, senior associate dean of admissions, died November 10 in a

boating accident on Great Pond in Rome, Maine. Kopp worked at Colby for almost 30 years, beginning in athletics and, since 1983, in admissions. “Many students now enrolled at Colby, as well as many alumni, will remember Tom fondly as the person whose warm smile and enthusiasm introduced them to the College,” wrote President William D. Adams in an e-mail to the community.

PAVILION COMPLETE, BOOKSTORE COMING

A spirited crowd of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and trustees gathered in Pulver Pavilion in Cotter Union on Friday evening, October 26, to officially dedicate the new addition, which opened at the start of the academic year. The naming gift was given by Trustee David Pulver ’63, his wife, Carol, and their daughter, Stephanie ’93.

“Peter Bohlin nailed it,” said Joseph Boulos ’68, chair of Colby’s Board of Trustees, referring to principal architect Peter Bohlin, of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson architects. “This is fabulous. Colby cannot thank the Pulvers enough for all they’ve done for the College, but tonight I think we’re going to try.”

“Carol and I are even more thrilled today than we were the day Peter Bohlin came on board—because it works,” said Pulver as he addressed the crowd at the dedication. “It’s a truly centralized place for people to gather.”

The opening of Pulver Pavilion signals the near-completion of a comprehensive student center for Colby. Those attending the dedication ceremony could not help noticing the grid of I-beams already in place just outside Page Commons. Next fall, the 9,000-square-foot, \$4.25-million bookstore addition will open, making Cotter a true hub for student activity on campus. The main entrance for the bookstore will be off Page Commons lobby. The move of the bookstore from the Roberts Building will help allow for the ultimate transformation of that building into a residence hall. —*Steve Heacock*



An architect’s rendering shows the bookstore addition on the far right of Cotter Union.

Access Granted

If a top-notch student from Maine doesn't apply to—or doesn't attend—Colby because of anxiety about student loan debt, then Colby and the student both miss an opportunity. That's the premise behind a new initiative that will convert student loans to grants in financial aid packages for Maine students, part of a larger goal of increasing access to the College.

Parents in the low- to middle-income range in Maine might discourage their children from taking out \$5,000 a year—\$20,000 over four years—to attend Colby, said Chair of the Board of Trustees Joseph Boulos '68, who, with his wife, Sheri, is supporting the initiative with the lead gift. "They automatically assume that they could never pay that back."

Now they won't have to.

As Colby assesses each accepted student's financial need, it calculates a financial aid package to meet that need. These packages may include grants, outside scholarships, work-study, and student loans. Beginning next fall, the student-loan portion for current and incoming Maine students will be turned into grants.

So why the focus on Maine? There are a few reasons, says

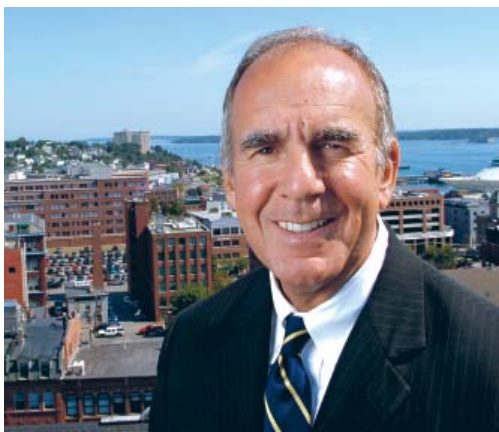


PHOTO BY FRED FIELD

"I think we owe it to the state of Maine, as a college that was founded almost 200 years ago, to give these kids an opportunity."

Joseph Boulos '68

Boulos, a Maine native. Students from Maine excel at Colby. "I've always believed that the greatest attribute of most Mainers is that they know how to work, and I think it has proven out over the years." Also, over

the years Colby has seen the percentage of Maine students drop below the target 10 to 12 percent, and this policy is aimed at keeping that from becoming a trend.

But that's not all.

Maine students are an important part of the culture at the College, said Boulos. Historically Colby has always had a commitment to the people of this state, and this needs to continue. "I think we owe it to the state of Maine, as a college that was founded almost 200 years ago, to give these kids an opportunity." —R.J.

Dams and Damnation

China's effort to create hydropower dams on the Nu River would affect everything from the environment to the economy. A Goldfarb Center multidisciplinary symposium in October explored these, and other, implications.

Damming the Nu looked at China's proposal to build 13 dams along the Nu River in Yunnan Province, one of the poorest areas of China. The proposal is part of an initiative to develop western China's energy resources to fuel the economic boom in the east. Many believe the initiative is harming politically powerless peasants.

