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For Students, Gifts with Impact

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GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING

A vibrant arts community melding programs on and off campus, accomplished writers in residence who will work, teach, and engage with students, and a new curriculum designed to enhance verbal communications skills vital to success in a myriad of fields.

These are among the significant enhancements announced at the College this fall.



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MEMBERS OF THE COLBY COMMUNITY ARE STEPPING UP IN UNPRECEDENTED AND TRULY REMARKABLE WAYS TO BUILD ON OUR STRENGTHS. FROM THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND ATHLETICS, THESE CAMPAIGN COMMITMENTS ARE ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE RIGHT NOW AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN PERPETUITY.”

—PRESIDENT DAVID A. GREENE

DIAMOND FAMILY DIRECTOR OF THE ARTS

Academic departments, the Lunder Institute for American Art, the Colby College Museum of Art, the Center for the Arts and Humanities, the planned Gordon Center for Creative and Performing Arts, and the Paul J. Schupf Art Center in downtown Waterville, and future initiatives—all of these will be integrated by the Diamond Family Director of the Arts, a position made possible through the generosity of the Diamond family—Trustee Robert E. Diamond '73, Jennifer Diamond, and Charles Diamond '12.

The intent is to allow the College to fully realize its vision for an integrated arts experience.

“Whether they major in arts disciplines or not, the high-achieving students we are welcoming at Colby are expressing increased interest in the arts, and this will allow them to take full advantage of arts offerings on campus and in our broader community,” said Provost Margaret McFadden.

Bob Diamond is a longstanding Colby supporter and co-chair of the Dare Northward campaign. Jennifer Diamond has been an active member of the Colby College Museum of Art's Board of Governors since 2010. Charlie Diamond was a passionate member of the Colby theater community as a student. Their joint support for the endowed position will help the College build its culture of creativity and innovation.

“The Diamond family's vision for a unique and integrated arts culture that draws on Colby's existing strengths and imagines the future through emerging initiatives is inspiring,” said President David A. Greene.

One of those emerging initiatives is the new Gordon Center for Creative and Performing Arts at Colby, to be constructed at the southern entrance of campus. The center will provide new spaces for concerts, dance, and theatrical performances.

RICHARD L. WHITMORE JR. HEAD COACH FOR COLBY MEN'S BASKETBALL

“Whit” is back in the house.

Former players supported the endowment of the position of head men's basketball coach in honor of their former mentor, who continues to lead the “Colby men's basketball family” almost a decade after his retirement.

Whitmore, who retired in 2011, ranks seventh all time among Division III coaches with the most wins. During his tenure at Colby, men's basketball won three Eastern College Athletic Conference championships and was ranked as high as second in the country (1984-85). Under the leadership of Tim O'Donnell '87, 134 alumni and more than a dozen other friends contributed to ensure that Whitmore's name is forever linked to the program.

As part of this latest tribute, the head basketball coach's office was named in honor of Whitmore's wife, Mary Kay Whitmore.

O'Donnell said Whitmore's gift to his players has been his continuing support and friendship and also his ability to create and maintain what players know as the Colby basketball family. “For most college athletes, their relationship with the program ends with graduation,” he said. “When we leave Colby, our relationship with the Colby basketball family is just beginning.”

Current coach Damien Strahorn '02, an All-NESCAC player while at Colby, is the inaugural Richard L. Whitmore Jr. Head Coach for Colby Men's Basketball.



SCHMALTZ FAMILY EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION INITIATIVE

Data research—and any other product of scholarship or innovation—is most compelling when it is communicated effectively. With that in mind, this fall Colby launched the Schmaltz Family Effective Communication Initiative to give faculty and students a systematic curriculum designed to enhance verbal communications skills.

The Schmaltz Family Effective Communication Initiative is supported by Trustee Emeritus Richard Schmaltz '62, his wife, Joan Dignam Schmaltz '63, the Schmaltz's daughter, Heide Schmaltz Dolan '87, son, Dana Schmaltz, and granddaughter Megan Lasher '15. The Schmaltz family believes that these skills are critically important for maximizing personal and professional success.

“At Colby we stress how we teach students to think critically, to write powerfully—the English Department has always been so strong—and our hope is that now with this initiative they'll be able to speak with the same kind of expertise and confidence that they've had in critical thinking and written expression,” said Dick Schmaltz, a longtime Colby trustee. Schmaltz, who worked for 40 years in investment management, credits oral presentation skills as an element of his professional success.

The new program takes a systematic approach to integrating oral communication into the curriculum. Launched in fall 2019, it includes training for faculty to teach public speaking in existing courses, it supports distinct courses in public speaking, and it facilitates workshops, events, and collaboration with other initiatives.

“This distinctive gift will allow Colby to create a leading program to help prepare our students for success in whatever fields they choose to pursue,” said President David A. Greene.



