

Colby



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Pulver Opens

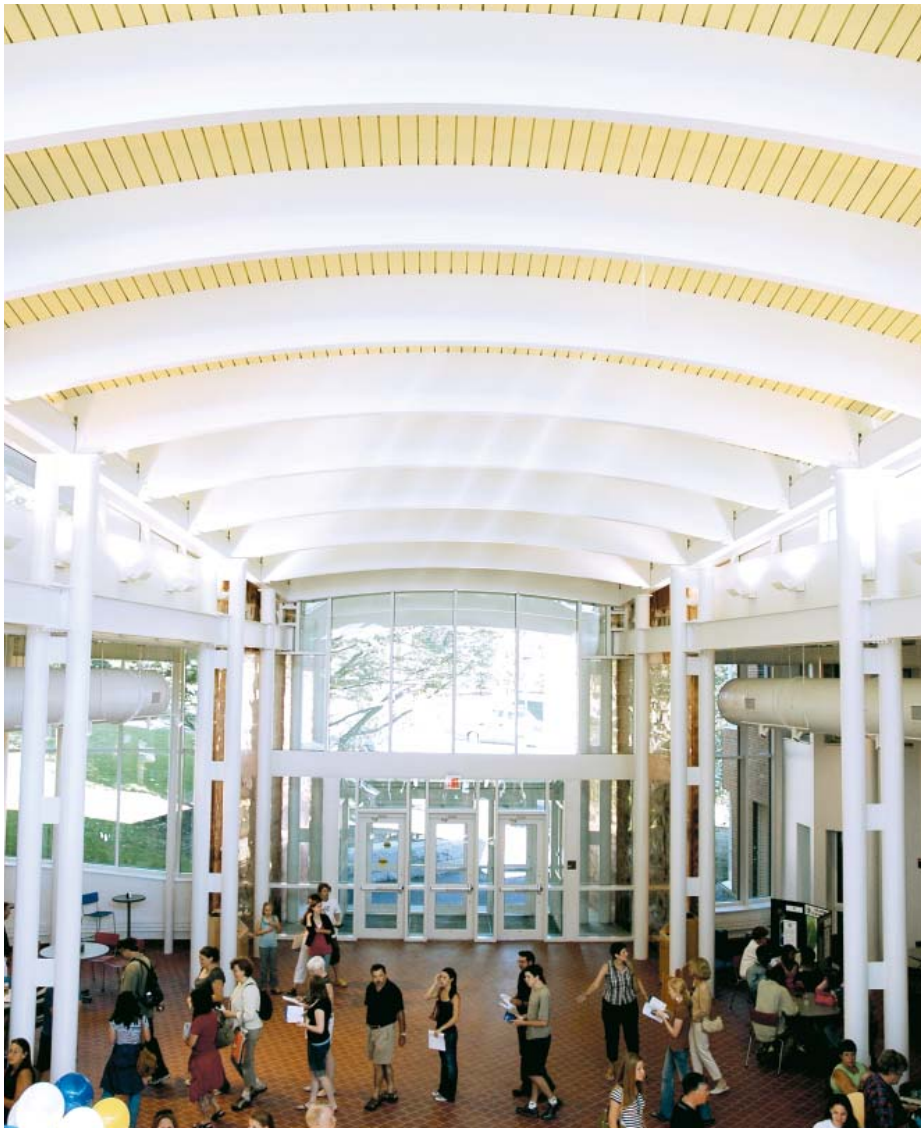


PHOTO BY ROBERT P. HERNANDEZ

Pulver Pavilion, which opened for the arrival of the Class of 2011 on August 28, is the new center for student life. Built to bridge the two wings of Cotter Union, the space includes a vast barrel-vaulted ceiling, copper walls, comfortable seating surrounding a flat-panel TV, a café, and a lounge complete with a fireplace. Other areas of Cotter have been reconfigured, making room for a new pub (pictured right).



PHOTO BY BARON COLLINS-HILL

Reorientation

Members of the Class of 2011 were pioneers for a substantially different orientation experience when they arrived on Mayflower Hill in August. Gone, after 25 continuous years (and sporadic incarnations before 1982), is the shared reading of a first-year book. Also different: instead of heading right out on a COOT trip, students spent 36 hours on campus with faculty members in programs and discussion groups.

