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**FEATURES****12/History with a Twist**

The new book, *Mayflower Hill: A History of Colby College*, has been released. Author and College Historian Earl Smith combines an insider's view of Colby with a broad cultural perspective for a lively, informative, and sometimes irreverent read.

**16/A Better Place**

From the Congo to New Orleans, Colbians are fanned out across the globe, working with nonprofit organizations that want to leave the world a better place. Read about what they do and why they do it.

**22/The Biographer's Craft**

Working in what one calls the highest form of nonfiction, Colby biographers labor to recreate the lives—and essence—of their subjects. Chronicling figures ranging from Lincoln to Van Gogh, these writers strive to create the definitive biography.

**28/Shadows of Kabul**

A few years ago, Qiam Amiry '09 was walking the streets of Kabul working as an interpreter for the British military. Now, on Mayflower Hill, Amiry has found sanctuary but has not escaped the issues facing his country.

**DEPARTMENTS**

02/Letters

04/From the Editor

**ALUMNI AT LARGE**

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66/Obituaries

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60/Kim Parker '97

64/Dave Sherwood '00

**THE LAST PAGE**

68/Erin Rhoda '06 on touching—and saving—lives in Sierra Leone.

**ON THE COVER**

David Spiro '98 stands uncharacteristically still in front of the Penjaringan 11 Public Primary School in North Jakarta, Indonesia. Spiro heads Opportunities for Vulnerable Children, a program administered by the organization Helen Keller International which helps children with special needs throughout Indonesia. He and other alumni who have found their calling in nonprofits are featured in "A Better Place," P. 16. (Photo by Rino Hidayah)

**FROM THE HILL**

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**Colby Online** ([www.colby.edu/mag](http://www.colby.edu/mag))**Housing Czarina**

Students who wonder how they were paired with their first-year roommate can find the answer here. Kim Cheah '99, director of housing, explains how rooms, students, and roommates are matched.

**In His Voice**

Hear College Historian Earl Smith read excerpts from *Mayflower Hill*, his new Colby history.

**Orientation Evolution**

Diversity in Colby's student body requires diversity in COOTs (Colby Outdoor Orientation Trips). New options include community service, improv, and environmentally focused excursions, thanks to Jonathan Milne, director of outdoor safety and education.