The magnitude of the dams' potential impact on the environment, social systems, local populations, and energy demand in China brought the issue to the international stage. The area, designated by the U.N. as a World Heritage Site, contains old-growth forests, 7,000 species of plants, and 80 rare or endangered animal species. According to Desiree Tullos of Oregon State University, the dams are likely to cause extinction and

thus reduce the value of one of the world's richest sites of biodiversity.

Assistant Professor of Economics Phil Brown, who organized the symposium, said that dams would bring both costs and benefits, but that the adverse effects would be "likely to fall disproportionately on the rural poor." Thousands of local residents are likely to be worse off economically through the displacement process, he said.

Scholars from China joined those from the United States to exchange expertise and inform the 30 students who attended. Chen Daqing of the Yangtze River Fisheries Institute in Yunnan said that he would incorporate what he learned at Colby into his work on the Nu River.

As part of its effort to bring nationally and internationally recognized professionals and scholars to Colby to share insight on issues in politics and public policy, the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement sponsored the symposium. —Po Yin Wong '09



Out of Adversity

They were child soldiers, abducted by rebel forces in northern Uganda's lengthy civil war and forced to participate in and witness unthinkable violence. But in this climate of fear and squalor, the children of the Patongo refugee camp mounted a bid to compete in the National Music Competition in far-off Kampala. Award-winning documentary filmmakers Sean Fine and Andrea Nix Fine '91 have chronicled this story in *War/Dance*, which is acclaimed on the festival circuit and now in release—with profits to go to children in Uganda. More at www.wardance.org and www.wardancethemovie.com.

NATIVE PARTNERS

A collaboration among four Native American tribes and Colby, Bates and Bowdoin colleges was launched this fall to enhance the college students' knowledge about the Wabanaki peoples and to increase college aspirations among native youth in the Wabanaki Confederacy, which includes Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac communities.

The project, Working to Build Bridges to Com-

munities, uses the acronym WBBC, which also represents initials of the four partners. The initial component, Early College Awareness, is planned for February and March, with teams of four to six students from each college visiting the native communities in northern and eastern Maine. The college students will be guests of the Wabanakis, learning about native culture and working with fourth through eighth graders.

The three colleges

recruited students in November to participate in a training session December 1 and another workshop in February. The Colby team is scheduled to visit five sites March 23-28, during Spring Break.

Additional initiatives under consideration include a summer program for native students to visit the college campuses and efforts to ensure that campus climates are welcoming to native youth. —Stephen Collins '74

Gossip Girls Get Scripted

Cecily von Ziegesar's tales of the precocious and footloose students at a tony New York City private school captured the interest not only of teen readers but of television executives.

The best-selling *Gossip Girl* books created by von Ziegesar '92 became the *Gossip Girl* TV series—produced by the same people who created the California melodrama *The O.C.*



Von Ziegesar is no longer doing *Gossip Girl* books, nor was she involved in the adaptation of her books to TV. She has traded fictional teenagers for real-life motherhood and other projects.

"I thought it was going to be the sort of Disney version of the books, really toned down and corny," she told *The New York Times*. "A while back, there was a script circulating, and the boys were playing polo in Central Park. And I was horrified, because that doesn't happen. It was such a stereotype." —Gerry Boyle '78

PHOTO PATRICK HARBON/© 2007 THE CW NETWORK

New Director of Alumni and Donor Relations Named

Following a national search for a new director of alumni and donor relations, Colby found the best candidate right on Mayflower Hill. Meg Bernier '81, who worked previously as associate director and, most recently, as acting director, was named director in November. Bernier has worked at Colby since 1997 and is credited with developing and managing many programs, including Alumni College and, more recently, the Colby Alumni Network.



Meg Bernier '81

Wit & Wisdom

"The people at Southern Connecticut State University have cast the entire novel. They know exactly who each character is and have got it figured out. [...] Southern Illinois is convinced they are the ones and strangely enough, Colby College, where I went to after I left Southern Illinois, they're convinced that it's their English department too that's portrayed in the novel."

Richard Russo, former English professor, when asked about his book Straight Man being based on Southern Illinois University.

"Slightly Stoopid gives a mostly lame performance."

Headline on an Echo review. Slightly Stoopid (a band) played in Pulver Pavilion.

"Doggie was a walking, talking, bewhiskered MRI in the days before the MRI was even invented."

College Historian Earl Smith, on the diagnostic gifts of Clarence "Doggie" Dore '39, M.D., in a eulogy in Lorimer Chapel Nov. 17. Dr. Dore, the College physician from 1949 to 1981, died Nov. 6.