The changes from recent years address a widespread desire among the faculty and administration to enhance the intellectual and academic focus of the orientation program. The theme was “Meaningful Work and Life at Colby,” and the program asked students to reflect on that in a variety of ways, from considering the work of people they know and of public figures to writing an essay on the topic and discussing it formally and informally in COOT groups before and during their trips.

A panel of young alumni and a panel of faculty members discussed the concept of good work in the contexts of academics, extracurricular activities, and career goals. According to Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Jim Terhune, a goal of the program is to convey that Colby cares deeply about excellence, integrity, and serious reflection about ideas. —*Stephen Collins '74*

All-American Athletes

Sixteen Colby students, including a record four women’s lacrosse players in one season, earned All-America honors in eight sports during 2006-07. The list of All-Americans for each of the past five years is online, along with 2007 fall schedules and recent sports news at www.colby.edu/athletics.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF RACHEL CARSON



A celebration of the life of *Silent Spring* author Rachel Carson on the 100th anniversary of her birth, in May, brought performers, authors, and environmentalists—and admirers of Carson’s contribution to the environmental movement—to Mayflower Hill.

Events included a one-woman play about Carson, a performance by Maine folksinger Gordon Bok, and discussions on alternatives to toxic chemicals still used in our lives.

First published in 1962, *Silent Spring* was for most people a first warning of the hazards posed by pesticides. It changed the way we look at the natural world and our place in it and presaged discussions that now extend to climate change and management of natural resources.

The weekend events were sponsored by Colby’s Environmental Studies Program and the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and

Civic Engagement and were organized by Gail Carlson, a visiting assistant professor and research scientist in environmental studies.

With more than 200 participants and a lineup of guest speakers that included the foremost Carson scholars, the Colby event was likely the most academic of the celebrations of the author’s centennial, according to Carlson. “I would go out on a limb and say our event was unique,” she said.

Carlson has taught *Silent Spring* in her courses for several years and still vividly recalls her first reading of the seminal work, which sent her scurrying to find more writings by and about Carson. “Almost every page I’d find that I was copying down an inspirational quote,” she said.

Carlson was a complex person, she said, whose writings and actions have the power to inspire us as we face the daunting environmental challenges of the 21st century.

“Her message absolutely rings true today,” Carlson said.

—Gerry Boyle '78

An Oak from Colombia

A Colombian activist working to address human rights abuses in Putumayo, a conflict-ridden region torn between guerrillas and paramilitary forces, will be at Colby this fall as the 2007 Oak Human Rights Fellow.

Nancy Sanchez works to document and denounce political violence and to support development of autonomous communities, civic and peace initiatives and organizations, and efforts of women, indigenous people, and Afro-Colombians to create new networks. Sanchez has been recognized by Amnesty International and received the Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Award from the Institute for Pol-



Nancy Sanchez

icy Studies in recognition of the critical role her work has played in Colombia and in policy debates in the United States. The Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights, established in 1998, annually brings to campus a prominent human rights practitioner. While in residence the Oak Fellow teaches, pursues research, and works with the faculty to organize lectures and other events centered around his or her area of expertise.



STRESS MANAGEMENT

Morning Sentinel police log, May 31:
“3:18 p.m., a caller from Mayflower Hill Drive reported hearing a blood-curdling scream coming from next door. It was a stressed-out college senior, according to the police report.”

Lovejoy Goes to *Times* Correspondent

The premier war correspondent of his generation, John F. Burns, who spent the last five years reporting from Iraq, will receive the Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award and give the annual Lovejoy Convocation address on September 30.

Burns has been arrested in China and Mozambique for his reporting activities and had to hide from Saddam Hussein's secret police after escaping arrest in Iraq shortly before the war broke out there. He covered the overthrow of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the end of apartheid in South Africa and was the first *New York Times* Islamic affairs correspondent, from 1998 to 2001. He is now senior foreign correspondent for the *Times* and, since July 1, its London bureau chief.

Given annually to a courageous jour-



John F. Burns

nalist, the award honors the memory of Elijah Parish Lovejoy, Colby's valedictorian in 1826 and a revered abolitionist publisher who was killed in Alton, Ill., in 1837 by a pro-slavery mob.

On the afternoon of September 30, the Goldfarb Center will sponsor a

panel discussion in connection with the Lovejoy program. "Different Perspectives on Covering the War in Iraq," will feature *New York Times* Baghdad bureau manager Jane Scott-Long, *Washington Post* photographer Andrea Bruce, formerly embedded *Portland Press Herald* columnist Bill Nemitz, and a CBS television reporter.

