

October 2004

Now What? Here's What ...

Abigail Wheeler
Colby College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine>



Part of the [Student Counseling and Personnel Services Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Wheeler, Abigail (2004) "Now What? Here's What ...," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 93: Iss. 3, Article 9.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol93/iss3/9>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the College Archives: Colbiana Collection at Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colby Magazine by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Colby. For more information, please contact mfkelly@colby.edu.

Now What? Here's What...

By Abigail Wheeler '04

The future is no longer a question mark for these four intrepid members of the Class of 2004. They've mulled options, filled out applications for jobs and graduate schools and anxiously awaited responses (and shared their experiences with *Colby* beginning in the fall 2003 issue). Now things have fallen into place. The last installment of this ongoing story has a happy ending.

The wait ended for Jason Beal this spring with a pile of both acceptances and rejections—and even some inconclusive results. He was accepted to Boston University and American University and rejected by Northwestern; two schools didn't reply at all.

"I chose American University because I got a full-ride scholarship," Beal said with a grin. "I accepted their offer before I even got any of the other acceptance or rejection letters. Getting to go for free was definitely one of the major deciding factors. Plus, they have a nice program down there. I didn't apply to any places that didn't have nice programs."

Beal will enter a two-year master's program in justice, law and society, including theories of justice, criminology and criminal psychology. "There's no forensic science or anything like that," he said. "It's more the public policy side of justice. I'm really excited to get started. I've already been down to visit and I met some of the faculty and sat in on one of the classes. I've already signed up for a couple of classes for next semester."

The prospect of leaving Maine, Beal's home state, for Washington, D.C., is both exciting and daunting, he said. "When I was visiting D.C. I drove around on the Beltway. I knew it wasn't going to be I-95, but there's a big difference between knowing that and experiencing it."

But aside from a few adjustments he'll have to make, Beal is eager to explore what the city has to offer: "I will love having more access to the theater. That will be something I'll enjoy very much. It will also be nice to have more bars, pubs and social life to partake in."

Now that his plans with Jenny Kalman '04 are securely in place, the process they went through has been worth it. Beal said one of the keys to their success was really just nagging. "It was so important to just be on each other's case about stuff, about communicating what it is we want, what it is we've done, what we're planning to do in the next stage. Nagging is what it was. It's got a negative connotation, but it's got benefits as well. It probably made it so we were both more productive and more on top of things than we'd have been by ourselves." 🐾

You might say that Jenny Kalman is looking forward to a year of monkeying around.

Kalman has accepted a one-year fellowship at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C., where she will be engaged in HIV vaccine research—including testing blood samples from monkeys. She said she likely will have the opportunity to continue for a second year.

At this point, Kalman knows she'll be working on immunological techniques: "For example, determining the number of cells that are responding to the vaccine using flow cytometry. I won't actually be working with the monkeys directly, but we'll be going to watch when they are actually vaccinated, first of all to make sure it's done properly and also because it's really important to realize that these are real animals we're working with and to recognize the impact it has on them."

Kalman is excited about the work but cautious in assessing this particular vaccine's likelihood for success. "The thing that I'm hesitant about has more to do with the nature of HIV biology as a whole than with this particular vaccine," she said. "HIV is just a very difficult disease to create a vaccine for because the virus mutates so quickly. But even if this isn't the one, every one that doesn't work takes us one step closer to finding one that does."

Another piece of news was on the ring finger of Kalman's left hand. She and Jason Beal '04 were engaged in February and, on top of plans and preparations for jobs, they are beginning to plan a wedding for July 2005.

One factor that influenced Kalman's decision to accept the NIH offer was Beal's acceptance at American University in D.C. Also, said Kalman, who is from northern Virginia, "We'll be living at my parents' house at least until we get our feet under us. We're going to want to get our own apartment, but just to get down there and get started, it'll be nice to live at home. One of the things I'm most looking forward to is that my dogs are at home and I've really missed them while I've been at Colby."

Kalman said she will miss the relationships she's built with her professors, particularly Lynn Hannum (biology). "I'll especially miss the community of students and professors we play soccer with," she said. "Hopefully we'll find a league to play with in D.C., but it won't be the same." 🐾



After months of being scouted and courted by several companies in the U.S. and abroad, Kearney Shanahan accepted a position at Cambridge Associates, a consulting firm in Boston.