"He made me want to become a good man."

Eric Weeks '80, on Tom Kopp, who served as his football coach in 1979 and died in a boating accident in November. (See obituary, p. 71.)

"Is Colby College the Dolphins after Shula or the Cowboys after Landry?"

Headline on the Environmental Economics Web site's notice regarding the search for Mitchell Family Professor of Economics Tom Tietenberg's replacement, since he's retiring in 2008. "Almost everyone who teaches environmental economics begins with Tietenberg's book. If you are bold enough to attempt to replace a legend, the ad is below."

"I never thought I'd have a 71-year-old son."

Mother of Bob Saltz '58, after he told her on her recent birthday that he never thought he'd have a 100-year-old mother.

A Peace of the Prize

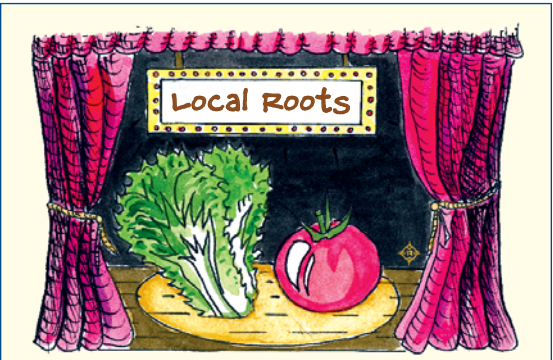


Al Gore got more than 50 percent of the attention when he won half of the Nobel Peace Prize in October. After all, the winner of the other half, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), doesn't have a movie and never ran for President. But its work to understand and combat climate change, according to the Nobel Committee, is equally worthy of recognition. And at least two contributors to that work spend their days in front of classes on Mayflower Hill.

Professor of Science, Technology, and Society James R. Fleming is a leading expert on the history of climate and, as such, was asked to contribute to chapter one of the IPCC's 2007 assessment reports, about the history and science of climate change.

Mitchell Family Professor of Economics Tom Tietenberg, whose work was cited in a 2001 report, also can claim a piece of the prize for his role in the IPCC's work over the last two decades. Tietenberg is a national expert on emissions trading.

Colby's faculty members were among thousands—most from large research universities, according to Fleming—who get some credit for the IPCC's work. And, although neither professor is lobbying for a portion of the \$1-million prize money, Fleming says, jokingly, that he hopes to get a color photocopy of the medal to hang on his office wall. —R.J.



Local Salad Year-Round

Just as the leaves were falling and gardeners were harvesting their crops, Dining Services launched a new local-foods initiative. As of mid-November, the salad bar in Roberts consists entirely of local produce. It may seem challenging, especially during the winter, but Maine farmers offer diverse vegetables year-round. Greenhouse-grown lettuces, tomatoes from nearby Madison, and carrots and broccoli from Aroostook County are among the foods offered.



Advice from Alums

Colby's first annual Career Networking and Leadership Weekend, held on campus in September, attracted more than 300 students eager to learn about the working world beyond Mayflower Hill. The event included training sessions for alumni volunteers, speed networking and mock interviews with alumni, student presentations of honors thesis proposals, planning sessions for the Alumni of Color Network, career panel presentations organized by major, and a demonstration of the new online Colby Alumni Network.

Proposed Development Piques Interest

A real estate investment trust has submitted plans for development that could transform the North Maine Woods, and Colbians are among many Mainers paying close attention.

Plum Creek, which owns almost a million acres in Maine, submitted plans for housing subdivisions, two recreational resorts, and rezoning of more than 400,000 acres in the Moosehead Lake region.

As the controversial proposal trudged toward hearings before Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission this fall, Colby students took interest. Emmie Theberge '08, a government and environmental studies major, organized a panel discussion at Colby in October to hear about the proposal from Plum Creek officials and concerns raised by environmental groups.

Theberge, who grew up on Orr's Island, Maine, and spent time fishing in the North



Proposed site for development on Moosehead Lake in northern Maine.

Woods, said trends in the timber industry, shifts in land ownership over the last 30 years, and the role of REITs and TIMOs (Timber Investment Management Organizations) have the potential to transform the landscape and traditional uses of Maine's northern forests.

But, she said, "Instead of getting caught up in just the environmental side of the argument, I wanted a hearing that would

fully represent both sides."

Meanwhile, Andrew Smith, a first-year student from Hershey, Penn., didn't take long to get settled at Colby before starting a group to resist this development. Colby Students for the Protection of Moosehead has begun meeting and organizing events. He speaks about his goals in a recent insideColby vodcast, online at www.insidecolby.com/video. —S.B.C.