

# Colby



## Colby Magazine

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## Readers Write

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**Where, Exactly?**

I enjoyed your piece on Linda Greenlaw [in the winter *Colby*], as we are very fond of Isle au Haut. But I bet you receive several comments on navigation. You place the Grand Banks at "45 degrees latitude and 45 degrees longitude." Those coordinates could also place you 1) ca. 300 miles west of the Crozet Islands in the Indian Ocean, 2) ca. 860 miles northeast of the Falklands in the South Atlantic, or 3) high and dry on the steppes of Daghistan, some distance from the Caspian Sea. Capt. Greenlaw would no doubt specify "45 north and 45 west."

[Also], did Michael Donihue and Susan Mackenzie really start dating "while in Jon Weiss's literature class"? Hope their getting acquainted didn't cause too much distraction in class—or did you mean "literature course"? (A course is a series of classes.)

Cordial greetings from your grumpy leasured volunteer editor.

Charles Ferguson  
Associate Professor of French and  
Italian, Emeritus

**Deep Thoughts**

Thank you for the two articles in *Colby* (winter 1998) about winter at Colby. The column "Fourth Floor Eustis" remarks that virtually all Colby generations claim to have experienced "the snowiest, coldest, most Arctic-like (winters) in the history of the school."

By your own records (page 16 of the same issue), my freshman year at Colby, 1970-1971, truly was the snowiest winter ever—140 inches of snow. Eight milder years later, I settled in Maine, giving me the chance to experience Ice Storm '98 and 13 days without electricity.

The snowiest winter ever didn't chase me away from Colby, the ice storm will not chase me out of Maine, and I look forward to the beauty and challenges of another 20 winters here!

Shelley Bieringer Rau '74  
Auburn, Maine



**The Wonder of It All**

Thank you for your eloquent description of winter in Maine in "Fourth Floor Eustis" (winter 1998). As a native, I can attest to the wonder of every season: in autumn, we wonder when the leaves will stop falling; in winter, we wonder when the snow (and temperature) will stop falling; in spring, we wonder when the rain will stop falling; in summer, we wonder when the fog will lift!

Laura Preti P '02  
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

**What's the Word?**

In the letters section of the winter issue of *Colby* you stated that the College still had a foreign language requirement. How well I remember taking the RKE (Reading Knowledge Examination) in 1941 in French. Turk Hassan '41 took his in Arabic; Milt Stillwell '43 used Spanish (at that time not a heavily used language).

Three summers ago I met a young lady on Cape Cod who was about to enter her Colby senior year. I asked about RKE and she said that she had not heard of any foreign language requirements at Colby.

Was she uninformed or isn't an RKE test given anymore?

Ralph S. Brady '44  
Hyannis, Mass.

*The RKE is no longer used, but similar tests are available to measure language proficiency. The College offers five ways to fulfill its foreign language requirement for graduation. Prior to enrollment, students can pass out of the requirement with a score of 64 or higher on the SAT-II Subject Test or with a 4 or 5 in an Advanced Placement language or literature course. Otherwise, they must do one of the following: 1) successfully complete Colby's intensive language program in Cuernavaca, Mexico, or Dijon, France; 2) successfully complete a sequence of modern or classical languages as spelled out in the College catalogue; 3) successfully complete a previously approved intermediate-level language course at an approved college or university.—Editors.*

**Corrections**

Due to a reporter's error, two names were misspelled in the winter 1998 issue of *Colby*. The Waterville Fire Department chief ("From the Hill") is Darrel Fournier. The co-author of *Making Miracles Happen* ("Books & Authors") is Steven Naifeh.

Colby

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