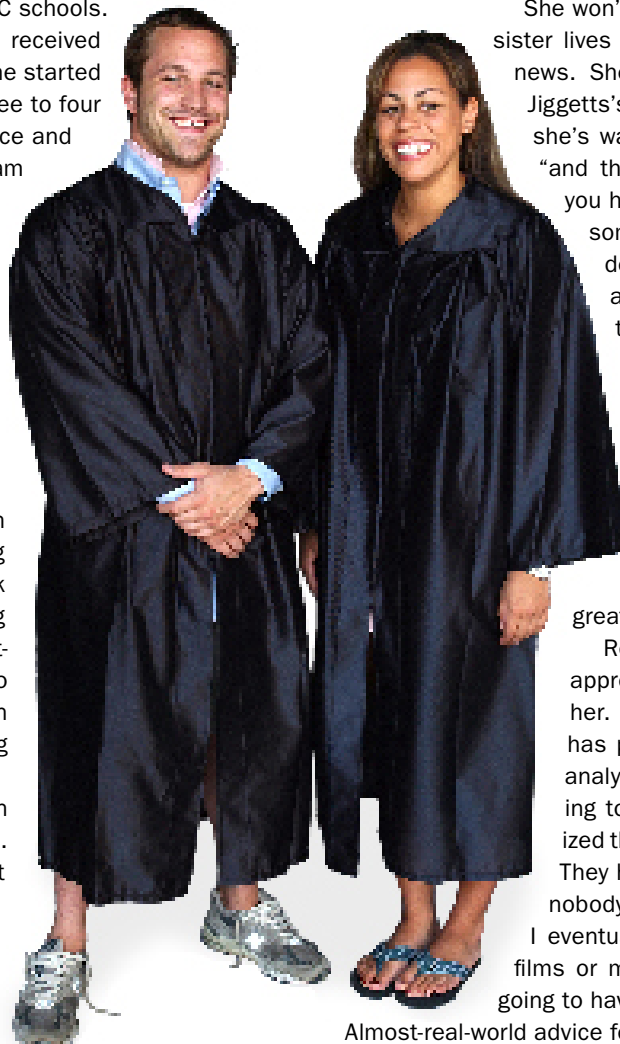
“One of the things that appealed to me about Cambridge is the fact that, yes, everyone is there to work hard but isn’t there to be killed,” Shanahan said with a smile. “Everybody expects that sometimes we’re all going to have to work hard and be there after hours, but it’s not going to be something that happens on a regular basis. Free time is expected. But at the same time, we’re all there for a common goal in regards to the clients.”

Shanahan will be in good company. He describes the firm as a very collegial environment—four or five of the eight new associates he’ll be entering with in July hail from other NESCAC schools.

Over the past few months, Shanahan received orientation materials from the firm. When he started on July 12th, he was to spend the first three to four weeks in on-site training, a time for practice and getting comfortable. Then he’ll have a team leader who is the same type of associate he will be but who has been with the company for a few years. “He’ll look after me and serve as someone I can go to for guidance,” Shanahan said. “Eventually I’ll be matched up with ten to twelve clients that I’ll be doing research for and working with in varying degrees with a team. So after several weeks, I’ll be right in the mix of it.”

Shanahan is excited about living in Boston but says he hasn’t been getting stressed about the details involved. “I think what I’m going to end up doing is subletting an apartment for the summer and then getting a place in the fall when I find out who else is going to be living in Boston. I’ve been working the Colby housing network, talking to friends who know of openings.”

Colby has certainly made an impact on the course of Shanahan’s future, he said. “Going out, I feel as though I have the right amount of confidence coupled with a respect for what I don’t know.” 🐾



It’s all coming together for Kristan Jiggetts, who will attend graduate school at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, studying for an M.F.A. in television production.

The three-year program includes film history and theory and also teaches the hands-on skills of the television production craft, including editing, directing and cinematography. Jiggetts also will be required to do a thesis, in this case creation of her own television show. “It’s a great program because of the small size [10 graduate students were enrolled in her class] and the way in which students work together and not against each other,” she said in June, just before she headed to L.A.

Jiggetts had interviews lined up for internships and hoped that she could sign on with an independent film company.

She won’t be entirely on her own. Jiggetts’s older sister lives in Los Angeles and works in television news. She’ll provide a great support system in Jiggetts’s new city: “One of the biggest things she’s warned me about,” Kristan Jiggetts said, “and this also comes from my father, is that you have to have a really thick skin to go into something like this. You’re going to have to deal with people rejecting you all the time and not really being the nicest people in the world.”