More information on the Lovejoy Award is online at www.colby.edu/lovejoy. —S.C.

Colby Raises Campaign Goal

Colby's Reaching the World fundraising campaign is now the largest campaign in Maine history.

In May the Board of Trustees approved an increase to \$370 million. The previous goal was \$235 million in gifts and pledges to be raised by 2010—then the most ambitious campaign in Colby's history.

This news came on the heels of the announcement of the largest gift in Colby's 194-year history: The Lunder Collection, which includes more than 500 objects, with 464 works by American masters. The promised gift comes from Peter '56, D.F.A. '98, and Paula Crane Lunder, D.F.A. '98, art collectors

and long-time supporters of the College and the Colby College Museum of Art (see related feature, P.12).

"Raising the goal is just one indication of how bullish our community is about Colby," said Joseph Boulos '68, chair of Colby's Board of Trustees.

The campaign increase includes fund-raising goals for the construction of a new \$6.5-million exhibition space to house the works donated by the Lunders and for establishing a \$3-million endowment fund for operation of the new space. The additional square footage, slated for opening in 2013, will make Colby's gallery space for art the largest in Maine.

Wit & Wisdom

"If you don't like one of the paintings, she picked it."

Artist Alex Katz, thanking Sharon Corwin, Muzzy Director and chief curator of the Colby College Museum of Art, who worked with Katz to choose the paintings on view in this summer's lead exhibition, Contemporary Art at the Colby College Museum of Art: Gifts from the Alex Katz Foundation.

"Jump in headfirst, write letters, and tell your family and friends that you love them."

Kate Braemer '07, giving closing words of advice in this year's student graduation speech.

"I'm outnumbered, but not dominated."

Standard response, according to the Gloucester Daily Times, that author Linda Greenlaw '83 gives when asked what it's like to be one of the few women fishing for lobsters.

"I saw the great joy and the great sense of life that [Fats Waller's] music gave to everyone else. ... I think everybody wants to make life a little better."

Jazz great Sonny Rollins, at a dinner prior to receiving an honorary doctor of music degree, describing what motivated him to spend his life making music.

"While importing Viagra from Mexico and helping Nigerian con artists launder money may be fun once in a while, I'm not always in the mood for it."

Cliff Vickrey '09 in a message to the College community about increased e-mail spam making it through Colby's filters this summer.

"It's a mess."

Steve Heacock, director of communications, describing the bureaucratic tangle of College, city, state, and railroad interests in improving (or not improving) the main road through campus. (Stronger words are often used to describe the actual state of the roadway.)

Colby Grad is Ambassador

Patrick Duddy '72 was confirmed June 28 as the new U.S. Ambassador to Venezuela. *El Universal*, Venezuela's leading newspaper, reported that Duddy is likely to be one of the "highest-ranking career diplomats in the Western hemisphere" and to improve diplomatic ties, which were strained under his predecessor.

Goodwin Remembers Lady Bird

With the news of the death of Lady Bird Johnson in July, Doris Kearns Goodwin '64 was called on by the media to help remember this former First Lady. Goodwin wrote the best-selling book *Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream*. On *NBC Nightly News*, Goodwin said of Lady Bird Johnson, "She gave him a love that was steady and never fickle the way politics was."

And the Survey Says!

Colby continues to work on its relationship with the local community.

In the last issue we asked, "How important is that relationship?"

76%

It's a vital part of the Colby experience

24%

It's irrelevant to a Colby education



Consider This . . .

New federal restrictions have made it more difficult for Colby's international alumni to stay in the United States (see P. 40). Do you think the number of professional visas should be restored?

Go to www.colby.edu/mag to weigh in.

Colby Jack Coombs Enshrined

Baseball legend John "Colby Jack" Coombs and his nephew are featured in a new museum exhibit in their hometown, Kennebunk, Maine. As a rookie for the Philadelphia Athletics just after graduating from Colby in 1906, Jack pitched and won a 24-inning game and was featured on sports pages in a photo from his Colby days, earning the nickname. The exhibit of rare photographs, clippings, video, vintage baseball memorabilia, and personal ephemera, runs through December at the Brick Store Museum.



Tara Allain, Miss Maine

At Colby she's Tara Allain, but on stage in Las Vegas in January she'll be known simply as Miss Maine.

