

Colby



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Feedback

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FEEDBACK



Athletics to Laurels: Advice for President David A. Greene

I was most fortunate to have graduated from Colby in 1953. To be a member of the last class to live on the downtown campus, to move to Mayflower Hill in 1950, and then to see Colby grow into an elite liberal arts college makes me very proud. It is a tribute to the excellent leadership Colby has had these past 70-plus years from Presidents Johnson, Bixler, Strider, Cotter, and Adams.

Colby has achieved excellence in faculty, academic programs, buildings and facilities, the arts, and food services. I give the College high marks with one glaring exception. The intercollegiate athletic program for far too long has been mediocre at best.

It is obvious that other NESCAC schools, such as Amherst, Middlebury, Williams, Trinity, and Tufts, believe that a successful athletic program is part of an excellent liberal arts education. I am sure President David Greene ("Called to Action," summer 2014 *Colby Magazine*), with degrees from Harvard, is aware of Harvard's commit

ment to excellence in athletics. If it's good enough for Harvard, it can't be all that bad.

I can only hope that our new president understands and believes that a successful athletic program is important to student life and the greater Waterville community. There is little question that a successful athletic program has proven to be a powerful force in generating enthusiasm and excitement on college campuses and vigor and support from the alumni.

As our 20th president takes the helm of one of the finest colleges in the country, I would, with utmost respect, suggest that he enlist the Athletic Committee of the Alumni Council to make recommendations on how best to move Colby's athletic program on to a more successful plateau. The word mediocre should not be part of Colby's vocabulary, no matter what the endeavor may be.

Ed Fraktman '53
Wayland, Mass.

I read in "Called to Action" by Ruth Jacobs that President David A. Greene has "the background, inspiration, and drive to catapult Colby."

Isn't it sufficient for Colby College to rest on its laurels? How much more success is needed before there is success? In the words of John Keats in "On Fame," there is something to be said against being "fever'd" in the pursuit of the "fierce miscreed" called "fame"?

And we must know that the projectile that the catapult launched would be destroyed when it hit its target, that the pursuit of yet further fame, further success, does not always end well.

Stephen Schoeman '64
Westfield, N.J.

Thanks for the great article about our 20th president. I'm excited to learn that President Greene is fired up to take Colby to new heights. I recently attended an inspiring forum on social justice organized by David Marcus '83 and Sarah Eustis '96 in Los Angeles. It was very different from the usual alumni social event, and I highly recommend this format.

It was brought to our attention that Colby is removing 170,000 books from the library over the objections of over half the professors, many students, and alumni. While digital information is wonderful, it is not a substitute for books, and the College should listen carefully to the opinion of the stakeholders. We've all had the experience of looking for a book and running into something we weren't expecting as a result. This phenomenon is critical to scholarship.

Those of you that know what kind of student I was at Colby might be surprised that I am a defender of books. But I might have learned more from books while goofing off in the library than reading what I was supposed to.

I'm not a buggy-whip guy. I'm a digital entrepreneur. That said, there is no substitute for a real library, and at an institution of higher learning, what the heck could be more important than books? I hope President Greene will re-evaluate the decision to remove the books. If you agree, please send him an e-mail or a note along with your checks.

Michael Collins '83
Irvine, Calif.

Kudos for Magazine Redesign, With One Exception

I just finished reading the summer edition of *Colby Magazine*. Simply fantastic. Love the new layout and visuals. Congratulations to your entire staff.

Joe Boulos '68

Portland, Maine

Congratulations on the new *Colby Magazine* format. I opened it up and read it cover to cover. Every story was interesting and the perfect length.

Kathy McConaughy Zambello '56

Cumberland Foreside, Maine

I just read my *Colby* mag cover to cover—the redesign is great! I love the web version, too. It's so much easier to navigate. Congrats also on the magazine's recent award—you all deserve it so much.

Jenny Chen '13

Berwyn Heights, Md.

To the editing staff I want to make the following remarks as means for further improvement of *Colby Magazine*. The frequent, almost pagely changes, to font type, color and size, bold and non-bold makes the magazine a collection of single articles and not an entity. My advice is a standard type font and size, color, standard article layout, and to use bold and enlarged font size by exception. Suggested font is Arial 10p.

Peter Dousma P'18


Gelderland, Netherlands

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On President David Greene's Arrival:

 "Good luck, David! It's a special place with special people. You are a fortunate man. You'll do well ... and good."


—Gary Fitts '73

 "As a Colby parent, I have been inspired by the articles I have read so far regarding your presidency. Best of luck and keep doing what you have always done!"


—Maria Libby P'15

 "Good luck, President Greene! Take good care of my beloved Alma Mater!"

—Kristen Hanssen Goodell '95


 "Welcome to the Colby community and look forward to your leadership. Best wishes from a parent of a son who graduated with Class of 2014 and a son in Class of 2017. I'm also a proud member of the Class of '80."

—Fred Madeira '80


 "As a Colby Class of '71 graduate ... I was at the College during amazing times ... Afterward I found Colby everywhere that I went in the world ... From South Africa to India ... Good luck and best wishes as you steer dear Colby onward in its challenging role in an ever increasing global world!"

—Nancy Austin '71


On Welcoming the Class of 2018: Share your first-day-on-the-Hill story:

 "The very first classmate I met when I moved into my dorm back in 1981 remains a dear friend today. I had dinner with her just three weeks ago. A friend I made at the beginning of my second semester freshman year remains a rock in my life."

—Shireen Shahawy '85

 "First few weeks I hated it. I had never lived away from home. I called my folks in tears and asked to come home. ... By the end of semester, they had to pry me home with a crowbar. Allow yourself to be nervous for a good while. Don't let anyone fool you. It takes time. That's what makes it special."


—Scott Lainer '87

 "I remember eating dinner with my mom at the Weathervane Seafood Restaurant on Kennedy Drive and seeing 4 or 5 other new freshman guys with their mom looking sheepishly at each other but too nervous to say anything. Classic. The next day we all started COOT and thus began the 4 best years of my life with many lifelong friends."

—John Cole '05 on Facebook

 "I met my wife. Thanks, Colby."

—Karen Prager '04

 "I met one of my best friends while standing in line at the President's reception on the first day of school! We are still friends 21 years later!"

—Jen Bierwirth Shurman '93