



April 2019

## Shorter Takes (Short Form)

Colby College

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### Recommended Citation

College, Colby (2019) "Shorter Takes (Short Form)," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 107 : Iss. 1 , Article 20.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol107/iss1/20>

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In collaborative performance-making, every performer participates in the authorship of the whole, and the director guides that action. *Coldness and Lightness* asked me to embody paradox, to be harsh and clear and linear, and to imbue that severity with undercurrents of softness and warmth.”

—Associate Professor of Theater and Dance Annie Kloppenberg, shown performing in *Coldness and Lightness* at the Kennedy Center in New York

“**BE** bold;  
fearless;  
open, honest, and  
transparent;  
**LOVE MORE!**”

—One of many student reflections shared at a Dr. Martin Luther King Commemorative Week event in Pulver Pavilion.

## MAINE + JEWISH

From September to October, the Maine State Museum in Augusta told a long-overlooked story: Jewish life in Maine. David M. Freidenreich, Pulver Family Associate Professor of Jewish Studies, and his students from the past couple of years played a major role in the exhibit *Maine + Jewish: Two Centuries*, which used objects and photographs to represent the Jewish experience since 19th-century immigrants to recent residents.

For a booklet accompanying the exhibit, Freidenreich wrote an essay in which he recounted stories of Jewish immigrants coming from northern parts of Russia, Poland, and Germany to Maine—a place that reminded them of home.



## OUTSTANDING

With a time of 21 minutes and 28.6 seconds, Sophia Gorman '21 placed 11th at the NCAA cross country meet last November in Oshkosh, Wis. Among the youngest top finishers, Gorman secured her title as one of two NESCAC most outstanding performers. Gorman was also awarded All-American honors and a place on the First-Team All Conference. And she was only a year and a half into her Colby career. Colby to NESCAC: catch her if you can.

65

The number of Thomas J. Watson Fellowships won by Colby students, including 2019 winner Hannah Springhorn '19, since the program was started in 1968. An astrophysics and art history double major, and cross-country runner, Springhorn will travel to Ecuador, Japan, Ethiopia, and Kenya for a project titled "Food Culture within Distance Running." For more about the project and to hear from Springhorn directly, go to *Colby Magazine* online.



Number of records broken by Addie Paige '22, the NESCAC Women's Swimming Rookie of the Year. Shattered were the seven-year-old school record for the 1,000 freestyle, the six-year-old 200 butterfly record, and finally, the 1,650-yard freestyle record, which had stood since Sally White '91 set it 31 years ago. All three of Paige's historic swims occurred during the conference championship meet at Wesleyan University this February. Her races helped Colby finish ninth overall in the final meet.

## COLBY ON THE FRINGE

Starting in 1947 in Edinburgh, Scotland, the Fringe Festival has spread across the globe. This year, it came to Mayflower Hill. From April 9 to 27, the Theater and Dance Department was host to Colby's very first Fringe Festival, where works by professional guest artists, faculty, and students were showcased. Radical artist-activist Guillermo Gómez-Peña's performance kicked off the week. Other performances featured senior capstones, curricular productions, and student club performances.

*For more information, visit: [colby.edu/theaterdance/productions/colby-fringe-festival](http://colby.edu/theaterdance/productions/colby-fringe-festival)*

## RACK 'EM UP

Sam Jefferson '20 did just that on the basketball court. With awards that is. The week of Jan. 28 Jefferson locked down not only NESCAC player of the week—with an average of 27.3 points and an 86.4 shot percentage from the foul line—but also Maine player of the week, Division III national player of the week, and the week's top NCAA D-III performer. Just in case that wasn't enough: the United States Basketball Writers Association named Jefferson national player of the week. He was the first NESCAC player to receive the honor this season. We can't wait to see what he does next.

## LAWYERED UP

For the two Jan Plan internship positions in their office, lawyers Tom Nale '05 and Tracy Nale '07 received seven applications via DavisConnects. They didn't want to turn anyone down, so they found places for all seven. Three students interned at the Kennebec County District Attorney's Office in Augusta, while two worked with other lawyers in Waterville, including James S. LaLiberty '02.

Said Tracy Nale, "Different places, but definitely a different experience for everyone as well."

## GIVING Middle-Income Families A FAIR SHOT

Colby's **FAIR SHOT FUND**, announced in November, eases the challenges of the "middle-class squeeze" and makes a Colby education more affordable for middle-income families. Beginning with the Class of 2023, the fund will enable the most talented students to access Colby's world-class education by capping the parent/guardian yearly contribution at **\$15,000** for families making up to **\$150,000** (with assets typical of that income level).