But L.A. certainly has a sunny side, too. “I’m looking forward to the weather,” Jiggetts said with a broad smile. “And I’m also definitely looking forward to having a wider selection of men in the dating pool and having more opportunities to meet different kinds of people. My time at Colby has been great, but I’m ready to move on.”

Ready in more ways than one, Jiggetts appreciates the preparation Colby has given her. “I think my academic experience here has prepared me to be more critical and to analyze what I’m doing and the effect I’m going to have on society,” she said. “I’ve realized that things that seem benign really aren’t. They have a huge effect on people, and often nobody really seems to notice. I think that if I eventually get to the point where I’m making films or making television shows, that’s what is going to have the biggest impact on me.”

Almost-real-world advice for underclassmen: “Don’t stress out too much about what you’re doing,” Jiggetts said. “It’s not that abnormal to graduate from Colby and not know where you’re going next. Start early and figure out what you’re interested in, but don’t freak out and feel like a failure if you don’t have a job by January of your senior year. You just have to roll with the punches and keep a good attitude.” 🐾

A Year After Leaving Mayflower Hill, Alumni Find Surprises, Satisfaction

A year after donning caps and most graduates in the Class of 2003: employed—though not always at the they envisioned while at Colby.

Despite worries about the slow e about 65 percent of 2003 Colby graduates are working full time a year after graduation, according to a survey conducted by Colby's Career Services Office. "I do think people are finding jobs," Cynthia Parker, Colby's director of career services. But "it may not be the exact job they want."

The survey, completed by 73 percent of the Class of 2003 between December and February, showed that 250 of the 360 respondents were working full time. About 18 percent of new alumni were in graduate school, 3 percent were working as interns and 5 percent were looking for employment. Others were working or attending graduate school part time. "A majority of people are in jobs that they feel positive about even if they plan on not keeping them more than a year or two," Parker said.

That's the scenario for Matt Danziger '03, who landed his job last December with State Street Corporation in Boston after hearing about an opening at the investment-management firm from another 2003 graduate. Danziger, who majored in international studies and minored in economic policy at Colby, said he wants to continue to build a career in finance but hopes to move on from his entry-level position after about a year. "Very few people are getting into things that they see themselves in for the rest of their lives," Danziger said. "[But] the majority of the people I know are happy."

The employment status of Colby's newest alumni class is consistent with recent graduates across the country, according to researchers at Michigan State University's Collegiate Employment Research Institute. Young adults who graduated with bachelor's degrees last spring are "not doing what they thought they'd be doing," said Philip Gardner, director of the institute.



According to the institute's nationwide study of recruiting trends by about 500 companies, hiring across the country should improve in 2004. But competition for jobs is still stiff; many graduates who entered the workplace during the slow economy of the last few years have yet to find employment in the field of their choice, Gardner said.

Colby's 2003 graduates are employed across the job spectrum, according to the College's survey. Twenty percent of respondents with full-time jobs were working in education, 17 percent in business and 15 percent in finance. Nine percent were employed in nonprofit, communications or healthcare fields.

It took Megan Hoar '03, an English major from Cape Cod, Mass., six weeks to find a job after she moved to Chicago in September. She applied to The McGraw-Hill Companies through the publishing company's Web site and was hired as a production assistant for the Wright Group, a school education division. But Hoar said it hasn't been easy for all of her friends to find employment. "It's a tough time," Hoar said. But "most people are either

in the location they want or the job they want." Chris Makarewich's job search wasn't as painless. He looked unsuccessfully for employment in Santa Barbara, Calif., for six months while working temporarily in construction. "I applied to nine or ten jobs and just nothing was working out," said Makarewich '03, a biology major from New Fairfield, Conn. "It was pretty frustrating."

Then in February Makarewich was hired as a nursing assistant in the surgery department at a Santa Barbara hospital, a job he really enjoys. The long job hunt was a blessing in disguise, Makarewich said, because it gave him time to think about what he really wanted to do. "The more I'm at the hospital, the more I think I'm going to medical school," he said.

The job market should improve for the graduates of 2004, according to CareerBuilder.com. The company reported that of the 230 hiring managers it surveyed in February, 71 percent said they plan to hire new college graduates in 2004 compared to 65 percent who planned to hire last year. Nineteen percent of managers said they plan to hire more new college graduates than they did last year, and 28 percent said salaries offered to those new employees will be higher than they were in 2003.