Allain '08 was crowned in June and spent the summer on the road, tiara and banner at the ready. By mid-August she had been to Florida for Miss America's Outstanding Teen Pageant and around Philadelphia for appearances at city schools and at a Ronald McDonald House. All that was to be followed by a trip to Georgia to visit the headquarters of Habitat for Humanity, her "platform issue" for Miss America.

"For the whole month of August, I'm booked," Allain said at home in Worcester, Mass., between trips. "September—everything just fills up so fast."

She opted to enter the Maine contest because, had she won in Massachusetts, logistics would have required her to take a year off from Colby. Even as Miss Maine, things will be hectic—Allain will have appearances around the state this fall and possibly a photo shoot in Los Angeles and reality show taping. But, as a seasoned multitasker, the biology major and Colby dance team captain



Tara Allain '08, Miss Maine

and co-founder feels she can handle it.

Allain is hoping to have fun at the Miss America pageant, and, though she's aware Maine and New England aren't usually winners, she's not just going along for the ride. "Yes, I'm there to have fun and the experience is incredible, but at the same time," she said, "I would love to put New England on the map." —G.B.

Faculty Farewells

Five long-tenured, teaching, full professors retired this summer after cumulative service of 172 years to Colby. Retirees were recognized and thanked at the annual faculty-trustee dinner two nights before commencement, and all were granted emeritus status upon their retirement. Alphabetically:

Donald B. Allen, professor of geology, having taught at Colby since 1967, was the third-longest-serving current faculty member (behind Priscilla Doel in Spanish and Harriett Matthews in art, who both continue to teach). Known as the department's "hard-rock guy," Allen's research and teaching interests were in economic geology and mineral exploration, igneous and metamorphic petrology, and the geology of Maine bedrock and of Roosevelt-Campobello International Park.

Susan McIlvaine Kenney began teaching at Colby in 1968 and published five books (mysteries and memoirs) and about two dozen short stories while teaching English composition, creative writing, and literature. She is a scholar of the life and literature of Virginia Woolf and she served as director of the Creative Writing Program and chair of the Humanities Division.

Robert L. McArthur arrived at Colby in 1972 to teach philosophy and spent three years as dean of admissions and 10 as dean of faculty and vice president for academic affairs, one of those as acting president while President William Cotter was on sabbatical. He is the Christian A. Johnson Professor of Integrative Liberal Learning, emeritus, and, outside of Colby, he is chair of the Maine Humanities Council board and serves on the University of Maine at Farmington board of overseers and the Maine Supreme Court Task Force.

Linda Tatelbaum, a member of the English Department, began at Colby in 1982 and published three of her own books in the last 10 years—two accounts of her family's homesteading and living off-the-grid and a novel. She was on the advisory committee of the Environmental Studies Program and did a number of commentary pieces on public radio programs, especially *Living on Earth* and *Marketplace*.

Diane Skowbo Winn, professor of psychology, started at Colby in 1974. She specialized in the study of sensory perception, especially visual perception, as well as states of consciousness, particularly trance states. In retirement she was planning to devote more time to wildlife rehabilitation work at her Avian Haven Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center (www.avianhaven.org). —S.C.



PHOTO BY FRED FIELD

Commencement on the Quad

Families and friends listen to the commencement address by Nobel-laureate economist Thomas Schelling on May 27. Degrees were awarded to 475 members of the Class of 2007, with honorary degrees presented to author John Barth, former Nigerian Minister of Finance Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, jazz saxophonist Sonny Rollins, and director of the Whitney Museum of Art Adam Weinberg.



PHOTO BY JIM EVANS

Mule Driver

Noah Champagne, 3, son of Marilyn and Lou Champagne '67, grins behind the wheel of a golf cart at reunion, June 9-11. A total of 1,087 alumni, a Colby record, gathered with nearly 400 additional family members for a weekend of lectures, tours, class dinners, dancing, and, of course, the lobster bake.

First Time Through

On their first day on campus, members of the Class of 2011 and their parents got a first look at Pulver Pavilion, the new center of Cotter Union. The space, which opened August 28, is a dramatic addition to the original Cotter Union. Here students leave the pavilion after checking-in to begin their Colby careers.

Photo by Megan Lehmann '08





Hallway Hubbub

Students, parents, and hall staff crowded the corridors of College dormitories August 28, taking part in the annual ritual of moving in. Here, a carton-toting crowd fills a hallway in Foss Hall. Photo by Megan Lehmann '08

Oil and Religion: Threats to a New Democracy

BY CAROLINE RISS '03

At first glance, recent political reports from Nigeria look promising: for the first time one civilian leader has taken over from another in a democratic transition. President Umaru Yar'Adua was recently elected, replacing Olusegun Obasanjo who took power in 1999 after nearly three decades of civil war and military dictatorship.