The Fair Shot Fund is just one part of the Colby Commitment. Also consider: a family with income of \$60,000 or less, with typical assets, will have a parent or guardian contribution of \$0.

Said President David A. Greene: "When Colby is the right educational choice for a student from a middle-income family, it will also be among the most affordable choices."



## NFL Grant Steps Up Concussion Research

The Maine Concussion Management Initiative (MCMI), based at Colby, has held numerous trainings, collected thousands of data points, and published cross-cutting research to reduce the number of concussions suffered by student athletes. Now, with \$475,000 from the National Football League, the research goes to the next level.

With the NFL grant, the Colby initiative—headed by Health Center Director Paul Berkner and former class dean Joseph Atkins, who holds a doctorate in brain and cognitive science—will significantly expand its data set to better understand the effects of concussion in young athletes with pre-existing conditions, identify predictors of recovery, and develop new approaches for athletes with lingering symptoms.

## MORE THAN HARRY POTTER

When Emmanuel Cheruiyot '21 first came to Colby from rural Kenya, he was asked one question again and again: Have you read Harry Potter? He hadn't. Now, he's found a way to ensure other Kenyan children don't miss out on reading in the future.

Thanks to a Davis Project for Peace Award, this summer Cheruiyot, a psychology and environmental policy double major, will take a \$10,000 prize to his Rift Valley community—burdened with high illiteracy rates among children and adults—and construct a library to create a culture of reading where none currently exists.

"I expect to see better writers, better readers, and better thinkers ... who are ready to solve the problems we face as a community."



## LEEDING THE WAY IN SUSTAINABILITY

Colby's renovated Grossman Hall, home of DavisConnects, has received LEED Platinum certification, the highest level from the U.S. Green Building Council, acknowledging the building's exceptional environmentally conscious design and construction. Across campus, the new athletic fields received certification through the Sustainable SITES Initiative. New England's first SITES certification, the project includes a design for storm water filtration and an irrigation system that conserves water by automatically adjusting to precipitation and evaporation rates.



## SCHUPF ARTS

Add the Paul J. Schupf Art Center to the transformative changes coming to downtown Waterville.

In April, Schupf, LL.D. '06 made another remarkable gift to the College, this time to support construction of the downtown arts center, which will move the city closer to becoming a destination for the arts. "Colby's unique culture and innovative spirit are making a lasting impact on Waterville, bringing new sources of economic growth to the region," he said.

The preliminary design includes a contemporary gallery of the Colby College Museum of Art on the ground level; three screening rooms to bring the Maine Film Center, Railroad Square Cinema, and the Maine International Film Festival to downtown; Common Street Arts gallery; and multidisciplinary educational spaces.

**“Land  
isn't about just land. It's  
about economic and political  
power.”**

—Carolyn Finney,  
cultural geographer, environmental justice  
activist, storyteller, in her keynote address for  
S.H.O.U.T!, an annual student-run event sponsored  
by the Pugh Community Board, on March 11.

## BIOMEDICAL OPPORTUNITIES EXPANDED

The path from Mayflower Hill to the nation's top biomedical laboratories just got wider.

With a \$5-million commitment from Trustee David Pulver '63, P'93 and his wife, Carol P'93, the College established the Pulver Science Scholars Program to provide selected students with experiences to prepare them to be scientific leaders and innovators.

Working in tandem with the recently launched Linde Packman Lab for Biosciences Innovation, the Pulver Science Scholars Program will fund and facilitate high-level student research with Colby faculty and at places like The Jackson Laboratory, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, among others.

The new opportunity for Colby student scientists comes at a time when competition for federal grant funding has never been greater. For the first time in the post-World War II era, the federal government no longer funds the majority of the basic research done in the U.S. Federal funding dipped to just 44 percent of the research dollars awarded in 2015, down from more than 70 percent in the 1960s and '70s. By training the most talented science students, the Pulver Science Scholars Program will have a positive impact on potential life-saving discoveries and cures that could otherwise be delayed.

These initiatives are open to all, supporting students in their research ambitions regardless of their financial means.

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN FINE ARTS, POLITICS

Thanks to the generosity of alumni donors, Colby is further expanding its mission of universal experiences for all students. A \$1-million gift will help ensure that students with limited financial resources will be able to explore the worlds of fine arts and museums, and politics and civic engagement.

"This is a wonderfully generous gift that will have an immediate and positive impact," said President David A. Greene.