Regardless of whether '03 graduates are at their choice job, most have found their employment experiences to be rewarding.

"It's not what I would have pictured myself doing a year ago," said Caren Harris '03, a computer science major who works as a trader assistant for Sun Valley Gold LLC, an investment company in Sun Valley, Idaho. "Now that I've done it, it's definitely something I'd consider. I think this job could lead me somewhere." —Alexis Grant '03

What are members of the Class of 2003 doing now? It runs the gamut, from helping create equipment to monitor HIV to working with autistic children to leading wilderness trips. Go to *Colby Online* (www.colby.edu/mag) and read what five '03ers are up to and about the twisting paths that led them to fulfilling jobs they didn't necessarily envision themselves doing.

ALUMNI NETWORK PROVIDES A PREVIEW OF THE FUTURE

When Linda Lachapelle '77 left Colby, she knew exactly what she wanted to do with her life—or so she thought.

An English major and art history minor, she moved to New York City after graduation and began her envisioned career in news broadcast production at NBC. About three years later, she realized that the reality of the career she dreamed of as a student just didn't *fit* her. That's why Lachapelle, now the owner of an artists' representation firm in New York, has made it a priority to be part of the Colby networking community, filling Jan Plan and summer internship positions with Colby students looking for an opportunity in a field they may not have considered before.

"When I was at Colby, I didn't have these sorts of opportunities—the chance to go into companies and really get a bird's-eye view of the sort of things that you dream about," Lachapelle said. "I had a fantasy of what I wanted to do, but I had no idea what it looked like in real life, so I didn't know that the job I dreamed of wasn't a match for me."

After she left the broadcast world, Lachapelle spent some time in Paris with her sister, a model. Moving in the spheres of modeling and photography, Lachapelle met a woman who recommended an agent in New York looking for help starting a commercial production division within his photo representation company. He hired Lachapelle, and while the new division never came to fruition, Lachapelle learned how to book talent and become an agent. Her boss eventually left New York, leaving his clients without representation.



Linda Lachapelle '77

In January of 1988, Lachapelle started her own company, Lachapelle Representation, Ltd., and picked up many of those artists who had been left at loose ends. Suddenly she had her own representation business, she said, "and I've never stopped doing it since."

Lachapelle Reps handles commercial art, matching photographers, designers and hair-and-makeup artists with clients such as J. Crew, Target and Bloomingdale's. Her clients shoot advertisements for magazines such as *Elle*, *In Style* and *Décor*. As an agent, Lachapelle said, "I get them work, I promote them, I do their billing; I essentially take care of their career. I do everything from soup to nuts. There's a lot of psychology involved when you're dealing with artists. That's a big part of it, too."

As internships over summer break and Jan Plan have become increasingly popular and important to résumé building, the Colby alumni network has become a critical resource for students. Lachapelle has had dozens of Colby interns over the years—most recently Jessica Pilcher '05 and Chelsea Downs '06, who spent Jan Plan '04 working in the agency's office on East 54th Street in Manhattan.

The two Colby students happened to be there while the agency was moving from one office to another, so their duties included helping to set up the new Internet connection and unpacking and organizing portfolios as well as standard tasks like managing invoices, bookings and publicity mailings. "It's busy," Pilcher said. "The phones are ringing all the time and there's always stuff going on."

Downs added, "The perks are great. We got to go to a shoot for *Ralph Lauren Home* and we met one of the artists that we represent. Last night we went to an event for hairstylists. It was like seeing models at play. We've gotten to go to parties and places that we definitely wouldn't have been able to get into if we weren't on the list."

The key to finding a career you love, says Lachapelle, is being open to new ideas and options. "If you stay open to it all, you don't know what you're going to find that you're going to love," she said. "I had never even heard of a job like this. And here I am, loving it."

"I like being able to provide this kind of opportunity to Colby students, giving them the chance to work in New York City. If you're a sponge, you just soak everything up."

Lachapelle has had interns from other schools, but she admits there's something special about her bond with Colby students. "Part of it is just my continuing connection with Colby, how I keep it alive after all these years. Even though I've had other students from other schools, there honestly is a quality about the Colby students that is unmatched."

—*Abigail Wheeler '04*