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Letters

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Lives Can Be Saved

I was riveted by the article “What Jeronimo Maradiaga Learned” (spring 2011 Colby) and impressed by Mr. Maradiaga’s bravery and selflessness during his Watson year. The article inspired me to check out the book The Life You Can Save, by Peter Singer, from my local library, which subsequently inspired me to pledge two percent of my income to help the world’s very poorest. I hope you will pass along to Mr. Maradiaga that in this small way he has already done something to help the world’s poor by telling his story. And if he hasn’t read Mr. Singer’s book, I hope he will, as it may make him feel that there are others out there that understand the dire circumstances that some of our fellow humans live in and have dedicated their lives to trying to help those people. Also, the book starts out with the philosophical arguments for helping the poor, so maybe Mr. Maradiaga could use some of those when his friends question or challenge the decisions he has made. I’m going to go one step further and ask that you and anyone you talk to around the campus and anyone who reads this letter also read Mr. Singer’s book.

Mariana Upmeyer Du Brul ’98
Browns Mills, N.J.

Inspired by Maradiaga

For the past two years, I have begun my English course for college-bound seniors by reading with them Jeronimo Maradiaga’s original story (“Jeronimo Maradiaga’s Journey,” summer 2009 Colby). The ensuing discussion launches several weeks of discussion about the meaning of a college education, as well as the skills and attitude required for success. My students are impressed and overwhelmed by the obstacles which he had to overcome, obstacles which make their own issues less by contrast. Such is my intent. I am glad to have the follow-up story, “What Jeronimo Maradiaga Learned,” in your most recent edition. I want my students to understand that an education is something one works for, not something one is given, and that true education is only partly vocational, unless we mean finding one’s true vocation in the most exact meaning of the word.

Diana Krauss ’74
English Teacher
Mt. Ararat High School
Topsham, Maine

Memories of a Pure Tenor

Carl Faust ’67 wrote touchingly and with appreciation for President Strider’s sharing of his rich and resonant baritone voice with the Colby/Waterville communities (spring 2011 Colby). This, in turn, brought back vivid memories of Carl’s haunting and soulful interpretation of “Hills of Shiloh” on the Colby Eight’s 1968 recording. Although the record itself is long vanished, I still get chills down my back whenever I replay “Shiloh” in my mind. His was the purest and sweetest tenor that I have had the pleasure to imbibe. I remain deeply grateful for his sharing this gift so many moons ago.

Steve Fisher ’69
Westford, Mass.

Thanks, Colby, from Hardy Girls

A hardy thank you to Colby staff writer Laura Meader and managing editor Gerry Boyle ’78 for a fantastic article about Hardy Girls Healthy Women (“The Girls Are Alright,” winter 2011 Colby).

The impact that Colby faculty, staff, and students have had on Hardy Girls’ success cannot be overstated. Hardy Girls Healthy Women is an organization committed to empowering girls with knowledge, critical thinking skills, and a platform to drive social change with an ultimate vision of a world that values girls for their diversity of contributions and accomplishments. We could not have had the depth and breadth of impact we’ve had locally and globally without the hundreds of Colby volunteers, generous financial support of the College and alumni, and the visibility that a partnership with such an esteemed institution as Colby College has given us.

To all the Colbians, on behalf of all the girls who’ve had a chance find their voice and embrace their power and potential, we say thanks.

Megan Williams ’04
Executive Director
Hardy Girls Healthy Women
Waterville, Maine