In reality this new democracy is narrowly dodging a full-blown civil war. With national and international protests of fraudulent state and federal elections, tensions in Nigeria are elevated. Social unrest is brewing as issues surrounding oil and religion amplify historical divisions between the north and south.

The north-south division dates back to colonial times, when Europeans created boundaries without regard to cultural and ethnic lines. The country's estimated 140 million inhabitants represent more than 250 ethnic groups and speak 500 languages. The rift has broadened as the government, with the introduction of its ninth constitution, seeks to strengthen federal rule. Challenges to the central authority mount and turmoil is inevitable.

Since the 1970s, Nigeria's oil industry has been vigorously developed in the southern regions of the Niger Delta. Today Nigeria is the world's eighth-largest exporter of oil, shipping out 2.5 million barrels daily, which generate over 90 percent of the country's revenues. These oil riches would seem to be a valuable asset in an otherwise lackluster economy and society, but very few Nigerians actually benefit from the oil revenues. An estimated 70 percent of Nigeria's oil income disappears into the hands of corrupt officials who, shockingly, have immunity from prosecution.

The inequalities have led to mayhem in the southern regions. Most of the delta's inhabitants survive on less than a dollar a day and live without power, clean water, or sufficient food. Traditional livelihoods have largely disappeared due to environmental degradation, increased disease, and civil unrest. Nearly 7,000 acknowledged oil spills have led to a collapse of native fishing communities and decimation of the delta's rich biodiversity. A once self-sufficient agricultural nation now imports more food than it exports. Local militias have grown out of the desperation. Violence has superseded democracy in the south, leaving many in fear of Nigeria's future.

The northern regions face added economic inequality. With no oil riches or seaports, the north is economically weak, which has led to a power imbalance within the centralized government. Consequently, the predominately Muslim north is relying on religion as a means to gain control over the predominately Christian south. The

power play is evident in the introduction of sharia (Islamic) law into the criminal penal code by northern states. This occurred despite resolutions of the 1999 constitution, which held that a state could not adopt any religion as a state religion.

Nonetheless, 12 northern states have enacted sharia law for both civil and criminal matters. The use of sharia law for criminal matters created a phenomenon whereby Christians and Muslims living in the same state receive different punishments for the same crimes. Sharia sentences include amputation of limbs, death by stoning, and long

prison terms for crimes of theft, adultery, and defamation of Islam. The ratification of sharia law has created widespread violence throughout Nigeria. From 2000 to 2003 more than 10,000 deaths were attributed to religious clashes. Civil unrest in Nigeria has become as much about faith as economic stability.

Today Nigeria is at a pivotal point in its history. With a new president, immediate leadership is crucial in easing the country's religious and economic frictions. Nigerian citizens have profound

reason for concern. But why should Americans care?

To start, there is more U.S. investment in Nigeria than in any other African country; 2006 bilateral trade totaled \$30.8 billion. Nigeria is the fifth-largest source of oil imports for the United States; 40 percent of Nigeria's oil is exported to the United States. Considering that the United States imports 58 percent of oil used annually, there is a clear dependence on Nigeria. Civil strife in Nigeria reduces oil output: violence led to a 25-percent cut and a loss of \$4 billion last year alone in Nigeria's oil trade.

Apart from economic ties, there are obvious humanitarian concerns. Ironically, American citizens have more influence on Nigeria's fate than most Nigerians. U.S. governmental ties in Nigeria allow us to demand better for the Nigerian people. Encouraging the U.S. government to seek alternative energy sources and to depend less on foreign fuel could help create more affordable access to fuel for the average Nigerian, likely reducing violence. Further, insisting that all multinational companies working in Nigeria follow a strict code of conduct will assist Nigerians in reducing human rights violations, negative environmental impacts, and widespread corruption. As Hauwa Ibrahim, a Nigerian human rights attorney, once said: "It is our obligation to provide a voice to the voiceless and power to the powerless." Ultimately, it is the prosperity of the Nigerian people that will dictate the stability of this new democracy.



Nigerian men play soccer in a village adjacent to an Exxon Mobil gas plant. Oil development has produced jobs, but not for average Nigerians.