January 2008

Table of Contents
What is the Colby Fund

In the past you may have made contributions to the Alumni Fund, the Annual Fund, reunion giving, or an anniversary program. Now the Colby Fund includes all of these. Your gifts will be used in the same manner and will credit your class or reunion effort in the same way—only the name has changed.

By making an annual gift to the Colby Fund, you are investing in the future success of all Colby students by enhancing their educational experience and ensuring a continued tradition of academic excellence.

Be a part of the tradition. More than 10,000 alumni and nearly 1,500 parents made a gift to Colby last year.
FEATURES
10/ The Art of Theft
When it comes to art theft, Noah Charney ’02 is an expert. Charney’s study of this nefarious niche of the art world has made him a household word in museum and gallery security circles, and a new novel and television programs in the works have propelled the art-history major’s career.

14/ Tracking the Forest People
Erin Vogel ’95 studies orangutans up close in the rainforest of Borneo. An anthropologist at UC Santa Cruz, Vogel wants to know what these orangutans eat and why, in hopes that the knowledge will help protect this dwindling species.

20/ The Diplomat
Newly appointed Ambassador Patrick Duddy ’72, a career diplomat, looks for common ground with Venezuela’s outspoken president, Hugo Chávez.

24/ Making of a President
Candidates lean on Colbians in bids for the White House; alumni who are staffers and aides ride the roller coaster of a presidential campaign.

DEPARTMENTS
02/Letters
04/From the Editor

COLBY NEWS
05/Alfond’s legacy lives on
05/Reaching the world on campus
06/Pavilion done, more to come
07/More money for Mainers
08/Building bridges to reservations
09/Sharing the Nobel Prize

FROM THE HILL
32/Seeking a stronger start
34/Hill ’n’ Ville unites Colby and Waterville
36/Kate Vasconi ’09 on 9/11 and the NYFD
38/Students predict the economic future
40/Erika Mailman ’91’s witch hunt
42/A Nordic focus for Fred Bailey ’07

ALUMNI AT LARGE
44/Class Notes
70/Obituaries

ALUMNI PROFILES
60/Deborah Gassner ’87
64/Harris Eisenstadt ’98
68/Tom Rogers ’04

THE LAST PAGE
72/Gay humor columnist Leslie Robinson ’85 never lacks material.

Colby Online (www.colby.edu/mag)
The Eight Turns 60
Read about and listen to The Colby Eight on their 60th anniversary.

Housing Boon
Extreme Makeover throws a house party for Brittany Ray ’93.

Talk of the Town
Podcast explores town-gown relations.

Speakers Bureau
Listen to Colby visiting speakers: former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, foreign correspondent John Burns, counter-terrorism expert Richard Clarke.