DICK MCGEE HEAD COACH FOR COLBY FOOTBALL

This legendary coach is now a permanent part of the Colby football program.

A \$2-million endowment raised by a large number of former players has named the football team's top coaching position the Dick McGee Head Coach for Colby Football.

As Colby's head football coach for more than 10 years (1967-78), McGee led a series of successful seasons. His 1972 team's 7-1 record remains tied with 1994, 2000, and 2005 team records for the most wins in a season

in Colby football history. He was also Colby's athletic director from 1974 to 1987 and, after stepping down as head coach, served as an assistant coach and professor of physical education until his retirement in 1998. McGee passed away at age 84 in 2015.

Under the leadership of Jackson Parker '76, Hank Newman '77, and Alex Wilson '73, a committee of 10 former players secured contributions from more than 60 alumni ranging from the Class of 1953 to the Class of 2009, as well as from several local community members.

"Dick was admired and respected by his players as well as professional peers because every day he brought to the field the high ideals and focus on excellence that is at the core of Colby," said Parker, chairman and CEO of Reed & Reed, one of northern New England's top heavy civil contractors. "He also gave back to his local community in countless ways, and in our view there was no question about honoring him with a permanently endowed position at Colby."

Colby's current coach, Jack Cosgrove, is the inaugural Dick McGee Head Coach for Colby Football.

GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING



O'HANIAN-SZOSTAK FELLOWS FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

When Trustee Emerita Anne O'Hanian-Szostak '72 and Michael J. Szostak '72 were students at Colby, it was simply called "volunteering." Their support will ensure that in the future student "civic engagement" is taken to yet another level.

O'Hanian-Szostak Fellows for Civic Leadership will select student leaders with significant commitment to civic responsibility and offer funding for students to pursue self-identified projects. The new fund aligns with the mission of the Bill & Joan Alfond Main Street Commons, which is the downtown home to some 200 students, all of whom have a commitment to civic engagement.

"Our goal with this gift is to provide students with the opportunity to move beyond volunteering and increase their civic knowledge and skills, so when they leave Colby they'll be well-prepared leaders who can act on society's biggest challenges," said O'Hanian-Szostak, a former chairman, president, and CEO of Fleet Bank of Maine.

JENNIFER JAHRLING FORESE WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM IN CREATIVE WRITING

Colby's long tradition of support for creative writing will rise even further with a new writer-in-residence program that will bring renowned writers to Mayflower Hill to become a part of the campus writing community.

The first visiting writer, Salman Rushdie, will be in residence in 2020.

Professor of English Michael Burke said the new program will provide students with valuable experience as writers and readers by giving them access to a revolving roster of major and emerging writers. "Students will be able to work with, hear from, and engage with these writers in a variety of ways, significantly increasing the types of interactions they have with professional writers, which can only serve them in their future writing lives," Burke said.

The program builds on Colby's strengths in the literary arts and humanities—and the College's long tradition of graduating celebrated writers across genres. It was made possible through a campaign contribution from Trustee Jamie Forese and Jennifer Forese, parents of Colby graduates Thomas Forese '16 and Robert Forese '18.

"This incredible gift brings additional dynamism to an already outstanding program at Colby," said President David A. Greene.

Provost Margaret McFadden said the writer-in-residence program builds on Colby's strong commitment to the arts and humanities—an area of study that the College sees as critical to

Beginning this spring, the O'Hanian-Szostak Fellows for Civic Leadership will offer up to 10 Colby students each semester the opportunity to participate in the program. After going through a rigorous application process, accepted students will receive stipends to develop independent projects that support important community needs.

The gift establishes a fund that will provide stipends on an annual basis in perpetuity and plays a critical role in supporting the College's long-term emphasis on civic leadership. "This generous contribution has the potential to help generations of students not only understand the importance of civic leadership but gain experience for solving real problems in our community and beyond," said Dean of the College Karlene Burrell-McRae '94.

Working in partnership with local organizations and a faculty advisor, fellows will begin to develop real-world solutions that address specific community challenges that are of interest to the student (e.g. youth development, food insecurity, public health, environmental issues, etc.). Funding will also be available for students to pursue professional development opportunities related to civic leadership.



the education of an engaged citizenry and to the success of students as they learn to ask probing questions and express ideas in novel ways.

"Colby continues to be an institution that places a high value on programs and experiences in the arts and humanities that enrich our intellectual culture," McFadden said. "This gift is an expression of how our campaign, Dare Northward, is making an immediate impact on the student and faculty experience."

Jennifer Forese said that, as an avid reader of literature with a keen interest in the art of writing, she is excited to give students the opportunity to work closely with a variety of authors. "The entire Colby community stands to benefit from the direct interaction with accomplished writers and the ability to learn intimately about the inspiration behind the work of these professionals."