The donors, who have chosen to remain anonymous, want to support diversity in the fields of politics and fine arts and to bolster Colby's ongoing efforts to ensure all students have exceptional opportunities, especially those outside the classroom. This gift will help underwrite the cost of student experiences, including internships and research opportunities, which these donors know are often a pivotal step that builds on academic experience and leads to important and impactful careers. Funds will be available for student experiences beginning this summer.

Said Vice President and Dean of Student Advancement C. Andrew McGadney, who oversees DavisConnects, "Ultimately, gifts in support of universal experiences leverage the power of a liberal arts education and propel our students to even greater post-graduate success."

## Seven Colby Faculty Receive Tenure

Colby has awarded tenure to seven faculty members, acknowledging their distinctive scholarship, commitment to teaching and mentorship, and spirit of cooperation and collaboration in their service to the College and the larger community.



### Denise Bruesewitz—Environmental Studies

Denise Bruesewitz is an aquatic ecologist who focuses on nitrogen cycling and its role in fresh and coastal waters. She has developed novel methods for analyzing these cycles, and

her research has broad implications—for lakes, rivers, and oceans. Bruesewitz came to Colby in 2012 after earning a Ph.D. in biology at the University of Notre Dame and a B.S. in biology from Winona State University in Minnesota.



### Tasha Dunn—Geology

Tasha Dunn has been the Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor of Geology since she arrived at Colby in 2014. Her specialty is in understanding the connections between asteroids and meteorites, and in

her work she has resolved a controversial question about the origins of a particular set of meteorites. Dunn received her Ph.D. in geology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and her B.S. in geology from Tulane University.



### Daniel LaFave—Economics

Daniel LaFave, a development economist, is a well-known and authoritative voice in his field whose work is taught in top graduate economics programs. He received wide acclaim for

upending a set of assumptions that had structured much of the work in the field and for proposing an alternative model now widely accepted. Before arriving at Colby in 2012, LaFave earned a certificate in college teaching, thus bringing expertise in best pedagogical practices to Colby. He completed his Ph.D. in economics at Duke University and his B.A. in international studies at Boston College.





### Elizabeth McGrath— Physics and Astronomy

Elizabeth McGrath was named Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy when she came to Colby in 2012. As an astronomer who studies galaxy formation and evolution, she has analyzed large data sets from the Hubble Space Telescope, and she is part of a team slated to conduct research using the upcoming James Webb Space Telescope. She studied at the University of Hawaii, where she earned her Ph.D. in astronomy, and at Vassar College, where she received a B.A. in physics and astronomy.



### Ronald Peck—Biology

Ronald Peck, a microbiologist, brought six years of teaching experience, at Lawrence University, and five years of postdoctoral research, at the University of Wisconsin, when he joined Colby's faculty in 2012. He studies microbes and how they respond to environmental stress, and two of the three papers he published in the top-tier journal in his field were based on entirely new work he's done at Colby. He received his Ph.D. in biomolecular chemistry from Wisconsin and a B.S. in biology from Linfield College.



### Sonja Thomas—Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Sonja Thomas has three primary lines of scholarship: gender and religion in India; a study of the South Asian diaspora into rural America, focusing on Indian priests in Montana; and an exploration of the nature of women's studies as a field. Thomas has earned three degrees: a Ph.D. in women's and gender studies from Rutgers University; an M.A. in interdisciplinary humanities from New York University; and a B.A. in English literature from the University of Minnesota.



### Natalie Zelensky—Music

Natalie Zelensky is an ethnomusicologist, joining Colby's faculty in 2012 and continuing her research on the popular musical cultures of the Russian diaspora in the United States. She makes original and compelling arguments regarding how immigrants use music to sustain or reconstruct cultural identities in the U.S. Zelensky earned her Ph.D. in music studies, her M.M. in musicology, and her B.M. in piano performance, all from Northwestern University.

## Biosciences Pipeline

Programs at Colby that support innovation in the biosciences received a major boost with a gift to create the Linde Packman Lab in Biosciences Innovation.

Initiatives funded by Karen Linde Packman '88, P'21 and Jeff Packman '88, P'21 will create a pipeline for the most ambitious students from all backgrounds to pursue College-funded research, internships, and global opportunities in preparation for careers in fields such as biotechnology, biomedicine, biochemistry, ocean sciences, genomics, and bioinformatics.

The gift includes permanent funding for the ongoing Colby Achievement Program in the Sciences (CAPS), which offers a jumpstart for students, affording six weeks with faculty on campus prior to their first year preparing for the rigors of the natural sciences at Colby, and the Champlin Scholars Program to support their January or summer research and internship experiences.

Colby will continue to expand its network of companies innovating in the biosciences beyond its established partnerships with leading research institutions such as The Jackson Laboratory, Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences.

